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Fall/Winter 2019

## Your Simple Acts of Kindness

*Make the Season Bright*

The holiday season is upon us, but what some people see as the happiest time of the year can also be the hardest time. For women living with past trauma, the holidays are not always easy. They can often feel alone, having lost touch with their families, or they may be working through pain. **What truly helps make the season brighter, however, is knowing that there are people who remember and care for them, like you.**

“Being here at the holidays really puts life in perspective,” said Jean Anger, Volunteer and In-Kind Donations Coordinator for Abby’s House. “Through the generosity of others, each woman and child is able to receive gifts for the holidays. Seeing how happy they are to receive a present, the huge smiles that appear on their faces, is incredible. The women and children are so touched to know that someone thought of them.”

Whether you give your time by volunteering, your talents by organizing a drive for items on the needs list, or your generosity through a donation, **your acts of kindness throughout the year help thousands of women, like Kerry, know that they have a community of support behind them.**

“Before I came to Abby’s House I didn’t have any long-term friendships,” said Kerry. “I felt lonely most of the time. When I came here that all changed.”

After moving to Abby’s House, Kerry was able to connect with women on her floor, attending lunches together in the Annette Rafferty Women’s Empowerment Center and accessing programs like Pet Therapy. Once a month, Phoebe the service dog would visit and the women would spend time with her and teach her tricks



**You make the season brighter for women and children who come through the doors of Abby’s House.**

with her owner and Abby’s House volunteer, Carolyn. Through this program Kerry not only made friendships with women she shared a common interest with, but found a passion for animals and has recently started a course to become a veterinary assistant.

“Without Abby’s House I wouldn’t have the friendships or the support that I have now,” said Kerry. “I have a family here that I get to enjoy the holidays with and know that if I ever need anything, Abby’s House will be there. I’m thankful to know that there are people out there who are willing to help make sure that everyone here receives a gift for the holidays. It’s really nice to know that someone is thinking of us.”

**Thank you for continuing to answer the call and help women experiencing homelessness to find friendship and support at the holidays and throughout the year.**



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Annette Rafferty  
*Founder*

Stephanie Page  
*Executive Director*

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**Bright Spot**

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of Abby's House is to provide shelter and affordable housing, as well as advocacy and support services, to homeless, battered, and low-income women, with or without children.

**Vision Statement**

Abby's House empowers the women we serve to lead self-directed lives filled with dignity and hope.



**Holiday Greetings**  
 From Executive Director, Stephanie Page

The holidays at Abby's House are a special time of the year. Women and families are already excited for our annual holiday dinner with volunteers, staff, friends and neighbors, and they are excited by the anticipation of receiving gifts. The love from the community is so abundant this time of year, and it brings joy and healing to many.



**Stephanie Page**  
 Executive Director

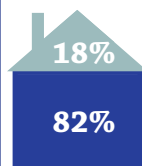
I have never before witnessed such an outpouring of love from so many people as I have at Abby's House, especially around the holidays. Children bring in gifts for their peers who are homeless because they want to ensure that they do not go without them. Individuals gather lists of items, such as bathrobes and slippers or kitchen items, for women who live in our 79 units of supportive housing and are on limited incomes, and others donate items like blankets and comforters or gifts cards from our wish list on our website or in our newsletter. Many individuals and families make a financial donation in memory or in honor of loved ones, knowing that their gift provides a warm, safe place for women and children at the holidays and an opportunity to build a more hopeful future. All of the generous donations that come in this time of year help to fund so much of what we do throughout the year for women and children experiencing homelessness.

Behind all of the giving that we witness, there are people who simply care enough to do something to help another person in need to have a safe home and a special holiday season. You bring the spirit and magic to the holiday season, and we thank you. In the days ahead, each time a woman tells me how much she loved the holiday dinner or her gift from Abby's House, I will think of you and your love and kindness that made it possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks and thanking you in person for your generosity, and I wish you all the best for your holiday season.

In gratitude,  
*Stephanie*

**Program Funding**



As of November 6, 2019, we still need to raise 18% of our total operating budget of \$1,554,895.

**Help us raise \$279,881 before December 31, 2019**

to meet our mission and fully fund the shelter, housing, and advocacy services for the women & children who rely on us.

