

SRN

Family Centers

New Bedford * Fall River * Taunton * Attleboro

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Changes on the Frontlines...

First, I would like to thank our shelter staff and the numerous individuals and organizations who helped make the holidays nicer for families, in particular the children, in our family centers. The donations, especially during this difficult economy, were very generous and much appreciated.

Second, I would like to congratulate our subcontractor, Catholic Social Service's housing workers, as well as our shelter staff, in successfully placing 49 families into permanent housing during the first six months of FY11. This represents 116.7% of our target goal for this period.

While the aforementioned accomplishment is noteworthy, achieving the ultimate goal of ending homelessness requires additional changes. Recently, the Patrick administration announced its FY12 budget proposal to reform the emergency shelter and housing system through the reallocation of resources.

We look forward to this opportunity of working with the Dept. of Housing and Community Development in transforming the family shelter system into a "Housing First" model.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Montebault
VP & COO Residential & Shelter Services



READY TO PLAY... in the new play area is Lakendra.

"Horizons for Homeless Children" Play Space Dedicated at Taunton Family Center

Horizons for Homeless Children has done it again.

After completing new play spaces at both the Fall River and New Bedford family centers, it opened a new play space at the Taunton Family

Center on December 14. Adults and children anxiously awaited the ribbon cutting, so they could enter the room designed especially for them. Horizon staff then engaged the children in various play activities.

New Program Director Settling In

It has been a busy 3 months since Taunton Family Center's Amy Ruggiero came aboard as Program Director. She has been meeting with lo-

cal officials and hiring staff. Reun Nim-Branco has also returned from maternity leave and is once again the family center's case manager.

SRN *Family Centers*



LOOKING GOOD... Joseph Demers gets ready to cut a resident's hair.

Santa's Elves Visit Fall River

The Community Outreach Group of Christ Church in Swansea has long been a stalwart friend of the Fall River Family Center (FRFC).

In keeping with its annual support, on December 19, Garry and Kris Gillett, along with several veteran volunteers, arrived to host a Christmas

breakfast and party.

Residents were treated to a hot breakfast, followed by gifts for each of the children.

FRFC Program Director Maggie Smith says this tradition is much appreciated and serves to bring some holiday cheer into what can otherwise be a difficult time for families.

Stylin' at the Fall River Family Center

Moms residing at the Fall River Family Center were enjoying new haircuts, right before the holidays, courtesy of Joseph Demers.

Mr. Demers will make a return trip to cut the children's hair as well. When he was asked what motivated him to donate his time and

talent, he responded, "It (becoming homeless) could happen to any of us. I think of my family. What if it was them in this predicament?"

According to Program Director Maggie Smith, "This was a great morale booster, and we are grateful for people like Mr. Demers."

Harbour House Eats Its Way Thru December

Harbour House Family Center recently participated in Not Your Average Joe's "Cause" program. The restaurant sponsors a different nonprofit each month, and Harbour House was chosen for December.

Anyone who ate at Dartmouth's restaurant on Tuesdays was essentially donating 15% of their purchase to Harbour House if they presented their server with a

special certificate. The family center received its check in January. Shelly Correia, Harbor House's Program Director, says, "Not Your Average Cause Fund-raiser was a quick, effortless and delicious way to raise a few dollars. Thanks to all who participated. The money will be used to take families to experience Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Zeiterion Theatre."

Calling for Your Cell Phones

Don't throw away your old cell phone when you decide to upgrade. All three of our family centers accept unused cell phones. We do not need the chargers or any of the miscellaneous attach-

ments— just the cell phone. We ship them to a company on behalf of our domestic violence program, which is then rewarded with a check. Call 774-628-1007 for more information.

SRN *Family Centers*



Annual Book Drive Benefits Families

Domingas Sequeira of Harbour House Family Center is seen here with Beau Hurlburt, Director of the Kumon Math & Reading Center in Dartmouth, holding some of the items he donated to the family center.

books and puzzles to Harbour House, which the families enjoy. According to Mr. Hurlburt, people were very generous donating this past year.

Harbour House considers itself fortunate to have such a strong supporter in him.

Every year, Mr. Hurlburt holds a book drive and donates

School on Wheels & UMass Dartmouth: Invaluable Partners

Harbour House's Shelly Correia says School On Wheels and UMass Dartmouth continue to be important partners in the delivery of essential services to our most vulnerable citizens: children.

UMass Dartmouth's Dept. of Civic Engagement provides volunteer tutors for homeless children living in shelter. School on Wheels supports parents by providing supplies and support for school

projects, including scheduling parent/teacher meetings.

Shelly explains, "I've seen a tremendous difference in the children's interest in learning. They love having

their very own tutor and tutoring box with supplies specific to their grade level. From 6:00-7:30 PM every Tuesday and Thursday, all children 3 years of age and older can be found thoroughly engaged."

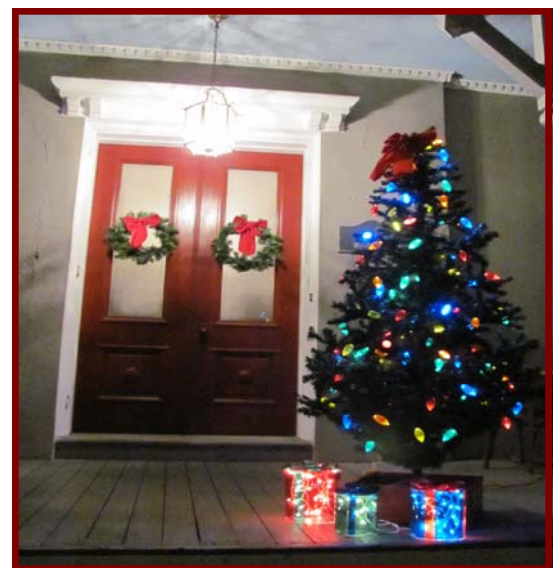
Tooling Around & Breakfasting With Santa

Santa was busy in Taunton and New Bedford before Christmas.

He visited children at the Taunton Family Center, arriving in a limousine! He invited families to accompany him in the limo to Taunton Green to view the annual Christmas display. Taunton isn't referred to as the "Christmas City" for nothing. Afterwards, Santa visited to see what was on children's Christ-

mas lists. Santa wanted to thank Extreme Limousines for helping him with transportation. It seems the elves were busy getting his sleigh flight-ready for Christmas Eve.

He also saw children from Harbour House Family Center when they arrived for 'Breakfast with Santa' at the YMCA. Children participated in cookie decorating and making crafts.



ALL DECKED OUT... The Taunton Family Center spent its first Christmas in a new home.