



## Quincy boys help ISS programs



The Quirk family, l to r, Ryan, Patrick, and John, with their mom, Kathleen.

Most adolescent boys are content spending summers playing outdoors and enjoying their vacation. Not so for Ryan, Patrick, and John Quirk of Quincy. Already familiar with ISS through their participation in the South Shore Walk, they wanted to do something special to help families in need. They held their own food drive, going door-to-door, collecting non-perishable items from their neighbors.

Entrepreneurs in the making, they sold bottles of water—with a “buy one get on free” sale on a particularly hot day. “They combined the funds from the water sales with all their change that they had been saving for quite some time,” said their mom, Kathleen Quirk. Quirk drove them to the Pantry Shelf at ISS to deliver \$48.51 in dollars and coins, in a large plastic container, and eight bags of food.

“This is not the family’s first fundraising effort for ISS,” says Bettyanne Lang, manager of material assistance. “Last year John asked guests to bring food donations to his birthday party instead of presents, and donated eight bags of food to the Pantry.

“It is very heartening to see young people so concerned about the welfare of others who are less fortunate,” she says. “Many families served by the Pantry Shelf have benefited from the Quirk family’s generosity.”

## HomeSafe program helps family in need

“Mary” has custody of her sister’s two children, one of whom is severely disabled due to a brain injury. At age 13, he requires intensive care and supervision, special schooling, and frequent medical attention. Mary must budget aggressively in order to provide food, clothing, and other necessities for the children in her care.

Since she also drives to the North Shore several times a week to care for her mother who is ill, she spends more than she can afford on gasoline. When her father was alive, they shared the car, and he made the car payment. Now this responsibility is hers alone.

Mary lives in a complex that is quick to send a “notice to quit” if the rent is not paid in full. In July she was \$100 short for her monthly rent because she needed that amount for groceries. The HomeSafe program helped with a grant to close the gap, averting possible eviction, and relieving the anxiety felt by Mary and her children.

The HomeSafe program is already receiving requests for fuel assistance because many clients’ federal fuel assistance grants barely cover a full tank of oil.

“We are deeply concerned about the rising cost of oil, which is predicted to reach \$4.00 a gallon,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “Jan Stewart, who manages our financial assistance programs, does a remarkable job of prioritizing and sorting through more than 40 requests for assistance

*continued on page 2*

## Not your average thrift shop



“Where else are you going to find a designer coat for \$8,” said Ann Pierce (L) with Shirley Poore.

On a recent Wednesday morning, within a half hour of opening, at least 12 customers were already laughing and chatting with volunteers and searching for unique bargains, beauti-

ful clothing, fabulous accessories, household items, toys, and books—all at well below retail prices.

“The women who work here are wonderful,” said Carol, the shop’s first customer of the day. “I love the hunt. I just found a brand new Boyd’s bear for a friend who collects them. I love to shop here and it is really convenient to bring in donations too.”

Volunteers Shirley Poore and Ann Pierce, referred to by shop regulars as the “Wednesday morning crew,” really enjoy their time at the shop. “We know our customers and they know us,” says Pierce. “I’ve made so many friends here. I enjoy it. I used to manage two retail stores and worked in banking for 12 years. Working here draws on what I know and gives me something to do.”

Pierce began working at the shop in early 2000 and now volunteers on *continued on page 2*

Save the Date  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual  
South Shore Walk  
April 27, 2008

## ISS Volunteers Honored by RSVP



*ISS volunteers Betty Decristofaro, Barbara MacFarlane, and JoAnne Hennigan were honored for their dedication to ISS by the Norfolk County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at a luncheon at Lantana in August.*

RSVP recruits seniors interested in volunteering in the community and matches them with agencies needing help. Other RSVP volunteers who are crucial to ISS are listed below:

Fran Langille	Chickie Abdallah
James Thorne	Floye MacDonald
Ellen Collins	Joanne Jordan
Elva Cotter	Faye Vlassakis
Ann Pierce	Charlie Curran
Janet Duggan	Neil Doherty
Shirley Poore	John Doherty
Ethel Schow	Frank O'Donoghue
Nancy Stasio	Edward Kelley, Jr.
Matti Lang	Ann Marie Quigley

## Thrift shop

*continued from page 1*

Wednesday mornings and all day on Fridays.

"We even have wedding gowns, tuxedos, and prom dresses available for sale," added Poore who began volunteering at the shop in 1991 and now volunteers on Friday afternoons in addition to Wednesday mornings.

"Ann and Shirley are two of the reasons the Bureau Drawer is not your average thrift shop," said Laura Stracco, executive director. "They greet every customer with a warm welcome and make sure that the shop is always neat and well organized."

"If I can get a brand new sweatshirt here for \$3, why buy one in a department store?" asked one early morning customer. "Everything here is in really great, if not new condition."

