

Home... for Now

The Newsletter for Anne-Marie House



March 2010 • Vol. 1 • Issue 3 • The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network Inc. at Anne-Marie House



“Ending homelessness... one family at a time.”

A Glimpse Into the Saint Anselm College Students' Spring Break Alternative at AMH...

As the majority of students at Saint Anselm College looked forward to tropical vacations and ski trips in the mountains, sixteen of us prepared ourselves for the half-hour journey to Anne-Marie House. What do we pack? What will we be doing? Will our motley crew be accepted into this house? The only things we could certainly prepare ourselves for were chores. We were in for a great surprise.

A house is easy to describe; a structure, windows, walls, doors, carpets, and furniture. Before entering Anne-Marie House, we had anticipated the house's sole task to be to provide shelter for eight separate families. We expected to assume the roles of cleaners and repairers for the week. We thought the house, as a structure, was our job.

But Anne-Marie House became Anne-Marie Home the second we walked through the doors. A home is a completely different place than a house. The term "home" is emotional. It is love, trust and safety. A house is simply a structure. Anyone can be welcomed into a house; all they are required to do is walk through the doorway. But to be welcomed into a home is a completely different experience, one we encountered during our stay.

The unity of the eight families at Anne-Marie House was overwhelming at first. We would see one mother attending to her child in the dining room at lunch, but then another mother caring for the child as her own hours later at dinner. The way in which the members of Anne-Marie House come together as a family, especially at dinner time, was astonishing to all of us. The truest and most common sensation that could be felt inside the walls of the Anne-Marie House was love and home.

As we left, we were thanked by the guests for our work. Yet, in all honesty, it was more appropriate for us to thank the guests for their inspiration and for the comfort we felt in their home. They illuminated the importance of love and the necessity of courage, the endurance of humanity and the essence of optimism, the definition of house and the feeling of home. Our lives have been altered because of the way those at Anne-Marie House live theirs.

- Submitted by the St A's students who lived at AMH from February 28 to March 6.

In this Issue

- Alternative Spring Break
- Five Baptisms
- Matching Gifts
- Support Ann-Marie House and a Micro-Enterprise
- Hanaford Raises Money
- Future Events

“Dear Laurie ~ I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to change our lives. I know we are blessed to be here and plan on using every opportunity that we can... Thank you again,”

Part of a thank you note received last month from one of our current guest families



Lilly & Dominic, Jailani, Jaream and Kierra at their Baptism.



Matching Gifts

Our 2010 fundraising efforts are off to a terrific start! Several major donors are leading the way in our annual financial appeal. We have already raised \$21,000 in matching gifts. The Board of Trustees plans to raise the same amount through this year's mailing so that our program can reach the maximum match.

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Blessings

On Sunday, March 14th, five Anne-Marie House guests were baptized at Grace Lutheran Church in Nashua. The joy and love of God was evident during the ceremony and the reception that followed. Rev. Mick and his congregation certainly created a memorable occasion for the 100+ who attended. On behalf of everyone who was invited to witness and welcome these souls into God's family through baptism, thank you for allowing us to share in this joyous event. Thank You, Grace Lutheran!

Support Anne-Marie House & a Micro-Enterprise

Trustee Dick Patterson has undertaken the sale of all-occasion greeting cards at St. Kathryn's Roman Catholic Church as a fundraiser for Anne-Marie House. The cards are designed and handcrafted by Peruvian women using recycled materials and their own homemade paper. If you or your congregation is interested in selling these cards, please contact Dick at: Dick@DickPatterson.net. To learn more about this micro enterprise, check out www.perupaper.com.

Hannaford Raises Money

The Hannaford supermarket on Coliseum Avenue in Nashua recently allowed Anne-Marie House to be the recipient of the proceeds from the "Donated Books" kiosk located inside the store. We are grateful to the manager, Gail, who coordinated this activity and to all of you who may have donated or purchased books. We received over \$800 for this activity.

Future Events

Final Rock-A-Thon

The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary are holding their fifth and final Rock-a-Thon fundraiser in Manchester on April 10th on behalf of Anne-Marie House. This event brings the retired sisters of the order living at St. Joseph Residence and the Manchester campus, at 495 Mammoth Road, an opportunity to make a real financial difference in the life of our program. These Rock-a-Thons have raised nearly \$25,000 for our program to date. If you wish to join these special women and some of our current guest families "rocking the day away", please contact either Marlene at MJMakowski@presmarynh.org or Laurie at Anne-Marie House.

Go Green at the AMH Yard Sale

Anne-Marie House will host a yard sale on Saturday, May 15th from 8:30am-1:00 pm. In addition, we plan to sell tethered hot air balloon rides, courtesy of Re/Max Real Estate Company! Volunteers are needed for this event. If you would like to help, please contact Tom Woodward at twoodward@aol.com or e-mail Laurie Skibba at laskibba@gnihn.org for a copy of our event flyer with all the specifics.