

Home... For Now!

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Anne-Marie House

October 2011- Issue #3



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

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Letter from Laurie

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

On Sept. 23-25, Frank Manley, AMH Board of Trustees President, June St. Lawrence, AMH Family Support Coordinator, and I joined more than 260 other affiliate-related supporters at the Family Promise national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year's theme, *Moving Mountains*, reflected not only the challenges faced by families and affiliates alike in this economy but also the amazing work being done by the 171 member affiliates across the country each day. Thirty-four workshops were offered for board members, staff and volunteers ranging in topics from fundraising best practices to online tools designed to build capacity and raise awareness.

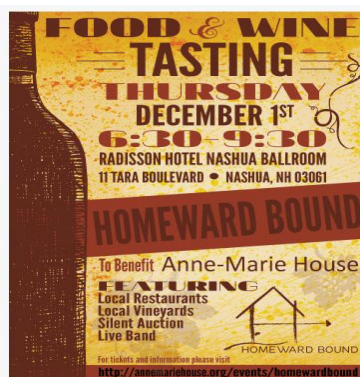
Moving Mountains was also an opportunity for founder, Karen Olson, to address the challenges ahead. She shared with us how the national office continues to seek national partners to leverage our presence across the country with other like-minded organizations. *Continued on page 2...*

Help Families Become “Homeward Bound” This December!

Join AMH and others who support our mission at **Homeward Bound** on Thursday, Dec. 1 at The Radisson Hotel Nashua Ballroom from 6:30-9:30 p.m.!

Homeward Bound participants will sample fabulous creations from the top local restaurants and wineries in the area, as well as enjoy a large silent auction and a live band. In addition, attendees will also experience featured success stories from graduate AMH families along with a special video presentation depicting first-hand how their dollars are helping local children and families.

Tickets for Homeward Bound are \$50



per person and can be purchased online at www.annemariehouse.org/homewardbound or by calling (603) 883-7338, ext. 5.

Tables of 8-10 guests are

available at a discounted rate of \$45/person – a perfect way to host your company's holiday party or a family and friends holiday get-together! To reserve a table(s), please call (603) 883-7338, ext. 5.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and begin at just \$500. For more information, call Jen Lorrain, AMH Director of Development, at (603) 883-7338, ext. 5 or e-mail Jennifer.Lorrain@annemariehouse.org.

We hope you can join us for this fantastic night out!

Letter from Laurie Continued...

Continued from page 2... One such partnership could be with the real estate company, “Better Homes and Gardens.” However, to bring this relationship to fruition, Ms. Olson strongly, strongly suggests that all the “Interfaith Hospitality Networks,” like our legal name still reflects – The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network d/b/a Anne-Marie House -- or any other creative name that is currently being used, adopt the “Family Promise” name as soon as possible. Just as “Better Homes and Gardens” is nationally known as a real estate company, “Family Promise” could be nationally known as the program that delivers a powerful message of hope to all families to achieve sustainable independence.

Stay tuned. Our Board of Trustees has taken Karen’s message to heart and is seriously reviewing this request. We may be answering our telephone, “Family Promise of Greater Nashua”(or some variation of these words) but the reference to our beloved transitional housing program, “Anne-Marie House” will remain! I share Karen’s ending thought with you: “Despite these tough times, I have faith we can get through them. I have faith in Family Promise...and faith in the families we serve. If we work together, work smart, I have faith we can move mountains.”

Laurie

4th Annual AMH 5K Walk-Run Raises More Than \$30,000!

By Frank Fichera, AMH Intern

Anne-Marie House’s 4th annual 5K walk-run was a complete success! We are pleased to announce that this event, with the help of all our supporting sponsors, donors, and pledge collectors, raised more than \$30,000 to help end homelessness!

As an intern at AMH, I was given the unique opportunity to help prepare for the event, work alongside all of the amazing volunteers on the day of the race, and participate in the run itself. Although I came in fourth to last, in an astonishing turn out of over 200 participants, I still had a wonderful time enjoying the clear weather and the beautiful 5K course set up throughout Greeley Park.

After working with Anne-Marie House for some time now, and contributing to a number of different events and activities, the 5K walk-run was the first one I have personally seen the outcome of and it is truly rewarding. Events like this remind me why I volunteer and work with non-profit organizations, and how much good it can do for ending problems such as homelessness.

I look forward to running for AMH in its 5th annual 5K next year, and hope to do better than 4th to last! But at the end of the day it wasn’t my position in the race that was important, it was the people I was helping. Thank you, everyone, for your participation and support!

AMH would like to thank all of our incredible sponsors, volunteers, donors and, most especially,

Dennis St. Lawrence, event chair, for the hard work and dedication poured into this successful event! We hope you’ll join us for next year’s event on September 16, 2012!



AMH intern Frank Fichera and Emily Paquette running the 4th Annual AMH 5K Walk-Run on Sept. 18

DCU for Kids Awards \$5,000 Grant to AMH!

