



COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED INITIATIVE OCTOBER 2008 UPDATE



USHARE UNITES THOSE WHO CAN HELP WITH FAMILIES IN NEED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

There is a new initiative coming out of the Faith Community in NH. It's called UShareNH (www.UShareNH.org). It has just been launched and is designed to help state, community and faith-based organizations work together to meet the needs of NH citizens. UShare does this through a series of "virtual warehouses" where needs, as well as offers of assistance, can be posted by State, Community and Faith-based social service personnel. Automatic **ActionAlerts** are then generated based on GPS technology and sent to UShare members with matching "User Profiles" in the geographic location of the need. This technology ensures that UShare members will only be contacted with needs they want to be informed about. Members can then choose to respond to the need, or not, as necessary contact information will be provided in the **ActionAlert**. Once the need is met, a **KudosReport** is sent to let everyone who received the original alert know how the need was met.

Here's the progress to date:

- ✚ All of the Family Support personnel in the NH National Guard are being trained to use UShare...
- ✚ We made a presentation of UShare's strategy and capabilities to all of the division heads within Health and Human Services (25 of them). There has been an excellent response. We are about to initiate a 2-month test pilot with them as well.
- ✚ We have upcoming presentations to the Bureau of Elderly Affairs, and presenting at the 2008 Real Choice Conference later in October.
- ✚ We've beta tested UShareNH in the Concord and Laconia areas with very good results...
- ✚ The White House Office of Community & Faith-based Initiatives just sent us a congratulatory letter on our progress to date. They want us to come to D.C. and make presentations to Homeland Security and the Department of Labor...
- ✚ We may be getting some technology award for creative use of technology in helping NH citizens...

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✚ We are presently rolling it out to the faith communities for their participation, which is vital. Although open to all NH citizens, we believe it is up to the church to lead the way back to neighbor helping neighbor which is really at the heart of what we have developed.

The big push now is to register UShare members. **Go to www.UShareNH.org, click on the "Register" button and simply fill out the form. There is no cost to join and it will only take a few minutes. Please tell your friends and have them do the same!**

Keith Marsh, CFBI Advisory Board Chairman

JJILL'S DONATION A GREAT BLESSING TO MANY

JJill Provides Designer Clothing for Youth in Care
By Beth Bascom

JJill, who distributes an artistically inspired line of apparel, shoes and accessories, designed to appeal to women with a sophisticated casual lifestyle, has donated approximately \$25,000 worth of clothing to Faithfully One by One over the last three months. The clothing has been given freely to youth in both foster/adoptive homes and in residential facilities. One young lady could not believe the clothes were hers to keep. She repeatedly asked, "I have to give them back, right?" She couldn't believe someone would give her such nice clothes. Thanks to Lisa Pearl, JJill's liaison, and the generosity of JJill, many teen girls are going to school dressed in style.

CAN YOU HELP MICHAEL PLAY HOCKEY THIS SEASON?

Michael, age 17, was adopted by his grandmother. It was very important to Michael and to his grandmother that he remain with family. Michael does fine in school, but his passion is playing hockey. He has played on a town team for 6 years. Recently the grandmother had some serious health issues and she is also on a fixed income. There is an outstanding bill for \$1,100 for his hockey. We are hoping that someone will feel that they can contribute in some small way toward assisting with the bill.

Please email JLessard@bethany.org or call 483-2886 to support Michael.

YOUNG ADULT LOOKING FOR HOME

Mark is an 18 (almost 19) year old boy, who has been in DCYF care for the past four years. His sister is also in care. Mark started out in a group home, had two unsuccessful foster care placements, and has been at Nashua Children's Home for the past three years, where he has been overall quite successful. Mark is a tall thin boy with curly brown hair and glasses. He has a good sense of humor, good health, no significant issues or behaviors. Mark is a very smart person, and currently attends an alternative charter high school in Nashua, and is on track to graduate in June 2009. Mark has struggled in the public school setting, where the primary responsibility for success falls on the student to complete work, participate in class and with homework. Mark can be very stubborn and somewhat lazy when it comes to following through with things, whether it is school work, chores, driver's license, etc. He is well intentioned, but often needs hand holding with the follow through. Mark is certainly willing to follow the reasonable expectations of a family home, while still hoping to have some of the freedoms of a responsible young adult. Maintaining contact with his younger sister is also important. Mark is caring, and worries about his mother, who is often homeless and suffers from major

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depression. Mark and his sister have very minimal supports outside of DCYF and their placements. While the group home has been very helpful in getting Mark through the past few years, and teaching him some good independent living skills and life skills, he is concerned about where he will go when he graduates, and would really like a foster family to connect with before this happens. He is really a great person, and could really benefit from someone who can emotionally support him and guide him as he transitions into true adulthood and independent living. Please contact **Jodi Turant**, Mark's CPSW, or **Judith Richards Long**, foster care licensing worker, at **271-6202** to get more information.

Thanks a lot!!

PLEASE INVITE OR JOIN US

For the past two years the children in foster care in our state have been supported by many people who have learned about the Community and Faith Based Initiative while attending craft fairs at their local church or community center. It has been exciting to see how many people have helped meet specific needs of the children once they have had the opportunity to learn about ways they can help. If you are hosting an upcoming event, please consider inviting us to set up a table to share current needs of the children in care. If you would like to attend a Giving Fair to learn more about how you can partner with us, the Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord, NH will be having their annual fair on Saturday November 15th from 9:00 to 3:00.

WAITING SIBLINGS NEED A HOME

Lisa, Moses and Jessie

Lisa (11), Moses (9) and Jessie (5) are a sibling group originally born in Liberia, Africa but are now U.S. citizens. Lisa and Jessie currently reside in the same foster home; Moses resides in a group home and has regular visits with his siblings. We are looking for a family where all three children can be placed together.

Lisa is a typical teen in many ways—she idolizes many teen pop stars and enjoys listening to music. Lisa is quite active and involved with sports and other community activities. She has a lot of potential and does well with consistency. Lisa is a very popular young lady who benefits from the love and support of her foster mother. Lisa would like to be placed with her brothers.

Moses is currently placed in a group home in Nashua. He has had difficulty with impulse control but has done very well in a structured environment. He receives minimal assistance in 3rd grade in the areas of language arts and behavioral modification. Moses currently visits with his siblings twice per month in their foster home.



Photograph by Ron St. Jean

Jessie is the youngest of this sibling group and is placed in the same foster home as his sister, Lisa. Jessie has been diagnosed with Autism. He is non-verbal but is learning to sign and uses picture recognition to

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communicate his needs. Jessie is still learning toileting but has learned other self-help skills such as dressing. Jessie is very affectionate and enjoys dancing and music. He responds well to structure and consistency.

For more information about this amazing sibling group, please contact **Karen Conlon** at 603-668-2330, ext 356 or **Scott St. Louis**, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 603-401-8303.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

New Hampshire will celebrate National Adoption month with a gathering at the State House on November 13th as well as a party for waiting children to meet approved families hoping to adopt that is being sponsored by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids' grant. If your family has been touched by adoption, consider ways that you can share your story with local media as a way of highlighting the need to find a home for each waiting child. If you would like bulletin inserts that focus on adoption, please contact us at the Candia Bethany Christian Services office.

Thank you for your concern for the children and families of NH.

Until Next month,

Jan Lessard
NH Director Bethany Christian Services

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