



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' NEWSLETTER

January is National Mentoring Month



In 2002, National Mentoring Month was created to raise awareness and increase the number of mentors to promote a positive outcome for the young people in our communities.

Our Big Brothers Big Sisters (BB/BS) program provides mentors for boys and girls living in the Greater New Bedford Area. "National Mentoring Month is important to Big Brothers Big Sisters because it helps to promote the need for mentors, not only nationally but for local programs such as ours," said Deanna Bodeau, program coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters. "Our program currently has 68 boys and 22 girls seeking mentors, so raising awareness is a great way to start the new year."

"I have come to realize that there are very few things in life as rewarding as helping a young person grow into the potential which they deserve and this program has become, in a way, a life changer for me also," stated Jack, a mentor at our Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Mentors come from all types of backgrounds. There is one common bond they share and that is the willingness to make a positive difference in a child's life.

For more information on becoming a mentor please contact Deanna Bodeau at 508-990-0894.

Tabor Academy Students Lend A Helping Hand



On December 3rd, students from Tabor Academy dropped by the Holiday Hope Project site to do some cleaning and preparations for the coming week. The site which houses the week-long project where gifts are dropped off by sponsors and picked up by families needed some TLC. Luckily for CFS, Ms. Lauren Boucher, Director of Community Service at Tabor Academy, had a team of girls ready to do the job.

Many thanks to Molly Little, Julia Pardo, Maddy LaCasse, Lily Coleman and Hannah Strom for their hard work!

Giving Hope for the Holidays

Child & Family Services wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the 365 Days of Hope Gala and Holiday Hope Project. Once again, the great people of this community came together to help children and families have a brighter holiday season. Whether you purchased a ticket, sponsored our event, bought a gift for a child, shopped for an entire family, or volunteered your time, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE! We are truly grateful for your kindness and support and wish you a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous New Year!



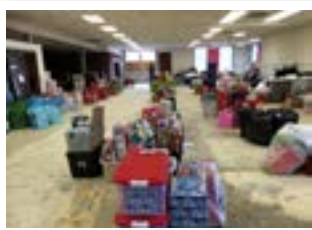
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Restaurants Providing Food

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Frontera Grill

Hawthorne Country Club

Morton's Fork Catering

Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub

Not Your Average Joe's

Panera Bread

The Edge Restaurant

Tia Maria European Cafe

Waterfront Grille

Wok Magic

Gala Committee

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Fatima Simas

Lenore Tavares

Holiday Hope

Project Committee

Fatima Simas | Chair

Nona Sbordone | Co-Chair

Karen Almeida

Maureen Harrington



The following groups, along with many individuals and local families, contributed to helping children and families this holiday season:

All Saints Catholic School

Alphagraphics

Anthony F. Cordeiro Insurance Agency

Babbitt Steam

BankFive

Cardi's Furniture Customer Service

Charlton Memorial Hospital

Congregational Church S. Dartmouth

Daniel & Jennifer Schlitzer

Dartmouth High School

Dartmouth Total Fitness

East Fairhaven Elementary School

First Bristol Corporation

First Citizens' Federal Credit Union

Friends Academy

Gail & Roger Dahlberg

Glaser Glass

Hadley Insurit Group

Hawthorn Medical Associates

Helene Kelly

Highland Pediatrics, PC

Holy Name Church

Horizon Marine, Inc.

Jack Conway Realtor

Joseph DeMello Elementary School

Ken & Sue Gormley

Kerrin & Ernest Thompson

Linda Goncalves

Lockheed Martin

Lorraine & Louis Travers

Lyles & Nancy Bourgault

Massachusetts State Police (Dartmouth D-3)

Mattapoisett Laundromat

Michael & Susan Kramer

Nancy Braitmayer

New Bedford Yacht Club

Panera Bread (Dartmouth)

Prince Henry Society

RA Mitchell Co., Inc.

Smithers Viscient

Tabor Academy

The Yoga Studio (Mattapoisett)

Transit Services, Inc. (Yellow Cab)

Trucchi's Supermarket (New Bedford)

Unitarian Memorial Church (Fairhaven)

MANY THANKS TO:
Douglas Wine & Spirits,
Hawthorne Country Club,
and Nellie's Phototainment.

Thank you to all the restaurants and businesses that provided gift certificates and silent auction items for the Gala.

Adoption Program Takes Home MARE Awards



On November 4th, Child & Family's adoption staff from Fall River and Lawrence attended the 17th annual MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange) awards held in Worcester. Established in 1998, this event recognizes the exceptional work done by agencies and individual social workers to accomplish our common goal of finding permanent families for waiting children.

This year, we were recipients of the following awards:

- Outstanding MARE Adoption Party Attendance: Lawrence office
- Outstanding use of MARE Media Campaigns: Fall River office
- Outstanding Number of MARE-Assisted Placements: Lawrence office and an individual award to Jacelyn Gauron from the Lawrence office

We were also the recipient of the ultimate award:

- Outstanding Agency Collaboration with MARE: Fall River office

Congratulations!

The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) was founded in 1957 to find a "permanent place to call home" for children and teens in foster care in Massachusetts. MARE is able to do this by recruiting, educating, supporting and advocating for families through the adoption process.

Hometown Heroes

The Greater New Bedford Community

for their continued support and generosity

The Carney Family

for providing much needed space for the Holiday Hope Project

Mattapoisett Laundromat and Trucchi's Supermarket New Bedford

for donating warm winter coats, gloves, hats, and scarves

Tabor Academy

for sponsoring 33 FAMILIES for Holiday Hope



BJ's Wholesale Club, Hawthorne Medical Associates, Healthtrax, Holy Name Church, Prince Henry Society, and the Massachusetts State Police D-3 along with Ret. Lt. Jose C. Gonsalves

for holding toy drives to benefit the children of our Holiday Hope Project

Get Social.



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

March 1
1:00-3:00 PM
Wonder Bowl
66 Hathaway Rd.
New Bedford

Lanes are filling up fast. Register Now!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Child & Family Services presents its 11th Annual Bowl For Kids' Sake!

This is a great event for family, friends, and coworkers to get together for a fun afternoon of bowling to benefit the children in our Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Not a bowler?

Pledge someone who is, or be a Lane Sponsor. There are many ways you can show your support!

Learn how you can get involved. Contact Deanna at:
(508) 990-0894
dbodeau@cfservices.org

**BOWL
AND
HAVE
AN IMPACT.
GET READY TO
START
GET STARTED
SOMETHING!
BOWL
FOR KIDS'
SAKE.
EVERY GAME
WILL BENEFIT
BIG BROTHERS
BIG SISTERS.
YOU'LL HAVE
A GREAT TIME
AND HELP KIDS
GET A CHANCE
TO STRIKE IT
BIG IN LIFE.
START
SOMETHING
NOW!**



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"...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families."

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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
3057 ACUSHNET AVENUE
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