



SHELTERGRAM

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL

None of our success stories here at Shelter From The Storm would be possible without the generosity of our community, donors, grantors, volunteers, committee members and supporters. Your commitment and kindness is why we are able to help so many.

GRANTS & SPECIAL DONATIONS

- Agnes M. Lindsay • C & S Grocers • Eversource • Kiwanis •
- Keith M. Sullivan Foundation • M & T Bank • NH Charitable Foundation • NHCF Nielsen Fund • NH Women's Foundation •
- Oleonda Jameson Trust • Parent Management Training Institute •
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(Please forgive if any names have been omitted.)



OUR GUESTS IN 2023

2023 – Our Story to date: We have five fully furnished apartments in Jaffrey within walking distance of downtown Jaffrey. Our guests are able to go for doctor appointments, food pantry, gas, basic food needs, and children are in walking distance of most schools.

First Apartment: Our first guest was a single dad. His apartment building was sold, rents increased, and he had recently changed jobs and had no savings. On top of that his car was totaled due to no fault of his own, and he had been in and out of the hospital. His two boys were living with their mother and he was trying to live in the same town so he could share custody. While with us he was able to get a better fulltime job, regular visitation with his two boys, and Shelter was able to get him a vehicle and insurance. He moved out in May and found a roommate to share the rent. In May of 2023 Shelter gave up this apartment when a new landlord took over and doubled the rent. In June we were very lucky to find another apartment in Jaffrey with reasonable rent. This apartment is occupied by a mom and four-year-old boy who were sleeping on the floor of an apartment they were sharing with other family. Mom had recently received an associate's in general studies and two certificates in childcare just before moving into our apartment. While in our program she has been able to get a fulltime job in the Jaffrey School System daycare program and son is enrolled in Headstart here in Jaffrey. Mom has completed many housing applications and is saving 30% of her salary weekly.



Second Apartment: In January our family that had lost their apartment previously to fire were able to move into their own apartment. Our next family consisted of a mom and two children. Mom and husband were living together with

their children in an apartment, but it was not a good situation. Mom got a restraining order against husband, and he in turn got a restraining order against his wife. They lost their apartment. Mom had a fulltime job and dad had jobs here and there. Mom and children moved into our apartment and at the end of our program mom was able to move into her mother's home with the children while still trying to work things out with the dad. Our present guest is a mom with two boys. Mom could not afford rent increase at the apartment she was living in and father of the children did not help. Family consists of a four-year-old son who is on the spectrum and is extremely active, keeping his mom on her toes at all times, and an 11-year-old who is in school, but needs counseling. Mom's made an appointment with MFS for an intake because mental health is her priority. She also wants to get her driver's license. She has passed the written test, but because of her anxiety has not been able to pass the driving test. The parents of the father are very supportive of her and the children, and make it a priority to drive them wherever and whenever they need to go.



Our third apartment started out with a family of five – Mom, dad, and 3 girls had been with us for 7 months, and at the end of January the family was able to move into an apartment of their own. Mom and dad both had full-time employment and were hoping to be able to rent an apartment for a short period and then buy a home

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TD Bank-SFTS Affinity Program



Do you have an individual or business account at TD Bank?

If you do, please tell TD Bank you want to join SHELTER FROM THE STORM'S Affinity Program.

Raising funds for SHELTER FROM THE STORM does not get any easier than this!

**By joining the Affinity Program,
Shelter From The Storm will receive an
annual contribution from TD Bank simply
because you bank there!**

Joining TD Bank's Affinity Program for SFTS is easy!

1. **Call or stop into any TD Bank office** (toll-free customer service number: 888-751-9000) or 532-1400 (JAFFREY TD BANK)
2. **Tell a bank representative** that you want to join the Affinity Program for SHELTER FROM THE STORM
3. **Give them your name and account numbers.** (TD Bank will keep all of your information strictly confidential.)

If you do not currently bank at TD Bank: Any bank associate can help you open an account and join the Affinity Program. Any TD Bank customer can join the Affinity Program benefitting SFTS, so **ask your friends, relatives, and business partners** with TD Bank accounts to call 888-751-9000 or 603-532-1400 and join too.

There is *absolutely* no cost to you.

How does the TD Bank Affinity Program work?

TD Bank will make an annual contribution to SFTS if accounts are linked to the SFTS Affinity Program. The amount of TD Bank's contribution is based on the average annual balance in the account of the customers who join the Affinity Program. Joining the program does NOT alter the terms or condition of your TD Bank accounts, and none of your funds or personal information will be given to SFTS. If you have any questions, please call Shelter From The Storm at 603-532-8222.



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

OUR GUESTS in 2023 *continued from page 2*

of their own. After they moved on we had a mom and a newborn join our program. The mom had to leave her job in order to take care of her child who was born with some severe medical problems. After staying with us for a little over eight months, Mom was able to get a subsidized apartment in Jaffrey. She is presently getting paid to take care of her child through the state. Next on the agenda was a family of three, mom and two girls. Homeless due to alcohol misuse and medical issues by her partner, she was forced to move to NH to double up with extended family. There were conflicts and once again they were out on the street. Mom has a bachelor's degree but in order to get back on her feet she is currently cleaning houses and working at a nursing home in the area. Mom wants to stay in the area and provide stabilization for her children by keeping them in local schools and living in a safe and loving environment.

Fourth Apartment: Mom and two girls started in this apartment in 2022 and moved out into their own apartment in May of 2023. Mom had fled domestic violence and while with us was able to get custody of her children. Mom was also able to get a full-time job in the Leominster MA Hospital. All are doing well. In June a single mom joined our program. Mother of two, she was having a custody battle over her two boys, which she is still in the process of resolving. Working as a caretaker for a gentleman, she realized that she was in need of more income. She is now holding down two jobs and working over 50 hours a week. She will be leaving our program in February and has savings that will more than cover her first month's rent as well as security payment.

