



# CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' NEWSLETTER

## Holiday Hope Project

What happens when you combine needy families and individuals with caring people? HOLIDAY HOPE!

Because of the generosity and goodwill of the people of Greater New Bedford and Greater Fall River, the Holiday Hope Project was able to provide 350 families and 300 individuals with food, warm clothing and gifts.

On December 9th and 10th, Holiday Hope sponsors could be seen unloading beautifully wrapped gifts at the AT&T building in Fairhaven. We had some rain and a touch of snow but nothing could deter them from delivering their boxes of "Joy" to the anticipating families.



On December 11th and 12th, a convoy of yellow cabs carried recipients of the Project to the AT&T building. Our volunteers witnessed the faces of appreciation from those receiving the gifts. Some could not get all the items into the trunk and needed to use every available space in the cab to get everything to fit!



This project would not be possible without the many schools, churches, businesses and families who graciously answered the wishes of our needy families. Many groups called in to say that they were sponsoring a family this year in lieu of having "secret santa" at their workplace. Others said they were blessed with so much already that they wanted to share their good fortune with those less fortunate. We thank the schools who are teaching their students the true meaning of the holidays - and more importantly, the gift of giving.



In addition to those who sponsored participants of the Holiday Hope Project, the Mass. State Police Dartmouth Barracks, The Kinsale Inn, and Healthtrax Fitness Club held annual toy drives and delivered many bikes, dolls, games and cars to fill the gaps. Friends Academy held their annual coat drive and this year, the One Warm Coat Project (held at the Mattapoisett Laundromat) donated bags of warm coats for men, women, and children.

We cannot forget the many people who volunteer to make this happen year after year, especially our Holiday Hope committee members:

Karen Almeida, Judy Bowen, Ellen Dingwell, Collette Lester, Lori Schaefer, 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.

Together, we do make a difference. Thank you for sharing your holiday spirit with the children and families of Holiday Hope.

## Holiday Gala

Child & Family Services hosted its 10th Annual Holiday Hope Gala, now called the “365 Days of Hope” Gala, on November 20th at the Ocean Explorium on Union Street in New Bedford. Over 250 people enjoyed the endless array of food & spirits and danced to the sounds of The Freeze Pops.

This year’s event was the most successful to date despite the dwindling economy. We were worried that we would not be able to get the support necessary to pull this off due to the constant reminder of the dire straits the economy is in but that didn’t stop this community from coming together to raise more than \$44,000!



Our event could not be successful without the support of our friends and sponsors:

Cardoza’s Wine & Spirits, Rockland Trust, Patrick Carney Foundation, Clean Uniforms and More, Councilor John T. Saunders, Dick Melloni Youth

Foundation, Purchase Street Ventures LLC., Paul and Donna Downey, the Macomber Family, and Valet Linens. We extend our thanks to Peter DeWalt of Reynolds-DeWalt Printing for donating all printing costs.

We are also grateful for the generosity of the local establishments who donated their best culinary dishes: Cardoza’s Wine & Food Emporium, Cobblestone Restaurant, Cork Wine & Tapas Bar, D’Angelos, Dorothy Cox’s Chocolates, Fay’s, Freestones City Grill, Honey Dew Donuts, Greg Morton’s Fork Catering, GNB Voc. Tech. Culinary Arts Program, ICE Chest Bar & Grille, M&C Cafe, Mattapoissett Chowder House, Not Your Average Joe’s Creative Casual Cuisine, Panera Bread, Panino’s, Smoke & Pickles, The Kinsale Inn, The Pasta House, Trio Cafe, Turks, Waterfront Grille, White’s of Westport, 99 Restaurant.

No event is possible without a great volunteer committee. We thank our Gala committee members Stephen Buckley, Nick Petronelli, Monette Loranger, Cheri Moorhouse and Kelly Rua for their hours of hard work and dedication.

Monies raised help to support our Holiday Hope Project, which provides gifts and food vouchers to our families in need for the holidays and throughout the year.

## Hometown Heroes

### AHEAD

For collecting \$3,760 at their end of year sale to benefit Child & Family Services

### Citizens Bank

For granting \$5,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

### Everyone involved with Holiday Hope

For making the world a better place to live

### Fall River Rotary Club

For donating backpacks filled with school supplies

### Fall River Women’s Union

For granting \$500 to the Fall River YPS Program

### Google

For granting free online advertising to CFS

### Helen E. Ellis Charitable Trust

For granting \$2,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

### Lockheed Martin

For donating backpacks filled with school supplies

### Liberty Mutual Foundation

For granting \$7,500 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

### Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England

For granting \$10,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

### TJX Foundation

For granting \$5,000 to the CARING Network

### United Way of Greater New Bedford

For granting \$51,250 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

## New Family Stabilization Treatment Program

Child & Family is pleased to announce that we have been approved by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) to provide Family Stabilization Treatment (FST) services in Fall River, New Bedford and Cape Cod.

Our Family Stabilization Treatment Program will provide short-term therapeutic services to assist families in stabilizing a child or adolescent within their home setting during psychiatric crisis.

“The FST program is a perfect match for our skill sets working with troubled youth in need of intensive services,” said John Jackson, Executive Director.

Families will have access to the program 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The primary goal will be to provide intensive in-home clinical care and support to prevent hospitalization. The FST program will also provide service after an episode such as an impatient hospitalization or after an Emergency Service Program encounter.

## Welcome Doctor Little !



This past year, Child & Family welcomed Dr. Debra Little to our Psychiatric Department.

Dr. Little received her Doctorate of Medicine from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan and completed her post graduate training at the

Harvard South Shore Psychiatry Residency Training Program.

She is also a member of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association.

“We are very happy to have someone of Dr. Little’s calibre working here,” stated John Jackson. “She is a wonderful addition to our team of doctors.”

Dr. Little comes to us with expertise in Post Traumatic Stress, Mood and Psychotic Disorders. She is a dedicated Adult Psychiatrist who has experience working with people from diverse cultural and economical backgrounds.

## Honor and Memorial Gifts

A gift made in one’s name is always a meaningful way to mark a special occasion or to remember or honor a beloved family member, respected friend, or colleague. This is also a wonderful way to make a difference in someone’s life.

Memorial gifts can be made in honor of special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries or holidays. All gifts are recognized with an acknowledgement letter to the recipient (or their family). A letter documenting your tax-deductible contribution will be sent to you.

Your gift will support our efforts to fulfill our mission “...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”



# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2009

## Wish List

- \* **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** Volunteer Mentors and Advisory Board Members
- \* **Auction or Raffle Items** for upcoming fund raising events

## Save the Date!

**Sunday, March 29, 2009**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters'**

**Fourth Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake**

Wonder Bowl, New Bedford, MA

Contact: Development Office, 508-996-8572

**Tuesday, June 9, 2009**

**Child & Family Services'**

**4th Annual Golf Invitational**

Indian Pond Country Club & Estates,

Kingston, MA

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

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

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