



## Holiday Giving Opportunities

*I just wanted to say thank you so much for your kindness. It is truly a blessing. This kind gesture has deeply moved me. I wish the best to you and may God bless you!*

This is one of the many notes written to ISS for their children's holiday gifts.

Every year, ISS coordinates the "Adopt-a-family" program, matching donors with clients who do not have the means to provide holiday gifts for their children. It is very simple; donors are told names, ages, sizes, and gift preferences. They then buy and wrap the gifts, and bring them to ISS for distribution.

"Last year we provided holiday gifts for 130 families, with 297 children. Children who would have faced a very bleak holiday if it were not for the generosity of so many caring people," says Bettyanne Lang, director of material assistance.

*"One of the most enjoyable aspects of 'adopting' a family is how it affects our children."*

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of 'adopting' a family is how it affects our children," says board mem-

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Last year ISS provided turkey dinners, with all the "fixings" for 155 needy families. "The Thanksgiving dinners are above and beyond the regular pantry offerings," says Bettyanne Lang, director of material assistance. "It's a way for us to share our bounty with oth-

er Patrick Durkin who has participated for about six years. "When kids have a chance to shop for other children they realize how modest their [the other children's] needs are in comparison to their own. It can really alter them in a positive way."

Durkin found the experience so moving that he invited his colleagues at A.G. Edwards in Norwell to participate. "Our office has 'adopted' as many as six families a year, giving based on our individual means. Some may have the resources to 'adopt' a family of five, and in other cases two people may 'adopt' one child together. Everyone does what they can."

"We are expecting an increased need this year, since The Pantry Shelf served 125 new families in the past two months alone," says Lang. "We are hoping that many more people will come forward to help."

Call Lang at 617-773-6203 for information

ers. It epitomizes what Thanksgiving is all about."

Lang needs gift certificates to grocery stores, canned fruit, vegetables, pie crust and filling mixes, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and cash donations.

Call Lang at 617-773-6203 for details.

## Golf Tournament Nets \$18,000



Sue Giggey, Helen Duffy, Joan Matthews, and Martha Chase, first assistant treasurer at ISS, enjoy a day of golf while raising money for ISS.

Interfaith's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was a great success! Despite threatening skies, it turned out to be a perfect day for golf at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham. This year's tournament netted \$18,000, which will be used to support ISS's many programs.

The golf committee, which is co-chaired by Jack

Bailey of Hingham and John Martland of Milton, worked tirelessly to make this the best tournament yet. Golfers won dozens of great raffle prizes and bid on an unbelievable number of fabulous silent auction items, including numerous Red Sox tickets and memorabilia, theatre tickets, golf outings, and spa and family outing packages.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turkey Dip



"Turkey dippers" of all ages enjoyed a refreshing plunge into the North River last year.

Join ISS supporters on Thanksgiving at 9 a.m. and take a dip in the North River to raise money for The Pantry Shelf, which provides

groceries to low-income individuals and families.

The Turkey Dip is the brainchild of 15-year-old Katherine Maloy of Norwell, who last year persuaded 60 hardy friends and family to seek pledges for the privilege of jumping into the chilly waters of the North River on Thanksgiving morning.

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

*continued on page 2*



Quinn Hewitt, age 5, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, realizes there's no turning back!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turkey Dip

*continued from page 1*

The “turkeys” will dip in the river at Mary’s Boat Livery on Route 3A in Marshfield, followed by warm refreshments. The event will be over in time for “dippers” to participate in regular holiday activities, such as high school football games.

Pledge sheets and information about volunteering are available via email at: [thanksturkeydip@yahoo.com](mailto:thanksturkeydip@yahoo.com) or by calling Katherine Maloy, (617) 842-3257.

Let’s help her reach her goal of \$3,000!

## New Directions provides vital service

*“Thank you for all your support. When I first came here I was lonely, scared, confused, unhappy. Today I am OK and have hope for the future.”*

This note is from one of the many clients that New Directions Counseling has helped.