**Save the Date**

**7th Annual Spring-Tacular**

Food & Beverage Tasting Event with Silent Auction

**May 14, 2020** at the College of the Holy Cross

\*For more information visit [abbyshouse.org/spring-tacular](http://abbyshouse.org/spring-tacular)

# Stories of Impact

## How Your Light Shines On Abby's House



*Whether you're an individual or part of an organization, your gifts of time, talent, or treasure have the power to change lives. For the women and children of Abby's House, your contributions help move them forward on their journeys of healing and recovery. Here are some examples of how your impact can be felt, no matter how old you are, now and throughout the holiday season.*

### Corporate Volunteering - Dell Technologies

As part of their corporate social impact program, Dell Technologies encourages employees to go out and make a difference in their local communities. The Strategy and Ops organization of Dell Technologies, managed by Christina Crowley, has been a champion of change in the lives of the women and children of Abby's House for the past two years, volunteering their time to clean and repaint the shelter as well as serving lunch to residents and guests. "Often times in our society, we see women playing the caregiver role; constantly taking care of others before themselves," said Crowley. "Giving back to Abby's House allows us to show some care for all the women and children supported by the shelter and housing. It is a privilege to be able to share our time, show compassion and support the mission of providing a safe, secure and dignified place for women to rebuild their lives."



### Ella and Talia's Birthday Wish

Twin sisters Ella and Talia wanted their 10th birthday to have extra meaning this year. Instead of asking for gifts the girls asked their family and friends for donations to be made to Abby's House so that they could help women and children in need. Thank you, Ella and Talia, for your thoughtfulness and generosity towards others!

### Carrying On a Loved One's Legacy

After the loss of their daughter in July due to domestic violence, the Dabrowski family banded together to honor the memory of their daughter, Amanda, by asking that donations be made to support the women and children of Abby's House. To further their impact and carry on Amanda's legacy, the family also created teams in honor of Amanda at this year's Abby's House 5K Run/Walk. More than 130 participants came out in memory of Amanda. Through their efforts, thousands of dollars have been raised to help women have a safe place to live.



Through your overwhelming generosity, you raised over \$44,000 for women and children experiencing homelessness in our community.

Thank you to the over 450 participants, 50 volunteers, sponsors, donors and the anonymous matching donor! You all made this event a great success for the women and children who come through our doors.

**Special thanks to Patti McKone, Abby's House 5K Run/Walk Committee Chair!**



## Get Involved At Abby's House!



**Abby's House relies on the collective contributions of time, talent and treasure from our supporters.**

Together, we have built a safe, supportive community for women and with your help, Abby's House will continue to play a critical role in helping low-income and homeless women in Worcester, MA reclaim and rebuild their lives. There are many ways that you can support the women and children of Abby's House.

### Make A Gift:

Your gift makes it possible for women and children to dream of a hopeful future. Once safely housed, women develop a plan to avoid future homelessness and housing insecurity.

To learn more, visit [abbyshouse.org/donate](http://abbyshouse.org/donate). Set up monthly recurring gifts to multiply your impact.

### Volunteer:

By becoming a volunteer you'll play an essential role in the lives of women who are at risk of being homeless. Abby's House hosts more than 200 volunteers annually who donate more than 19,000 hours of service to our community. Learn more at [abbyshouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/](http://abbyshouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/).

### Donate Needed Items:

To fully serve the women who come through our doors each year, Abby's House relies on donated items from the community.

To view the complete list, visit [abbyshouse.org/get-involved/donate-needed-items](http://abbyshouse.org/get-involved/donate-needed-items).

## Give a Gift This Holiday Season



This year, we are in need of the following new items:

### Gift cards to:

- Target
- Dollar Tree
- Price Rite
- Price Chopper
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Walmart
- Prepaid Visa/Mastercard
- Solid, neutral-colored twin comforters
- Solid, neutral-colored twin blanket
- Solid, neutral-colored towel sets
- White shower curtains
- White shower curtain liners

If you would like to organize a holiday needs list drive contact Jean Anger at [jean@abbyshouse.org](mailto:jean@abbyshouse.org) | 508-756-5486 x227

## Naming Opportunities Available

At 52 High Street Location

Would you like the opportunity to have one of the newly renovated spaces named in honor or in memory of a loved one? Contact Director of Development, Kelly Whalen to discuss ways you can change lives at [kelly@abbyshouse.org](mailto:kelly@abbyshouse.org) or by phone at 508-756-5486 x214. Tours of the newly renovated spaces are available on Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Naming opportunities are \$7,500 and above.

## Operating Grants

Received from 11/10/18 - 11/12/19

Bank of America Charitable Foundation	The Health Foundation of Central
Berkshire Bank Foundation	Massachusetts
Bike & Build, Inc	Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation
Blanke Foundation	Nordson Corporate Foundation
Citizens Energy Corporation	People's United Community Foundation
Digital Federal Credit Union	Reliant Foundation
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation	Rollstone Charitable Foundation
George I. Alden Trust	Saint-Gobain Foundation
George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation	Sisters of Saint Anne - St. Marie Province Ministry Program
George A. Ramlose Foundation, Inc.	Schwartz Charitable Foundation
Greater Worcester Community Foundation	TJX Foundation
Hanover Insurance Group Foundation	Wynne L. Chase Fund of the Greater
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care	Worcester Community Foundation
	Wyss Foundation