



SHELTERGRAM

P.O. Box 257, 21 Goodnow St., Jaffrey, NH 03452

603-532-8222

Email: sftsnh@gmail.com • www.shelterfromthestormnh.org

Issue 26
March 2015

SPRING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board

Pamela G. White

Vice-Chair

Susan Leach

Treasurer

Rob Beaven

Recording Secretary

Anne Banghart

Corresponding Secretary

Sharron Monaghan

Members at Large

Heather Ames

Eileen Hackler

Dennis Monaghan

William Oswalt

Kendra Shea

David Tower, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Harris

LIFE COACH

Karen Bednarski

TASK GROUP CHAIRS

Building Needs

Dennis & Sharron

Monaghan

Finance

Rob Beaven

**Fundraising/
Grant Writing**

Linda Harris

Program Management

Heather Ames

SAVE THE
DATE!!!!

Please see
enclosed flyer and
join us for our
"Tasting Dinner"
at
Woodbound Inn.

Tickets can be ordered over
the phone.

**Taste of
MONADNOCK
& BEYOND**

FOOD & WINE

to benefit
Shelter From The Storm
a transitional homeless shelter

Sunday, May 3
5 pm to 9 pm

Woodbound Inn
Rindge, NH

Advance Tickets: \$35 pp
Door: \$40 pp

FESTIVAL 2015

ANNUAL MEETING - January 14, 2015

After a few weather related postponements, our Annual Meeting was held on January 14th at the home of Susan Leach, Vice-Chair of SFTS. Pamela G. White, Board Chair, welcomed board members, staff, and community members to the meeting. Refreshments were served. Thank you again to Susan Leach for her generous hospitality.



"The Mission of Shelter From The Storm is to provide temporary housing and transitional support to the homeless."



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS by Pamela G. White, Board Chair

It is time to call to order the Shelter From The Storm 2015 Annual Meeting. Welcome to you all. Thank you Susan for opening your home to us again, and thank you to everyone, our volunteers, board members, staff and financial contributors for your amazing support this year. Shelter continues to grow and flourish because of the commitment of many people in this room and throughout our community and the Monadnock region. As with most Annual Meetings this will be a review of the 2014 calendar year, so I would like to pick up from where we left off last January.

As some of you might remember, last year we were struggling with a gradual mission creep – which for SFTS meant we were broadening our scope and heading in directions we were not qualified or ready to go. I am happy to report that 2014 found us sitting right where we do our best work – finding transitional housing and support services for the homeless. The decision to move to one case worker or life coach as we now refer to the position, is proving to be extremely helpful for continuity and balance

between the “field” and the office. Karen Bednarski has brought years of experience from Southwest Community Services to us, and is doing a terrific job guiding our clients in the direction they need to attain their goals. She is clear with our families, so they understand what the program expects from them, and with the support of the Program Management Committee and Linda Harris, our executive director, she is getting good results.

Community involvement continues to be at the center of Shelter activities. Everyone involved in this organization has a heart for our area and for people. This can be seen in the influx of new volunteers this year, and in the long term commitment of so many friends of Shelter. It can be seen in the response we get when it is yard sale time – many people bring us there used items and we are able to sell them at town festival days for fair and reasonable prices – this not only helps us but it helps many struggling families in the area. Our Antique Road Show was another success, thanks to the tireless work of many people, but most especially the Hackler Family. Thank you Eileen and Sam!

We are still offering our Mother's group on Friday Mornings and Shelter is now part of the monthly Community Suppers, held on the third Thursday of each month at the UCC Church. We have been part of ongoing discussions with area leaders regarding a new Emergency Shelter and it now looks like the Knights of Columbus in Peterborough are hoping to get one up and running in 2015 on Concord St. Hope that all of you saw the article in the local paper in December – Shelter was featured in The Spirit of Giving Series – Once again a testament to how far we have come since our initial meeting in 2005.

cont'd. page 4



BELLOWS-NICHOLS “Blue Jeans Friday”

Bellows-Nichols designed a special day each Friday to support local non-profit organizations, and at the same time, allow their staff to have a casual day at the office.

