

Future Meeting:
Monday Feb 10
7:00 pm Plymouth
Church

MetroWest Outreach Coalition

Who we are: The MetroWest Outreach Coalition is a group dedicated to advocate and respond to the needs of the disadvantaged in our society including the homeless. We coordinate the efforts of many organizations to effectively work toward this common goal.

Issue 3

WISH LIST

All size diapers, especially 3,4,5,
& lg pull ups

Diaper Wipes

Manual Can Openers
(Ocean State Job Lot - \$2.50)

Toothbrushes & paste adult and
child sizes

Shampoo, soap, sanitary pads,
razors

Phone Cards (Costco, BJ's or
Sam's pack of 12/\$50= 120 min)

Lice Removal Kits, including
shampoo, spray, & nit combs

Microwave cookware, bowls, eat-
ing utensils

Quarters for laundry

Cleaning materials for the house

Foods with protein: beans,
canned chicken, tuna, lentils

Clothing, Shoes, coats, hats, mit-
tens

Drop off donations **to SMOC at
300 Howard Street Framingham
on Tuesday or Thursday be-
tween 10 and 3.** Use the door at
the corner of Grant & Howard.
Take the elevator to the 2nd Floor
to MetroWest Harvest Office. If
you need help ask for Jean Knive-
ton. If you can't get to SMOC, call
Bonnie at 508-877-2845.

One Family Campaign

**The One Family Cam-
paign has collected
over 25,000 signa-
tures, by way of post-
card and petition
campaigns, which will
be delivered to Gov.
Romney in January
2003. The campaign
calls for the governor
to create a Blue Rib-**

**bon Commission to
review and recom-
mend concrete
changes to the way
the Commonwealth
approaches the grow-
ing problem of family
homelessness. Gov-
ernor Romney
made pre-election
statements that**

**homelessness should
be eradicated.
If you haven't signed
the postcard or peti-
tion, please go to
"Voicing your Con-
cern", [www.
onefamilycampaign.org](http://www.onefamilycampaign.org)**



Christmas for the Homeless

The holiday season was made a little brighter for the homeless families living in motels through the efforts of several area organizations. On December 19th SMOC hosted a Christmas party for residents of Motel 6, Red Roof Inn, and Travel Lodge. Approximately 75 children and adults enjoyed the live entertainment, games, ornament making, and face paint-

ing. Santa made his appearance, too, and the wonderful refreshments were provided by First Parish of Framingham. Many folks left with smiles on their faces. United Way of Tri-County made all the children happy by distributing toys to each child at the motels. A party was also held at Motel 6 on Christmas Eve when Santa visited with each family and gave toys

and gifts to all family members. These were provided by St. Theresa's Church in Sherborn, Plymouth Church in Framingham and by SMOC. One child was heard telling her mother as they were leaving, "We got so many wonderful gifts you won't have to spend any money to buy us any"

Key Dates to Mark on the Calendar:

- Jan 13 7:00 pm MetroWest Outreach Coalition Meeting: Plymouth Church, Framingham
- Jan 21 1:00 pm Legislation Briefing on Homelessness: State House, Room 350
- Feb 10 7:00 pm MetroWest Outreach Coalition Meeting: Plymouth Church, Framingham
- March 13 9:00 am 2:00 pm Lobby Day: State House



Giving the Homeless a Voice

Framingham, MA Meet Amy.

For the past several years she has been the Follow-up Outreach Referral (F.O.R.) Family advocate working with the 300-500 families living in motel shelters. Despite the crucial role she plays in the lives of these families, her position has been eliminated.

Amy's job is a lifeline for the struggling families. As a part of the F.O.R. Families Program she aids families making the transition from welfare to independence. She supplies them with updated information on government programs and services. In addition to information, she aids

them in filling out forms and getting the services they are entitled to. She understands their needs and helps them find the people that can help them.

Amy has been a huge part of the success of the MetroWest Outreach Coalition. Through her efforts the Coalition has been able to serve the needs of the families by supplying them with food, holiday gifts, and other items they need. Without her, the families will have a hard time finding help and therefore in many cases, have to go without things such as can openers, cleaning supplies and diapers.

Due to recent budget cuts Amy will no longer be able to aid the families who are trying to become self-sufficient. They will no longer have someone to help them find food, clothing, and healthcare. These families will be left to fend for themselves in the world of ever-changing government policies. Losing Amy is a big loss for the families.

For more information on the F.O.R. Families Programs go to

www.state.ma.us/dph

- Click on DPH Programs.
- Scroll to the bottom of the first column
- Click on the F.O.R. Families link

Tips on How to Get Involved: Email or Letters to the Legislature

Are you sitting there wondering how you with your super busy life can help the homeless? Here are some ways you can get involved.

A simple email or letter to your state senator or district representative is a great place to start. **You need to make your voice heard.** Make them understand that you expect them to do all they can to implement programs that will help solve the homeless problem in Massachusetts.

Perhaps you are thinking An email sounds easy but what would I write?

Urge them to:

- Create a plan to end homelessness that includes prevention pro-

grams.

- Support the new Homeless Bond Bill: An Act to Remediate Homelessness in the Commonwealth
- Restore the states rental program which prevents families from needing to enter shelters.

To find the Senator or Legislator from your area go to

www.state.ma.us/legis/citytown.htm

or call 1-800-392-6090

Also, for more information on how to help please go to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless website

www.mahomeless.org/

M.W.O.C. Hall of Fame

TROOP 2814 Marlboro

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Heather O Neill, Jenna Brugger, and Sarah Mallard. These senior girl scouts conducted a huge book and toy drive for the homeless families. We are very grateful for their initiative and determination to help others.

4th Grade- St. Joseph School, Needham

Thank you to the students who worked to raise money to buy Wish List Items. Through these efforts they were able to donate five boxes of supplies. Thank you for your hard work.

St. Andrew's Parish

Thank you for conducting a diaper drive. Your donation of over 200 diapers is greatly appreciated.

Framingham Interfaith Clergy Association

Thank you for donating your collection from the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.