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## Rivoir/Dalton: Walk to prevent homelessness a success

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**GHS**  
 Posted Oct 11, 2008 @ 12:10 AM

On behalf of the members of MetroWest Outreach Connection, we would like to thank everyone who supported our fifth annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness on Sept. 28. The more than \$13,700 raised will assist families and individuals in imminent danger of eviction or those who are homeless and seek permanent housing. Those who are trying to attain permanent housing are homeless due to a number of circumstances like those experienced by many households in our community. Unfortunately, those who became homeless did not have the resources to overcome their particular financial crisis.

Those we help must be able to sustain their rent payments once we provide financial assistance.

Preventing homelessness is the most cost-effective alternative to housing families in shelters. As an all-volunteer organization, over 97 percent of our funds go to assist our clients. More than 60 percent of those we help reside in Framingham.

It is most critical for families to be able to have their children continue their education in the same schools. Educating these children is the only way to stop the cycle of homelessness. Otherwise they will be the next generation of the homeless. They will not have the skills that are needed to acquire good paying jobs.

During the first five years of the Homeless Prevention Program we have assisted 476 households, affecting 1,266 individuals. Over 97 percent of those receiving assistance during our last two six-month monitoring periods are still in permanent housing.

ELLEN RIVOIR,  
 Framingham  
 LEONA DALTON,  
 Southborough

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