Our Fifth Apartment: A mom and 4 year old son started the new year with us. Mom was not able to make payments on her vehicle and it was repossessed. Mom got a full-time job out of town and was commuting with a friend. Shelter was able to purchase an affordable car for her to use to commute back and forth to work, take her son to Headstart, as well as doctor's appointments and groceries. At the end of her stay with us she was able to move in with a friend and keep her job in the area. Presently

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SCOTT-FARRAR IN PETERBOROUGH

Scott-Farrar is an assisted living facility in Peterborough. Their knitting group, Purls of Wisdom, have been making and collecting winter gear, toiletries and toys for the homeless population in our region for the past few months. They generously made holiday gift bags for all of our children this year.

*Jenna Markum, Activity Assistant at Scott-Farrar
and Linda Harris, SFTS.*



TASTE OF MONADNOCK & BEYOND FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL 2023



ANTIQUE ROADSHOW & RAFFLE 2023



OUR GUESTS in 2023 cont. from page 4

this apartment is occupied by a mom and two young girls, four and two. Mom works full-time as a teacher at an early childhood center and her two children are able to go to work with her. Previous landlord was redoing apartment building and she was asked to leave. With high rents in the area she was left homeless and applied to our program. She is saving over 30% of her income with us and is hopeful that she will be able to afford her own apartment soon.

Our guests are required to fill out housing applications during their first month stay and all have accomplished that. Four of our families have saved over 30% of their income with us each week. Our fifth guest is struggling to save 30% of her income, due to some unexpected expenses, but hopes to catch up soon.

Shelter From The Storm (SFTS) is a continuous TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM. Guests are able to stay in our program for 8 -12 months, save 30% of their income with us, and transition into their own housing at the end of their stay. Since 2008 we continue to help over 50% of the homeless in our area each year.

SFTS has provided housing and support programs for 128 families since January of 2008, and has helped over 360 people. Our Caseworker meets with our guests weekly/bi-weekly to go over their goals, any programs they may be eligible for, help with housing applications, etc. We also have a volunteer who meets with our guests to help them with their budgets. Job training, social skills, social service programs, parents' program, nutrition program, job search, employment resume, and educational programs are also offered to our guests according to their individual needs. The main goal is to establish independent living in affordable housing within 8-12 months. Shelter From The Storm is the only transitional shelter in Jaffrey, Rindge and surrounding towns in Cheshire County. We help over 50% of the homeless in our area. Presently we have five fully furnished apartments.

Our Life Coach is required to do weekly detailed reports and submit them to our Executive Director on the progress of our guests. These reports include:

- Budgeting – Daily expense sheets; budget sheets
- Childcare – dependable and affordable childcare so guest is able to work or apply for jobs
- Financial – 30% savings; credit reports; debt – create payment plan
- Employment – job search or status; applications submitted; resume writing
- Housing – Housing applications filed; status on wait lists
- Transportation – Vehicle condition; inspections; gas
- Support Programs – Monitor programs attended and help guests to apply for programs needed

Our Life Coach also meets bi-weekly with our Executive Director and Program Management Chair to review goals of guests and discuss solutions and outcomes as well as monthly meetings with the Program Management Committee.

Guests attend an exit session with their Caseworkers, Executive Director, and Program Management Chair when leaving the program. We are able to track results and increase services if necessary. When guests leave our program we encourage them to maintain a relationship with us and we continue to offer support where needed. We are able to determine the effects of our assistance and provide feedback to the board and friends of SFTS. Results allow us to better meet the needs of the people in our program. We learn from our successes and failures, but realize whether our guests stay for one month or eight months or twelve months, we have helped.



GIFTING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Please consider your next gift for an upcoming birthday, anniversary, holiday, or special occasion to be a Gift Card from Shelter From The Storm. By donating in honor of someone else, or in memory of someone else, you will help to provide a home to those in need.

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

To purchase gift cards, please contact Shelter From The Storm at 532-8222 or mail a donation and gift card information to SFTS, PO Box 257, Jaffrey and a Gift Card will be sent out. THANK YOU.

Wherever a man
turns he can find
Someone who needs
him.

—Albert Schweitzer



JOIN US!!!

Become a SFTS Committee Member..

Shelter From The Storm is always looking for potential new committee members.

- **Program Management Committee** meets monthly to oversee our guests and their progress.
- **Special Events:** Help coordinating Taste of Monadnock, the Antique Roadshow & Raffle as well as help coordinating those events as well as others.
- **Housekeeping:** Prepare apartments for new guests.
- **Furniture:** At times, it is necessary to move furniture in and out of units. Got a truck, van or strong back? We always need your help!
- **Transportation:** Guests may need transportation to meetings, work, appointments or school.
- **Mentoring:** Friendship, childcare, home management skills, stretching grocery dollars, advocacy, and more

As members retire or rotate, new board members are needed and are often drawn from volunteers.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact our executive director Linda Harris, at 532-8222 or email SFTSMH@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PMC MEETING	January 8 - 1 pm
BOARD MEETING	December 11 - 9 am
HANUKKAH	December 7-15
CHRISTMAS	Monday, December 25
NEW YEAR'S DAY	Monday, January 1
ANNUAL MEETING	January 18 - TBA
PMC MTG.	February 5 - 1 pm
VALENTINE'S DAY	Wednesday, February 14
TASTE OF MONADNOCK	July 28