



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

SHELTER SUNDAY • OCTOBER 15, 2006

Jessie's House is one of eight programs participating in the 16th annual Shelter Sunday fundraising event in Northampton. We are in need of volunteers to come out and canvas door to door in Northampton. Please call 413.658.0060 if you can help. A similar event takes place in Amherst, where students make up the bulk of the volunteers.

If someone knocks on your door on Shelter Sunday asking for a donation, please be as generous as you can.



Grace House



We Have a Web Site!

Jessie's House is very proud to announce the launch of our Web site, www.jessieshouse.org. The site provides information about the shelter and about the extent of homelessness in our society. It gives us an important new way to reach out to the community and to serve our mission of advocating for homeless families.

When you visit the site, you can learn about the ways you can help the shelter, either through volunteering or making donations on-line through a secure link. You can also learn about our Wish List of items we always need at the shelter and would welcome as in-kind donations. And there's information on how to join our new Dream Team of people who step up to the plate to meet specific needs of individual families at the shelter.

When the state legislature is considering bills that impact the lives of the people we serve, we will post information so you can take action on their behalf by writing or calling your House and Senate members.

The design of the Jessie's House Web site was donated by Winans Creative, a Web design firm in Easthampton. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.





413-658-0060

Jessie's House News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Fall 2006

Childcare Needed at the Shelter

We are in desperate need of childcare at the shelter. Currently we have parents who want to work but have no childcare. One of our volunteers, Evan, has been calling childcare centers around the area only to find they have extremely long waiting lists and many don't take the childcare vouchers provided by the State.

The process of employment and childcare through the Department of Transitional Assistance works like this: You must find employment first, then you are given a voucher for childcare, you must find a childcare provider that accepts DTA vouchers. Here is where things get complicated; most employers want you to start work immediately, not in a couple of weeks after you have secured childcare. In short, the current system is cumbersome and puts barriers in the way of parents obtaining employment.

We are seeking community members who can provide a couple of hours a week to help with childcare. If you can help, please call Jane Banks at 413.658.0060.

Horizons for Homeless Children Comes to Jessie's House!

After several meetings and a date change—not to mention a location change—Horizons for Homeless Children will be working with Jessie's House staff and residents to design a Playspace of our own.

The Mission of Horizons for Homeless Children is to improve the lives of homeless children and their families.

The Playspace Programs, founded in 1990, serve homeless children in two unique ways:

In collaboration with residents and staff at each shelter, HHC designs and equips age appropriate, "kid-friendly" spaces called "Playspaces"

HHC recruits, trains and places volunteers in shelter Playspaces to engage the children in fun and educational play that benefits their development and growth.

We are deeply grateful for the support of Horizons for Homeless Children in making Jessie's House a better space for the children living here.



WISH LIST

Jessie's House is in need of the following items:

PVTA Bus Passes

Gift Cards From WalMart, Target, CVS, Big Y, and Stop & Shop

Books of Postage Stamps:

Residents have to mail many, many housing applications to comply with DTA housing regulations. Mailing these applications is very costly. Donations of postage help families defray these costs.

We regret that we are not able to pick up donations. To schedule a time to drop off your donation, please call 413.658.0060 or email us at www.jessieshouse.org

GIFT CARDS

We are often asked by individuals and organizations about what they can donate for the families at Jessie's House. Our answer: gift cards!

Why are gift cards the best donations? For these important reasons:

- 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 the year for every parent. 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.

Other Ways to Give...

Please consider making a contribution to Jessie's House of appreciated stocks or mutual funds. We can accept securities through our brokerage account. Charitable remainder gifts and bequests are also appreciated. Contact your tax accountant or financial advisor regarding the tax benefits of these types of charitable giving. If you are interested in donating in this way, please call:

David Foster,

Hampshire County Program Director

Center for Human Development

(413) 586-6021