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Fall/Winter 2021

Reflecting on A Year of Loss and Resilience

And Finding Hope in the Women We Serve & Our Community

As our 45th Anniversary year comes to a close, we reflect on the many years Abby's House has held open the doors to homeless and low-income women and their children. We have stayed true to our values of hospitality and compassion, with open arms for any woman who seeks safety, healing, and empowerment. As a woman enters the door of the Abby's House Shelter, they are welcomed by a staff member or volunteer. They enter a room with a newly made bed of new linens, with new towels and toiletries waiting for them. With fellow guests, they break bread around the dinner table together, enjoying a meal crafted with donations from supporters, and recreating a scene that has taken place each night for 45 years. **There is a common theme throughout our values and our properties—we all belong here.** We live by the words of our namesake Abby Kelley Foster, one of Worcester's most famous abolitionists and women's rights activists, "All the great family of mankind are bound up in one bundle."

A vision for a welcoming and compassionate home for women, with or without children, led the Abby's House founders to open a 9-bed shelter at 23 Crown Street in 1976. The Shelter was one of the first in the United States for women, creating a new space for women to find safety, dignity, and hope. Throughout the years, **your unwavering support has helped us grow from one property to four and serve over 15,000 women and children—**offering a 9-bed shelter, 7 two-bedroom apartments, and 72 single room supportive housing units. Abby's words come alive here, where women are empowered to realize and achieve their goals.

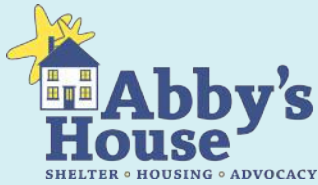
In the last year and a half, however, we found cracks appearing in our vibrant community as a pandemic impacted lives. We faced a collective loss—loss of our sense of normalcy, loss of our personal connections, and loss of life. We lost beautiful souls in the past year, women and supporters who were part of the mosaic of the Abby's House community.



Through your support, the women of Abby's House come together to uplift and strengthen one another.

The pandemic created additional difficulties and laid bare women's past traumas. 74% of the women of Abby's House report experiencing prior traumatic interpersonal violence in their lives. Yet Abby's House Shelter Advocate, Parlee Jones witnesses women coming together through these difficult journeys, "Some of our guests create bonds of sisterhood." The women at Abby's showed their strength and resilience during the past 2 years—joining together in friendship to uplift and strengthen one another. Much like Abby, the women who live here pave the way for their fellow residents and guests to empower themselves.

In her speech at the National Woman's Rights Convention, Abby Kelley Foster remarked, "Bloody feet, Sisters, have worn smooth the path by which you come hither." We saw out of our collective loss, an outpouring of support from you and strength and resiliency in the women of Abby's House. Whether you volunteered your talents, provided donations or were there—to support, to share, to spread kindness. **All the losses, the cracks in our community, you have filled with hope when we needed it most.** You help wear smooth the path so the women and children of Abby's House can find safety, healing, and new beginnings even in difficult times. We look forward to a better year ahead and opportunities to be together in support of the women and children.



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Founder

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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.



Message of Gratitude



*From Executive Director,
 Stephanie Page*

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced that life is full of uncertainties and that we never know what is around the corner.

For 45 years, Abby's House has been helping women who experience this reality firsthand. They find themselves without a safe home due to rising housing costs, a loss of income, domestic violence, a lack of a safety net, a mental or physical illness, or other reasons.

In the very first shelter Daily Log entry in 1976, volunteer Suzanne Geaney wrote, "Our first guest was Rosemary, an 18 year old girl, referred by the Crisis Center. She was our only guest this first night and she was soon enlisted into helping us do dishes..." Since Rosemary, thousands of women have entered through the shelter doors of Abby's House to be welcomed by a volunteer. Volunteers staffed 232 nights in the shelter in 2020 during COVID – a true testament to the 45 years of steadfast volunteer commitment!

Together, with nearly 200 volunteers and 3,600 donors each year, Abby's House continues to be the "Bright Spot" for women facing uncertainty and fear. We are present during their most difficult times, and we remain a steady source of hope, helping women to meet each moment and weather any storm. You make it all possible.

Thank you for being the "Bright Spot" for Rosemary and many more women and children over the past 45 years and for continuing to be there in the days ahead.

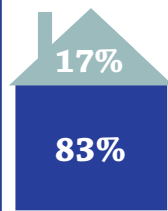
Best wishes for your holidays and my heartfelt gratitude to you,

Stephanie



Stephanie Page
 Executive Director

Program Funding



As of October 26, 2021, we still need to raise 17% of our total operating budget of \$1,793,030.

Help us raise \$306,171 before December 31, 2021

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

Volunteers Needed!

9th Annual Hybrid Spring-Tacular Event

Virtual and In-Person 2022 Celebration with an Online Auction and opportunities to support the mission of Abby's House.

Interested in volunteering to help plan the 2022 Spring-Tacular event?

Contact Kelly Whalen, Director of Development at 508-756-5486 x214 or email kelly@abbyshouse.org by **December 27th**.

Stories of Impact

How Your Light Shines At Abby's House



We have safely welcomed many of you in the past year as you've brought your time, talent, and treasures to the women at Abby's House. Your contributions support them on their journeys of healing and recovery. Here are some examples of how your impact has been felt across the organization.