By Frank Fichera, AMH Intern

DCU for Kids awarded a generous \$5,000 grant to help AMH end family homelessness. DCU for Kids extended these funds to support AMH program expenses, including childcare assistance, adult education, and household basics such as diapers and pantry supplies.

“This is what being a community is all about: helping your neighbors who are going

through some tough times,” said John LaHair, DCU for Kids board member. “We are honored to support the work of Anne-Marie House in providing a ‘home with a heart’ to children and families in need.”

AMH would like to graciously thank DCU for Kids for their amazing contribution to our organization and for helping us end homelessness one family at a time!



DCU for Kids, Digital Federal Credit Union's nonprofit charitable foundation, awarded AMH a \$5,000 grant in July.

Can You Help “Heat Our Home” By Dec. 31st?

Before we know it, winter and the holiday season will be upon us. You can help make sure our children and families' winter seasons are happy and *warm* with a small donation to AMH's “**Heat Our Home**” fundraiser. Donations to “Heat Our Home” will help defray the cost of anticipated \$8,000 oil bill approaching in December and keep our children and families warm. Please consider making a donation – no amount is too small! Donations may be sent to: AMH, 180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH 03051, Attn: Heat Our Home, or made online at www.annemariehouse.org.

AMH Families Visit the Big Top!

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

On Sept. 30, Anne-Marie House guests and graduate families had the time of their lives under the “Big Top!”

Thanks to the generosity of the *Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus*, 50 adults and children went to the Verizon Wireless Arena to see clowns, jugglers, acrobats, elephants and tigers. The evening began with a picnic supper



provided by *Chick-fil-A*. Everyone watched the “Greatest Show on Earth” mesmerized, especially some of our past graduates (Anna, Lilly, Amy K, Amy B, Teresiah, Ray & Melissa) and their children, and it was a special time for many to reunite. Dominic stood almost the entire time so that he wouldn't miss anything. Rabekah was most interested in the trapeze artists, while Brendon and Emmy counted the number of horses and elephants in the three rings. Nick, Aaron, and Izhar were surprised to discover that the circus really is equally entertaining for the “big” kids too! They particularly liked the six motorcycles spinning in the wire sphere cage. This was a once in a lifetime experience for our families and one they are not soon to forget!

- June

Community Corner: Pantry Donations, Ladies Night on the Town, Family Portraits & More!

Jasper Valley Swim & Tennis Club Donates Pantry Items

A big thank you to Laura Mayo, club manager of the Jasper Valley Swim and Tennis Club, in Amherst! As the summer months came to a close, Laura reached out to AMH to donate the remaining food products from Jasper Valley's snack shack, including breads and snack items. Thank you Laura for your thoughtful generosity!

Banyan Tree Yoga Open House to Benefit Anne-Marie House!

Stop by Banyan Tree Yoga's open house on Sunday, Oct. 23 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 505 W. Hollis Street in Nashua and help AMH too! Open house goers can visit with vendors, sample refreshments and specialty juices and purchase tickets for great raffle prizes! All raffle tickets sales benefit AMH. Come visit -- we'll be there! Thank you to Brandy Hill, owner of Banyan Tree Yoga, for choosing AMH!

Telegraph to Support AMH with "Ladies Night On the Town" Event

Visit Anne-Marie House at the Telegraph's "Ladies Night on the Town" event on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 5-9:00 p.m. at Sky Meadow Country Club!

LADIES NIGHT ON THE TOWN



The event will feature a makeover contest, vendors, food, wine and music, a psychic reading room and a silent auction to benefit AMH! You can also bring a non-perishable item or two for AMH and leave it for us at the event. For more information, visit www.nashuatelegraph.com/ladiesnight. Thank you to our wonderful supporters at the Telegraph for choosing us as the event beneficiary this year!

Local Photographer Captures Special Moments with Family Photos for AMH Families

This summer, local photographer, Ann Grummon, generously offered her talents to take family portraits of AMH families. Not only did Ann get some beautiful shots of our families, she also gave each family a disc of the photos she took as well as a framed photo. You may have also seen Ann

donating her time to snap photos at Neema and Enock's graduation in August. You can view some of Ann's work at www.anngrummonphotography.zenfolio.com. Thank you Ann for donating your time and special gifts to give our families something precious to cherish for many years to come!

Warm-Up America Donates Blankets Just in Time for Colder Months

Thank you to the Warm-Up America volunteers who spent hours crocheting eight beautiful, handmade afghans for our guests! The group, sponsored by A.C. Moore, donated the blankets in September. Our children and families will surely keep cozy and toasty warm this winter with brand new blankets to call their own!

Merci á Club Richelieu Manchester & Nashua!

AMH is honored to have received charitable gifts from both the Manchester and Nashua Club Richelieu! The clubs support nonprofit organizations that help children and families. Thank you Club Richelieu members for your invaluable support!



Did you Know? Anne-Marie House is on Facebook! Become a fan at www.facebook.com/annemariehouse!

