



# Jessie's House News

[www.jessieshouse.org](http://www.jessieshouse.org)

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

FALL 2007

## Letter from our Director

Dear Friends of Jessie's House,

As many of you may know, David Foster resigned from his position as director of the Hampshire County Cluster of Programs for the Center for Human Development in the spring of 2007.

Rose Evans, Director of the Center for Youth and Family Services and PACE School for the Center for Human Development is now providing leadership and supervision for Jessie's House. Ms. Evans has worked for CHD since 1984 in several different capacities. With Ms. Evans' leadership we have been able to strengthen our programming and once again expand our capacity to serve more homeless families.

Ms. Evans has her Masters Degree in Education and over the last 15 years has expanded the Center for Youth and Family Services from three programs to over twelve programs, including the PACE School. In 2000, Ms. Evans received the first CHD Board of Directors' Award for Excellence in Diversity from the Center for Human Development's Board of Directors.

We embrace the opportunity to work with Ms. Evans in our commitment to provide strength based programming, facilitating positive outcomes for our families. We are thrilled to be working with Ms. Evans and would like to welcome her!

Sincerely,  
Jane Banks, Program Director  
Jessie's House



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### Friends of Jessie's House

Patricia Bonnett  
Jones-BayPath Realty Services

Stephanie Burbine  
Florence Savings Bank

Robert Koch  
Retired

Jack Moss  
Retired

Jeanne Yocum  
Tuscarora Communications, Ltd.

Judith Epstein  
Educational Consultant

To learn about how you become a "Friend of Jessie's House", please email Program Director, Jane Banks at [jbanks@chd.org](mailto:jbanks@chd.org)

### Having a difficult time finding the perfect holiday gift?

The Jessie's House Alternative Giving Program is a perfect way to honor loved ones during the holiday season. When you donate through this program, you will receive a note card with a beautiful picture of Jessie's House drawn by a local artist. Simply give this card to your loved one to tell them of the donation you've made in their honor. We provide one card per \$10 donation. A big thank you to our sponsor, South Hadley Real Estate!!

Please visit [www.jessieshouse.org](http://www.jessieshouse.org) to submit your donation. Important note: All donations must be received one week prior to the "special day" to assure that we have time to mail you the note card(s). If you have any questions about alternative giving, please call Jane Banks at 413-658-0060 or e-mail her at [jbanks@chd.org](mailto:jbanks@chd.org).

## Become a Monthly Donor and Make A Difference!

Becoming a monthly donor helps Jessie's House stretch your donation further. When you sign up as a monthly donor, you help to stabilize our families.

Thanks to our new Web site, becoming a monthly donor has never been simpler or faster. Simply visit [www.jessieshouse.org](http://www.jessieshouse.org) and go to our secure donation page. There you can sign up to make monthly or quarterly donations via credit card. If you ever want to stop donations, all you have to do is call Jane Banks at 413-658-0060 or email her at [jbanks@chd.org](mailto:jbanks@chd.org).

Your donations will help our families in the following ways:

Food for a month: \$100  
 Day Care for a week: \$200  
 Household Items such as  
 Linens, clothing, dishes, etc.: \$75  
 Educational and Recreational Activities: \$25

### Jessie's House Mission Statement

Jessie's House serves and guides homeless families towards a future of hope, good health, and a safe place to call home.



### Don't Forget to Vote for Jessie's House!!! Florence Savings Bank Customers' Choice Community Grants

Florence Savings Bank will donate \$50,000 to local, non-profit organizations and their customers get to help decide where the money will go. Voting ends December 31, 2007, so hurry up and vote for Jessie's House! Tell your friends, family and co-workers; this is an easy way to help us out!

You must be a customer to vote and there's just one vote per person.

Submit your vote today for Jessie's House. Please visit the Florence Savings Bank website at [www.florencesavings.com](http://www.florencesavings.com) to submit!



## Jessie's House Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Jessie's House will be celebrating 25 years of providing shelter space to families in February 2008. To honor this anniversary we are planning several events throughout the year beginning with Big Band and Swing dancing: "25 Years of Swinging Spaces" on Thursday, April 17, 2008. We are hosting a swing dance event and are pulling together all the details. If you are

interested in learning more about this event, feel free to contact Ruth Dudley-Carr by email, [rdudley-carr@chd.org](mailto:rdudley-carr@chd.org) to make sure you receive an invitation. This event will kick off a year of celebration; we look forward to seeing you there! Please watch our website, [www.jessieshouse.org](http://www.jessieshouse.org), for more information on this event.

### Jessie's House Families Travel to McCray's Farm



Jessie's House families went to McCray's Farm in South Hadley for a Hayride to the pumpkin patch. McCray's Farm is the last Dairy Farm

remaining in South Hadley and is well known for homemade ice cream, wagon rides, petting zoo and pick your own pumpkins. All the children received a pumpkin, had ice cream and went to the petting zoo. The day was enjoyed by all!

Holly Florek, a case manager for Jessie's House said "even though it was a little chilly, the families really enjoyed the event and are looking forward to more group outings with staff in the future."

## Shelter Sunday is a Success!!

Jessie's House was one of the programs in Amherst to benefit from Shelter Sunday on October 21st.

Shelter Sunday is a day when volunteers go door to door collecting donations that support local homeless shelters, emergency housing, and survival centers.

As you may know, homelessness is a growing issue in

Western Massachusetts and Jessie's House has been working hard to provide families with a safe, warm and comfortable home.

If you missed Shelter Sunday, please visit [www.sheltersunday.org](http://www.sheltersunday.org) to watch for next years date. Last year approximately \$26,000 was collected; we are still waiting to hear the

amount that was raised this year. Many college students from Amherst College and University of Massachusetts, Amherst are involved each year helping raise funds.

We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and we look forward to giving you more information on next year's Shelter Sunday!



A Program of the Center for Human Development  
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Amherst, MA 01002

A Program of the  Center for Human Development



## Gift Cards for the Holidays

We are often asked by individuals and organizations about what they can donate for the families at Jessie's House for the upcoming Holidays. Our answer.... **GIFT CARDS!!**

### Why gift cards are the best donations:

- Gift cards to grocery stores help our families stretch their always-tight food budgets
- Jessie's House has very limited storage space. So we don't have room to store a lot of items or presents during the holidays and throughout the year.
- During the holidays, gift cards enable parents at Jessie's House to select the appropriate presents for their children instead of having others make these choices for them. Just like other parents, shopping for their children is important to them. Also, buying presents for your children is part of what makes the holidays a special time of year for every part. A donation of gift cards enables the parents at Jessie's House to enjoy this aspect of the holidays.

Often times, families enter shelter with no food or food stamps. In addition to giving these families shelter food, we give them gift cards to purchase needed food until their food stamps come through.

### Where should I purchase Gift Cards?

Stop and Shop  
Big Y  
Whole Foods  
Walmart  
Target  
Marshalls  
TJ Maxx  
CVS