

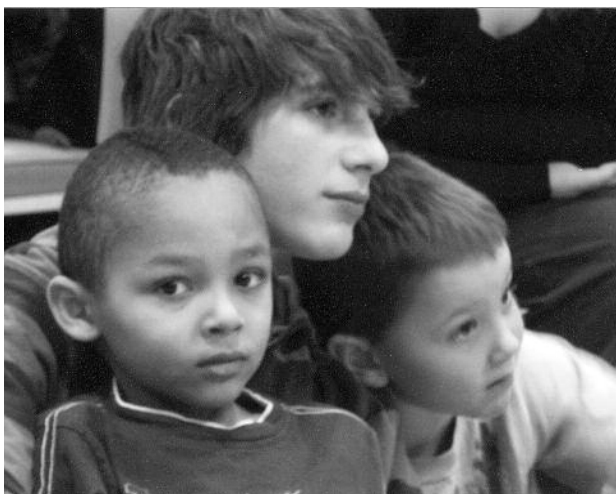
An Open Door, An Open Heart, An Open Mind

*“What is to give light
must endure burning...”*

VIKTOR FRANKL

Ever since the founding of Wellspring House, hospitality has been at the core of our mission. Our commitment to hospitality has guided our work with every individual we have served and helped to shape the development of our services. Hospitality has meant staying open to the new and unknown, whether that is a stranger, a new idea, or a different way of doing things. There is also a very practical aspect of hospitality, which has to do with using the resources that are at hand, both material and otherwise, wisely.

Like households everywhere, Wellspring House has had to make strategic decisions about how to use limited resources. The needs of the families we serve have become greater in number and more urgent. Today’s economic realities have required Wellspring to make some changes. It can be fairly easy to change things that are clearly not working. It is another matter entirely to make changes in situations when it is obvious that good is present. Yet when we asked the question, “How can we best use our resources?” and considered what the people we are serving were asking of us, several significant changes emerged in two areas.



Stacy Randell

Volunteer Andrew Ganem, student at Waring Middle-High School in Beverly Farms, sits with two boys from the 5-8-year-old group in the Wellspring Cape Ann Families Nurturing Program.

HOUSING HOMELESS FAMILIES

For many years Wellspring’s emergency shelter has housed homeless families at both 302 Essex Avenue and our Washington Street apartment building. On February 1st we made our Washington Street residence “home” for all the families we shelter, up to five at a time. This move enables us to staff more efficiently while continuing to provide the excellent services for which Wellspring is known. At Washington Street, each family lives in an individual unit with independent cooking facilities, which is more like the permanent housing they are seeking. Staff members can work with families on any potential tenancy issues and life skills such as education/job training, budgeting, or parenting, which will help them to sustain permanent housing.

The sharing of communal space and meals at 302 Essex Avenue allowed for a valuable exchange between families, volunteers, staff and visitors, and we

very much wish to keep this exchange alive. The Board of Directors is actively engaged in a discernment process about the best uses of this property as we imagine the future during our strategic planning process. In the meantime, 302 Essex Avenue remains our “home” and continues to be a gathering place and center of hospitality and education which liberates hearts and minds.

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Twelve years ago, Wellspring intentionally created a transformative education program for women, which became known as our Foundations program. One impact of this economic crisis is that low-income families are urgently looking for ways to better support their families. Education and

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Please Join Us for
Wellspring’s 11th Annual
Women Honoring Women
Luncheon on May 4th.

See Page 5.



Wellspring is a community of faith, aware that each life touches every other life. Our work and our decisions are therefore guided by the vision of a just society, in which we must care for the earth and her people by using our resources, property, and land in a spirit of hospitality. In this spirit we work to meet basic human needs, and participate in social change through the provision of shelter, affordable housing, local economic opportunity and education rooted in community needs.

THANK YOU!

Wellspring extends a heartfelt thank-you to Rich Hornby of Voice Data Incorporated in Franklin. Rich has been a steadfast friend to Wellspring over the years, seeing us through many telephone system emergencies.

