

# SRN

## Family Centers

New Bedford \* Fall River \* Taunton \* Attleboro

Volume 2

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### Changes Are Afoot

Emergency family shelters around the state are adjusting to systemic changes that became effective on August 1.

These changes in the way the state responds to homelessness were proposed in Gov. Patrick's FY12 budget this past January. The

legislature approved the proposed changes with a few minor tweaks in early July, and the "HomeBase" program made its debut on August 1. The premise behind the major overhaul is basic: avert homelessness in the first place. Rather than going into emergency shelters or motels,

families on the brink of homelessness, following an assessment, are provided with various means of assistance to help them either remain where they are living or move to where their support system is.

Going forward, the congregate shelters will primarily serve

households headed by individuals age 21 and younger, domestic violence victims, and victims of natural disasters (such as fire). Bear in mind that these major system changes have to be accomplished with \$25 million less available to DHCD.

*Please see "Changes" pg. 5*

### Fall River: Creating a home-like space

The maintenance staff of the Fall River Family Center spent the better part of the beginning of the summer making upgrades to the property's yard.

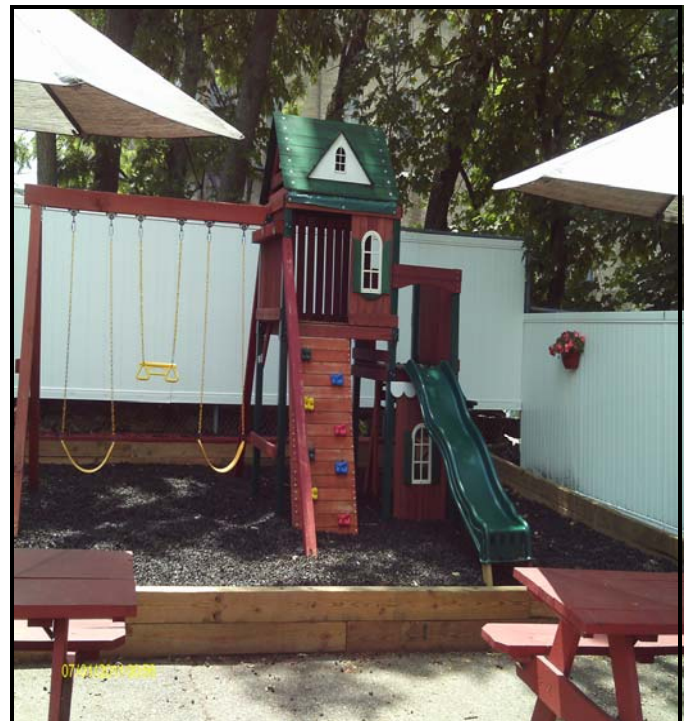
A new swing set was purchased, flowers and a vegetable bucket gar-

den were planted, and new fencing was installed. Program Director Maggie Smith says, "I am very proud of our garden. It's getting rave reviews from residents, visitors and neighbors alike. The kids also think it's great that we are growing vegetables."

From one of our clients:

"Thank you so much for the play area at the Fall River Family Center. It means so much coming to a place like this to see a play area for your children to play in. Thank you also for making the shelter look nice. It seems a little less like a shelter and more like a home. Thank you again for the work you've put in."

Sincerely, Alisha Smith



The back yard at the Fall River Family Center now boasts a new swing set and other playground accessories for children.

# SRN *Family Centers*

## Taunton Family Center Announces Calendar Winners

Taunton Family Center's "Christmas in July" calendar fundraiser was a rousing success, judging by the \$1,140 it generated for the family center. Winners' names were chosen each day during July, with someone winning either an item or gift card. Amy Ruggiero, Taunton Family Center's Program Director, was delighted with the results, stating, "This is our first fund-raiser, and I was very happy with the caliber of donations we

received as well as the interest in the calendar. We'll definitely do this again."

The winners are as follows: Carol Tousey-Crosby: salon gift card; Barbara Finnegan: Panera Bread; Ramona Yates: Brockton Rox tickets; Ronald Morris: baby basket; James Medeiros: Water Wizz tickets; Maria Ortiz: Trucchi's gift card; Edward Smith: Avon basket; Lisa Rogers: Providence Bruins' signed hat

and T-shirt; Shelly Correia: case of wine; Jeremy Arsenaault: Red Sox T-shirt and mug; Tim Cusick: three piece Weber grill set; Bob Marshall: solar lights; Jeanine Morin: wine basket; Elaine Branco: Brockton Rox tickets; Erica McGuire: Regal Cinema tickets; Sophia Choun: charcoal fire pit; Vandy Choeun: \$50 Lowes' gift card; Maureen Morris: hair salon gift card; Laura Branco: movie passes; Carl Soares: Just Looking gift

card; Anne Moniz: Dunkin Donuts gift card; Patrick Stevens: Old Colony Historical; Julie Cleveland: Hess gift card; James Perry: Cumberland Farms gift card; Donald Lloud: wine basket; Rich Shatzel: bird feeder; Marion Oliveria: AMF game passes; Zachary Mumbauer: 6 mini golf passes; Judy Mumbauer: Subway gift card; Laura Keys: nail salon gift card; Jim Hornsby and Room 6: Wal-Mart gift card; Room 4: Edible Arrangements.

