

SRN

Family Centers

New Bedford * Fall River * Taunton * Attleboro

Volume I

Issue 4

November 2010

And We Press On...

There is a lot of uncertainty around the state's financial status because Massachusetts is currently facing a \$2 billion deficit.

However, there has been a dedicated commitment on behalf of the governor's office and legislative body to assist homeless families. That commitment has come in

the form of assistance in not only meeting their emergency shelter needs, but also in providing resources for families to become rapidly rehoused in sustainable housing.

Our staff along with our subcontractor Catholic Social Services continue to work with homeless families to not only meet their emer-

gency shelter and housing needs but also to provide them with quality of life activities as evidenced by stories you will read about in this newsletter.

We are pleased to announce at the end of our first quarter that we exceeded our established goal in placing families into permanent housing.

This is not easy work under the best of circumstances, which these certainly are not. But this could not have been accomplished without the dedication of our outstanding staffs.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Montebault
VP & COO Residential & Shelter Services

Taunton Family Center Open

Truth be told, the rainy weather did not make for an easy move from their temporary home in Fall River, but Taunton Family Center residents and staff persevered.

Under Interim Program Director Reun Nim-Branco, the process of packing up and tagging boxes began days

before the actual move, which occurred the last week in August. Residents spent Labor Day weekend unpacking and getting settled in. The shelter joins Harbour House Family Center in New Bedford and the Fall River Family Center and houses seven families. It was already at capacity when it opened.



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READING... Clearly engrossed by what he's reading is Xavion Laura II, age 2. To his left is Brunilda Saez and Shevona Pina.

Fall River Play Space Dedicated

Horizons For Homeless Children is a nonprofit agency providing "play spaces" staffed with volunteers to programs that serve homeless children. Toys, books, and even a play kitchen are provided. Play space Activity Leaders, better known as "PALS" are recruited, CORI-ed, and trained by Horizons' staff.

On Oct. 18th and 19th, Meghan Schafer (Play space Program's Southeast Region Director) and Annie Dantowitz (Americorps VISTA Play space Program's Coordinator) worked diligently

to transform one of the Center's living rooms into a playroom. The ribbon cutting was held on Oct. 19th. Asa Fanelli, Horizons' President, and Sara Fujiwara, Chief Play space Program's Officer, joined Meghan and Annie for the party, as did shelter staff, PALS, and the children. Two shelter veteran "PALS," Katherine and Lisa, will continue to volunteer weekly. New PALS are lined up, including Jovita Pimental, Danny Chiao, and Peter Lilli, so by early November, there will be two nights scheduled weekly for structured play time.

Bookmobile Visits Harbour House

The New Bedford Free Public Library Bookmobile was a welcome sight on Tuesday mornings, especially during the hot summer days, when residents could step inside the air-conditioned bus, sign up for library cards, and check out books.

Children, in addition to adults find the idea of the 'library' coming to them very convenient. The bookmobile

visited weekly throughout the summer until August 24. It recently resumed visits with its fall schedule.

Program Director Shelly Correia likes to quote Dr. Seuss when discussing the importance of the bookmobile, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you will learn, the more places you will go."



HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN... donated a new play space at the Fall River Family Center October 19. As can be seen in this photo, the children needed no encouragement to begin playing with their new toys.

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Harbour Houses Wishes Amy Well...

The staff of Harbour House Family Center wished Amy Ruggiero good luck at a congratulations luncheon held at the shelter in mid-October.

Amy has assumed the position of Program Director at the new Taunton Family Center. Chanel Gabrielle has replaced her as administrative assistant.



Amy (with tinfoil in hand), surrounded by co-workers.

Taunton Takes 1st Field Trip

The shelter went on its first field trip with the Fall River Family Center to the Children's Museum in Providence on Sept. 24. Everyone had a good time.

Donated Artwork Brightens Shelter

Boston's Art Connection recently met at Harbour House and selected the pieces of artwork, which now permanently hang throughout the shelter.

Harbour House was one of the lucky recipients of 20 pieces. A panel made up of staff and resi-

According to Program Director Shelly Correia, reaction from both staff and residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

Holiday Alert- How You Can Help!

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up on us quickly, we are turning our thoughts to the families we serve. This represents the wish list for each of our family centers:

Harbour House:

Twin size winter blankets, sheets, pillow cases, bath towels, baby items: wipes, baby hygiene products, gift cards, adult hygiene products, canned goods

Fall River:

Toiletries, household items: plates, silverware, pots and pans, pot holders, towels; seasonal items such as gloves, hats, scarves, new comforters or blankets with Disney/kids themes etc. Baby stuff: blankets, clothes, bottles, new car seats.

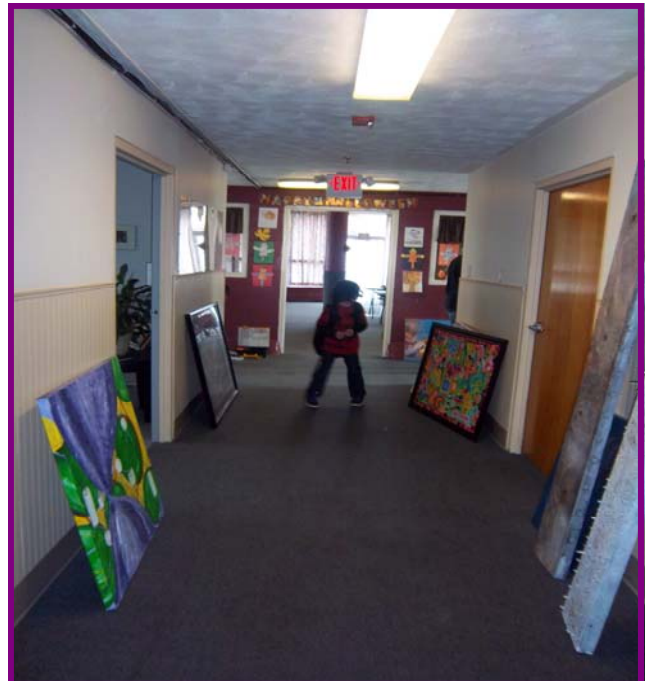
Taunton:

New towels, new/gently used twin sheets and blankets, gift cards to Save a Lot, Trucchi's, Wal-Mart, and Walgreens; new toys, frozen turkeys

Fall River: 508-679-2109

Harbour House: 508-992-6027

Taunton: 508-738-5142



"Wow!" is heard from Justin as he checks out some of the 20 pieces of artwork donated to Harbour House