

SRN

Family Centers

New Bedford * Fall River * Taunton * Attleboro

Volume 2

Issue 8

National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week

November 2011

During this month, largely in part because of Thanksgiving, our awareness becomes heightened because of individuals who are not as fortunate as us.

November 12-20 is National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. In recognition of this, we are doing our

part through the community and local service providers network. Reiterating the need to help is Bruce Morell, President of the Homeless Service Providers Network, "As the cold weather sets in, the problem of homeless and hungry individuals and families becomes more

evident as the need for help increases. We urge the public to show their support through donations to local homeless providers and food banks."

In this newsletter, you will see that our family center program directors have been busy spreading awareness

about the plight of the homeless.

In addition to encouraging area businesses to sell purple paper ribbons for a \$1.00 with proceeds benefiting our shelters, staff is selling purple lapel pins for \$5.00 each. The proceeds help staff plan for the upcoming holidays.

TFC Holds Sports Memorabilia Raffle

Don't let the fact that the Red Sox tanked in September deter you from the Taunton Family Center's sports memorabilia fund-raising raffle.

The family center is raffling off an autographed Tim Wakefield baseball, in addition to an autographed hockey puck by Boston Bruins' Michael Ryder.

The drawings for both will be held on

Thursday, December 15, just in time for Christmas. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

All proceeds benefit the Taunton Family Center.

According to Program Director Amy Ruggiero, "These raffle items make a perfect holiday gift for the sports fan in the family... so consider buying a chance or two and help us."



Dressed to Scare...

Kyle & Leiyah get ready for Trick or Treating at the Taunton Family Center.

Paper Purple Ribbons Wrapping Themselves in Our Communities

In an effort to create awareness of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, Shelly Correia, Harbour House Program Director,

along with her staff, have put their heart and soul into a new initiative. They are taking to the streets to encourage

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FRFC Attends United Way Health Fair

By Maggie Smith, Program Director
Fall River Family Center

Fall River Family Center staff attended a United Way Health Fair October 13 at the Stop & Shop Distribution Center in Assonet. There were many United Way of Greater Fall River agencies represented, including St. Anne's Hospital.

It was a wonderful

chance to connect with the community. Many people stopped at our table for information about the family center and SRN. Everyone loved hearing about the field trips that the United Way sponsors and were impressed by the services we provide. Renee Brum, one of our staff, stated, "It was an event that reminded me that we are part of the service community in Fall River."

The Holidays Are Coming... Ready or Not!

We turn around and suddenly the holidays are upon us. It seems like yesterday that we were planning field trips to the beach and area zoos.

For many, the month of November marks the official rush to Thanksgiving and Christmas. And every year, individuals and businesses help us provide our homeless families with memorable holidays. We are therefore again putting the word out that donations are appreciated on their behalf.

In addition to the always popular, always practical gift cards to stores like Target, Wal-Mart, and CVS, toys for infants to age three would be appreci-

ated at all the family centers. Harbour House specifically needs new blankets, hygiene products for adults and children, socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for adults and children; and food. Our family shelters can be contacted at the phone numbers listed below.

Fall River: 508-679-2109

Harbour House: 508-992-6027

Taunton: 508-738-5142

Staff asks that food items be delivered no later than November 21st for Thanksgiving, and Christmas donations be delivered by December 19. This affords them time to distribute food and gifts to families in a timely manner.



Taunton Family Center celebrated its one year anniversary September 3 in Taunton. Here staff gathers at the entryway.

Harbour House Thankful for Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick is donating five complete traditional (turkey, potatoes, carrots, stuffing, green beans, and cranberry sauce) Thanksgiving dinners to Harbour Houses residents this year.

Additionally, it donated \$150 in honor of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, which is November 12-20, to help fund welcome baskets for new families.



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Purple Pins Sold at Family Centers to Benefit Programs

In honor of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, all three family centers are selling purple ribbon lapel pins for \$5 each. They will be selling them into 2012.

Credit Millie Scott, VP of Human Resources, who was intrigued by Na-

tional Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week after speaking with Shelly Correia. She went on-line and discovered the pins.

All proceeds, after the cost of purchase has been met, will benefit each of our three family centers.

