



The Gratitude Issue

At this time of year there are so many people to thank. While we gave thanks to our donors in the 2015 Annual Report, there are some major partners requiring special recognition.

One important part of our mission is to make referrals to area agencies to help meet the needs of the individuals we serve. *** The Cape Ann Thrift Shop of Trinity Church** is one of our most caring partners. Jan Bell and her crew of volunteers are tending to the many needs of folks coming in on a daily basis. Not only does the shop give clothing for guests in need, but also provides household goods when someone moves into their own apartment. "We couldn't exist without this help for our guests" says Program Director Christine Bobek.

Now that we are open 4 days per week, the food donated by *** The Open Door Food Pantry** is vital. They provide items for breakfast and lunch for a total of 4000 meals per year – an astounding number. *** Jim's Donuts** provides us with breakfast items on all four days of operation. On Wednesdays, lunch is donated by *** The Gloucester House, * Destino's Subs** and the *** Temple Ahavat Achim**, as well as one of our board members.

Our three host churches, *** Trinity Congregational Church, * St John's Episcopal Church, and * The Unitarian Universalist Church**, have been providing us with a welcoming space for four years.

*** Second Glance, * St. John's Thrift Store, * St Vincent de Paul, through * Holy Family Parish,** gives guests new furniture for their beds and other when moving shelter, as apartments out of the providing clothing. well as needed

*** The YMCA** allows guests to use their facilities *** Our amazing volunteers** have given us the value of \$3,500 per week in donated service hours. *** Twenty churches** from Cape Ann and other North Shore towns have helped us with funds totaling \$35,000.

Much help and support comes from *** Mayor Sefatia Romeo-Theken and the Gloucester City Council, * The Salvation Army, * Senator Bruce Tarr, * Representative Ann Margaret Ferrante, and our West End neighbors.**

We could not run Grace Center

without the generosity of all the community members such as the *** The Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, * Action, Inc., * The Gloucester Police Department**, the offices at *** Leahy/Addison Gilbert, and * The Gloucester Family Health Center.**

Many thanks to *** The Hive** for hosting our second annual Photography Show, for singers *** Marina Evans and * Bernardo Baglioni** for their generous benefit concert this summer with special guest, *** Chief Leonard Campanello** on piano.

To date we have reached the 740 mark – that is, the number of separate individuals that have come through our doors since our opening in December of 2011. Each week we are introduced to another kind soul bringing gifts of fellowship, needed clothing and other items, financial support that is so welcome and so needed and so unexpected. We are truly blessed by all of you in this community. Thank you to all the friends and partners of the Grace Center who live out their attitude of gratitude by helping others in crisis. Blessings to you all in this season of hope and kindnesses.

Reverend Tom Bentley,
Executive Director

For more information about our program contact Christine Bobek at (978) 675-6240
To learn more about volunteering contact The Rev. Rona Tyndall at (978) 857-9305
To make a donation contact The Rev. Tom Bentley at (978) 973-2362