



Clothing Bank volunteers Kathie Hinkelman, Kim Kulp, Doris Hood, and Kathy Sheehan display some of the items needed most during the summer months.

## Drop by the Clothing Bank and FILL A SUMMER NEED

- Laundry detergent
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Bath soap and shampoo
- Diapers and baby wipes
- In-season clothing
- Gift certificates to Payless Shoe for back-to-school
- Backpacks
- School supplies

We are open from 10 till noon on Thursday and Saturday mornings.

When you are finished reading our newsletter, please pass it on to a friend.

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# SOWING SEEDS

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 3, NO. 1

## of Hope

From the Directors

### SUMMERING IN MARSHFIELD

Over the years, as an attorney who volunteers for Sowing Seeds, I have had numerous experiences with clients and other people with limited income, some of whom might be called marginally indigent. I want to mention a sort of phenomenon that most people of adequate means rarely see.

The good summer weather results in a change of scenery for most of us. For some families, however, it offers the advantage of what would seem to be free housing, available in the state parks and other summer recreation areas. While these families struggle to afford (with help) traditional housing in the wintertime, they see a benefit in settling for less than adequate housing in the summer. Any large vehicle or truck, or even a free-standing tent, can offer shelter after an eviction. Or, a family in need might see the possibility of saving on rent through this course of action.

The result of this summer phenomenon is the greater need for our services and for those of other social service agencies. Helping these resettled families puts an added strain on our ability, especially in financial terms, to lend support to families throughout our community. Also compounding the need for our services during summer are problems created when school is not in session, including a lack of satisfactory child care and the absence of subsidized school lunches.

It all means that, especially during summer, we have to work a little harder, appeal to others a bit more seriously, and continue to pray that we have the resources to meet the needs of all those served by Sowing Seeds.

—Thomas P. Kramer

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### CARING FOR OTHERS

As an operating room nurse commuting to work in Boston for 32 years, Donna Adams, mother of three and stepmother of four, had little time to volunteer. When she retired six years ago, however, Donna's search for a fulfilling opportunity that would make a difference in the community brought her to Sowing Seeds. While representing Trinity Church on the Board of Directors, Donna is also a vital member of the Intake Committee, visiting families to assess and help meet their needs. As Donna says, "I came from a caring profession and have always been a 'people person.' This is the perfect answer to my desire to empower people, to help them get back on their feet."



Trinity Episcopal Church representative Donna Adams

*You visit families year-round. What unique challenges does summer create?*

With thirteen grandchildren, I am acutely tuned in to the needs of mothers and kids when summer hits. With less structured child care, time can hang heavy for both parent and child, especially if there are financial problems and transportation issues. We live in a community with miles of sandy beaches, but how do you tell your kids, "We can't get there"? How do you explain to your kids, "We can't go to the Fair"? How does a family that depends on school lunch subsidies feed their kids in the summer? How do they find summer camp scholarships? And then another biggie: the end of summer has everyone frantically trying to outfit their kids with back-to-school clothes and school supplies.

*How does Sowing Seeds help?*

Sowing Seeds has many facets. One is our Clothing Bank, which has new or nearly new clothing for all ages as well as back-to-school items. We have dedicated drivers who offer transportation, and we refer families in need to the Marshfield Food Pantry. I personally believe that one of the most important services we offer is the connection we forge with others when their world is falling apart. Many times a person just needs an empathetic listener who can help problem-solve an issue with fresh insight. We listen, we encourage, we praise their efforts...and we help as much as we can, however we can.

