

## Teen's "Turkey Dip" Raises \$850 for Food Pantry



*Katherine Maloy presents a ceremonial check for \$850 to Bettyanne Lang for the Feed the Hungry campaign.*

Fifteen-year-old Katherine Maloy persuaded 60 hardy friends and family to seek pledges for the privilege of plunging into the chilly waters of the North River on Thanksgiving morning. The enterprising high school freshman organized the first annual *Turkey Dip*, raising \$850 for the Feed the Hungry campaign.

"I participated in a similar event in Nantucket, and thought it was a good idea," says Katherine. "So I decided to do my own."

Katherine created and

distributed flyers and posters. "And we called people and asked them to come and to help spread the word. We had a good response."

Her goal for next year is \$3,000. She's hoping that more people will get involved and that each of them will increase the amounts they have pledged. "I hope we can spread the word because it's a good cause."

So mark your calendars for 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving morning, and stay tuned to future issues of this newsletter for details.

## **SOUTH SHORE WALK**<sup>SM</sup>

Helping our Neighbors in Need

ISS' 31st Annual Walk will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 24 at Bethany Congregational Church, 18 Spear Street, Quincy.

Last year walkers raised \$22,000, which helps fund the agency's programs and services. ISS hopes to raise \$30,000 this year by increasing corporate sponsorship. There are four levels of sponsorship available: platinum, gold, silver, and bronze, with varying levels of exposure for the sponsors.

This year, participants can choose from either a two- four- or eight-kilometer route, beginning and end-

ing at Bethany Congregational Church. A Beantown Trolley will circulate throughout the routes, offering rides to walkers who are unable to finish.

A grand celebration, featuring music, refreshments, awards, and prizes, will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. ISS will award medals to top fund-raisers in each age category, based on money turned in that day.

Walkers raising more than \$50 in pledges will be given a walk tee-shirt.

Call ISS at 617-773-6203 for pledge sheets and sponsorship information.

## Volunteers provide companionship to others

*"I am not alone...I can share my feelings and experiences because people do care. For the first time in my life I am not alone."*

The quote above is from a Faith in Action client who benefits from the program, which pairs volunteers with

individuals who are recovering from a mental illness, suffering from loneliness or depression, or living with a physical disability. "Our volunteer companions meet regularly with their 'friends' to share simple pleasures

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## Rev. Rearick ministers to patients at Quincy Medical Center



The Rev. Ann Rearick provides pastoral care 12 hours a week to patients at Quincy Medical Center, something she started doing in 1992. Her position is funded by ISS, through donations from some of the

Protestant churches in Quincy.

"The patients in the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) are sicker than they were before, so I tend to see individuals over a longer period of time," says Rev. Rearick. "I find it more fulfilling if I can get to know the patients. They get to know me and know they can call on me."

Rev. Rearick is currently seeing one

patient she first worked with in the Intensive Care Unit, followed her through her time in Telemetry, and now sees her in TCU. "I'm seeing her through a whole spectrum of healing. As it turns out, her own pastor, who is wonderful, is ill and is unable to visit."

"It is stories such as this that affirm how important Ann's ministry is at the

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## Trail Watchers Conduct Toy Drive



*Blue Hills Reservation park rangers Dave Furey and Tom Bender, Bettyanne Lang, ISS director of material assistance, and Trail Watch volunteer Steve Cobble sort the many holiday donations for children.*

Steve Cobble recently worked with Blue Hills Reservation park rangers and Trail Watch volunteers to coordinate the 4th Annual Santa's Reindeer Ride and Toy Drive. Trail Watch is a proactive group of volunteers who maintain the beautiful Blue Hills trails...they are the eyes and ears of the trails and work to educate mountain bike riders, horseback riders, and hikers on proper use.

## Helping Women Gain Employment

*Dear Bettyanne,*

*As you know I was a patron of the Career Closet. I desperately needed help with interview attire. Due to your help and the availability of the Career Closet I have successfully obtained employment. Not only did I get a position I very much wanted, but I got two part-time jobs working with the elderly and love them all.*

*If it were not for the Career Closet and the outfits I obtained there, I would not have been able to attend my interviews with the confidence and self-esteem that I did. My interviews went so well. I was hired immediately.*

*Thank you for all that you have done for myself and my family.*

The letter above is from one of the 68 low-income women The Career Closet outfitted with interview outfits last year. "Those of us with closets brimming full of clothes take our bounty for granted. The plaintive sigh, 'I don't have a thing to wear,' means nothing compared to the reality some women face," says Bettyanne Lang, director of material assistance. "For this client, as well as the other women we serve, the right outfit means the difference in getting a job. Now she's working, earning money, and more impor-

tantly, building self-esteem.

"When you tackle your spring cleaning this year, please keep us in mind. We need spring and summer interview attire in all sizes—clean, pressed and on hangers—as well as shoes, scarves, and other accessories.

"I also want to thank Linda Barry for organizing recent clothing drives at Lee and Associates and All Soul's Church of Braintree."

