

# Home... For Now!

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Anne-Marie House

February 2012- Issue #4



Anne-Marie House, 180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH – (603) 883-7338 – [www.annemariehouse.org](http://www.annemariehouse.org)

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## Letter from Laurie

*The following is a letter from Laurie Skibba, Director of Anne-Marie House.*

Together, we can do so much. And together, we *did so much* in 2011! Statistically, our year in review looked like this:

- We assisted 18 families or a total of 53 individuals (23 adults and 30 children).
- 83 percent of our families attained housing independence.
- We provided 6,444 bed nights of shelter.
- We cooked and furnished just over 29,000 meals.
- Our families' average length of stay was 364 days.
- Our volunteers donated nearly 20,750 hours of time.
- And, 50 percent of our guest population was racially and culturally diverse.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Homeward Bound Raises \$17,000 for AMH Kids & Families

More than a dozen local restaurants and wineries served up delicious samples to nearly 200 guests at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua on Dec. 1, all in the name of supporting Anne-Marie House. The event, called "Homeward Bound," raised \$17,000, all of which will go to help AMH kids and families.

"We are grateful and humbled by the tremendous outpouring of support for our program from our local community," said Laurie Skibba, Network Director of Anne-Marie House. "Without the generosity of the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, our emcee Ms. Carolyn Choate, our local



restaurants and wineries, silent auction and raffle donors, guests, donors and volunteers, we would not be able to continue to provide a safe home and resources to our neighbors in need."

Guests shopped a giant silent auction of nearly 80 unique items,

including vacation stays, sports tickets and memorabilia, jewelry, gift baskets, and more. Carolyn Choate of TV 13 Nashua served as event emcee and the Scooter Way Band provided live music. Near the end of the event, guests heard from a success story from one of AMH's graduate families and were then invited to "bid" on essential basic items that Anne-Marie House families need, including diapers and heating oil.

We anticipate next year's event to be held Dec. 6, 2012. If you are interested in joining the Homeward Bound event committee, please e-mail [Jennifer.Lorrain@annemariehouse.org](mailto:Jennifer.Lorrain@annemariehouse.org)

## Letter from Laurie Continued...

*Continued from page 2...* But aside from statistics, more importantly, it's the kind word or warm meal or free ride or welcoming smile that really defines the success of our program here at Anne-Marie House. It's all about relationships – welcoming the stranger that leaves as a friend – which makes all the difference to a family struggling for self-esteem and acceptance. Yes, Anne-Marie House is truly a “home...for now” and each of you associated with this program has made it so.

May we continue to work to end homelessness, one family at a time!

*Laurie*

## New Faces at AMH: Welcome, Andrew & Stacey!

If you've volunteered at AMH lately, you may have noticed a couple of new faces in the building. We're pleased to welcome Andrew Reagan, our new AMH volunteer coordinator, and Stacey Summers, our new evening support coordinator, to the staff!

Andrew has been an AMH volunteer since 2007 and logged over 200 hours of hosting each year until he moved to Arizona to attend law school. Putting his education temporarily on hold to return to New Hampshire, Andrew's regular schedule at AMH is Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



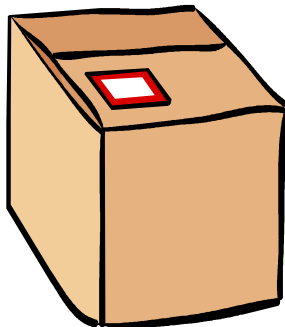
Stacey and her husband Chris have been valued AMH volunteers for a long time and they were both recently awarded the “AMH Angel of the Month” award this past summer for their service to the program.

As Evening Support Coordinator, Stacey is, in essence, “June's counterpart” for evening case management responsibilities. Her typical schedule is every weeknight except Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Please say hello and introduce yourself to our newest staff members when you're visiting AMH! They'd love to meet you!



Thanks to our friends at the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program, we received a check for \$25,000 on February 9 in Concord. Other state non-profits received checks from \$25-85,000!