*Can you tell us about the program you started for non-English-speaking families?*

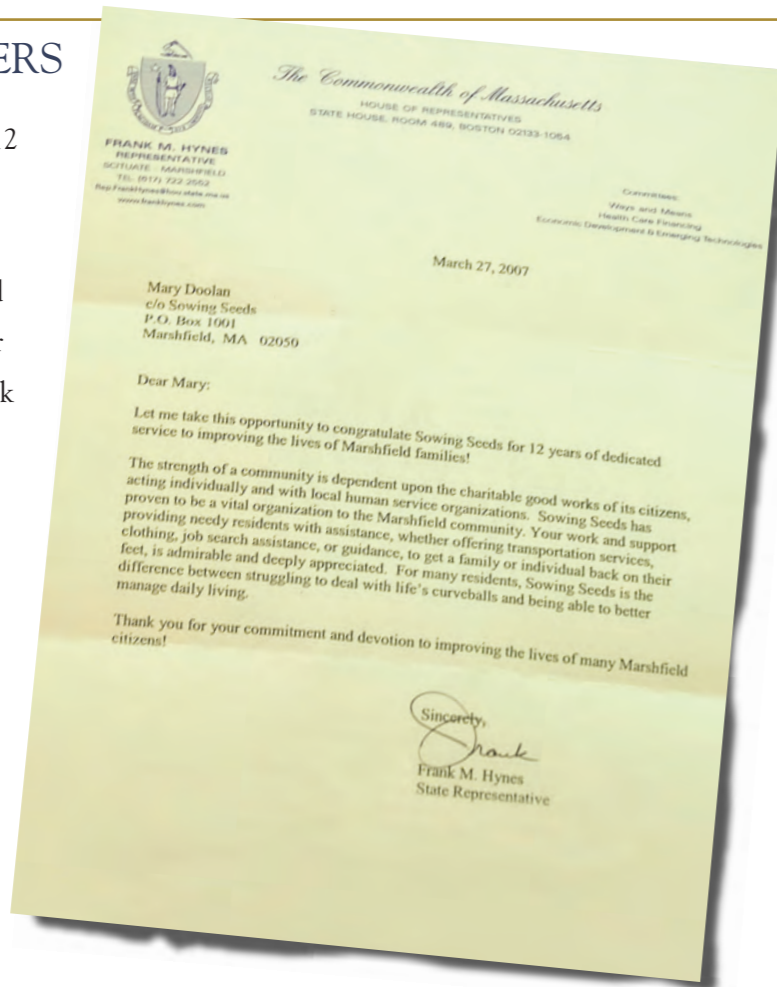
Of course. During my first visit to the Clothing Bank, I encountered men and women who could not speak English. To help meet their needs, through the Outreach Committee at Trinity Church, we were able to launch an English-as-a-second-language course. That group has now expanded to a broader-based group of tutors and students operating out of the Ventress Library.

*Would you share a favorite story?*

It's hard to pick just one. I have seen a single mom struggling with financial problems, abandonment, and loss of work who can still put on a smile for her kids and go to bat for their needs. Some people seem to barely get on their feet when another knockdown comes. Yet they keep getting up and working through it. When you can help somebody like that, the rewards are immeasurable.

## RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

In recognition of over 12 years of service to the Marshfield community, Sowing Seeds was honored to receive a letter from our State Representative, Frank Hynes. In Representative Hynes's words, "For many residents, Sowing Seeds is the difference between struggling to deal with life's curveballs and being able to better manage daily living." To all our volunteers: "Thank you for your commitment and devotion to improving the lives of many Marshfield citizens!"



## LIVING MEMORIES

Sowing Seeds Memorial Cards are an especially appropriate way to honor a loved one while helping needy families in Marshfield. Bound in an attractive blue leather folder, cards can be purchased at the Clothing Bank.

In the past year, donations to Sowing Seeds have been made in memory of:



Cards can be purchased during Clothing Bank hours.

- James Anderson
- Mary Cedrone
- Nancy Cooper
- Virginia Cormier
- Jerry D'Olympio
- Mary Grozier
- Dot Hansen
- Deceased members of the Kulp family
- Terry Gorman
- Peter Gregory
- Richard Harrington
- James ("Ted") Shafto
- Anna Whelan

## WHO WE ARE

Sowing Seeds is a nonprofit network of people who share their time, ideas and special gifts to help Marshfield residents in need. One seed, planted in fertile ground over 12 years ago, has produced an active, viable group of about 200 volunteers.