"I needed a special dress and I found just what I was looking for right here," added another customer.

Regardless of income, everyone is welcome to shop at the Bureau Drawer. "Our customers consist of high- and low-income individuals, parents, grandparents, college students, seniors, part- and full-time workers, just about everyone!" said Cindy Lee, Bureau Drawer manager.

The shop is staffed solely by volunteers. "We are deeply grateful to each and every Interfaith program volunteer. It is through their dedication that we

are able to serve so many throughout the year," said Stracco.

"It does me as much good as I do here. I came here after my husband passed away. My grandkids have all grown and the shop gives me something to do," added Poore.

"Besides the great buys, volunteers and customers alike love the social atmosphere and friendships they have formed," said Lee. "We have an ongoing need for donations, including household items, books, accessories, and clothing. We just ask that all items be clean and in saleable condition. Receipts are available, as all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

"Whether they have found a great treasure, antique, bargain, or perfect outfit, everyone leaves happy and looks forward to their next return visit," added Lee.

The Bureau Drawer—a hidden gem on the South Shore—has been in operation for more than 30 years. The shop, located at the rear of Interfaith Social Services at 105 Adams Street in Quincy, raises more than \$26,000 each year to support the work of the agency.

The Bureau Drawer is now open for extended hours, Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday during office hours and on Saturdays during shop hours.

## Pantry Shelf Shopping List

This winter, many clients will be in dire need for food, as heating and utility costs rise dramatically, putting further strain on already bleak budgets. ISS has a continual need for groceries to help clients and their children ward off hunger.

Please refer to the list below and remember ISS when shopping for your own groceries.

- ✓ peanut butter & jelly
- ✓ spaghetti & sauce
- ✓ macaroni & cheese
- ✓ soup
- ✓ canned tuna & meat
- ✓ rice
- ✓ baked beans
- ✓ canned veggies
- ✓ canned fruit
- ✓ coffee & tea
- ✓ bath soap
- ✓ shampoo & toiletries
- ✓ feminine hygiene products
- ✓ diapers
- ✓ powdered milk

## HomeSafe helps family in need

*continued from page 1*

each week. If we are not able to assist a client she offers alternative solutions whenever possible."

ISS is deeply grateful to those oil vendors who offer discounted pricing and emergency deliveries.

"We will do our best to serve as many as possible, and appreciate donations to help fund this crucial program," says Stewart.

*"It was nice talking to you.  
Thanks so much  
for helping me.  
For once I had happy  
tears in my eyes!"*

A HomeSafe client



## Interfaith Social Services

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

TTY for hearing impaired:  
800-439-2370

ISSQuincy1@verizon.net  
www.InterfaithSocialServices.org

### 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.

### OFFICERS

James Thorne  
*President*

Helen Duncan  
*First Vice President*

John Martland  
*Second Vice President*

Robert Cohen  
*Treasurer*

Martha Chase  
*First Assistant Treasurer*

Ethel Schow  
*Second Assistant Treasurer*

Cynthia Lee  
*Secretary*

### BOARD MEMBERS

Chickie Abdallah

Ron Burgess

Donna Eliasson

Joseph Giggey

Russell Goodman

JoAnne Hennigan

Edmund Kelley, Jr.

Diane Rann

John Stuart

Tiffanie Williams

## Turkey Dip 2007



“We are calling all ‘turkeys’ to raise money for ISS by jumping into the frigid waters of the North River on Thanksgiving morning at the *Fourth Annual Turkey Dip*,” says founder and organizer Katherine Maloy, 17, of Marshfield. “Our goal is to raise \$10,000 this year to help ISS’ Pantry Shelf provide food for those in need.”

Maloy, who was 14 when she founded the event, raised more than \$7,500 in the first three years combined.

“Her age, in and of itself is noteworthy enough,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “The other remarkable thing is that 100% of all donations

go to ISS.

Katherine’s family underwrites all expenses associated with the event.”

Dippers are asked to solicit sponsors ahead of time and bring the donations to the “dip.”

“Who could imagine that jumping in the cold water could be so much fun,” says Maloy. “The dip has become an annual tradition—we really look forward to it every year.”

The dip starts promptly at 8:30 a.m. at Mary’s Boat Livery, Rte 3A, Marshfield. Pledge sheets are available at [www.InterfaithSocialServices.org](http://www.InterfaithSocialServices.org)

QBCC's  
*John Hancock*  
Birthday  
Plunge  
Goose bumps from dipping in the North River will fade just in time to take *The Second Annual John Hancock Birthday Plunge* at the Mound Street Beach in Quincy on Sunday, January 19, 2008 at noon.

The first *Plunge* was a huge success, raising almost \$4,000 for ISS. “Plungers” were awarded commemorative plungers in several categories, including money raised and unusual “get-ups.”

Plunge founder and new ISS board member Chickie Abdallah is already

making plans, with the support of her colleagues on the Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission.