At New Directions, caring clinicians provide counseling services to ever-increasing numbers of children, adolescents, adults, and seniors who are struggling with emotional issues. The center accepts many insurance plans; those without insurance pay a sliding scale fee.

The number of client cases has grown 44 percent in the past year, and will probably increase this year as more people lose health insurance coverage.

“Low-cost fees are possible due to the generosity of our donors,” says Claire Hagan, RN, LMHC, counseling coordinator. “New Directions is a safety net for many individuals without insurance who would otherwise fall through the cracks.”

## Faith in Action program helps ease loneliness and isolation for many

The Faith in Action program, which pairs volunteers with individuals who are recovering from a mental illness, suffering from loneliness or depression, or living with a physical disability, is gearing up for another year of service. Volunteers report having had a great summer doing a variety of activities with their friends from the program.

“Two new volunteers who were eager to offer their friendship to someone in need recently joined us,” says Barbara Goodman, M.Ed., director. “Hopefully, autumn will bring more individuals who are looking to add meaning to their lives by giving an hour or two a week to be a listening ear or offer a helping hand. We welcome volunteers of all ages and from all walks

of life. Whether you are retired and looking to enrich your life by sharing your experiences and wisdom, or if you are a student looking to gain a deeper understanding of people and experience working in the community, you would be a welcome part of the program. Our volunteers tell us that they enjoy the friendships as much as the clients.”

No prior volunteer experience is necessary; ISS offers training and support. “It is amazing what a difference one or two hours a week can make in the life of someone who is otherwise alone, shut-in, depressed, or recovering from a mental or physical illness,” says Goodman.

Interested volunteers may call Barbara Goodman at 617-773-6203.



Interfaith  
Social Services

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

[www.InterfaithSocialServices.org](http://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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## INTERFAITH SOCIAL SERVICES

Dear Friends,

During the past year the demand for all services at Interfaith Social Services has been at its highest level ever...

- ...more families are requesting food,
- ...more low-income women entering the work force need interview attire,
- ...more people of all ages are seeking counseling,
- ...more families and individuals need help staying out of homeless shelters, and
- ...more people need help with utility bills and other daily needs.

Your generous support in the past has enabled us to provide the necessities that so many of us take for granted. We are doing wonderful things to help people on the South Shore. However, everywhere I go I realize the needs are greater than ever.

We are a resource for families and individuals needing help. We have helped many families and individuals turn their lives around and reach emotional and financial self-sufficiency.

Yet we still have many families and individuals in our community in desperate need. We are facing a winter in New England with projected unprecedented fuel costs, increasing numbers of people have no health insurance, and the list goes on...

With the holiday season upon us, we continue to look to your heartfelt generosity to help those in need. Please consider a financial gift to ISS this holiday season.

For your convenience, we have enclosed an envelope for your tax-deductible gift. Thank you for considering ISS this Holiday Season. With your support, we **are** making a difference.

I sincerely wish you and your family a joyous Holiday Season.

With my deep personal thanks,

*James F. Thorne*

James F. Thorne  
President

*P.S. You may want to make the holidays more meaningful for loved ones "who have everything" by making your donation in their honor.*

## In Memoriam

RICHARD E. CUTLER

ISS was saddened to hear of the death of Richard E. Cutler on July 4, 2005. Dick had been actively participating in the agency's activities for more than 20 years. He was elected to the board of directors in 1984, was treasurer from 1986 to 1988, served three years as first vice president, and was president of the agency from 1993 to 1995. (His wife, Dorothy, later followed him as vice president and then president from 1999 to 2001.)

Even after Dick left the board, he remained helpful in many ways. He was a regular volunteer for the annual phone-a-thon, served as a crossing guard at the walk-a-thons, and played the piano at annual meetings. He was the agency photographer for several

years and took many of the photos in past issues of Interfaith's newsletter.

Dick was way ahead of most of us with his technical knowledge and volunteered his services to help us get launched into the computer era.

In addition to his work at ISS, Dick was actively involved at the East Congregational Church and in the condominium association in Milton where he lived. Dick also volunteered at Milton Hospital.

Dick is missed by all who knew him. He had a pleasant smile and an unassuming nature, which tended to hide his many accomplishments. ISS is grateful that this remarkably talented man was willing to share so much of himself with the agency.

## Help for those who have lost loved ones

Claire Hagan, RN, LMHC, and Una Armstrong, LICSW, run a monthly bereavement group for women who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Each participant is encouraged to share the story of their loved one's death, explore the feelings associated with their loss, and find ways to make

meaning of their grief. Members have said that the group has been invaluable to them during a time in their lives when well-meaning friends and family members struggle to find the right words to comfort or console them.

For more information, please call Hagan or Armstrong at 617-773-6203.

## Career Closet update

You get one chance to make a first impression, and ISS is helping women make it a good one.

The Career Closet provides interview attire for low-income women entering or re-entering the job market. Referrals come from agencies that help women develop employment skills.

"There's an ongoing need for good quality, up-to-date clothing," says

Bettyanne Lang, director of material assistance. "A nice outfit may make the difference in who gets hired and who doesn't."

The Career Closet is accepting fall and winter interview attire and accessories—clean, pressed, and on hangers. Volunteers to sort and hang clothing, and help women select outfits are also needed. Call 617-773-6203 for details.

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Bettyanne Lang  
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## Message from the Executive Director



Laura E. Stracco

If I reported all the tasks that have occupied my time recently, you'd be hearing about the flooded basement, grant applications, the agency's new health insurance plan, next year's budget, and so on. As executive director, they are ultimately my responsibility. They are projects that could easily cause me to lose sight of some of the reasons I accepted this position.

Instead, I want to tell you stories of two women, stories that remind me why I've chosen to be involved with ISS for nine years.

One client called us desperate for help with her electric bill as her electricity was just days away from being disconnected. Her hours as a cashier at a local grocery store had been slightly reduced several months before, enough to break her budget. She had attempted to find another position with "mother's hours" without any luck.

As we discussed her financial situation, she asked me to hold a minute so that she could go into another room. She didn't want her 9-year-old daughter, who had just come in from visiting a friend, to hear that they were in trouble. It was too late. A few minutes later her daughter came into the room with her coin jar and asked if it would help. Interfaith's contribution, her

daughter's coin jar, and the electric company's approval of a generous payment plan all came together to keep the family's lights on. The mom is now a Pantry Shelf client as well and has managed to get a few more hours at work.

Another afternoon a widow about 60 years old knocked on the door and asked if she could have some food. She was previously homeless and did not have anything except for some pots. She had just recently been approved for emergency subsidized housing as she was scheduled for surgery the following week. She cried when we were able to provide her with bed linen, eating utensils, a tea-kettle, food, and an egg spatula. She even took the spatula out of her bag and showed it to her friend, who had given her a ride to the agency. I will never forget how happy she was with that simple spatula.

It is because of the generous support of our benefactors that we are able to help people, like these two women, in crisis.

The usual "summer lull" never happened at ISS. In fact, volunteers in the Pantry Shelf often served more than 25 families in a single day. Requests for financial assistance, which were already on the rise in the spring, have grown exponentially. Frequently, all of our counseling offices are in use at the same time. In some cases, we must use other space to accommodate those in need who had been turned away—due to the inability to pay—from other counseling centers.

We are very concerned for our clients as the cold winter months draw near. Many are still struggling to pay down last winter's fuel debt and are

frightened about what this winter will bring.

We have had to reduce the maximum grant amount so that we may offer some assistance to as many as possible. There are many unknowns surrounding local fuel delivery companies, such as minimum delivery amounts, travel areas, and of course the anticipated increased cost per gallon.

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*Many of our clients are doing everything humanly possible to improve their situations... Many already work several jobs and share childcare responsibilities with family and friends.*

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Many of our clients are doing everything humanly possible to improve their situations. Their dollars are truly stretched to the breaking point. Many already work several jobs and share childcare responsibilities with family and friends. I even heard two clients in the Pantry waiting room discussing how they alternate preparing dinner meals and childcare so that both women could continue to work *and* provide for their families without having their children suffer. Several clients share car rides when they come to pick up their monthly groceries. Many clients made use of our Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop for back-to-school clothing.

Our clients truly appreciate what we are able to do for them *because of your generosity*. The agency serves its mission of "strengthening family life and offering assistance to anyone in need" in our South Shore communities because of you. Whether it is through your financial contributions, volunteer hours, donations to our Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop, Pantry Shelf, or Career Closet programs, please know that someone breathes a little bit easier and has a little more hope because of you.

*I want to express my abundant thanks to the Ada Bacon Fund, through Jan Stewart [at] Interfaith Social Services, for the gift of my new hearing aids.*

*I am overjoyed with them and the pleasure I have in hearing so much better at church, where I used them first. My family is easier to hear so I can join in the conversation and feel like part of them. As I listen to life again, I am very happy.*

## Shop & Support ISS:

### *Turn your holiday purchases into funds for ISS!*

Your online and in-store shopping at major retailers can help raise critically needed funds for ISS, at no additional cost to you.

Every time you send flowers, book a vacation, care for your car, stay in a hotel, order office supplies, buy clothes, books, and gifts using a participating merchant, you'll be supporting Interfaith Social Services. Numerous national brands including Aamco, Sears, Kmart, Office Max, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, QVC, and REI participate in this program.

*It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!*

1. Enroll — your credit and/or debit cards (don't worry, it's safe and secure).
2. Shop — at participating merchants and service providers, many that you're using already.
3. Support — merchants rebate a percentage of the purchase price in appreciation of your business.

The following is excerpted from Tricordia's web site:

*"Our name, 'Tricordia,' derives from Ecclesiastes 4:12: Two are bet-*

*ter than one... and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

*The companies, causes and consumers who come together through Tricordia form a bond that cannot be easily broken.*

*In 2001 Tricordia Partnerships for Giving began the process of amassing the millions of consumers and their billions of dollars in collective purchasing power and converting it into 'giving power.' Now consumers can make every purchase decision a decision to support the cause they care about most. As we say:*

*Live what you believe.<sup>SM</sup>*

*The Tricordia 'Loyalty Shopping' model is totally new and can't be compared to anything in existence today. What is unique about Tricordia is that it combines all of the current benefits of affinity, loyalty card and cause-related marketing programs under one roof to benefit companies, causes and consumers."*

To register, go to

[www.InterfaithSocialServices.org](http://www.InterfaithSocialServices.org)

and click on the "Shop and Support" banner.

Or register directly with Tricordia  
by phone at 1-866-281-1967.

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

## The Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop

*Where every day is a sale day!*

Featuring low-cost clothing for children and adults  
and miscellaneous small household items

Fall/Winter Hours:

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

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donations are accepted during shop hours.

*All donations are tax deductible  
to the fullest extent allowed by law.*

## Bureau Drawer or Bureau Boutique?

Some merchandise in The Bureau Drawer rivals the quality of some of the area's tonier boutiques, at significantly lower prices. Much of the clothing in the The Bureau Drawer is brand new, with tags still attached, perfect for holiday gift giving. In addition, a generous benefactor routinely donates boxes of new and "gently read" books, including many multiple titles, to ISS to sell in the thrift shop.

An area consignment store recently closed up shop and donated its Christmas merchandise to The Bureau Drawer. Shoppers who frequent consignment shops know that the stores are very fussy and will accept only goods in resalable condition, as they don't want to be "warehousing" items that will hang around on their shelves.