Call Lang at 617-773-6203 for more information about the Career Closet.



## Interfaith Social Services

105 Adams Street  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-773-6203

### Mission Statement

Interfaith Social Services, Inc. (ISS) is a private, non-profit agency serving people of all faiths on the South Shore. ISS seeks to serve the communities by strengthening family life and offering assistance to anyone in need. ISS works to ensure that individuals and families have access to food, clothing and counseling.

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## Boys Celebrate by Sharing



Liam Batson, left, and Matt Baldwin are excited that their party was such a success. Griffin Batson, center, has wonderful role models in his older brother Liam and his best friend Matt.

What a wonderful way to celebrate your ninth birthday! Liam Batson and Matt Baldwin have been friends forever. They are inseparable. They love to skate and they love to share, and their birthdays are close together—just like their friendship. The boys invited 50 of their friends to celebrate their birthdays at the local skating rink. Instead of gifts, each guest was asked to bring canned goods for the Pantry Shelf. After an afternoon of skating, they and their parents and Liam's brother Griffin brought 30 bags of groceries to the pantry. Through their generous spirit many families were given much-needed food.

ISS thanks and extends best wishes to these admirable young men.

## Quincy Medical chaplaincy

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hospital,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “She is there three mornings a week, ministering to patients. We are looking for continuing support from the Protestant churches in Quincy so Ann’s work can continue at its current level.”

Chaplaincy is a true calling for Rev. Rearick, who taught high school math before staying home to raise her children. When she was 45, she and her husband, a retired FBI agent, entered divinity school together. They were called to co-pastor a small church in New York State, which grew from an average attendance of 13 to 120 by the time they left.

It was during her training for a master’s in pastoral counseling that Rev. Rearick settled on her current career path. “When I did the clinical component in a hospital, I knew it really was my calling. I typically work from 9 a.m. to 1 or 1:30 p.m. because the patients usually do not have other visitors then, and I can spend more quality time with them.”

“ISS is better for having Ann in our midst, and I am comfortable knowing that the patients at Quincy Medical probably feel the same,” says Stracco. “We are grateful to the parishioners and the churches for their support of this important ministry.”

### Need repairs resulting from an insurance claim or help settling a claim?

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### Appearing now at The Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop

Wednesday-Friday  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Low cost clothing for children & adults & miscellaneous small household items

### WANTED

Volunteers to sort, price, stock & organize merchandise, greet customers, or work at the desk.

Donations are accepted during shop hours. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Letter From a Client

*“I know in my heart I am writing this letter to a group of wonderful and thoughtful individuals. You all are very special to me because you took precious time from your own lives to think about my children and myself.*

*My family is very blessed and grateful to have been showered with your kindness. You truly are angels of God in my eyes.*

*I wish you all the happiest of holiday wishes and may God bless you as I too have been blessed. Thank you so very much.”*

# New Directions Counseling provides needed services

Last year New Directions provided 350 percent more counseling appointments than in 2000. "The need in the community continues to grow," says Claire Hagan, RN, LMHC, director. "Staff has almost doubled since then, and there are times when we are short on rooms for counseling. We know we are providing a valuable service."

## Holiday Workshop/Party

New Directions clinicians held a workshop and holiday party for about 12 families at the Friends of the Homeless shelter in Norwell in December. "The workshops, separate ones for children and parents, dealt with the difficulty of being homeless during the holidays," says Hagan. "We provided a delicious feast, did arts and crafts, and generally had a very upbeat time in what are very difficult circumstances."

A local man whose personal mission is to provide books for children, gave attractively wrapped bundles containing three books for each child.

## New Staff



New Directions is pleased to have Garry Depestre, Th.D., working as an intern. Depestre, who is the pastor of Beraca Evangelical Church in Braintree,

comes to New Directions with 18 years experience in pastoral counseling. He is pursuing his Mental Health Counselor License at Cambridge College.

"Garry is a very kind, gentle, compassionate man," says Hagan. "He brings a tremendous amount of life experience to the position, which is invaluable in this field. The fact that he also speaks fluent Haitian and French provides an aspect of diversity that is important. Overall, he is a wonderful asset for the agency."

## Partnerships

New Directions is working in partnership with local mental health clinics, referring to each other to ensure that clients' needs are best served. The other agencies refer some low-income clients to New Directions, which is able to provide services on a flexible sliding scale.

In return, New Directions refers clients with psychopharmaceutical needs to the other agencies. "It is a wonderful collaboration," says Hagan. "When we've made referrals, they have seen our clients very quickly. And we've welcomed the referrals they have given us. It is a true example of all of us working for the common good of our clients. The bottom line is that many people, who otherwise might have nowhere else to turn, are getting much needed help."

New Directions provides counseling for clients with insurance as well as for by sliding scale fee for those without insurance.

# Volunteers provide companionship

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like going for a walk, having coffee, going to a movie, or just chatting over the telephone," says Barbara Goodman, M.Ed., director. "Even simple events like these were difficult to accomplish due to the Blizzard in January! What a comfort our volunteers provided to those who were literally 'shut-in,' those who were unable to shovel themselves out, or who had to wait days for a home health aide to reach them."