Corporate Volunteering Across Two Countries – Concentric Energy Advisors

A management consulting firm specializing in the energy industry in the U.S. and Canada, Concentric Energy Advisors began supporting the women and children of Abby's House in 2019. As a Presenting Sponsor of the Abby's House 5K Run/Walk for the past two years, Concentric encouraged its employees across the United States and Canada to join in virtually or in-person and to fundraise for Abby's House. Boasting participants from Massachusetts, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New Mexico, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Alberta, Canada, Team Concentric had the farthest reach of any team! Thank you to Concentric for your continued support of the homeless and low-income women and children who rely on our services.



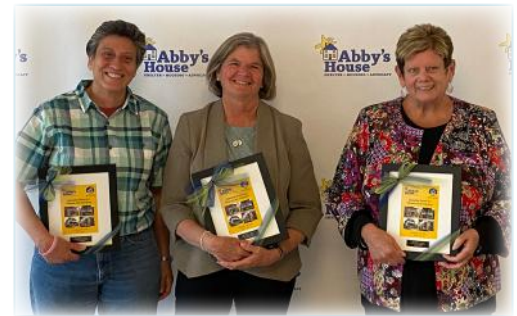
Family Comes Together to Build a Lasting Legacy



The commercial kitchen at 52 High Street was recently named to honor the life and legacy of Judith A. Jaeger by her family. Although her primary devotion in life was to her husband and children, her generosity always extended to others in need. As a successful business owner she founded Woman in Business, Inc. in 1985 to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to women in South Central Massachusetts. A photo of Judith and personal message are displayed in the kitchen to inspire and bring hope to the women and children who are nourished through the meals and personal connections offered at Abby's House.

Legacy and Loss

Our community suffered many losses this year, and we sadly lost Peggy Dix, one of the three original founders of the Abby's House 5K Run/Walk. Peggy was remembered at this year's 5K, while the other two founders and her close friends, Sue Manero and Susan Luring fundraised, donated, and walked in her memory. Peggy was a former Abby's House Board Member and a wonderful supporter of the women and children of Abby's House. We honor her legacy as a champion for women in need, and a wonderful friend.



Presented by:



Thank You!

Because of supporters like you, more than \$55,000 was raised at this year's Abby's House 5K presented by Concentric Energy Advisors, to support the women and children who call Abby's House home! View photos of the event at abbyshouse.org/event/12-annual-abbys-house-5k

Special thanks to Patti McKone, 5K Committee Chair and the entire Planning Committee!

Mark Your Calendars For #GIVINGTUESDAY™

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement created to inspire people to donate their time, talents, and treasure to better their communities! Consider donating to Abby's House on **Tuesday, November 30th** by visiting our website at abbyshouse.org and visit our social media pages to hear how your generosity is felt every day at Abby's House!

Every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give.

Get Involved At Abby's House!



Abby's House relies on the collective contributions of time, talent and treasure from our supporters. Even though the current health crisis has limited ways for us to get together in-person, you can still make a huge impact in the lives of the women and children we serve.

Make A Gift:

Now more than ever, 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.

Visit abbyshouse.org/donate to make a one-time donation, set up monthly recurring gifts to multiply your impact, or transfer gifts of securities.

To discuss the impact of your gift, contact Kelly Whalen at (508) 756-5486 X214 or kelly@abbyshouse.org.

Donate Needed Items and Get Involved:

To view the complete list of our most urgent needs, visit abbyshouse.org/get-involved

Join the Legacy Circle:

The Legacy Circle recognizes donors who have named Abby's House in their will or other planned gift. Planned gifts are an extraordinary way to leave a lasting impact on the women and children of Abby's House. Contact Kelly Whalen at (508) 756-5486 X214 or kelly@abbyshouse.org to discuss ways you may further your commitment.

Give a Gift This Holiday Season

Women are in need of the following new items:



Gift cards to:

- Target
- Amazon
- Price Chopper
- Market Basket
- Walmart
- Dollar Tree
- Prepaid Visa/Mastercard
- Solid, neutral-colored towel sets
- Bath robes and slippers
- Hair dryers/hair straighteners
- Pots and pans
- Travel Coffee Mugs
- Solid, neutral-colored twin comforters
- Adult craft kits

To view a full list of needed items, shop our Amazon Wishlist, and to view information on safely dropping off donations, visit abbyshouse.org/get-involved/donate-needed-items.

To organize a holiday needs drive contact Jean Anger at jean@abbyshouse.org | 508-756-5486 x227

Operating Grants Received from 11/1/20 - 10/25/21

Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation,	Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable
Bank of America, N.A. Trustee	Foundation
Bank of America Charitable	Ludcke Foundation
Foundation	Melvin. S. Cutler Charitable
Blanke Foundation	Foundation
Boston Mutual Life Insurance	Nordson Corporate Foundation
Company	People's United Community
Citizens Energy Corporation	Foundation
Dell	Realtors Association of
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter	Central Massachusetts
Foundation	Reliant Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation	Schwartz Charitable Foundation
George A. Ramlose Foundation	TJX Foundation
George F. & Sybill H. Fuller	Town Fair Tire Foundation
Foundation	United Way of Massachusetts Bay
George I. Alden Trust	and Merrimack Valley
Greater Worcester Community	Worcester Garden Club
Foundation	Wynne L. Chase Fund of Greater
Hoche-Scofield Foundation	Worcester Community Foundation
Wyss Foundation	

Thank you to all our grantors for their steadfast support!

Naming Opportunities Available

At Our Largest Supportive Housing at 52 High Street

If you would like the opportunity to have one of the 56 newly renovated single occupancy bedrooms or other designated spaces named in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Kelly Whalen, Director of Development at 508-756-5486 X214. Naming opportunities are \$7,500 and above.