

Celebrating 60 years of “strengthening family life...”

Interfaith will celebrate its 60th anniversary at its annual meeting at the Quincy Neighborhood Club on Thursday, October 25. The evening will consist of a brief business meeting followed by dinner. Several individuals will be recognized for their contributions to Interfaith. A photo display and

slide presentation depicting the agency’s history will be featured. Anyone with photos that may be scanned for this project, is asked to contact the ISS office.

Registration information will be available at ISS and on the web site in July.

Walk Raises more than \$19,000 for ISS



Punky Doodles paints a rose on Samantha Lynch’s cheek. Samantha, 8, granddaughter of Beverly Farrell, ISS business/office manager, won the silver medal for second highest funds raised for her age group.

The 33rd Annual South Shore Walk was a fun-filled family event. For the first time in many years, the sun was shining as the walkers began the walk route and stayed that way all day!

Walkers and volunteers enjoyed a luncheon feast generously donated by Outback Steak House, Domino’s Pizza, and Fasano’s Catering. Ocean Spray provided juice and Ben & Jerry’s provided several flavors of their famous ice cream. Back again, for the third consecutive year, were the Bad Hats and their lively musical entertainment.

Polka Dot and Punky Doodles, clowns from the South Shore Joeys, made balloon animals and sculptures and painted faces for all ages.

The popular event has netted more than \$19,000 in support of Interfaith and funds are still coming. “We are blessed to have generations of families participate in the event each year. I was thrilled to have my husband, daughter,

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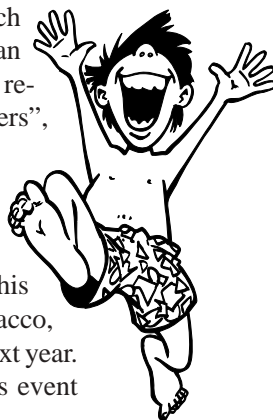
John Hancock Birthday Plunge

The John Hancock Birthday Plunge was a great success. Many hardy souls plunged into the frigid ocean in March at the Mound Street Beach in Quincy to raise more than \$3,600 for ISS. Unseasonably warm, sunny weather rewarded the “plungers”, “dunking toe-nuts”, “waist-waders”, and spectators for their efforts.

The Plunge is the brainchild of Chickie Abdallah, treasurer of the Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission (QBCC).

“We are deeply grateful to the QBCC for making this event such a great fundraiser for ISS,” says Laura Stracco, ISS executive director. “They are already planning for next year. If Chickie’s enthusiasm is any indication, I expect this event will become bigger and better each year.”

See page 4 for photos.



What is ISS?

Over the last several months, the agency has launched an effort to explain in greater detail the programs and services Interfaith Social Services provides. Board members and staff have been visiting places of worship, schools, and organizations to explain how Interfaith operates as a “full-service” social service agency.

“Many groups are shocked to learn how much the agency’s programs have grown in recent years,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “Others have learned how a single client may be served by multiple programs. Every conversation has resulted in a renewed interest in reaching out to those in need.

“Please contact the agency at 617-773-6203 to arrange for a speaker to visit your place of worship, school, business, or organization. Working together, we *can* make a difference.”

Prayer Breakfast

The 9th Annual Women’s Prayer Breakfast in March at Saint Ann’s School Hall in Quincy provided a wonderful opportunity for 230 women in the community to enjoy a morning of prayer, music, fellowship, and delicious breakfast foods.

The Rev. Ann G. Suzedell, pastor of Quincy Point Congregational Church, discussed “Using our gifts to serve God and others.”

Proceeds from the morning, totaling \$1,760, were donated to Interfaith in support of its service programs.

Save the Date
10th Annual
Feed the Hungry
Gala Fundraiser
Nov. 29, 2007
at Lombardo’s



Connie Hodgkins, right, shows Dot Foye the flowers painted on her cheek.

SOUTH SHORE WALK™

Helping our Neighbors in Need



Betty Decristofaro took home the gold in the over age 65 category. Elmer Baird won the silver and Charles Wohlander got the bronze.



Three generations of the Bubencik Family begin the Walk.



The age 21 to 64 medal winners – Linda Schatz, gold, and Joseph Giggey, silver. Ruth Mavilla (not pictured) took home the bronze.



The age 11-20 medal winners, Robin Elder, silver; Michelle Dennehy, gold; and Becky Thorne, bronze.

Photos were unavailable for Amanda Thorne, who took home the gold, and Sean MacLean, bronze, for ages 10 and under.