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Mary Doolan, *President*
  - William Last, *Vice President*
  - Julia Desmond, *Treasurer*
  - Mary Price, *Clerk*
  - Kim Kulp, *Clothing Bank Director*
  - Jacqueline Egan, *Secretary*
  - Connie Drapeau Kennedy, *Publicity*
  - Karen Dunderdale, *Volunteer Management*
  - Virginia Gill, *Representative, North Community Church*
  - Thomas Kramer, *Representative, Marshfield Methodist Church*
  - Donna Adams, *Representative, Trinity Episcopal Church*
  - Bitsy Bullock, *Representative, Our Lady of the Assumption Church*
  - Lorraine Sproul, *Representative, First Congregational Church*
  - Anna Krede, *Representative, St. Christine's Church*

- NEWSLETTER
- Karen Dunderdale, *Editor*
  - Marianne Bakula, *Designer*
  - Connie Drapeau Kennedy, *Photographer*

CLOTHING BANK  
Located at 974 Plain Street, in the white church on the corner of Route 139 and School Street, Marshfield  
Open for donations or needs  
Thursday: 10 AM – 12 Noon  
Saturday: 10 AM – 12 Noon

SOWING SEEDS, P.O. Box 1001,  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
781-837-3337 or 781-83-SEEDS

## WHEN SUMMER DOESN'T INCLUDE VACATION

Marshfield's spectacular beaches, rivers, and woods and festive community events like the Marshfield Fair make our town a great place to be in the summer. Unfortunately, summer brings additional struggles and suffering to many of our town's unemployed, working poor, disabled, and single parents and their children.

Sarah, a single mother of two boys, ages 8 and 13, is disabled, lives on a subsidized income of \$960 a month, has no car, and has not received financial support from the boys' father, who left years ago. Her family is not able to assist her.

For Sarah, the three months of summer are a time when her children don't receive school lunches and the support, structure, and activities that our schools provide. She feels ashamed and isolated when she can't afford to buy laundry detergent or to send her children to the movies or bowling with a friend. A loving mother, Sarah works hard to use all the resources and free activities in town. But for Sarah and her children, "summer vacation" is a painful and uncertain time that exaggerates the contrast between the haves and have-nots in our community.

Sarah's family is just one of many served by Sowing Seeds. How can you help? Stop by the Clothing Bank with laundry detergent, toothpaste, and school supplies, take peanut butter and jelly and canned goods to the Food Pantry, or make a donation to Sowing Seeds—and remember to pray with us for all our Marshfield neighbors in need.

## SHARE SUMMER'S WARMTH

- Host a cookout and have guests bring something for the Clothing Bank—laundry detergent or toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Push the lawn mower for an elderly or disabled person
- Send a check to help a child attend camp
- Drive as a summer sub for one of our transportation volunteers

Call us at 781-83-SEEDS and make your summer shine.

## I'D LIKE TO HELP SOWING SEEDS!

- \_\_\_ Transportation, driving locally or to Boston
- \_\_\_ Clothing Bank, on Thursday or Saturday morning
- \_\_\_ Home maintenance
- \_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_ Counseling, family, financial, career, or individual
- \_\_\_ Other (please tell us what!)
- \_\_\_ Donation (your tax-deductible check can be made payable to Sowing Seeds)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Sowing Seeds, PO Box 1001, Marshfield, MA 02050. Or, give us a call at 781-83-SEEDS.

## Thank You, Thank You, Sowing Seeds

*You have brought much joy to our household with your kindnesses.*

*My family is stuck in a tough position right now. My husband works fulltime ... but we do not immediately qualify for subsidized childcare (for our four beautiful children), which prevents me from returning to work... When unexpected expenses occur (car repairs, etc.), it takes us months to recover. ... My husband and I are beyond grateful. There are not enough words to describe our feelings. We have been truly blessed and cannot express our thanks to you enough.*

*It's nice to know there are still people to help those in need. We all have rough spots. Thanks for caring.*

*I've been sick the entire past week and without funds. You gave us happiness that I had only hoped for... Your caring and generosity are beyond compare.*

*I thank God every day for special people like you!*