In one case, a Faith in Action volunteer telephoned her friend twice a day and waited patiently on the phone while her friend took her medicine. She did this for several days until the sidewalks and front walkway were passable and the health aide was able to get to the house. Similarly, another volunteer was unable to make his weekly visit to his friend, who was also snowed in. He visited regularly by phone and made sure that his friend still had heat and

electricity.

"Simple actions may appear to be inconsequential, yet they are of tremendous significance to someone who is feeling isolated or having difficulty getting around," says Goodman. "No previous volunteer experience is necessary to become part of the program; we offer training, regular support meetings, and the opportunity to use your unique personal gifts and talents. All of our volunteers are insured, and all participants are carefully screened."

Faith in Action is a very simple, but meaningful program," says Goodman. "If you would like the opportunity to help someone in need, or if you know of someone who needs help please call me. The woman quoted earlier echoes the sentiments we hear from clients all the time. Our volunteers tell us that they enjoy the friendships as much as the clients."

## ISS STAFF

Laura E. Stracco  
*Executive Director*  
Beverly Farrell  
*Office Manager/Bookkeeper*  
Claire Hagan, RN, LMHC  
*Counseling Coordinator*  
Bettyanne Lang  
*Manager of Material Assistance*  
Jan Stewart, LSW  
*Manager of Financial Assistance*  
Una Armstrong, LICSW  
*Counselor*

## Fee-for-Services Counselors:

Beth Burnes, LICSW  
Barbara Goodman, M.Ed.  
Kathleen Liberman, LICSW  
Maureen Richardson, RN, LMHC  
Elizabeth Wagner, LMHC

Rev. Ann Rearick  
*Hospital Chaplain*

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Jean Runey  
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## From the Executive Director



Laura E. Stracco

I recently attended the Quincy Planning Board's Technical Assistance and Five-Year Consolidated Planning Workshop. This meeting lays the groundwork for receiving Community Development Block Grants, which recently provided a \$3,500 grant for the Career Closet. The gathering gave me the opportunity to meet with representatives of many of Quincy's social service agencies and learn about the many ways the city reaches out to serve those in need.

We continue to seek ways reach out to the community. Bettyanne Lang and I appeared on "Public Hearing on Hunger and Poverty in the City," a three-hour special aired live on Quincy Access cable, to discuss the Pantry Shelf in particular and the agency as a whole. The program, created by Quincy City Counselor Joe Finn, gave us another opportunity to let the community know what we offer. We also had a table at the South Shore Women's Business Network Expo in November.

The holidays were an incredibly busy time for the agency. We distributed close to 170 Thanksgiving dinners this year—a 90% increase over last year's 90 dinners. The "Adopt-a-Fam-

ily" holiday gift program went very well. The 140 families we served were overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts they received. And we were overwhelmed with the generosity of the companies and individuals who made it all possible.

Drew Sheele of the Quincy Hunger Network organized the Mayor's Food Drive, which netted 18 "banana" boxes of nonperishable items.

We had quite a show with the installation of our new roof top HVAC unit. It was hoisted onto the roof via crane and parking was tied up for a bit...I did not realize that traffic control was part of my job description, but rest assured, there were no accidents!

Bob Taylor submitted countless grant applications in November and December. We eagerly check the mail in anticipation of good news!

The New Directions Counseling Department conducted an esteem-building workshop for children and their parents who were spending their holidays in a Friends of the Homeless shelter. About 40 individuals met at St. Helen's Church Hall in Norwell for an

afternoon of talking, crafts, and refreshments. Each child received a small gift and each parent and child received a snack goody bag. I attended as a volunteer. It was an incredible experience for all of us.

In the past, New Directions has run a multi-night session of keeping the family together in a homeless shelter. As a result of our counselors work at the shelter, several residents come to the agency for individual counseling. We are currently developing several grant proposals in hopes of funding programs at the shelter on an ongoing basis.

Paula Duvelson completed her internship in December, and Garry Depestre recently joined New Directions Counseling as an unpaid intern in Christian Counseling. Garry has also been helping out on the phones and in the Pantry Shelf, and would like to offer counseling to more of our Pantry Shelf clients.

Listed in the box below are the major grants we received since our last newsletter:

Grantor	Amount	Program/Purpose
Agnes Lindsey Trust	\$ 2,500	Defray the cost of HVAC system
State Street Foundation	\$15,000	The Pantry Shelf
Harold Brooks Foundation	\$10,000	FreshStart
Grace E. Brooks Trust	\$10,000	Pantry, HomeSafe & FreshStart
Clipper Ship Foundation	\$ 5,000	The Pantry Shelf



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Save the Date for ISS' 4th Annual



## Tournament

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South Shore Country Club  
Hingham, MA

Call Bettyanne at 617-773-6203  
for information

Announcing



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Call ISS at 617-773-6203 for more information

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