



# CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' NEWSLETTER

## Holiday Gala

Great food, live music and a cheerful holiday feeling?...must be the Holiday Hope Gala!

This year, Child & Family Services hosted its 9th Annual Holiday Hope Gala on November 29th at Sandpiper Air. Over 250 people attended the event bringing with them a Gift Card to local vendors for children and families in need during the holiday season. Everyone enjoyed sampling various spirits from Cardoza's and food from area restaurants while listening to the soft sounds of the Dartmouth High School String Orchestra. The night also featured a silent auction and live dance music provided by "The Freeze Pops."

Child & Family would like to thank its sponsors: Cardoza's Wine & Spirits, Eastern Fisheries, Child & Family Services' Board of Directors, Clean Uniforms and More, Paul and Donna Downey and Sylvia & Company Insurance Agency, ABC Rent-A-Tent Inc., AquaPoint, BankFive, Bufftree Building Co., Inc., Coastal Engineering Co., Duchaine Family, Fun 107 WBSM, Gil, Dan and Monette Loranger, Gil-Den, Inc., Horizon Marine, Law Offices of Horan, McLean & Horan, O'Hara Imports, Inc., Paetec, Reynolds-DeWalt Printing, Inc., Robert F. Stoico/FirstFed Charitable Foundation, Sandpiper Air, Sewage Equipment Sales and Service, Steve and Debbie Buckley, The Freeze Pops and Valet Linens.



Picture courtesy of The Standard Times

We also extend our gratitude to: 99 Restaurant, Cape Quality Seafood Restaurant, D'Angelo Sandwich Shop, Davy's Locker, Dorothy Cox's Chocolate, Freestones, Honey Dew Donuts, Inner Bay Café, Isaiah's, Jalepeno's, Kinsale Inn, M&C Restaurant, Mattapoisett Chowder House, No Problemo, Panera Bread, Papa John's, The Pasta House, Sally Cakes, Smoke & Pickles, Spicy Lime, Turks, Uno Chicago Grill and Wok Magic (Jadine Dixon).

This event would not be possible without the help from our Gala Committee: Stephen Buckley, Donna Ingalls, Monette Loranger and Cheri Moorhouse.

Monies raised help to support our Holiday Hope Project which provides gifts and food vouchers to hundreds of needy families within our community for the holidays and throughout the year.



Picture courtesy of The Standard Times



Picture courtesy of The Standard Times

## Holiday Project

*Thank you for the beautiful gifts from the bottom of my heart. It's appreciated!*  
~Holiday Hope Project Recipient

Thoughtfulness is one word that describes the citizens of the Greater New Bedford area as they once again came together and showed their support when they volunteered time and sponsored families in need for our Holiday Hope Project. Because of their generosity and goodwill, the project was able to provide 300 families and 350 individuals with a memorable Christmas and giving the most vulnerable members of our community the greatest gift of all – HOPE!

Surprise could be seen on the many faces that came through the AT&T Building on December 13 and 14 as families gratefully received their gifts. With comments like “thank you so much” and “we truly appreciate this” ringing in the air you could truly sense the spirit of the holidays!

A special thank you to our Holiday Hope committee members: Karen Almeida, Judy Bowen, Ellen Dingwell, Fatima Simas and Melody Walsh for their endless energy, and for spending countless hours planning and organizing this year's project. A sincere thanks to Paul Downey for once again allowing the project to take place at the Fairhaven AT&T Building.

We wish to extend our thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors.  
Without you, this project would not be possible!

## In Memory of a Loved One

This past summer, Libad's owner Barry DeMelo, along with his wife Janice and two children, Jessica and David, organized a bike run to remember Lenny Oliveira, who sadly took his own life in 2006. The event brought together 300 family, friends and community leaders which raised \$3,000 for Child and Family Services' Crisis Center.

