



May, 2014

# Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless

## E-News

### *Sad News*

We are sad to report that Steve Lyons, one of our residents at 368 Court St. (and former Overnights guest) passed away last week. A private graveside service was held.

### *Progress Update on 366 Court St.*

Since the purchase of 366 Court, we have been busy getting it ready to receive new tenants. Thank you to the following volunteers for giving their time to help clean and paint: Ron Sanders and his crew, Christa and Brad Prescott, Kathy Dayan, Jim Freedman, Andy Shapiro, Kathy Sirrico, Wayne Botelho, Jon Silva, Jackie Lorizio, Priscilla Nardone, Val Peck, Barry Sullivan, and Bill Corners.

If most of the needed work is done, we hope to be able to move in four residents by July 1<sup>st</sup>, if not sooner.

We interviewed three applicants for the live-in house manager position and found one, Debbie Bell, to be suitable for the job.

### *Donations Needed*

While the town gave us \$20K to make repairs and improvements to the property, we need an additional \$22K to fully cover the costs of painting, adding an additional bathroom, replacing the rugs, replacing the heating system, buying washer/dryer, etc. We are reaching out to our past donor organizations and to you to help us reach our goal.

Donations may be made by check to the Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless, PO Box 3896, Plymouth, MA 02361 or online at our website: [plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org](http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org).

### *Smartphone App*

Jim Freedman, our treasurer, has had some of his BU students in a volunteer tech club, develop a smartphone app which will allow volunteers to sign up online to chaperone, prepare meals, or to help drive. We are very excited about this new tool which will help site coordinators in recruiting. Another app will allow our driver-in-charge to collect information on new guests. Thanks to Jim and his students!

### *Updates on Our Overnights' Guests*

We are pleased to report that a few of our Overnights guests have been placed into permanent housing. One has moved into 370 Court, one into subsidized housing through Fr. Bill's, another through a veteran's subsidy and another was hired for a job that included housing. One more will be moved into the vacancy created by Steve Lyons' passing.

### *Social Worker*

We thank Barbara Wojtkiewicz for being a quasi social worker for our Overnights guests. She give a lot of time and effort to help our folks get connected to health insurance and SNAP benefits, getting ID's and by driving them to various appointments. As our numbers have grown so has the need for these services.

We are looking for a retired social worker(s) who would be willing to give three – six hours per week to assist Barbara. Please contact Connie at [cmelahoures@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org](mailto:cmelahoures@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org) if you would like to volunteer.

Through Father Bill's, we have a Workforce officer meeting with clients at Salvation Army once per week to help individuals develop resumes, work on interviewing skills and otherwise prepare them to apply for jobs.

### *Fundraising*

#### *Golf Tournament – Save the Date!*

Our annual Golf Tournament will be held on **Monday, August 25, 2014** at Souther's Marsh in Plymouth beginning at 1 PM. We will be looking for golfers, sponsors, and auction items. Forms will be available soon on our website and via email.

If you are an avid shopper on Amazon (as I am), you can now help us to raise money for the Taskforce. Just be sure to go to our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org> and click on the Amazon button. You do not need to type in the search box. Just hit GO. For every item you purchase, we will receive a percentage.

You can also help us raise money by using Goodsearch as your search engine or Goodshop or Good Dining. Once again, go to our website and click on the link to get started.

It helps to put these links in your Favorites Bar.

We will continue to use the Scripts gift card program, but it is currently under transition to a new liaison.

You can also make a direct contribution online via our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>.

By the way, we are an all volunteer organization which receives no direct funding from federal or state governments. All funds received, go to support our program.

### ***Website***

Check out our website:

<http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>

### ***Facebook***

We are now also on Facebook. Go to our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org> to like us!

### ***Etc...***

Please be sure to let us know if you change your email address or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.