

Home... For Now!

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Anne-Marie House

August 2011- Issue #2



Anne-Marie House, 180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH – (603) 883-7338 – www.annemariehouse.org

Summer at Anne-Marie House!

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Letter from Laurie

The following is a letter from Laurie Skibba, Director of Anne-Marie House.

Whether it's Girl Scouts from Camp Runels making special treats, donations gathered on behalf of an Iron Man competition in Rhode Island, or celebrating birthdays and graduations, our mission remains the same. Our efforts are to support the needs of families experiencing homelessness as they work to achieve sustainable income, housing and transportation.

And how valuable are all of our efforts in the lives of the families we are serving? Read this thank you from one of our recent graduate dads, Enoch: ***"Tell all the wonderful volunteers from Neema and me that I can't thank them enough for everything they have done for us. They were always wonderful to me and my family. Please tell them we are sorry for any mistakes we made with them and to please forgive us. We are very grateful and we thank them."***

Whether we are verbally thanked as Enoch just articulated or not, please know that we are indeed transforming lives here at Anne-Marie House. Thanks to each and every one of you!

Laurie

Find Three Friends and Walk/Run for AMH on Sept. 18!

You love Anne-Marie House, we love Anne-Marie House – do you have a few friends or family members that could show AMH some love too?

On Sept. 18, get a few friends or family members together and come show your love and support for AMH at the 4th

Annual AMH 5K Walk/Run! The event, to be held at the First Baptist Church in Nashua at 1:00 p.m., is AMH's largest annual fundraiser and benefits the families who live at the house.

Pre-registration is \$20 per person and can be done online at www.annemariehouse.org/5krace or over the phone at (603) 883-7338, ext. 5. Day-of registration is \$25 per person. Participants are also encouraged to raise pledges; a downloadable pledge form can be found on the website.

At the race, participants will be treated to free chowder from Weathervane Seafood

Restaurant and more! Special guest emcee, Amy Coven, from WMUR Channel 9, will preside over the event. Mayor Donnalee Lozeau and AMH 5K veteran and Olympic race walker, Joanne Dow, are also scheduled to make appearances.

As if that wasn't enough, clowns from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus will lead the "Red Nose Run for AMH – A Fitness Run for Kids." A registration fee of \$5 includes a free ticket to the circus (Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester), a circus clown nose and other surprises. Registration for the kids' run begins at 1:00 p.m. and the run starts at 2:00 p.m.

"The 5K participants are a lot like AMH volunteers," said Dennis St. Lawrence, event chair. "They set out hoping to change others' lives for the better, and along the way, they find their own lives trans-



formed. They don't have all the answers, but they are taking a stand and getting started. They are truly inspiring."

This year's 5K race is made possible by the wonderful support of the following sponsors:

Gold Sponsors: Evergreen USA, Friel Family Golf Management, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; **Silver Sponsors:** Aegis Comfort Systems, Longhorn Steakhouse, The Nashua Telegraph, Toyota of Nashua, Weathervane Seafood Restaurant; **Bronze Sponsors:** Buckley Disposal Services, Chik-fil-a, Club Richelieu Manchester, Sign-o-rama.

Joy Abounds at AMH with Graduations, New Families and a New Baby Boy

The following is a letter from June St. Lawrence, Family Support Coordinator at Anne-Marie House.

Anne-Marie House hummed with happy activities this summer! There were parties, kids going off to camp, teens volunteering in the community and a night out at a local baseball game.

A Fourth of July picnic kicked off the summer fun in our own backyard and we celebrated a 2-year-old's "Thomas the Tank Engine" birthday party not long after. We also celebrated three families graduating from Anne-Marie House – Enock and Neema's family, Jairus and Teresiah's family and Ray and Melissa's family. One family was able to save to **buy** their first home! Graduation day is always a teary mixture of joy and sadness -- our guests are sad to leave their friends (other guests and hosts alike) but also joyful to be independent again in their own "new" place. A big thanks to... *continued on page 3*

Joy Abounds, Cont.

... our wonderful volunteers and community supporters who helped to completely furnish our graduating families' homes by donating gently used furniture and other household items.

Bekah, Dylan and Simon spent a week at the Salvation Army's sleep-away camp at Lake Sebago and Aaron, Izhar, Bekah and Simon went camping for a week with their church. The elementary school children also went to the Salvation Army's "Olympic Week" day camp. Aaron volunteered as a junior camp counselor this summer and Izhar volunteered at the Nashua Soup Kitchen. To round out the summer events, some of our parents, children and volunteers went free of charge to a Lowell "Spinners" All-Star game, courtesy of arrangements made by our own AMH volunteer, Dave Wilder.