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son-in-law, and twin granddaughters there with me,” says Bettyanne Lang, manager of material assistance and walk committee member. “Bob and Pauline Bubencik are very active volunteers at Interfaith. They both serve

on the golf committee and Pauline volunteers at the Pantry Shelf every Thursday. They bring their children and grandchildren to the walk every year. Beverly Farrell, business/office manager shared this year’s event with her parents, sister, daughter, and grand-

daughter.”

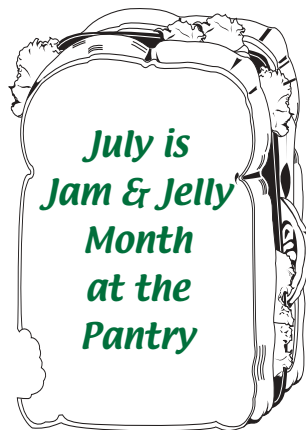
Walkers raising the most money in their age categories were given medals for their accomplishments.

“I’d like to remind walkers to check with their employers to see if they have a matching funds program,” says Lang.

Pantry Shelf demand hits new heights

During the first quarter of 2007, the Pantry Shelf provided more than 2,700 individuals with 3-5 days worth of food, a 13 percent increase over the same period last year. The number of children served has increased by 11 percent and those over age 60 by 32 percent.

“We are extremely grateful to the Greater Boston Food Bank, which supplements donations from groups and individuals,” says Bettyanne Lang, Pantry Shelf manager. “However, the variety is somewhat limited. We rely on our supporters for additional donations, such as the items listed on the shopping list on the back page.”



The agency has recently obtained large donations of peanut butter, which is a staple in many homes because of its nutritional value and long shelf life.

“We try to give jam or jelly, along with peanut butter, to families with children so they can make the traditional PB&J sandwich. However, we always seem to run short of jelly,” says Bettyanne Lang, Pantry Shelf manager. “In an attempt to stock our ‘jam and jelly’ shelf for the summer we are officially announcing that July is *Jam and Jelly Month* at the Pantry Shelf!

“We appreciate all donations, especially smaller jars for single individuals and smaller households. Please consider running a ‘jam and jelly’ drive at your place of worship, business, or organization.”

If everyone who regularly donates a variety of food could add a few jars of jam or jelly to the mix, it would be very helpful.



Interfaith Social Services

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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.

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Cradles to Crayons: A local treasure

ISS executive director Laura Stracco recently had the opportunity to tour Cradles to Crayons (C2C) in Quincy. "Interfaith has utilized Cradles to Crayons in the past in emergency situations. Now that I am more fully aware of the scope of what they offer, we will be able to better provide for the children we serve," says Stracco.

The C2C mission "to provide, free of charge, poor and homeless children from birth to preteen the basic essen-

tials they need to be safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued" fits well with Interfaith's mission. C2C provides clothing, toys, books, etc. to children across Massachusetts through social service agencies like Interfaith. The organization recently expanded to Philadelphia as well.

"We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful resource here in Quincy" adds Stracco.

Choir Fest reaches high note

Interfaith was honored to be selected as the recipient of the free will offering collected at *Choir Fest 2007*, which was hosted by First Congregational Church of Braintree as part of their 300th anniversary celebration. The choir, under the direction of Jeff Hobart, was comprised of choir members from many South Shore churches.

"I am so grateful that *Choir Fest* thought of us," says Laura Stracco, executive director. "It is so exciting when groups in the community approach us to raise money for ISS."

Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to accompany the van driver to the Greater Boston Food Bank and local places of worship and businesses to load donated food, then unload them at ISS. The time commitment is flexible; they can work as much or as little as time permits.

Wish List

ISS is desperately in need of a new phone system. "We have completely outgrown the capacity of the existing system," says Laura Stracco, executive director. "We cannot believe how quickly the agency and its services have grown since we moved here in 2003."

ISS helps keep family in their own home

"Susan" works at a local coffee shop and has cobbled together a patchwork of help and services to maintain her own apartment for her and her 15-month-old daughter. A family member provides child care while she works. Although she receives a modest amount in food stamps each month and a low-income rate reduction on her electric bill, she pays full market rate rent for her apartment. She visits the Pantry Shelf each month to supplement what she is able to purchase with food stamps.

"Her ability to be self-supporting was threatened when an illness forced her to reduce her hours at work," says Jan Stewart, manager

of financial assistance. "Despite the reduction in income, she focused on keeping current with her rent. She did, however, fall behind a few months in payments to the electric company, which was about to shut off service."

In order to prevent her from losing her electricity, Interfaith's HomeSafe program worked with Susan and National Grid to establish a payment plan and contributed the \$92 necessary to avoid the loss of her service.

This is one example of many in which ISS provides modest assistance to keep clients safe in their homes, often helping to prevent homelessness.

