

# Home... for Now

The Newsletter for Anne-Marie House



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**“Our vision is to eliminate homelessness, one family at a time.”**

## Annual Financial Appeal

The 2010 Make Someone Happy Campaign is under way! Board member, Curt Potter, is chairing this year's effort to solicit donations from individuals, congregations and the community to support our annual budget. The Board has set a goal of \$36,000, which will hopefully include a 1:1 match for each dollar raised up to \$18,000. Anyone wishing to donate to our match pool with a financial gift of at least \$2,000 should contact Laurie Skibba, Director of Anne-Marie House. Watch for campaign progress updates in future newsletters.

## Success Takes Longer Now

Our annual statistics for 2009 have now been compiled and the numbers suggest that our accomplishments are very similar to those in 2008 except in the area of average length of stay which is roughly twice as long as it was in 2008. Not surprisingly, many other directors across the country are observing the same thing. Simple explanation? The challenge of locating sufficient employment to pay for sustainable housing.

### 2008

14 families served  
45 persons served  
88% “success” rate  
7,361 bed nights  
21,684 meals served  
15.5% diversity  
171 days avg. stay  
17,015 volunteer hrs

### 2009

16 families served  
49 persons served  
88% “success” rate  
7,024 bed nights  
20,736 meals served  
33% diversity  
296 days avg. length of stay  
17,390 volunteer hrs

“diversity” refers to the percentage of non-Caucasians in the program

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*“I thank God for his gift of life. Secondly the AMH for the support they are giving to us.”*



**Some Anne-Marie House guests having fun after a recent snowfall.**

## Rivier College Connections

The Board of Trustees is harnessing the talents and resources of Rivier College's School of Business Administration. Last fall, Professor Jim Dowding's undergraduate class worked with our Board on a market research project. During the current spring semester, Professor Greg Kivencor's strategic planning course will use AMH as a case study. Their findings should be useful as we continue to refine our strategic plan.

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## Surprises and Blessings

Thanks to a Title I grant received by the Hudson School District, we have received a \$1,000 worth of new computer equipment to begin replacing our aging and outdated hardware for our Anne-Marie House computer room. Our children frequently use this equipment for their homework, and the upgrades should help them keep pace.

One of our AMH volunteers who teaches at the Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton arranged for her fifth grade class to prepare dinner for our families on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, January 18th. We are grateful that the memory of MLK was honored by this service project at Anne-Marie House.

## Alternative Spring Break

Fifteen students from St. Anselm's College in Manchester led by Sr. Lorraine Aucoin, will be living and working at Anne-Marie House from February 27 – March 6 for an "alternative spring break experience". During their service, they will be given a number of tasks to do, like beginning our spring cleaning, repairing broken furniture, re-organizing our storage rooms and preparing the evening meal for all of our families while also reflecting on what it means to be a "just neighbor".

## Future Events

### March 14th: Baptism of Guest Children

Please join us on March 14th at 3 pm for the baptism of children from several of our guest families. Reverend Mick Meyer of Grace Lutheran Church (130 Spit Brook Road, Nashua) will administer this sacrament to four of our AMH children. A light supper reception will follow in the church's Fellowship Hall. Grace Lutheran Church has graciously offered to provide coffee and punch. If you would like to bring a dish to share, please do! Please contact Laurie if you are willing to help.

### March 25th: Travelling Anniversary Celebration

Our travelling 5th anniversary celebration will be stopping at Grace Lutheran Church (130 Spit Brook Road, Nashua) from 6:30-8:30pm. If you are a past, present or future volunteer from "Nashua South", please join us for the festivities! Watch future editions of this newsletter to learn when the celebration is coming to your area.

### April 10th: 5th Annual Rock-A-Thon

The Presentation of Mary Rock-A-Thon will take place in Manchester from 9am-4pm at the St. Joseph Residence on Mammoth Road. Please consider pledging on behalf of Lilly, Marsha, Soleil and Megan who will all be rocking for this AMH fundraiser. If you would like to pledge or rock on this day, call Laurie to sign up.

### TDB: Box City Event:

Our Box City event will be idled this year, but we hope it will reappear in 2011. If you know of a location where 60-100 6th-12 graders could erect their Box City for a Saturday night in spring as well as having enough indoor space for education stations, please contact Laurie Skibba to discuss your idea.