As summer comes to a close, it's time for new beginnings. Kate had a beautiful, healthy baby boy named Dax on August 14, the children are readying for school, new families are filling up the house and our volunteers are returning from summer vacations recharged and full of stories to share.

A special thank you goes out to our volunteer family and our community partners. Without you, our AMH families would not have had this exceptional summer. Thank you for making it possible!

- June

Volunteer Couple Receives Angel of the Month Award

AMH honored two special volunteers for the months of July and August, Chris and Stacey Summers!

Chris and Stacey, a married couple who regularly volunteer together at AMH, received the "Angel of the Month" award for

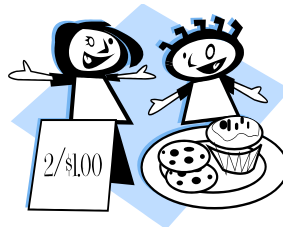
"doing whatever it takes to help our families and Anne-Marie House," said Linda Fraser, AMH Volunteer Coordinator. "They are great game players and entertainers and have created wonderful memories for our families..."

Some of you may have seen Chris and Stacey's inflatable "bounce house" at the AMH Yard Sale in May and in the AMH play yard this summer, providing hours of fun for the children and families who live at AMH. Thank you, Chris and Stacey!

Kids Can Help AMH Too: Projects for Younger Volunteers!

At AMH, we often receive phone calls from youth groups, boy scout/girl scout troops, classrooms and young individuals with the same question: "What can we do to help Anne-Marie House?!"

While the minimum age to volunteer at AMH without a parent is 18 years old, there are so many things that youth can



do to help out! In fact, we have a new, downloadable document on

www.annemariehouse.org/give called "Projects Kids Can Do for AMH" that lists lots of ideas for

volunteer and fundraising projects.

Ideas include holding a bake sale, doing a small pantry drive or even collecting spare change in a special box. We welcome other ideas too! For more information, contact Jen Lorrain, Dir. of Development at (603) 883-7338, ext. 5.

Community Corner: Summer Sweethearts

Showers AMH with Support

Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter Provides Back-to-School Supplies & Backpacks for AMH Kids

A big thanks to the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter for providing backpacks and school supplies for our kids this fall! The supplies were provided through the organization's backpack program and our kids were ecstatic to receive the things they need to get a good start in September!

LUMC BBQ Booth Benefits AMH

Wow! Thank you to Londonderry United Methodist Church (LUMC), who hosted a BBQ booth on behalf of AMH at Londonderry Old Home Day on Saturday, August 20. Not only did the booth raise over \$1,200 for AMH, but a neighboring congregation added to the total with a \$1,000 donation to AMH! Thank you Pastor Wes and our special LUMC angels for your support!

Panera 'Dough-Nation' Program to Support AMH

Get a sandwich and drop the spare change in an "Operation Dough-Nation" box at Panera Bread on Amherst Street in



Anne-Marie House is the 2011 beneficiary of the "Operation Dough-Nation" program at Panera Bread at 590 Amherst Street in Nashua

Nashua and you'll be doing AMH a big favor! Through the remainder of the year, this Panera Bread restaurant in particular will collect change for AMH and will also **match** the total donations dollar-for-dollar! When you stop in, please make sure to tell the cashier you appreciate Panera's support of AMH!

Camp Runels Stocks AMH Pantry with Excess Food

We are grateful to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass. and Camp Runels in Pelham who, after the camp had closed down for the summer, donated their leftover pantry and freezer goods to AMH, including unused meats, corn, tortillas and more! The girl scouts also baked desserts for a meal at AMH and donated arts and crafts kits for our children. Thank you

especially to AMH volunteer Jessica Barkley for enabling this incredible gift!

Pelham Shantytown Raises Over \$1,600 for AMH

Gratitude abounds from AMH to St. Patrick Parish in Pelham for again choosing AMH as one of seven nonprofit beneficiaries of its annual Shantytown event, held on June 18 and 19. Much like AMH's "Box City" event, St. Patrick's Shantytown encourages youth to learn about homelessness while sleeping out overnight in cardboard "homes." You can learn about plans for AMH's 5th Annual Box City at www.annemariehouse.org/boxcity. Thank you St. Patrick Parish for your continued support!

Nashua Rotary Supports Basic Needs at AMH with \$1,500 Grant

AMH is honored to receive a \$1,500 grant from the Nashua Rotary Club! The grant will be used specifically to purchase basic pantry staples that cannot otherwise be purchased with families' food stamps, such as laundry detergent, diapers and baby wipes, and over-the-counter cold medication and first aid supplies. Thank you Nashua Rotary members for your continued support!

