



The Community Day Center of Waltham
P.O. Box 541066, Waltham, MA 02454 • 617-960-7793
communitydaycenter.org

November, 2010

***Providing Day Shelter
& Support Services for
The Homeless and
Those in Need***

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Dear Friends:

The holidays are a time when I become more introspective, weigh the highs and lows of the year and then count my blessings. I am very fortunate to have loving children and husband; and supportive extended family who live nearby. I am also lucky that I find worth in my job and have made friends with the guests, staff and board, program partners and donors at the Community Day Center. This is my community.

Make a difference right here in Waltham. Few homeless individuals can rely on support from family and friends. This lack of support increases the homeless people's isolation and decreases their opportunities for social inclusion and acceptance. At the Community Day, we are changing that. We are building a *community* with our guests.

"I've been coming [to the Day Center] for like six years. I like to go to the Day Center because there's friendly people here, and it's a place where I feel welcome, and if I just want to sit and be quiet or be around people I can. It's a way to get away from the loneliness of my room." -- Annie, a guest

"[The Day Center] is a sanctuary. It's something to do, somewhere to go. I mean you can get on the computers, get on the phone, you can fax things. I get my mail here. This is my address, which is awesome. You come here, and they get everything for you. And if they can't get it for you, they'll find someone who can help you." - Paula, a guest

Highlights for 2010:

- Served over 600 individuals, each with multiple challenges
- 65 percent were homeless. Of these, 80 percent are in shelters, and 29 percent are on the streets
- 20 percent have mental illness or other disabilities
- 25-30 percent have an alcohol or substance abuse issue
- Provided advice, referral and helped guests with health insurance, housing and job searches, clothing vouchers, legal assistance, domestic violence, foster care and other needs. Accompanied guests to the Department of Transitional Assistance, Housing Authority, Food Stamps, and Social Security.
- Served over 260 light meals
- Hired a new Executive Director
- Opened photo exhibit, "*Homelessness from Our Eyes*" by our homeless guests from the Day Center. The exhibit is being held at the Art Gallery at the First Presbyterian Church at 34 Alder St., Waltham.

With support, our guests take the necessary steps to improve their life situation and move toward self sufficiency and stability.

Your support means everything to us. A donation to the Day Center truly matters- it enables us to help change lives. The reason we have been able to serve over 600 guests is because people like you have responded when we have asked, even when times are hard. Your contribution, whatever size, is important to us. We hope that you will be able to open your heart and once again donate.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Lee-Tom,
Executive Director

P.S. Would you consider a contribution to cover these items?

\$250	pays for one week of rent at the Day Center
\$150	pays for seven blankets for the guests this winter
\$100	pays for a part time staff to take a group to DTA for Food Stamps
\$75	pays for two weeks of computer Internet use
\$50	pays for light meals for half a week for guests