

House of Hope, Inc.
812 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA. 01854

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812 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01854

(978) 458-2870

www.hopelowell.org

Spring 2015

From Wicked Winter to Certain Sunshine

Dear Friends,

The Wicked Winter of 2014-15 already seems like a nasty dream as we enjoy the beauty and warmth of this long awaited springtime. But our photos are proof that House of Hope, like all of eastern Massachusetts, survived over 118 inches of snow along with record breaking cold. As I reflect on this past winter my most vivid memories are of how easy my staff made it for our 28 families in shelter and 22 families in permanent housing - by all of their efforts in getting to work, creating activities for housebound children and their parents, creative food preparation when market runs could not be made, shoveling stairs, sidewalks and rooftops and plowing driveways and parking lots over and over again so that employee, resident and emergency access to our buildings were guaranteed. This wicked winter gave us, the House of Hope Team, a chance to prove our teamwork - and we did!

This experience will empower us as we continue to respond to the ever increasing numbers of homeless families and their needs. This wicked winter, when everyone contributed to safe and constructive operations, further bonded us as a team whose primary objective is to help homeless families.



Because our newest property, 7 units of permanent housing at 391 Pawtucket Street in Lowell, is going strong it is time to do more. Given the incredible teamwork demonstrated by our staff, our strong Board of Directors, awesome community support, and great state partners, how can we not ask the question "What's next?"

Please continue to help us by sharing your time and treasure, and by remembering us in prayer. We have so much to do and we continue to need all the help we can get. Thank you for your support and enjoy the certitude of summer that lies ahead.

- *Deb Chausse, Executive Director*



Volunteers Needed!

We need kitchen and playroom volunteers on week-nights! Please contact Edna at (978) 458-2870 or edna.gustafson@hopelowell.org.

HOH NEEDS LIST

Aerosol Disinfectant Spray
Food storage containers
Adult and children's flip flops
Maple syrup
Vegetable Oil & Olive Oil
Sugar free powdered juice mixes
Granola bars
Boxes of crackers
Batteries----AA and AAA
Dish Towels
New children's Spring & Summer clothing

You are invited to the 26th Annual Teal Invitational Golf Tournament! *Friday, July 24, 2015 8:30AM*

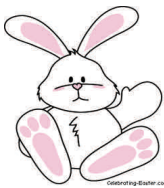
Passaconaway Country Club
Litchfield, NH.

To Sponsor a Hole, Donate a Prize or Purchase Tickets,
email: mteal@bostoncapital.com



THE GILMAN FAMILY LEGACY

A Great Big Thank You to the Gilman family, our Birthday Wishes coordinators for the last 6 years. Every month the Gilmans would come to the shelter with activities, cake and ice cream, presents for the birthday children and they threw a big party. The party night is always a highlight of the month for all of the families. The Gilman family is passing the torch to our new coordinators—the Venuti family. Thank you, Gilman family! We appreciate your generous donation of time, goodwill, parties and love and we will miss you!



A Special Thank You to:

Bethany Loveless & family;
Gath Insurance Agency;
Jennifer Shpritzer and
the Middlesex Mamas;
and St Patrick’s Church in Pelham, NH
for the fabulous and generous Easter Gifts!



XIOMARA MAKES A GREAT EXIT!

On Xiomara’s first day in shelter, she tried to settle her son, Jesiah, into his new environment. On her second day in shelter, Jesiah went to pre-school and Xiomara went to the Lowell Career Center to find a job. Xiomara has worked since she was 14 years old and she knew she needed a new job now to get back on her feet. “My goal was to get back on my own, so I used the shelter as a stepping stone,” says Xiomara. She couldn't find a job so she applied to join the HOH Internship Program at the Hope Chest. When asked how HOH made a difference in her life, a smile takes over her face and she exclaims “*It was LUZ!*” Luz is the HOH Hope Chest Manager. “She believed in me and she didn't give up! She helped me find a job at the Lowell Community Health Center.” Xiomara is also thankful that HOH “made me save my money” via the house rule of *Saving 30% of Total Income*. “That is how I got the money to buy my car to get to and from work.” “It all happened in the same two weeks—I started my job on September 22, 2014 and I signed my new lease on October 3, 2014” Xiomara tells us. She was in HOH shelter for 8 months and she now lives in Lowell and resides in one of the HOH Housing permanent, affordable apartments. Now her rental payments are 30% of her monthly income plus utilities—and she has it under control. Luz tells us, “Xiomara is so dedicated to Jesiah. She is a great mother and she thinks of him in all of her decisions.” Now, Xiomara is saving up to take Jesiah to Disney World someday soon! Xiomara’s commitment to family is what it is all about. The HOH staff agree — it was a privilege to serve Xiomara!



SPRING ANYONE?!



THANK YOU to all of the families, companies, churches, organizations and individuals who donated to House of Hope this past Holiday Season! Together we were able to provide Christmas presents for **127 families with 243 children** through our Adopt-a-Child Program. *Together, we make all the difference!* - Edna Gustafson, Operations Manager



Accutronics, Inc.
Airvana, Chelmsford
Alpha Imaging Technologies
Aspect Software, Chelmsford
Baystate Baptist Church, Lowell
Boston Capital, Boston
Boyle Transportation, Billerica
Care Giver Homes
Concerto Connection
Covenant Christian Academy, Peabody
Corporate Education, Chelmsford



Ditson School, Billerica
Draeger, Andover
Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC
First Parish Church, Groton
For the Love of Erica—"Jump On In" Party
Fujifilm, Bedford
Intronis, Chelmsford
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Kewill, Chelmsford
Knowledge Beginnings, Burlington
Kronos, Chelmsford
Ladies of Wyndermere, Chelmsford
Pat Leverone, Girl Scout Troop Leader
LifePlans, Waltham
Lowell Lodge of Elks
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Mrs. Nelson’s Candy House, Chelmsford
National Charity League
Noah’s Ark Nursery School
Pfizer, Inc, Andover
Raytheon, Andover
Spectro, Chelmsford

St. Anthony’s Church, Lowell
St. Catherine’s Church, Westford
St. John’s the Evangelist, N. Chelmsford
St. Mary’s Church, Chelmsford
St. Michael’s Church, Lowell
St. Rose of Lima Church, Topsfield
Tewksbury Memorial High School
Triwire Engineering Solutions
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Unitrends, Burlington
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