

Happy New Year 2014

Happy New Year from all of us at the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. May your 2014 be filled with great health, joy and prosperity.

It has been our honor to serve the communities of the South Shore for the year 2013 as a shelter for the homeless and a source of assistance for those in need from our food pantry. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization we could not offer these services without the gracious and continued support of those who work and reside in our communities. And to our steadfast supporters; we thank you for always being there for us.

If you are unfamiliar with the daily workings of the Coalition, please feel free to call and speak with our Executive Director, Helen MacLean.

In 2014 I Will...

As you consider your New Years Resolutions for 2014 we would like to ask that you keep the Plymouth Area Coalition in mind for your personal and corporate giving. In order to continue services for the needy we have ongoing financial needs that must be met. Housing ten families at the Pilgrim Hope shelter and replenishing the food pantry for those in twenty area towns requires a financial balancing act each week.

If you would like to become a monthly, quarterly or annual donor, please call and speak with our Business Manager, Moira Coffey at 781-582-2010.



The Children's Holiday Fund



Says



Thank You

Thank you one and all for making the 2013 Children's Holiday Fund, once again, such a tremendous success. Three hundred and sixty-four children had a joyous Christmas made possible through the continued support of sponsors who return each year as well as the first-time sponsors, school clubs and classes, large corporations, small businesses, church groups, and community organizations.

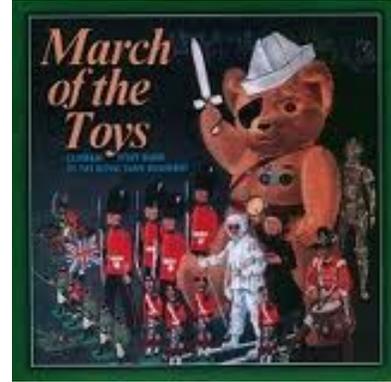
Christmas is a very busy time of year for the Plymouth Area Coalition. Applications for the Children's Holiday Fund begin arriving in October. Sponsors start bringing in gifts in November and as late as Christmas Eve Day. The North Pole becomes a reality at 149 Bishops Highway! The staff at the Coalition turn into energized elves, coordinating sponsors and needy families. The packing of gifts begins the week before Christmas and the parents are scheduled to pick up the gifts and holiday meals. As you can imagine this process requires a highly organized system under the direction of the Executive Director and Business Manager.

The *Old Colony Memorial* always plays an integral part of public awareness for the Children's Holiday Fund by making the communities aware of the need for sponsors for gifts and weekly inserting the Angel envelope for readers to send their donations to the Children's Holiday Fund.





Thank You



The Plymouth Philharmonic held three performances of Holiday Pops in December with all performances sold out.

Under the direction of Conductor Steven Karidoyanes, *the Phil*, sponsored by Rockland Trust, featured the annual "March of the Toys," lead by Santa. Children paraded through the hall with their gifts of new toys for the Children's Holiday Fund. Everyone in the area loves *the Phil* and their annual support of the Fund.

The talents of tenor Matthew Anderson, the Federal Furnace School Treble Chorus and the South Shore Conservatory's "Pure Treble" chorus (both directed by Kathy McMinn) were enjoyed by all while performing many of the holiday favorites with the outstanding Plymouth Philharmonic. Be sure to catch more of their events throughout the year.



Image by M. Chedoke-Kolme for Zoom & Zoom, by S. Nakahara, copyright 2014, Search Love Books

With the first week of 2014 covered in 15 inches of snow in many neighborhoods, we want to remind parents that a Wind Chill Advisory is issued when the wind chill index is likely to reach -15 to -24 degrees for at least 3 hours. Frostbite can develop in just 30 minutes with a wind chill index of -20. If you and the kids are heading out doors, dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves. Bundle those little ones up!!

The Fund was also recipient of toys and gift cards from families who held holiday parties at their home to support the Children's Holiday Fund. The generosity of party attendees was amazing!



You can make snow angels in winter.

Holiday Meal Baskets



Once again, the Coalition Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving meal baskets and Christmas meal baskets for many in need, including a large turkey and all the ingredients for a lovely holiday meal. One hundred twenty-seven households, which represents 408 individuals, were assisted for Thanksgiving while one hundred thirty-four households represent 426 individuals were provided a Christmas Meal.

We are so thankful for the generosity of organizations, companies and individuals for turkeys, vegetables, and all the ingredients needed to create the holiday meal baskets.



The difference between a helping hand and an outstretched palm is a twist of wrist.
~Laurence Leamer

Food Pantry Volunteers



Left to right: Maria Pires 13 yrs., Anne McDonald 1 1/2 yrs., Kathy Leaf 4 yrs., and Tom Coyne 4 yrs. service as volunteers to the Plymouth Area Coalition Food Pantry. This is a crew of dedicated individuals who graciously donate their time to make sure those who visit our Food Pantry receive a good balance of healthy choices of groceries. We are so fortunate to have some wonderful people from various towns who give of their time. For more pictures of our new Food Pantry, please read our previous newsletter on this web site.



The Christmas Bear



Aéropostale generously donated bags and bags of soft, cuddly Christmas bears to include with many of the gifts for the little ones of sponsored families. Everyone loves the Christmas Bear! Thank you Aéropostale! You are so kind!!!!



Angels Who Give

Local banks created Angel Trees for customers to choose an angel decoration representing a child in need and return the gift to the bank, all of which was donated to the Children's Holiday Fund. Many bank employees shared with us their joy in helping the children. Our sincere gratitude to all the Angels who participated.



Eastern Bank of Kingston was one of our donors from the local banks who placed an Angel Tree in their lobby. Pictured above are Medora Ferrites, Lynsey Nunn and Erin Lemieux. Thank you Donna Bocash, Manager for your offer of the lovely Angel Tree.



Mr. & Mrs. Volunteer



Eddie and Ron Costa have been a steadfast, amazing couple who have donated many years of their time as volunteers for the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. They assist in the sorting of clothing and household goods which are a steady stream of donations, thanks to those in the community. We share many of the items with the American Red Cross for disaster victims and needy families throughout the United States and abroad.

Eddie and Ron have packed tons of items in preparation for the Red Cross pickup monthly. We cannot thank them enough for their generous donation of time each week.