Lenny's parents and the DeMelo family decided they wanted to raise awareness about suicide and depression and remove the belief that “people who seek help are weak.” The family visited Child & Family's crisis center located on North Street days after the event and met with Executive Director John Jackson and Site Director Michael Page. “Lenny did not reach out to anyone and our goal is to prevent another tragedy from happening to another family,” said David DeMelo, Lenny's cousin.

Michael Page, director of Emergency Services states, “Depression is something that a number of individuals and families deal with. In some cases it ends in a tragic result. It is important for people to know there is help in the community that is available.”

The Crisis Center assists people of all ages experiencing severe mental health crisis. This program is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you or someone you know needs help, please call the crisis center at 508.996.3154.

## Hometown Heroes

### **Jose Castelo**

For granting \$7,500 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

### **Dean Foundation For Little Children**

For granting \$12,000.00 to help the Adoption Program, Caring Network and Emergency Services.

### **Liberty Mutual**

For granting \$10,000 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

### **Bank of America**

For granting \$5,000 to the Caring Network.

### **TJX Foundation**

For granting \$5,000 to the Caring Network.

## Journeys Celebrates 10 Years



State Rep. Karyn Polito and Donna White

On November 14, 2007, Adoption Journeys cordially invited adoptive families, staff and friends to the Indian Meadows Country Club in Westborough to celebrate their first 10 years of providing children and families with post-adoption services.

Over dinner, light conversation could be heard from table to table as the evening gave statewide adoptive families the opportunity to share their stories.

Awards were presented to State Representative Karyn E. Polito, 11th Worcester District, in honor of her passionate advocacy for Massachusetts' adoptive children and their families, to Joanne and Joseph Dorsey in appreciation for their enduring support of Adoption Journeys' mission and to Meri Viano and Lisa Terranova in recognition of their powerful resolve to provide strong voices for adoptive children and families.

The night concluded with cake cutting ceremonies and a premiere showing of *Journey With Us*, a video tapestry of the adoptive families served by Adoption Journeys.

Adoption Journeys was recognized as one of the top five most notable post-adoption programs in the country by Research Triangle Institute International in 2001. In 2006 alone, the program provided ongoing services to 530 families in the state of Massachusetts.

We would like to acknowledge Sharon Silvia, Program Manager and her staff for their hard work and dedication to children and their families.

## Adoption Receives Honors

Child & Family Services' Adoption Program had the distinguished honor of receiving 3 MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange) Awards on November 6, 2007. The ceremony took place at the Worcester Art Museum. Each year, MARE recognizes and thanks all the social workers and agencies for their exceptional work with MARE on behalf of waiting children.

Child and Family Services' staff were recipients of the following awards:

- \* Outstanding use of MARE Registration  
(Child & Family Services of New Bedford)
- \* Outstanding Sustained Dedication and Commitment to Waiting Children  
Chris O'Shea and Lynda Page  
(Child & Family Services of Merrimack Valley)
- \* Outstanding MARE Adoption Party Attendance  
(Child & Family Services of Lawrence)



CFS Adoption Staff and CEO John Jackson

MARE was founded in 1957 and has helped to find adoptive homes for more than 5,000 children in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services who are ages six and older, children of color of all ages, sibling groups, and children with emotional, physical and intellectual challenges.

This past year, 45 adoptions were finalized; placing children in loving and permanent homes. We congratulate the adoption staff for their hard work and dedication to all children.

# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

## Wish List

- \* **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** Volunteer Mentors
- \* **CBAT:** childrens DVD's or VHS Tapes
- \* **Special Events Committee Members**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Program**, matches children ages 7-14 with adult mentors and provides group activities for those awaiting mentors.

**Community Based Acute Treatment (CBAT)**, a short-term residential treatment program for children ages 4-18 in need of acute crisis stabilization.

## Save the Date!

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters'**

**Fourth Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake**

Wonder Bowl, New Bedford, MA

Contact: *Development Office, 508-996-8572*

**Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Child & Family Services'**

**3rd Annual Golf Invitational**

Indian Pond Country Club & Estates,

Kingston, MA

Contact: *Susan Remy, 508-996-8572 ext. 147*

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"...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families."

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