“Chickie is nothing short of extraordinary,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “She brings an extremely high level of energy and enthusiasm to everything she does. We are thrilled that she has chosen to support ISS.”

Call ISS at 617-773-6203 for more information.



## ISS joins The Giving Express® program

Earn double Membership Rewards® points when you donate to ISS online through the GivingExpress® program from American Express.

American Express Cardmembers who are enrolled in the Membership Rewards program can earn double Membership Rewards points by mak-

ing their contributions online at the GivingExpress program through December 31, 2007.

“We are thrilled to offer this incentive to our supporters,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “It is our way of trying to give a little back to those who give so generously to us.”

Terms and Conditions for the Membership Rewards program apply.

Visit [membershipewards.com/terms](http://membershipewards.com/terms) for more information. Participating partners and available rewards are subject to change without notice. Bonus Points: To be eligible to earn bonus points, you must be enrolled in the Membership Rewards program at the time of purchase and you must charge your purchase on an eligible, enrolled American Express Card. Bonus points will be credited to your Membership Rewards account 6-8 weeks after your first purchase appears on your monthly billing statement. 50,000 maximum bonus points per account. Bonus ID 0549

Please note: American Express will deduct a transaction fee of 2.25% from your donation to cover processing costs. The charities will receive your donation amount, minus the 2.25% American Express processing fee, from our partner JustGive. This transaction fee is similar to or less than the processing fee the charity would pay if you were to charge your donation with your American Express Card through any other means (i.e., over the phone to the charity, through the charity’s website, etc.). You will not be charged any additional fees for using the American Express Donation Site and your dollar donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Feed the Hungry Holiday Spectacular!

*Feed the Hungry* began 10 years ago as a fundraising event to help raise funds for Interfaith's most demanding winter months.

This year's event, *Holiday Spectacular*, on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at Lombardo's in Randolph, features live and silent auctions and dancing.

US Ballroom Dance Champion Daniel Radler and Deirdre Radler will perform their winning dance steps. The Ovations, New England's high-energy band, will have the audience following the stars onto the floor.

This festive occasion has become a special social gathering on the South Shore and attracts more than 700 guests, including many local businesses and their employees.

Proceeds from the event help ISS help those in need on the South Shore.

For ticket or additional information or to make a donation to the event auction, please contact Stracco at 617-773-6203 ext. 17 or via e-mail at LStracco@verizon.net

Sponsorship and ticket information is also available on the agency's web site, [www.InterfaithSocialServices.org](http://www.InterfaithSocialServices.org)

## Arbella Foundation sponsors *Feed the Hungry*

ISS is thrilled to announce that the Arbella Charitable Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor for this year's *Feed the Hungry* holiday fundraiser.

"Arbella Insurance, its employees, and its Charitable Foundation have been instrumental in making a difference in the lives of our clients," says Laura Stracco, executive director.

"Employees were asked to bring non-perishable food items to a recent company-wide barbecue. They took the request to heart—delivering more than

two truckloads of food to the Pantry Shelf."

A recent \$5,000 grant from the Arbella Charitable Foundation is allowing numerous low-income clients to receive much-needed counseling in ISS' New Directions Counseling program.

"By becoming a Presenting Sponsor for *Feed the Hungry*, Arbella has elevated their support to a new level. I cannot tell you how grateful we are."



Interfaith  
Social Services

### 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*

*Fee-for-Services Counselors:*

Una Armstrong, LICSW

Anne M. Donovan, LADAC-1,  
CADAC

Barbara Goodman, M. Ed.

Kathleen Liberman, LICSW

Maureen Richardson, RN, LMHC

Robert F. Taylor, MSW

Elizabeth Wagner, LMHC

Rev. Ann Rearick

*Hospital Chaplain*

Editor

Jeanie Runey

*Jeanie Communications*

### Attention ISS Associates, Families & Friends

Corcoran Brokerage and Ron Burgess of Milton will make a referral donation of \$1000 to ISS for every real estate listing signed (which identifies ISS) with Corcoran Brokerage as exclusive listing broker. The donation will be made when the property is sold. Also, if an associate of ISS buys a house using Corcoran Brokerage as their buyer's agent, a \$500 donation will be made to ISS.

*For more info please contact:*

Ron Burgess, Corcoran Brokerage

617-719-7831 • [rburgess@corcoranbrokerage.com](mailto:rburgess@corcoranbrokerage.com)

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

We are general contractors specializing in the insurance industry.

**Kris Larsen, Ltd.**

781-659-7678

Fax: 781-659-4378

E-mail: [larsen1191@aol.com](mailto:larsen1191@aol.com)

Made you look.

