



COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED INITIATIVE JANUARY 2009 UPDATE



OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY SUPPLIED GIFTS FOR OVER 300 CHILDREN

Thanks to an outpouring of support from individuals, churches, and community groups, over 300 children were provided with gifts this past Christmas. Nancy Goodell, Foster Care Worker from Keene wrote “On behalf of the staff in the Keene Office for DCYF, “I want to extend our immense gratitude for the generosity of the faith-based community during the holiday season. We were amazed by the quick response and the gifts for the children with whom we are involved. You should know that you make a difference by your actions. There are children and families who struggle all year long and especially at this time of year. You put smiles on faces and removed some level of stress from the family”. Nancy’s sentiments were echoed all over the state and we want to thank each and every person who donated their gifts and time to make sure that no child was forgotten.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT LEADS TO HOLIDAY REUNION FOR FATHER AND SON

Thanks to a donation of a room for two nights at EF Lane in Keene, a teen who has been in foster care for many years was able to spend Christmas with his father. The teen had recently reconnected with his father who is in the midst of constructing his home, thus they needed a place to meet for the Christmas holiday. CFBI staff member, Beth Bascom contacted the EF Lane hotel who generously donated a two night stay for the father and son. The Unitarian/Universalist Church of Keene extended an invitation to the pair to their Christmas pot luck dinner. The father told his DCYF social worker, Jacqueline Waldvogel that it was “the best Christmas I ever had”.

UShareNH

If you are a community or faith leader wanting your organization to make a greater impact in the life of your community, UShareNH can help connect you to needs and volunteer opportunities. UShareNH is a web-based tool created to connect the needs of the community with those who are able to meet those needs. To become part of the UShareNH Network, register at UShareNH.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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INTERIOR DECORATOR AND CHURCH TRANSFORM FOSTER CHILD'S ROOM

A local teen received a wonderful gift via interior decorator, Nikki Lacasse and members of the Cornerstone Community Church when they totally refinished his bedroom and turned it into a football lover's haven. The teen was so excited to be given such an unexpected, wonderful gift. Thank you Nikki and Cornerstone church members for sharing your talents in this practical, fun way. Please contact Kelly Smith at kellylynsmith@comcast.net if you know of a foster child in the Concord area who is in need of a room makeover as this dynamic team has offered to do another room this year.



BEFORE



AFTER

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NH WAITING CHILD/CHILDREN

Brian, age 15



Brian likes to fix things and he is a hard worker. He is able to take directions to learn how to do all kinds of hands-on tasks. Brian wants to be an automotive mechanic and to service both American and Foreign Automobiles. He also enjoys motorcycles and hopes to learn to service them as well. Brian loves to shop and likes shoes/sneakers. He is able to budget his money.

Brian loves to read and his favorite subject is Math. He has been in group or residential school settings for the last several years Photograph by Kay Bailey and has an IEP to offer him additional supportive services. He is inquisitive and easily carries conversations about his own interests and the interests of others.

Brian will need a slow transition to a family. Older siblings may be a plus if they are positive role models. Brian maintains some contact with an aunt who resides out of state and would like to keep that connection. He would do well in a family that is consistent, nurturing and patient.

For more information about Brian, please contact *Robin Dunn* at **(603) 668-2330, ext. 353**.

LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILIES TO HOST SMALL GROUPS

We have found the best recruiters for new foster and adoptive families are very often those wonderful people who are currently meeting the needs of the children in care. We are looking for a few families willing to host a small gathering in your home, church, or community center to share your experiences with those considering becoming foster or adoptive parents. You will have the support of the Community and Faith Based Initiative staff and/or other experienced hosts to plan and facilitate the informational meeting. Please contact Bethany Christian Services at 483-2886 if you would like more information or would like to sign up to be a host family.

With thanks to each of you for all you do for the children.

Blessings in 2009,

Jan Lessard for the Community and Faith Based Initiative Team

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