Each quarter, employees at the agency nominate a local non-profit organization to benefit from their donations. Shelter From The Storm was nominated and is the fifth recipient to date.

We thank Bellows-Nichols for this donation and for their local support for non-profit organizations in our area.



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!



OUR GUESTS

Presently our six apartments are full. We currently have one mom with a four month old son who found herself without a job, car or place to live. She now has a job, a reliable car, and is in the process of filling out housing applications for future housing; a single mom with two children who could not find a job allowing her to support her children as well as pay the rent who now has a job and money saved for a security deposit and first month's rent; a mom with two children who lost her job due to health reasons, could not pay her bills, and needed to learn about support programs that were available to her; a family of four including a three and four year old whose parents were struggling to find jobs with more reliable hours in order to afford housing and car repairs; a woman on disability who found herself on her own after a relationship fell apart, and who needed to find housing that she could afford; and lastly, a family of six who found themselves evicted after the apartment building they were living in was foreclosed on, and the new owners wanted to sell.

Homelessness comes in all sizes and shapes. Stagnant wages, loss of jobs, divorce, foreclosure, the list goes on. There are no instant solutions, but we are trying to make a difference, one day at a time.

MOTHER'S GROUP

We continue to partner with the United Church of Jaffrey and the River Center of Peterborough to run our Mothers'/Parenting Group. Kelli Tourgee of the River Center continues to run the program. Refreshments and childcare are provided. Hours are 9:30-11:30 every Friday at the United Church and all are welcome. Participants go on field trips, learn about nutrition, and learn from each other. Healthy Teeth and Toes recently held an informative meeting for all, and children were able to receive a sealant on their teeth to prevent tooth decay.



**SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, APRIL 16
JAFFREY COMMUNITY SUPPER & DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Please consider joining us for our "donations only" Community Supper on April 16 followed by a presentation on DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

FREE! **Jaffrey Community Supper**

3rd Thursday of the month
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!

United Church of Jaffrey Parish Hall
54 Main Street, Jaffrey

Sponsored by a coalition of Jaffrey non-profits

DRUGS in our COMMUNITY

April 16, 2015
6:45 - 8:30 pm
United Church of Jaffrey

Please join us from 5:30-6:30 for the FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER prior to the drug presentation.

presenters
Lt. Terry Choate **Mary Drew**
Jaffrey Police Department Jaffrey Welfare Officer

Shelter From The Storm is hosting a FREE informative meeting on Drugs and Drug Abuse in our Community. **ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**
There will be a question and answer period following.
For more information call: 603-532-8222
Young adults 12 and over are welcome to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS cont'd.

Our basic structure at Shelter remains much as it has been since our first apartment in 2008. 2014 saw us moving back and forth between 5 and 6 apartments and getting a little creative on how it sometimes comes together. This year a family came to our attention that was just about to become evicted from a small apartment they had lived in for the last four years. Linda and Karen worked with Mary Drew, the town Welfare officer to keep them in their home, but have SFTS take over their financial responsibilities for the next eight months, as they go through our program. This is a positive scenario for this young family in need, one that will help provide consistency and balance while they work through a challenging time.

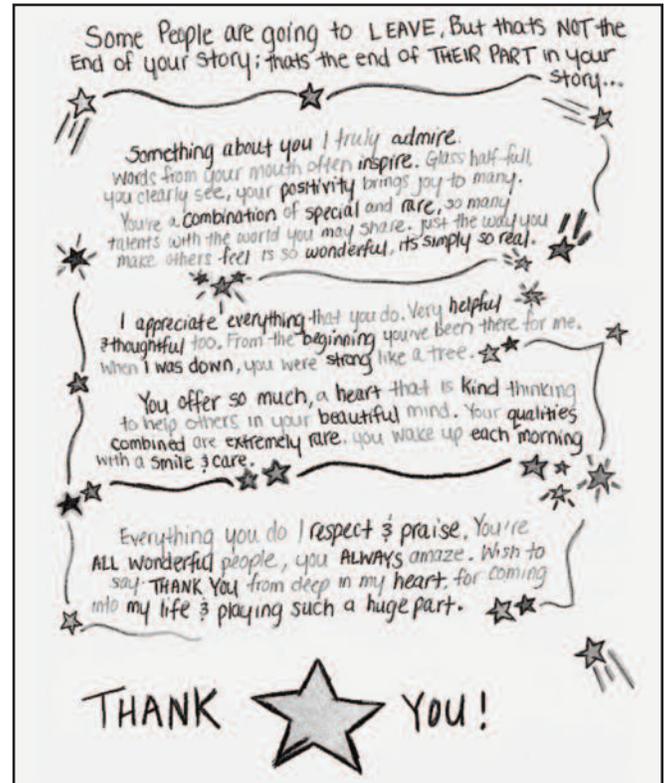
Our staff has remained solid this year, and more than ever, we have looked to our executive Director, Linda Harris, and appreciate the invaluable asset she is to our organization. She is at the helm, creating our quarterly Sheltergram, writing our grants, fielding calls for housing and support, organizing volunteers and keeping the board members organized and moving forward! Thank you so much Linda for all you do – your commitment and talents.

We would also like to recognize John McCarthy, a board member for six years – he has been our treasurer and served on numerous committees – always available for meetings and support. We are going to miss him on the board, but hope he will continue sharing his wisdom and insights on all the committees Linda has already signed him up for!! Thank you John.

This year we have served fourteen families including 25 adults and 29 children with some great successes. However, our 8-12 month program is sometimes not enough - - - some families need more time and support. To that end, Linda and Karen are often looking around the state for other avenues and programs to support our clients after their time with us is over.

One example of such a situation is a mom and her son who were in our program through Christmas of this year. We were able to transition this young mom, a victim of domestic violence, and her son out of our program and into a program in Manchester called "Families in Transition" – FIT - . They have the opportunity to stay in this program for up to three years, getting emotional support, housing, and mental health counseling. We received the letter/poster shown to the right.

Before we move on to the next part of our meeting I would just like to remind all of us why we are here this evening. In 1996, First Lady Hillary Clinton gave a series of speeches and wrote a book called "It takes a Village to raise a child." In these forums she focuses on the impact individuals and groups outside the family have on a child's well-being. I am sure that all of you agree that it does take a village to raise a family and that SFTS is an example of that truth at work. All of us are committed to breaking the cycle of poverty, by teaching and giving those in need the tools and education to become independent members of our community. We are doing what we can, through the program at Shelter From The Storm and the scope of our mission. We are empowering our families to make lasting change. I believe we are making a difference in our small New England town of Jaffrey and beyond, personally touching the lives of people in need, one family at a time.



GIFTING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Please consider making a donation in honor of or in memory of someone, and help us to provide a home for those in need.

Acknowledgment Cards are sent to the people on your list stating that a donation "gift" has been made in their name to SFTS. You are identified as the donor. Your donation amount is not identified. Shelter From The Storm will send the cards directly to the recipients. If you prefer, cards may be sent directly to you for personalization.

To purchase "donation gift" cards, please mail in your request of call Shelter From The Storm at 603-532-8222



UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD MTG.	April 7 - 8:30am-Office
PMC MEETING	April 10 - 4:00pm-Office
EASTER	April 5
FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER	3rd Thurs/month 5:30-6:30pm-United Church of Jaffrey
DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITY	April 16 6:45pm-United Church of Jaffrey
TASTE OF MONADNOCK & BEYOND	May 3 - 5-9 PM - Woodbound Inn
BOARD MTG.	May 5 - 8:30 am-Office
PMC MTG.	May 8 - 4:15 pm-Office
MOTHER'S DAY	May 11
MEMORIAL DAY	May 26
BOARD MTG.	June 2 - 8:30 am-Office
PMC MTG.	June 9 - 4:00pm-Office
MOTHER'S PROGRAM	Friday Mornings 9:30-11:30am - United Church of Jaffrey