**TIFFANIE WILLIAMS & CO.**

public relations ■ advertising ■ web design ■ event planning

(617) 786-0010 • [www.tiffaniewilliamsco.com](http://www.tiffaniewilliamsco.com)

12 Beach Street  
Quincy, MA 02170  
OFFICE: (617) 328-5800  
FAX: (617) 328-0534  
TOLL FREE: (888) 273-9790  
E-MAIL: [angela@classichomesre.com](mailto:angela@classichomesre.com)



**ANGELA M. PONTE**

Broker Associate

"Your South Shore Specialist"

**Classic Homes**  **GMAC**  
Real Estate

## From the Executive Director



Laura E. Stracco

Interfaith Social Services is a remarkable place where staff, counselors, a chaplain, volunteers, and donors are committed to improving the lives of those in need in the communities we serve. They understand that by work-

ing together, we can impact many lives in a positive way. It is an honor to work with such a wonderful, kindhearted and generous group of individuals, families, places of worship, and businesses.

I am proud to announce that Interfaith's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting was held in October at the Quincy Neighborhood Club. Eight individuals who have made a dramatic impact on the programs of Interfaith and its clients were the first inductees in Interfaith's Hall of Appreciation (*see below*).

I am also happy to announce that Chickie Abdallah, Russell Goodman,

John Stuart, and Diane Rann joined Interfaith's Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The Board looks forward to utilizing their ideas and talents as we plan for the future—amid an ever-growing demand for our programs.

We will be mailing our annual holiday appeal under separate cover early in December. As you plan for your holiday celebrations and gift-giving, please remember those we serve, who are less fortunate. We appreciate your generous spirit. You are invaluable.

### Interfaith Social Services Hall of Appreciation

**Margaret M.N. Davidson**

for committing her life to bettering the lives of children through adoption

**Matthew "Matti" Lang**

volunteer extraordinaire

**Kris Larsen**

for quietly using his time, talents, and treasure to help those in need

**Andrew Scheele**

Quincy Public Health Commissioner

for his instrumental role in establishing the Quincy Hunger Network and for his efforts in the annual Quincy Postal Food Drive and Mayor of Quincy food drive



**Jan Stewart**

ISS Manager

of Financial Assistance

for tirelessly serving countless individuals and families in need through Interfaith's financial assistance programs and past shared living program

**Robert F. Taylor**

for more than 40 years of service as executive director, acting director, and counselor, and for touching countless lives

**Mary Ann Walsh**

for establishing the Career Closet program and for leading the agency, during her tenure as executive director, through difficult times and laying the groundwork for all that the agency is today

**Thomas F. Williams, Esq.**

for tirelessly serving as co-chair of Feed the Hungry since its inception 10 years ago and for helping Interfaith make countless valuable contacts in the business community

Newsletter by



The Best Marketing Communications You Could Wish For<sup>SM</sup>

1117 Whitman Street  
Hanson, MA 02341  
781-447-3729  
Fax 781-447-3741  
JeanieComm@comcast.net

## RECENT GRANTS

ISS is grateful for the recent generous support from these foundations:

Project Bread	\$5,000	Pantry Shelf
TJX Foundation	\$5,000	HomeSafe
Ada Bacon Fund	\$7,635	HomeSafe
Copeland Family Foundation	\$2,500	Pantry Shelf

*correction:* State Street Foundation donated \$15,000 for the Pantry Shelf. The last newsletter inadvertently stated it was \$5,000.

Reception • Auction • Dinner • Dancing

# HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

to benefit the Feed the Hungry campaign of  
Interfaith Social Services



**November 29, 2007**  
**6:30 pm**

at

L o m b a r d o ' s

\$65 per ticket

For more information call  
Laura Stracco at  
**617-773-6203**

*Lombardo's is located at Exit 5A off Route 128 in Randolph*



## Elves Needed

As early as September, clients served by the Pantry Shelf were asking if there was any way ISS would be able to help make their children's holidays a bit brighter this year.

It was requests like these that gave rise to Interfaith's "Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays" program many years ago. From now

until mid-December clients complete forms with the names of their children, their ages, sizes, and a few gift wishes. Bettyanne Lang, manager of material assistance, matches the clients with families, individuals, businesses, and places of worship who purchase and wrap gifts for their "adopted" families. Donors bring the gifts to ISS for distribution, or they may deliver them directly to families.

Last year, ISS facilitated the "adoption" of 156 families with 347 children. "This holiday season, based on the increasing number of Pantry Shelf clients, we expect to have upwards of 400 children who need someone to brighten their holiday, which would otherwise be very bleak," says Lang.

"When we project these numbers, it always feels like a stretch," she says. "I worry that we won't be able to meet the increased demand. And yet, every year more kind, generous people come forward. I feel so blessed to witness the true meaning of the holiday season in the actions of others."

Call Lang at 617-773-6203, ext 19, for information.

Return Service Requested

105 Adams Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

INTERFAITH  
SOCIAL SERVICES



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit #120