



East Bay Coalition for the Homeless

News and notes from EBCH an East Bay Community Action Program Volume 2 Fall, 2005

Fundraising

16th Annual East Bay Bike-A-Thon

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Everyone agrees that some reports are better than others but WPRI 12, Eyewitness Pinpoint Doppler Weather was right on target. Chief Meteorologist, Tony Petrarca, joined us again this year to kick-off the 16th Annual East Bay Bike-a-thon. Tony motivated the walkers, joggers and bikers and helped to raise nearly \$12,000 in support of the East Bay Coalition for Homeless housing program for homeless families with children!

Many teams came out to show their support despite the uncertain forecast. Webster Bank's team was led by the bank's Vice President, Maria Hartel; Rhode Island Housing team was captained by Staff Operation's Assistant, Theresa Garcia; the Roger Williams University team, Lily Lovers was led by Suzie Alba; Citizens Bank; Barrington Presbyterian

Church and Met Life all came out to show their support. The grills were lit and volunteers from the Rumford Lions Club tantalized participants with the barbecued delights. Reggie, our mascot for over 10 years joined in the festivities.

Top fundraisers for 2005 were: Don Ross, Chief Financial Officer for East Bay Community Action Program and Brendan Chalue-Feeney, Top Youth Fundraiser. Webster Bank was presented with the Top Team Award.

Thank you—thank you—thank you to everyone who made this year's event such a success. Your support gives families the opportunity to have safe, stable housing and plan for the future in a safe and nurturing environment.

Walking for a cause: Building hope for families

Dave Cranshaw



The unseasonably cold weather and potential for torrential rain may have kept some participants from taking part in the 16th Annual East Bay Coalition for the Homeless Bike-A-Thon at Colt State Park in Bristol. The weather did not deter the five members of the "Lily Lovers" team. (Team captain, newest Coalition Board member, and East Providence resident Suzy Alba's loveable feline friend Lily provided the inspiration for the name).

We took the walking option – the old adage about riding a bike apparently did not apply to us. Team member and East Providence resident Abbey Brooks provided the humorous tale of the three mile "walk in the park" with her recollection of an incident over the summer that involved a bike, a buzzing bumble bee, a hill and the resulting scars - enough said – our five pairs of feet would suit us just fine.

Other team members included Adam Stanley and Marjorie Brooks, both of

East Providence and Dave Cranshaw of Lincoln who eliminated a Rhode Island stereotype and didn't even pack a lunch for his "cross state" journey. The team raised over \$300 dollars from family, friends and co-workers with Cranshaw taking home the award for top fundraiser on a team.

Completing our three miles in a brisk pace, we all declared that we could go "much farther" (or at least far enough to enjoy the cookout after the walk.) We decided to save some miles for next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend everyone connected with the Coalition and the volunteers who braved the elements to take part in the walk and continue to work hard everyday to end homelessness in the East Bay.

Did you know...

- A typical 3-bedroom apartment rents for over \$1200 per month in our area.
- Over 5,500 people stayed in RI homeless shelters in 2004.
- Nearly 1500 of those homeless people were children.
- Residents from RI's 39 cities and towns stayed in RI homeless shelters



A letter to our friends

Dear Friends:

At this time of the year, many of us look forward to a long weekend where families sit around tables filled with food and enjoy a few hours away from the daily grind. We are grateful for our family, health, home and joys in our life. It is a time for us to remember our blessings and those less fortunate. Every child should have a safe, warm, home and no child should ever go to bed hungry. Children's dreams should be of new bikes and a day at the beach...not of having a warm bed and food on the table. Unfortunately nearly 1500 of children stayed in shelters last year in RI.

Many of us donate to charities we believe in and dream of what we might do; in words of the song, ". . . If I were a rich man." And, though many may not consider themselves to be "rich" in the typical sense of the word, each of us can still be a philanthropist.

Please join me in supporting EBCH. Your contribution is more important than ever and will give families in need the opportunity to improve their lives in lasting ways—learning life skills and having access to job training, educational assistance, and childcare. Most importantly, families will begin to cross the "Bridge to Self-Reliance."

Since 1989, the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless has been giving families a sense of safety and security by providing them with safe housing and the comprehensive social services necessary to help them become independent. As we look ahead to 2006, the staggering cost of utilities will impact us all. The number of homeless families requesting assistance continues to rise. There is a critical lack of affordable housing in our state for families working at or near minimum wage. Waiting lists are far too long and expenses continue to rise.

With your help and generosity, a place to call home can be a reality for many families and their children...they need your help. Simply use the enclosed envelope to assist EBCH in any way you can. On behalf of all the children and their families assisted by your contribution, we thank you.

The East Bay Coalition for the Homeless appreciates all who have volunteered their time and money. With your help we will continue to empower people to rise above their current circumstances and give their children hope for the future.

With warmest regards,
Stephen and Nancy Carlotti

Feinstein Foundation to match a portion of your donation

The Feinstein Foundation will add \$100,000 to donations made in their November and December!

Memorial Gifts and Tributes

EBCH is pleased to accept gifts in memory, honor or tribute to the important people in your life. What a meaningful way to provide a lasting tribute or simply say thank you. Gifts may be made in memory or in honor of someone special.

- ◆ *Commemorate a special occasion*
- ◆ *Congratulate a graduation or retirement*
- ◆ *Recognize a job well done*
- ◆ *Remember a loved one*

Please mail your gift to

EBCH—100 Bullocks Point Avenue, East Providence, RI 02915



Board Spotlight

Presenting



Maria Hartel, Vice president, and Branch Manager of Webster's newest banking office, in Barrington bringing nearly 20 years of experience to that position. Prior to joining Webster, Hartel was assistant vice president, branch manager for Bank Rhode Island's East Providence branch.

Maria, a life long resident of in East Providence, resides with her 2 children and husband Phil. In addition to her full time position, she is member of the East Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

The East Bay Coalition for the Homeless welcomes Maria Hartel!



Suzy Alba, a resident of East Providence, is a 2000 graduate of East Providence High School and a 2005 graduate of Rhode Island College where she received a bachelor of arts in communications with a concentration in public relations. Suzy is Project Coordinator for the Feinstein Service Learning Program at Roger Williams University in a year of national service through AmeriCorps.

At RIC, Suzy was a proactive leader who advocated for a variety of important causes. She was President of her class and co-founder of the Got Points Program, in which resident students donated meal points to buy non-perishable foods to help feed local needy families. In addition, she co-founded Project Awareness, a student effort designed to spread education and awareness about poverty, homelessness and lack of affordable housing.

Suzy is a 2004 graduate of the College Leadership Rhode Island (CLRI) program and recipient of the 2005 Emerging Leader award from Leadership Rhode Island. In addition to her membership on Rhode Island Democratic Women's Caucus Suzy volunteers for WaterFire Providence, where she also assists with development and special events. She has volunteered on the Blue Angel Community Health Grant Committee for Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI.

Welcome Suzy Alba!

Leadership

2005 EBCH Event Chairpersons

Julie Chalue

Chair, EBCH Board
Chair, Welcome Home
Silent Auction and Dinner

Karen Atwood

Treasurer, EBCH Board
Chair, 16th Annual East Bay
Bike-A-Thon

Special thanks to

Jim Vincent

Chairman of the Board
East Bay Community Action Program,
and EBCH Board Member
for capturing all our special moments
throughout the years, as well as to the

EBCH Board Volunteers and EBCAP Staff

for their efforts, dedication and support
throughout the year.



Acknowledgements

*Thank you for reaching out
to make a world of difference*



Our donors are very special people. They help to provide not only a safe, welcoming home, enhanced with supportive case management, but hope.

We are grateful for the support and generosity of all our benefactors, contributors, funders, donors and friends.

Benefactors

Barrington Congregational Church
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Citizens Bank Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Cummings
Episcopal Charities
Herbert Mailin
Renate Marek
Rhode Island Housing
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Every effort has been made to insure accuracy. Please contact us if there is an omission or correction.
Thank you.

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Madeira Restaurant	RI Coalition for the Homeless	Jean Wilcox
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Denise Martin	The Right Angle	
Michelle Martins-Botelho	Riverside Congregational	
Robert Mason	The Robert F. Stoico/	
Maura Gay Egan Interiors	First Fed Charitable Foundation	<u>Memorial Gifts</u>
Deborah McCarthy	Paul Rodrigues	Donny Peterson
McCormick and Schmick's Restaurant	William Rooks	
David J. McCreddie, Jr.	Donald Ross	<u>Honorary Tributes</u>
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Colleen Medeiros	Rumford Lions Club	
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Marcia and Joe Miller	Joseph Schall	
Minuteman Trucks, Inc.,	Susan Schenck	
Anthony & Paula Miele	Barbara Schermack	Benefactors: All gifts \$1,000 or more
Mohegan Sun	Arthur Sears	Sponsors: All gifts \$500 — \$999
Newman Congregational Church		Donors: All gifts \$100—\$499

Director's Notes

It's hard to believe that I've been back for over a year! It has been a rewarding and challenging year. It is what distinguishes EBCH from other service providers. What is different is the philosophy our agency embodies...the respect for the rights and preferences of each family, by inclusion in the care coordination process. Respecting those rights and preferences moves families toward the goal of self-reliance with the framework of healthy independence. However noble that sounds, the fact remains there is a serious shortage of affordable housing in our state, our shelters are full and our waiting list never goes down; and we are in the business of empowering people to become more self-sufficient.

Our goals are to help people maintain their housing and to help them be more productive citizens of our community. Herein lies the challenge. The truth is, it takes a long time to empower the people to rise above their situations if they have been chronically homeless and/or if they have been dealing with physical disabilities, substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence or any other number of problems. The average stay had been 18 to 24 months in this type of housing.

People do not become homeless overnight and there is no quick fix. But, the cycle of homelessness can be broken. The challenge EBCH faces is redefining our successful transitional housing model into an even more effective, responsive "housing first program...thereby providing the best of both worlds.

EBCH is changing the way we serve homeless families, ending homelessness for families effectively, by combining the case management component of transitional programs with quicker access to permanent housing. Families receive weekly case management support centered around: financial management, understanding the responsibilities of tenancy, and enhancing life skills. Transitional housing can only be effectively implemented in the context of a continuum of resources that includes adequate permanent housing and the supportive community-based services that can prevent returns to homelessness.

The "housing first" methodology is premised on the belief that multi-problem and at risk families are often more responsive to interventions and support after they are in their own housing, rather than still living in housing programs that are temporary or transitional.

"The "housing first" methodology provides a critical link between the emergency shelter and transitional housing systems and the community-based and governmental services and resources that are often fragmented, may be difficult to access or simply not available to homeless families trying to attain stability and independence in permanent housing. The program methodology facilitates the move into permanent housing for homeless families and then engages the newly-housed family in a progressive set of individualized case management activities and interventions for a limited period of time, as they move toward improved social and economic well-being."

Much like our current Transitional Housing Program, each family is assigned a Family Development Specialist, who provides individualized case management support. This support begins during the relocation phase and continues with home-based case management after the family has moved into their new home. The primary function of case management is to assess the needs of the family, develop a plan of action to attain identified objectives, link families to mainstream and community resources; advocate on their behalf, and monitoring the

progress of families. Families are supported as they reorient to stable living patterns, and are provided assistance with homemaking, nutrition, parenting education, money management, child care, job training, job placement, and job retention. After initial, intensive contact, the focus is on linking families to mainstream programs and resources to meet their on-going and/or special needs.

Many ask, how is this different from our current program? The difference is subtle. Transitional housing has become a "waiting area" for too many individuals/families whose only real re-housing need is an assurance of affordability. The consequence is that those who might benefit from the supports a transitional housing program may provide -- for example, a family fleeing an abusive relationship or an individual working on his/her sobriety -- are diverted from the help they need because of the backlog of people seeking assistance. By providing housing first assistance to help those who can move rapidly out of homelessness, transitional housing can be utilized to serve those who would derive the greatest benefits from it. Thereby, helping to reduce homelessness so that every child will have a warm bed and safe place to call home.

"The challenge EBCH faces is redefining our transitional housing model into an even more effective, responsive, housing first program... "

Our Staff



We are very grateful for their dedication and commitment to providing a comprehensive, seamless array of services.

Family
Development
Team

Doris Delekta,
Supervisor

Paula Persechino,
Family Advocate

Property
Management
Team

Debbie Hambly,
Director

Joe Miller

EBCH is a program of



east bay community
action program

formerly Self Help, Inc.

THE BRIDGE to SELF-
RELIANCE

Dennis Roy

Chief Executive Officer

EBCH Program

Tammy's Story

The philosophy of our agency embodies the respect for the rights and preferences of each family, by inclusion in the care coordination process.

Respecting the right and preferences of families helps families move toward self-reliance with the framework of healthy independence

Tammy is a single mother of two children, a son, 15 and a daughter, 7. When Tammy entered the program she was trying to get her life in order after a divorce and eviction from an apartment she no longer could afford. Her ex-husband had been unreliable with child support and the job she did have could not support the cost of an apartment with utilities, food, and transportation.

Since entering East Bay Coalition for the Homeless' supportive housing program, she has completed a phlebotomy training course, obtained steady employment has a reliable car. With the help of her Family Development Specialist, not only has Tammy developed a budget that she can follow but she has also begun to save money so that her dream of owning a home will become a reality.

She has set many goals for herself and her children in the past two years. In addition through mediation, child support payments have become more regular. Her children are thriving and have a good relationship with their father.

Tammy has had many successes and a few set backs, but she feels she is moving forward and is very grateful to the program for the support and encouragement she has received along the way.



Please encourage your company or organization to hold a fundraiser to benefit EBCH.

Your help provides families and their children with not only a safe, stable environment, but hope!

Wish List



EBCH has 12 families with children of all ages that would appreciate donations of:

- ◆ **Small appliances, batteries, clock radios, flashlights, towels**
- ◆ **Electric brooms and Swiffers**
- ◆ **Cleaning supplies**
- ◆ **Back packs and school supplies**
- ◆ **Gift certificates to department stores, supermarkets, gas stations or movie theaters**

If you wish, you may choose to designate your monetary donation! We rely on the community to help us meet our budget. You may designate your donation for:

- ◆ **General operating funds or utilities**
- ◆ **Clothing or school supplies**
- ◆ **Transportation or child care**

You can help!