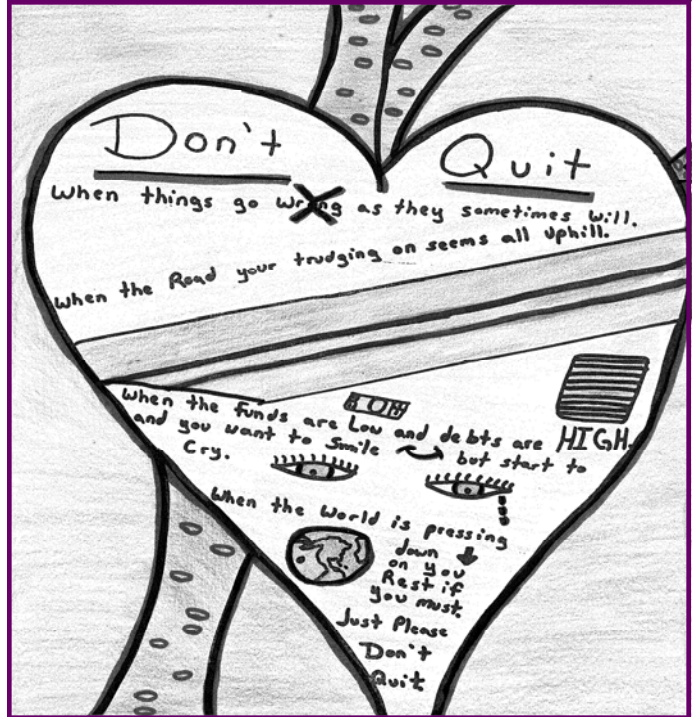
Harbour House Hits the Big-Time

Birthday Wishes works with homeless shelters in the state to ensure no child goes without a birthday party.

Each month a large party is held at each family center to celebrate children born within that month. Harbour House's July birthday was filmed by Birthday Wishes to help highlight its volunteers in a promotional video.

The video will be available soon on its website.

To learn more and view the video, visit www.birthdaywishes.org



This inspirational poem, "Don't Quit," was written by a resident of the Taunton Family Center.

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community support. They have approached local businesses to sell the purple ribbons to customers, friends, and families for one dollar. The ribbons will then hang in their establishments.

Fall River Family Center and Taunton Family Center have

joined the initiative and will be giving the paper ribbons to businesses in their respective communities to sell as well. According to Ms. Correia, "This is a perfect opportunity for us to engage people and address the needs of the hungry and homeless while partaking in this national campaign."

Bisca Tournament Club Adopts Harbour House During Nov.

The Bisca Tournament Club, established in 1991 by a few Cape Verdean men playing

cards, has blossomed to 300 members, who focus on giving back to their community in New Bed-

ford as well as abroad. It is running a canned food drive in November and selling paper purple rib-

bons, lapel pins, and chocolate ribbon pops throughout the month on behalf of Harbour House.

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With a Nod to the Past, TFC Celebrates Its Home's History

Because Taunton Family Center's Program Director Amy Ruggiero has a curiosity and an appreciation for the history of the house that is the family center's home, she did a little digging.

Doing so led her to learn more about the

Colby family who resided there and the business that was one of Taunton's leading department stores before it closed in 1926. Amy went to the Old Colony Historical Society in Taunton but didn't find much on the house TFC is located in, reportedly

one of the oldest concrete houses in the country.

House," and "Colby's, Inc."

However, she did discover a lot on Samuel Colby and the store the family ran for many decades known at different times as "Colby & Company's Clothing Emporium," "Colby's Clothing

Amy had various images compiled and now has the tribute to the family and the business hanging in the entryway of the Taunton Family Center.

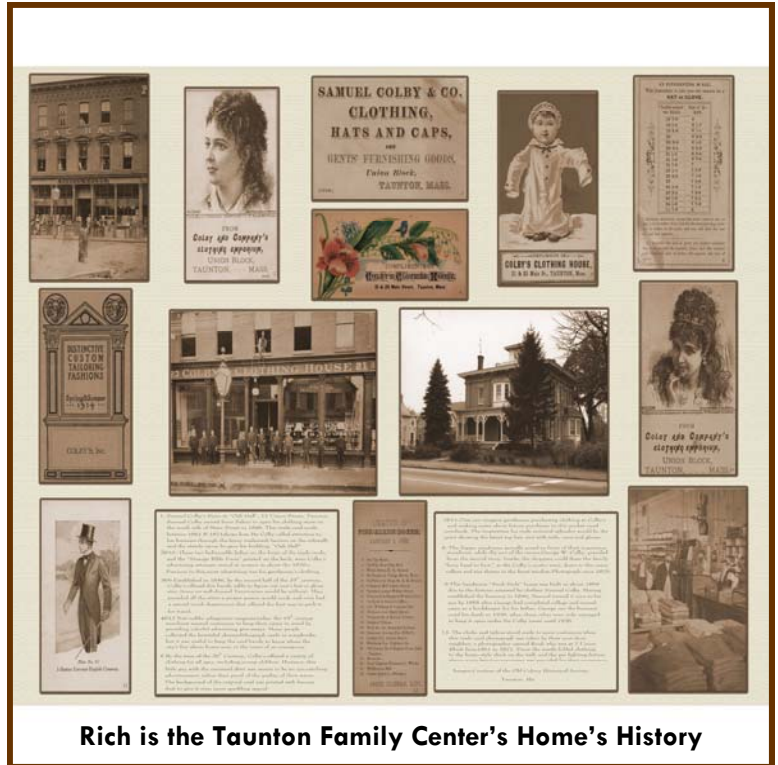
Santa Experience Coming to New Bedford



December is a very busy month for Santa, but he is making time for Harbour House.

"The Santa Experience," run by Carolyn Dupont, has volunteered to bring the families of Harbour House to see Santa Claus at Fairhaven's Mermaid Restaurant on December 11.

The families will enjoy dinner with Santa, and each child will receive a special surprise. Their experience is made possible by Dr. Nicholas Psychopaidas of Harbor Chiropractic and Mermaids Restaurant.



Rich is the Taunton Family Center's Home's History

Halloween Comes Early to Harbour House

On October 26, Harbour House Family Center joined the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford for a pizza party in the Woodlawn Commons of U-Mass. Dart-

mouth. Families then trick-or-treat throughout the dorms. The event was sponsored by the Rotaract Club at the university, a

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Annual Leadership Breakfast Held Oct. 13

Three residents of Harbour House Family Center were guests at the Annual Leadership Breakfast on Oct. 13th at UMASS Dartmouth, sponsored by The Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts.

They spent the morning listening to women share their stories of single parenthood, loss, struggle and their determination to succeed when the odds were stacked against them.

ANNUAL BREAKFAST... From left, standing, Nicole Almeida, Vice President/Regional Manager Citizens-Union Savings Bank in Swansea; Dawn Jones, Kate Fentress, Exec. Director of The Women's Fund; Samyha Flood, and Sheila Caraballo. (Seated from L) Colleen Millett, Sheriff's Dept.; Felicishla Holmes, U-Mass Dartmouth; Lisa Cardon, owner, Jewel's Day Spa

Holy Family Sponsors Hygiene Product Drive

"It is better to give than receive" is an old saying that students at New Bedford's Holy Family Holy Name School are discovering, under the direction of 8th grade teacher Heidi Kulliga.

with her to donate hygiene products. The items will be placed into welcome baskets to be given to new families who arrive at Harbour House.

The donations will be presented to Harbour House staff on December 21.

They are working

Harbour House Has Another AHA Experience Nov. 10

November 10, also AHA! Night, (which occurs monthly with free admission to scheduled arts and culture events) marks the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week kick-off collaboration between Harbour House, the downtown branch of the New Bedford library, Family Resource and Development Center, and NorthStar Learning

Centers.

A "story walk" begins at 5 PM with the reading of an interactive story called "From Head to Toe" by Eric Carle to children ages 2-5. Children will mimic the animal movements described in the story. In addition, they will be treated to warm apple cider, Munchkins, and given a book, "Voyage to Shelter Cove."

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community service-based group that works with surrounding communities and Rotary Clubs to help provide services in the area.

by St. Mary's Youth Group of Dartmouth to wear at a Halloween-themed birthday party held at Harbour House.

The families also recently chose Halloween costumes that had been donated

They wore them when they went trick or treating on Halloween night.

Special Thanks to St. Anthony's Parish

Harbour House would like to express its appreciation to Mattapoisett's St. Anthony's Parish for

continuing to provide grocery gift cards to help supplement families' household budgets.