



SHELTERGRAM

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Issue 46

December 2024



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Seasons Greetings

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HELPED! OUR SUCCESSES ARE BECAUSE OF YOU!

To our donors, supporters, grantors, volunteers, board and committee members and our community - thank you for your generosity!!

EVENT SPONSORS

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- TD Bank Charitable Foundation • Woodbound Inn •

(Please forgive if any names have been omitted.)



OUR GUESTS IN 2024

2024 – Our Story to date: We have five fully furnished apartments in Jaffrey within walking distance of downtown Jaffrey. Our guests are able to walk or drive to doctor appointments, food pantry, gas, basic food needs, and children are in walking distance of most schools.

We interview our guests after being with us for 1 month, 3 months and 6 months, having two 1 month interviews this week. We go over their needs, wants and accomplishments, letting them know that we are here for them if needed, making sure that they have done what is required of them to stay in our program.

First Apartment: Our first guest was a mom and 4 year old son who had been sleeping in an apartment they were sharing with other family. They entered our program near the end of June 2023. While with us mom worked in the Jaffrey school system, completed all housing applications and saved 30% of her salary weekly. She was unable to find subsidized housing in the area and moved to Massachusetts at the end of her stay with us in early January 2024, to share an apartment with a friend so she could afford rent. Mom and two children joined us next after living with family in an unhealthy environment. We were able to put them into the Quaker House until our apartment became available. Mom was working as a behavioral specialist and children were in school in Jaffrey. Daughter 8 was allegedly sexually abused and undergoing therapy. Son 3 was in Kids Club while mom worked. While in our program we were able to help mom buy a dependable car, and mom filled out all subsidized housing applications and was able to move into a two bedroom apartment when she left our program. Our next family was another mom and a 15 year old daughter with cerebral palsy. Mom filed for legal separation due to domestic violence. Family stayed with us for 3 months before getting help from grandparents to rent their own apartment near mom's work. Present family of five moved in shortly after their departure. They were couch surfing, while children stayed with their father off and on. Mom works in Peterborough and has no transportation at present. Getting rides with co-worker. Hoping to get a vehicle in December from her aunt or her moother..

Second Apartment: In February, after being with us for almost nine months, our mom with two boys, one on the spectrum and one needing counseling, were not able to find housing and moved in with their

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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*

grandparents out of state, who offered to help until housing could be found. While waiting for the apartment to become available, we were able to put our second family, mom and daughter who were in an abusive relationship, into the Quaker housing for a few weeks, having our case worker meet with them there. Mom is an LPN, needing recertification and 13 year old daughter had some developmental disabilities but doing extremely well in our local school. After their stay with us we accepted a mom and two children. Mom found out they were about to be evicted. Husband was not paying rent, and using their money for drugs. Mom is working full-time in Peterborough and girls, 11 and 7, are going to school in Jaffrey. She is participating in our new budget program with Bank of America and saving 30% of her income with us.

Our third apartment started out with a family of three who moved into this apartment in November of 2023. 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 bachelor's degree but in order to get back on her feet she was cleaning houses and working at a nursing home in the area. While with us this family was provided stabilization for herself and her children in a safe and loving environment. Mom saved over 30% of her income weekly and in July, with the help of her mother, she was able to purchase a home in western Pennsylvania where she grew up. Presently a family of 5 resides in this apartment. Mom is filing for divorce from a verbally abusive partner. Mom has a good job and is saving over 30% of her income with us and is also participating in our new budgeting/credit program. She is sharing custody with her husband to try and keep things as normal as possible for the children.

Fourth Apartment: Our single mom, mother of two, who joined our program in June of 2023 left our program in February. She was having a custody battle over her two boys and is still in the process of

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THANK YOU



Thank you to the Rindge Chamber of Commerce for choosing Shelter of the Storm as Non-Profit of the Year! Join us at the Annual Gala on Saturday, January 18th, 2025, at the Hidden Hills Banquet Facility from 5:30-10:00 PM. The Annual Gala will be a fantastic event with a buffet dinner, music and dancing, silent auction items, raffles, and the 50/50 drawing!

CALL FOR TICKETS NOW:



ANTIQUE ROADSHOW & RAFFLE 2024



ANTIQUE ROADSHOW & RAFFLE 2024



OUR GUESTS in 2023 cont. from page 4

resolving the issue, but does get to see them regularly. Still working as a caretaker for a gentleman in town and is moving into a cousin's apartment. Next was a pregnant mom of 3 who was due in June. Her youngest daughter was living with her, while her other two daughters were living with their father until the school year ended. In June she was blessed with a baby boy, and shortly after went back to work. In August she was able to move into an apartment with her four children and continues to do well. Presently this apartment is occupied by a mom and two children. Mom left an extremely toxic relationship, wanted to give her children a more stable environment, and not expose them to their father's drug use. Mom works as a Certified Nursing Assistant for a gentleman in a town nearby. Recently she was asked if she would like to rent a house on their property at a discounted fee and she jumped at the opportunity. This week we are interviewing a new family for this apartment and, if approved, hope to get them moved in before Christmas.

Our Fifth Apartment: In December of 23 we had a single gal move into our fifth apartment. She was fleeing from a domestic violence situation. We helped her with some legal issues, find a less expensive phone, sign up for food stamps and Medicare, and had her fill out 5 different subsidized housing applications. The job she thought she had fell through, so she immediately signed on with a temp agency and was hired by a company nearby. After a short four months with us, our guest was able to get an apartment she could afford. Our next guest joined us on a month to month basis. We were not sure if we were the best place to help her with issues. After three months it was determined that our guest needed more help than we were able to offer. Our present guest is a mom with a four year old. She is pregnant and due in February. She is an extremely hard worker, working full-time and saving 30% of her income. She is working on a budget and hoping to save enough money to purchase a car in the near future.

SFTS has provided housing and support programs for 153 families since January of 2008, and has helped over 400 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, 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 within 8-12 months. Due to rents increasing from 30-50% in many cases, it is almost impossible for us as well as our guests to find affordable housing.



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.

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

—Albert Schweitzer

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.

Wishing you
Safe & Happy
Holidays!



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 6 - 1 pm
CHRISTMAS	Wednesday, December 25
HANUKKAH	December 25-January 2, 2025
NEW YEAR'S DAY	Wednesday, January 1
ANNUAL MEETING	January 16 - TBA
PMC MTG.	February 3 - 1 pm
VALENTINE'S DAY	February 14
PRESIDENTS DAY	February 17
TENTH TASTE OF MONADNOCK	August 10th