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The United Way of Greater New Bedford held its annual "Youth Day of Caring" on May 13. Students from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School in Rochester volunteered to decorate Harbour House Family Center for its annual spring clean-up. Heartfelt thanks to students Andrew Cabido, Paige Raposa, Brianne Almeida, and Allana DeTerra, in addition to supervisor Liz Blouin for their collective hard work.

### Calling for Your Cell Phones

If you're thinking of upgrading your cell phone, don't throw the old one in the trash!

An old cell phone, whether it works or not can still do some good. All three of our family centers accept cell phone donations.

We do not

need the chargers or any of the attachments— just the cell phone. You see, 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.

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## Day Of Caring at TFC Courtesy of United Way & Princess House

United Way's Day of Caring (June 25) bore fruit in Taunton when employees from Princess House volunteered, doing extensive yard work at the Taunton Family Center.

According to Program Director Amy Ruggiero, "The volunteers were excited, worked ex-

tremely hard, and the yard looks amazing. Staff and residents are grateful." Clean-up efforts included weeding beds around the house and adding mulch, planting 5 bushes along the parking lot, as well as removing overgrown front bushes and planting two new ones; and trimming bushes in the side yard.



All decked out to work at Taunton Family Center



## Mother's Day Brunch at Harbour House

Because many residents spent Mother's Day visiting with families, Harbour House staff opted to celebrate at its weekly house meeting. A

brunch was catered by D&D Catering and served by staff Jaimie Randall (background) and Rosemarie Pina.

## FRFC Celebrates 1st Year in New Home

May 13 marked the one year anniversary of the Fall River Family Center's move to its home on Cherry Street.

had significant improvements made to it (see page 1) since Southeast Regional Network purchased it for the family center's relocation.

The property has

## Fall River Family Center



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## Harbour House Holds Exhibit at Artworks!

The artists came out in the form of Harbour House's younger set.

Harbour House Family Center had a special exhibit at Artworks! in New Bedford

on July 14 from 5-6 PM.

Children from Harbour House showcased the artwork they created with staff Jaimie Randall and Sara Mercer-Medeiros. Residents enjoyed various activities throughout down-

town New Bedford in celebration of "Kids Rule" for AHA! Night.

AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) occurs monthly on a Thursday with free admission to scheduled arts and culture events.



## TFC Visits Capron Park

With the advent of the warmer weather and school wrapping up, many of the residents at the Taunton Family Center participated in a field trip to Capron Park in Attleboro on June 28.

Capron has been undergoing renovations, which includes installation of a splash pad. In addition to seeing a variety of animals like a snow leopard and a white lion, families enjoyed picnicking in the playground area.



Ready to have fun... Taunton Family Center visiting Capron Park in Attleboro, which opened in 1937.

## And... FRFC Visits Roger Williams Park



Ready to have fun... Fall River Family Center visited Roger Williams Park in RI in June. Residents enjoyed the outing, which was made possible through a United Way of Greater Fall River grant award.

## Salute to Moms at FRFC

Fall River Family Center celebrated moms in a big way on Mother's Day.

They made sand vases with flowers, and balloons were purchased for the children to give to their moms.

also provided, so they would not have to cook that morning. Families appreciated the extra effort staff spent on their behalf.



Breakfast was

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## FPP Moves to Ingraham Place

The former Ingraham School in Bedford has been rehabbed by the Women's Institute for Housing & Economic Dev. SRN is leasing 11 units for its Family Preservation Program (FPP). FPP residents will also be provided with case management services.



**CONGRATS to Harbour House for recently receiving \$6,000 from the City of New Bedford to help offset rising utility costs. From left: Mayor Lang, Harbour House's Jaimie Randall, Shelly Correia, Donald Jernigan, a single dad who resides at the family center with his son; and Patrick Sullivan, Director of Housing & Community Development.**

Help us save postage and the environment by having our quarterly newsletter e-mailed. Send your e-mail address to marion.oliveira@hptc.org. one who would appreciate being added to our mailing list, if you are moving, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, let us know.



If you know some-

## Celebrating Student Success With Help From School on Wheels

Harbour House Program Director Shelly Correia credits School on Wheels for helping the family center's children improve in school.

"I believe that the

School on Wheels of Massachusetts tutoring program offered here has helped students like the little girl (pictured right) with transition and given them the confidence to succeed," says Shelly.

For more information or if interested in volunteer tutoring opportunities, please contact School on Wheels at 508-587-9001, or download an application at [www.sowma.org](http://www.sowma.org)



### "Changes" continued from pg. 1

Providers face less funding as of October 1, the prospect of fewer staff, and modifying services to more effectively meet the needs of the families they will now serve. FY12 is shaping

up to be one of increasing challenges. However, it is anticipated the new HomeBase initiative as well as the changes within the emergency family shelter system will translate into providing home-

less families with the most appropriate response to their immediate housing needs.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Montebault

VP & COO Residential & Shelter Div.

**Honored... Yolieny, one of the children at Harbour House, celebrates being named "Student of the Month." School on Wheels was instrumental in helping improve her school performance. Here she is with Harbour House Case Manager Jessica Perez.**