

# BREAD AND BOARD

The NSK & S Newsletter...[www.nsk.org](http://www.nsk.org)



The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization providing meals, emergency shelter, transitional & permanent housing, food baskets and advocacy to poor and homeless men, women and families with children. The soup kitchen, at 42 Chestnut Street, serves dinner seven days a week and breakfast five days a week. Our philosophy:

*No one should be hungry or homeless in our community*

**THANKSGIVING 2011**

## THANKS FROM A SHELTER GUEST

*I'm going in for surgery next week and I just wanted to thank you and all of the staff for my stay at Ash Street. I would have had a much tougher time waiting for surgery without everyone's help here. .... you gave me a safe place to stay. Gio (shelter manager) especially does such a great job here in keeping the morale up as well as making sure that people are respectful and safe. Thank you and the entire staff once again. It's so nice to have places like this that help people get back on their feet with dignity.*

## RESPONSE TO STOVE CRISIS

The generous community response to the Telegraph article about the soup kitchen needing a new stove was overwhelming. So many individuals, businesses, churches, and groups stepped forward to offer help. We received more than enough money to purchase our new stove. Some donors generously told us if we received more funds than we needed we could use their money for food or whatever else would help. As this newsletter goes to press we are waiting for delivery of our new stove. In the interim, we didn't miss serving a single diner who came in hungry looking for food. That says a lot about our staff and volunteers and this amazing community.

## HOW MANY WILL FIT?

If you have been in our kitchen you know we have 47 chairs. We are licensed for capacity like a restaurant. Five nights in the last week of August we served 250+ people for dinner. We have added a \_ hour to our dinner time to fit in more

diners. We now set aside the first hour for families with children because we are feeding so many more kids. Sadly we expect the numbers to grow throughout the holidays and with your help we will do our best to be there to meet the need. When you see the boxes at Hannaford or the bags at Shaw's for holiday meals at the soup kitchen, please purchase one if you are able to do so.

## Backpack Program

Our back to school backpack program was again a huge success. We partnered with the Boys and Girls Club in Nashua this year. We gave over 2,200 kids new backpacks filled with school supplies to start the year. Here is one of the notes we received from a young man: *Thank you so much for the very useful backpack for my first year in the new school. I will help myself to become a great student because of all the support you gave to me. Learning is so much fun and life is great with people who care about me.* This program is a success because we have so much support from you. Thanks for helping this young man and all the rest of the kids start the school year off on a positive note.

## HURRY....IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Don't miss out on the best auction in town. **Our 11th Annual Auction will be Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at Sky Meadow.** We have some great new items this year and Christy and Al Gaskill are co-chairing. There is no better way to have a good time, do some holiday shopping, and feel good about yourself all at once. If you need tickets or more information, call/email Carol at 889-7770 or [carol@nsks.org](mailto:carol@nsks.org). Hope we see you there!



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## HOLIDAY WISH LIST

*None is more impoverished than the one who has no gratitude. Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for ourselves, and spend without fear of bankruptcy. ~ Fred De Witt Van Amburgh.*

We are very grateful for everyone who helps us during one of our busiest times of year. Holidays are always crazy at the soup kitchen. Many families rely on us to put the holiday meal on their tables. This year we have even more families who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut looking to us for help. Families are telling us that without our help they would go hungry. We are looking for supermarket gift cards to give out in place of turkeys (easier to store and handle), cranberry sauce, stuffing, and all the usual food bag items for the 2,000+ holiday and weekly food bags we will give to hungry households in both November and December. Can you help?

### COMMUNITY SPONSORS – 11th ANNUAL AUCTION

#### **ENDING HOMELESSNESS CHAMPION**

Bank of America  
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Anonymous

#### **FAMILY BENEFACTOR**

Joanne & Roger Gaudette  
New England Financial Planning Group

#### **DINNER ANGEL**

beckonings  
Janet Listowich & Dan Griffin  
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#### **BREAKFAST ANGEL**

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#### **HOUSING ADVOCATE**

Barry & Honorow Law Offices  
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Kathie Feltus & Wally Holohan  
Fischelli, Beach & Brar Family Dentistry  
National Standards Authority of Ireland  
Pennichuck Water Works  
Pheasant Run Apartments

Thank you to our sponsors as we go to press.  
We will have a final list in the next newsletter.

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am humbled and awed by the tremendous community response we received when we were desperate for a new stove. So many

people stepped forward to offer help in whatever way they could, financially, letting us use their ovens, volunteering, cooking food for us to serve, and so forth. Our kitchen staff and volunteers doubled their usual Herculean efforts to make sure that we did not miss serving a single meal. And we didn't.

As we move into the holiday season and we know we will have more families needing help this year than ever before in our 30 year history. Instead of being panicked about how we can possibly keep up, we are all confident that we will have what we need to serve meals, give out turkeys and food baskets, provide shelter beds and offer support to those who come to us for help.

So we are very grateful and thankful for all of you, who make sure that no one in our community needs to go hungry or do without something we can provide. – Lisa Christie

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

*If you find it in your heart to care for someone else, you will have succeeded. - Maya Angelou*

**October – Terry Mostrom** is an essential volunteer for our Wednesday morning Breakfast team! Arriving by 6:30AM, she loves to serve at the tables to get everyone's morning off to a great start. Thank you Terry for brightening our morning!

**November – Beverly Close** keeps a precise tally on all eggs, milk and chickens that goes out with our emergency food boxed on distribution day. She comes in twice a week to help sort our daily perishables. Thanks Beverly for all you do for us!

**December – Kelly Jensen** enjoys coming in with her business group to serve dinner once a month. She is also a new member on our Auction Committee. We appreciate her energy and enthusiasm! Thank you Kelly for all you have accomplished. You are amazing! --Carol Weeks

### ADVOCACY ACTION

Now is a great time in NH for all of us to shape the debate and the questions candidates must respond to. We have numerous opportunities to meet and greet presidential candidates. That gives us the opportunity to make sure that hunger, food insecurity, affordable housing, education funding, and poverty are issues that are being addressed. Check out our FB advocacy page and the advocacy page on our website to stay current on the issues. Call or email Eileen Brady for more information on how you can help. 889-7770 or eileen@nsks.org

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- o write a check or charge a donation
- o collect diapers or personal care items
- o organize a food drive
- o attend our annual Auction
- o check our website for more [www.nsk.org](http://www.nsk.org)

**Remember the NSK&S as you celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Please give generously. Thank you!!**