"There are boxes and boxes of everything anyone would need to decorate for Christmas," says Cindy Lee, manager. "We have ornaments, tree toppers, angels, figurines, wrapping paper, and bows—all manner of Christmas decorations—at discount prices. They are perfect for someone who is just starting out.

"The Bureau Drawer raised over \$21,000 in sales last year, which helped support programs at ISS. Eighteen volunteers sorted through approximately 4000 bags and boxes of donations and waited on almost 3400 customers last year," says Lee. "We made some changes in our pricing system, which has made shopping much easier for both the customers and volunteers. Our frequent bag sales are always a big event, and you never know what surprise special sales you'll find each month.

"Our customers are savvy shoppers," says Lee. "Everyone who shops here, always comes back.

"The thrift shop is such a fun place to visit. If you haven't been here, please stop by to browse and chat. We have wonderful things for everyone in the family!"

## Inexpensive Investment Advice

Looking for a sure way to get a great return on a small investment? Invest just \$25.00 for a 2006 Entertainment® savings book, which is valid now until November 1, 2006. When you use it just two or three times, it's paid for itself. Use it even more and you're an instant financial wizard! Give them to family and friends and your gift will keep on giving all year.

The best part is that ISS receives a portion of the proceeds from each sale, money that is used to help fund vital services for clients.

## ISS Clients write...

*Thank God for Interfaith and a person that is so nice and giving to me and others. That is very rare to find.*

*Thank you for your help, I greatly appreciate it.*

*Your staff is very helpful and courteous. You run a fantastic service for women in my position. Thank you.*

*I would like to thank you for your help in starting my life over.*

*Thank you for everything.*

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Books are available at ISS Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you can't come in during business hours, call Bettyanne Lang at 617-773-6203 x 19.

## ISS cancels annual Phone-a-thon

In light of the Hurricane Katrina tragedy, the executive committee decided to cancel the annual September phone-a-thon, which is usually a follow-up to the annual appeal. "Because of a postal glitch, many households did not receive the summer newsletter until August," says Laura Stracco, executive director. "We felt it might be too soon to ask for donations again. And we also felt that potential donors have been helping Katrina victims and we didn't want to overload them.

"We hope that you will respond to those in need in our community by responding to the holiday appeal on page 3 in this newsletter."

## Help Wanted for The Bureau Drawer

The Bureau Drawer needs volunteers to sort, price, stock and organize merchandise, greet customers, or work at the desk. Volunteers may commit to as much or as little time as they have available. Even a few hours a week is a big help.

"Last year we had a very successful year," says Cindy Lee, manager. "It would not have been possible without the help of our very dedicated and hard working volunteers.

"We have a good time working together," says Lee. "Anyone who comes to work at the shop decides to stay on. I've seen many friendships develop among our volunteers. They become like family."

For more information, call 617-773-6203

## RECENT GRANTS

ISS is grateful for the generous support of these foundations:

Donor	Amount	Program
Citizens Bank Foundation	\$ 500	General Purpose
Copeland Foundation	\$10,000	General Purpose
Copeland Foundation	\$ 2,500	Pantry Shelf
Marsh & McLennon	\$ 1,000	New Directions
City of Quincy (Comm. Dev. Block Grant)	\$ 3,250	Career Closet


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# Save the Date

Feed the Hungry Annual Gala Fundraiser

**Dec. 1, 2005**

at Lombardo's  
6:30 pm

*Join us for some*

*Holiday*  
**SOUL**

*Auction • Dinner • Dancing*

Tickets \$65

Proceeds to benefit all of the services of Interfaith Social Services  
For more information contact Laura Stracco or Bethyanne Lang at 617-773-6203

Mark Your Calendars  
for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual

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

Helping our Neighbors in Need

**Sunday, April 23, 2006**

check ISS's web site:  
[www.InterfaithSocialServices.org](http://www.InterfaithSocialServices.org)  
in January  
to download pledge sheets  
or call 617-773-6203

*proceeds to benefit programs at ISS*

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