When it became clear last year that our current system was failing, Rich solicited the donation of a replacement. Some months later, a donation came through from Cooley Manion Jones LLP in Boston.

When it came time to install the new system in January, Rich put in



more than twenty hours of his time. Despite working until midnight on the day of the installation, he rose at dawn the next day to finish the job and train staff on the new system. Through the long hours, he kept a smile on his face.

The estimated cost of purchasing and installing such a system is \$30,000. We are grateful to Cooley Manion Jones for their generous donation of the phone system and to Rich Hornby for the priceless gifts of his time, skills, and spirit. ■

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job training are essential for helping these families maximize their income. In February, Wellspring launched a new program called the Adult Learning Initiative (ALI). This program is available to women and men and offers remedial education in math and English, computer skills, and career develop-

ment courses. Participants can work towards a GED, prepare for college, or improve their on-the-job skills. The need for this new program was affirmed when in a two-week period 29 applications were received for twelve spots.

One of the difficult choices financial constraints caused us to make was to close the Foundations program. Over the years, this program graduated more than 200 women, all of them beneficiaries of an experience that engaged the whole person: the mind acquired information and developed analytical skills, while the heart was nourished with caring and supportive teachers and tutors and the kind of creative engagement that encourages the soul. The Wellspring community has learned a great deal over the years from these courageous students and generous teachers. It is our intention and passion to honor them and continue this kind of transformative education.

The most vulnerable among us call forth the best from us. As the economic crisis deepens, we are being called on to live with courage — that is — to live with heart. This can feel very risky. Some of our most deeply held beliefs and assumptions are being challenged. Old ways of doing things are giving way. Individually and collectively, we find ourselves journeying in a strange land. It is easy to collude, unwittingly,

CREATING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER

On February 28th, Wellspring staff, Board members, community members, program participants, and other stakeholders gathered for an invigorating discussion about how Wellspring can best help families on Cape Ann break through the bonds of poverty. While low-income families in our community face tremendous difficulty accessing housing, adult education, and support services, it is clear that, together, we share an ability and passion for positive change and that Wellspring House plays a critical role in this effort. This Community Listening Day was a crucial component of Wellspring's strategic planning process and engendered many creative responses to the challenges we face. Your voice is important to this process. To learn more, please visit our website: www.wellspringhouse.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Do you want to help Wellspring but are pressed for time? If so, you might want to consider joining our "Angel List," our email update of in-kind needs. We get many such requests, ranging from toiletries to tables. This list is a "blind cc," or private list, which means your name will never be shared. Please email our Volunteer Coordinator to be included.

And whether you have a few hours a week to spare or just a few hours a year, Wellspring can always use your time and talents. This spring, we have two pressing needs:



- Gardening help on our grounds at 302 Essex Ave.
- Computer tutor for our MediClerk program in Salem.

As always, we can use your help in our adult learning programs, shelter, family support and education programs, and in our administrative office. Bring a friend, family member, or co-workers, if you like. Whether your forte is with kids, adults, plants, computers, or even pots and pans, we have a job for you!

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, Wellspring House is hosting a thank-you tea to celebrate all our dedicated volunteers on Thursday, April 24th from 3 PM-5 PM at 302 Essex Avenue. Please see Page 6 for more Volunteer-related events.

Thank you for all you do. You make what we do possible!

For more information on volunteering, please contact Sarah Grow at sgrow@wellspringhouse.org or 978-281-3558 x303

with the tornado of fear, easy to hunker down and draw an ever smaller circle around one's own life and family. Yet Wellspring's commitment to hospitality challenges us to live expansively, even in these times. One gift that hospitality brings us is a feeling of expansiveness, the trust that Life will give us what we need.

We face each day buoyed by faith and trust, committed to serve those among us who are suffering. We are all on this journey together. Thank you for your help in whatever form it comes. You make the difference; you make the work possible. ■

Kay O'Rourke, Executive Director