John Hancock Birthday Plunge



Betty Decristofaro, Jean Ross, and Doris Allan at the "Plunge". Ross raised more than \$700, the most of any of the "plungers".



Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission members Leo Kelly, chairman, and Chickie Abdallah, treasurer, were instrumental in raising more than \$3,600 for ISS at the John Hancock Birthday Plunge.



Brrr... you can almost feel the cold looking at the photo!



Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission members at the "Plunge."



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-Service 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

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From the Executive Director



Laura E. Stracco

“During the coming years, when world events will make new demands on the life of every individual, [we] will work...to make a distinctive contribution to family life and community welfare. By improving standards, services, and efficiency, [the agency] will be keeping steps with human needs.”

These words were written by Gregory D. M. Maletta in Interfaith’s 1950 annual report. At that time, the agency, called Protestant Community Service, was in its third year of existence and Maletta was the executive director.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of our agency this fall, it is comforting to know that we have stayed true to the promise of our founders. They built a firm foundation for what is now

Interfaith Social Services’ mission to “strengthen family life and offer assistance to those in need.”

I am compiling a history of the agency that will be used at the anniversary celebration in October. I have had the pleasure of reading through archived materials, such as annual reports, newsletters, and minutes from board meetings. Many of the names from long ago, board members, volunteers, and clergy, are very familiar. Their children and grandchildren are now supporting Interfaith and those we serve with their prayers, time, talents, and treasures. Many who were once clients themselves or the children of clients are now giving back to the agency that was there for them in their time of need.

The agency has gone through many changes over the years. New programs have grown and flourished and others have dramatically expanded. Programs have come to an end when their need has been fulfilled and others have sadly ended due to difficult funding decisions. The agency, with the support and dedication of

many individuals, families, places of worship, businesses, and organizations, has evolved to best serve an ever-growing number of our neighbors in need.

Everyone who has come in contact with ISS makes an

impact. The agency is what it is today because its supporters care about those in need and recognize the fact that we are all vulnerable. Those who support Interfaith know that together, we can make a difference!

Million Dollar Challenge

Many places of worship, families, and individuals responded to the annual *Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge*. The Pantry Shelf received more than \$8,000 in cash and food in response to the challenge.

“We have submitted our information to the Feinstein Foundation and await word

of how much we will receive as a match,” says Laura Stracco, executive director. “Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide.

“We are all grateful to all of our supporters who went above and beyond in response to this challenge.”

Career Closet clients give thanks

The lady [Ellen Collins] who helped me was nice and friendly. She made me feel comfortable. She helped me to mix and match different items that looked really good together.

Ellen was a wonderful help during this transition period. I’m glad I had the opportunity to receive such caring service.

I want to say that it really helped with my self-esteem...because I felt good in my new clothes.

ISS’ Career Closet provides business attire for low-income women who are trying to enter the workforce. It depends on clothing donations and volunteers, like Collins, who help clients select outfits.

Donations of clean and

pressed gently worn and new clothing that would be appropriate in the workplace may be brought to ISS on Mon-Fri from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Volunteers are always welcomed.

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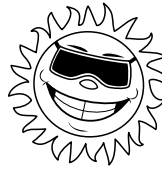
ISS is grateful for the recent generous support from these foundations:

Ada Bacon Fund	\$ 5,241	HomeSafe
Arbella Charitable Foundation	\$ 5,000	New Directions
Boston Evening Clinic Foundation	\$ 2,500	New Directions
City of Quincy—Community Development Block Grant	\$ 2,925	Career Closet
Copeland Family Foundation	\$21,460	New agency van
Gillette/ Proctor & Gamble	\$20,000	HomeSafe
Sovereign Bank	\$ 2,500	HomeSafe
State Street Foundation	\$ 5,000	Pantry Shelf

Images of Summer?



HUNGER



Borrowing from an exercise in a children's workbook, can you pick which one of these images is not like the others?

If you guessed "hunger", you were wrong.

While many of us are busy planning vacations, cookouts, and barbecues, some of our neighbors—many with young children—are hungry, and worrying about how they will get their next meal.

The problem is compounded by the fact that donations to food pantries tend to decline during the summer.

"We need to ask people to be ex-

tra vigilant during the summer about bringing donations to the food pantry," says Bettyanne Lang, Pantry Shelf manager. "When you are shopping for the ingredients to that special dish you are bringing to your neighbor's cookout, please try to remember our clients. They still need the basics.

"If you are hosting an event, please consider making it a 'Party for the Pantry' and ask your guests to bring nonperishable items."

Please refer to the list to the right for suggested items for the Pantry. Donations may be dropped off Mon., through Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ISS Pantry Shelf Shopping List

- ✓ 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

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