## Save-the-Date: Box City 2012 is April 21-22!

Sign up today for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Box City – an overnight experience to help promote awareness of local homelessness and raise money for Anne-Marie House! Box City 2012 will be held at Nashua North High School on April 21-22 and is geared for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Event highlights include building your own cardboard home to spend the night in, educational activities based on homelessness and refreshments.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.annemariehouse.org](http://www.annemariehouse.org) or call (603) 883-7338, ext. 5. This is great event to participate in with a group of friends, a girl scout or boy scout troops, or congregational youth group!

## Thank You for “Heating Our Home” This Winter!

The holiday season can be a magical time for many and, with the generous outpouring of support we’ve received for our first “Heat Our Home” initiative, all of us at AMH are feeling that magic.

AMH staff is humbled and grateful to say that we’ve received nearly \$9,500 in donations to help “Heat Our Home” this winter. We are especially thankful for the generous contributions of the Hudson and Amherst Lions Clubs and Thrivent Financial, who collectively donated more than \$5,000.

Our children and families will surely stay toasty warm and feel that magic created by the gifts you and others in our community have bestowed on our program. We thank you for your kind support and wish you and yours a very warm and magical holiday season!



## Community Corner: Holiday Cheer Arrives in Many Ways at Anne-Marie House

### **Ladies Night on the Town Raises \$1,100 for AMH**

A big thank you to Telegraph Events for choosing AMH as the charitable beneficiary of its "Ladies Night on the Town" event on Oct. 26. Through a silent auction and signature cocktail, the event raised more than \$1,100 for AMH. Thank you especially to Lisa and Kim for your support and generosity!



*Kim Lencki and Lisa Krueger, from Telegraph Events, present AMH a \$1,100 check from its October Ladies Night event.*

### **Wal-Mart Awards \$25,000 Grant to AMH**

The Wal-Mart State Giving Program recently awarded AMH a \$25,000 grant to be used for program expenses directly related to our children and families. The donation will be used to cover the costs of many things including, pantry supplies, childcare, guest education and development, transportation assistance and more!

### **Nashua Rotary West Grant to Help Complete Basketball Court**

Thank you to Nashua Rotary West for a \$500 grant to complete a half-court basketball court in the AMH play yard. The project, initiated and currently being worked on by an Eagle Scout, will be finished next spring. Thank you Nashua Rotary West Rotarians!

### **Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Gives New Life to AMH Kitchen Gear**

Our families and volunteer

dinner cooks will be pleased to find new pots and pans in our kitchen! On Dec. 14, members of the Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club presented Anne-Marie House with four brand new (and much-needed) sets of cookware. AMH staff wishes to the rotary club and especially to Carolyn Choate and Stuart Schneiderman for organizing the effort.

### **A Gift of Joy from the Amato Family Fund**

AMH wishes to thank the Amato Family Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation (NHCF) for its generous and unexpected gift of \$1,000 to AMH, to be used for program expenses. The NHCF is an invaluable supporter of many NH nonprofits, including AMH. We thank them for their continued support!

### **Local Family Hosts Holiday Party to Benefit AMH**

Many thanks to the Burr Family, who, after learning about AMH through their church, decided to host a holiday party to benefit AMH families! The Burrs asked each party guest to visit AMH's online Amazon WishList and bring a donation or two for our program. This request resulted in a mountain of donations, including paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, pantry items and even a new vacuum cleaner! Thank you again to the Burr Family for your kindness and generosity!



*The Burr Family poses with donations they collected for AMH by hosting a holiday party at their home.*

### **Online Touchstone Crystal Party Benefits AMH**

AMH volunteer, Carmen Murray, is hosting an online Touchstone Crystal party to benefit AMH! To receive an invitation and begin shopping, e-mail [carmenmurray@yahoo.com](mailto:carmenmurray@yahoo.com) or call Carmen at (603) 673-4985!

