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Beth-El Center Newsletter

Winter 2018

Dear Friends,

The holiday season was filled with many blessings . . . we are grateful to all of those in our community who thought about our residents and soup kitchen patrons during this 'giving' time of the year. Your generosity and kindness made the 'season bright' in the knowledge that people care.



As we continue with the '**Housing First**' approach, we continue to build partnerships that will have a lasting and positive impact on our residents and on our community as people in our shelter program successfully transition to permanent housing. The community members who seek our food services programs leave refreshed and renewed.

We are proud to be working with a wide range of caring individuals and organizations, from federal, state and local government and human services colleagues to the service clubs and our faith communities. These alliances provide us with the support necessary for us to continue our goal of ending hunger and homelessness. **The successes that our clients experience are successes for the whole community.** Our board, donors, partners, and volunteers, together with a dedicated, skilled and professional staff will continue to face the challenges and to provide advocacy and support for those who need our help. We are very fortunate to be a part of such a compassionate and caring community.

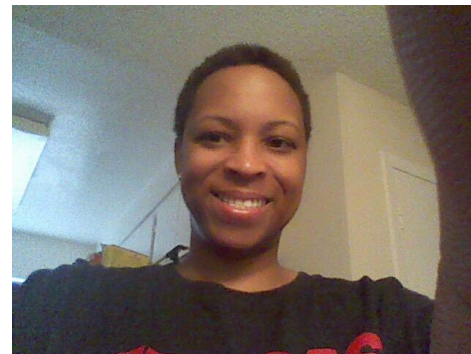
Toni

Beth-El Client Story: A Veteran Restarts Her Life

Army veteran, **Tamara S.**, age 46, resided at the Beth-El Center for six weeks at the end of 2017 when she had nowhere else to turn. After ending an unhealthy relationship, Tamara was temporarily staying with a family member. She then turned to the Beth-El Center for temporary housing and other supports.

According to Tamara, "When I went to Beth-El, I had nowhere else to go. The Beth-El Center gave me food, shelter and helped me think my life through and get myself together while I looked for a job and an apartment."

While at the Center, Tamara worked diligently to find housing and a part time job. Her Beth-El case manager, Margaret LeFever, helped her obtain a security deposit and the first two months of rent for her new apartment via Support Services for Veterans and Families.



According to Beth-El Center's Program and Facilities Director Jenn Paradis, "Tamara's tenacity and hard work helped in her ability to move out of the Shelter quickly. She was motivated, had a positive attitude, and knew what she needed to do. She was also very uplifting to other shelter residents."

[Read More](#)

Our Successes

Beth-El Center proudly announces its recent accomplishments in housing outcomes. In the past three months (November, December and January) Beth-El Center, Inc. staff have remained steadfast and driven to support our shelter residents in accomplishing their housing goals. **As a result, we housed 24 total individuals and families during this three month period.**

Positive outcomes like this are attributed to the perseverance and motivation of our Center residents, guided by client-centered, strength-based case management and the structure provided by the Beth-El Center program. Our staff is committed to the success of each resident we serve and look forward to many more success stories in 2018.

Thanks for Bringing Holiday Cheer to the Shelter

On behalf of our residents, we extend thanks to those who generously donated to our 'Adopt a Resident' Program this past holiday season.

Kindhearted sponsors bought and delivered gifts and provided paper goods and food for the holiday party for the men, women and children who live at Beth-El Center's residential shelter. The residents were profoundly touched and very grateful for your support and thoughtfulness.



See more photos [here](#).



Beth-El's Spring Gala Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for Beth-El Center's Annual Spring Gala Fundraiser on:

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

This year the Gala will be held at a new venue:
Mill River Country Club
4567 Main Street in Stratford

More details coming soon!

Beth-El Center's Executive Director to Retire in June

With sadness and much gratitude, the Beth-El Center recently announced that Executive Director Toni Dolan will be retiring in June of 2018. For the past 11 years, Toni has elevated the reputation and performance of Beth-El Center's shelter and food operations and has become a champion for the hungry and homeless in the Milford area.

According to Beth-El Center Board member, Al May, "... I believe Toni is one of the most talented and capable administrators I have ever met in this field. Beth-El is an extremely well-managed organization, one of the best in the state, and the credit for that goes to Toni. She combines vision and compassion with management skills that are second to none and from which Beth-El has benefited greatly during the years she has been executive director."



Beth-El Center's Board of Directors has created a search committee to find a new leader for the agency.

We are certain that all who have come to know Toni and her commitment to our residents and clients will miss her being a presence in our community.

Soup Kitchen Community Groups



Thanks to many community groups, Beth-El Center's soup kitchen is serving additional full meals in the evenings instead of distributing bagged meals. In addition to the dedicated civic, church and school groups who cook and serve monthly meals, there are also groups formed by Beth-El Center's Board members who volunteer regularly.

Board member Shaileen Landsberg and her family and friends serve a brunch during any 5th Sunday in a month. Another Board member, Max Case has recently formed a group from Synagogue Emmanuel, that cooks and serves dinner monthly. Additionally, other members of the Board of Directors also provide a meal once a month. The growing community support for our soup kitchen and its patrons is much appreciated.

Welcome to Our New Soup Kitchen Manager

Camille Franchi, Beth-El Center's new Soup Kitchen Manager, oversees our daily kitchen operations and food programs.

We welcome Camille and are grateful for her participation in alleviating hunger in our community, an important part of our mission.



For more information about volunteering in our soup kitchen, please email soupkitchen@bethelmilford.org.



School Support: Milford 3rd Graders Conduct Drive for Beth-El Center

Daniela Marchitto's 3rd grade class at Calf Pen Meadow School in Milford recently organized a 'Hygiene Supply Drive' for Beth El Center. Students created flyers, posters, scripts for the morning announcements and collection boxes to spread the word, in school and out, about their campaign.

Ms. Marchitto's class previously took part in Beth-El's 'Adopt a Resident' program and generously provided gifts to one of our shelter residents. The class was so touched by the thank you note sent by our resident that they wanted to do more for the Beth-El Center during the winter months.

Beth-El's Program and Facilities Director Jenn Paradis explained the need for toiletry and bathing essentials for people who use the Center's newly installed No Freeze shelter shower. The students collected personal items including soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth paste and more.

We're grateful for their enthusiasm and for wanting to do something meaningful for our residents and those in need in our community.

Point in Time Count

On January 23rd, Beth-El Center staff members volunteered to participate in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Point In Time (PIT) Count, a tally of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night. Official results are not yet available.





Emily McDonough Souza Joins Beth-El Center Board

Milford resident, Emily McDonough Souza has recently joined Beth-El Center's Board of Directors. Ms. Souza is an attorney with the law firm of Neubert, Pepe & Monteith, P.C. Emily practices in the areas of medical malpractice & hospital liability defense and professional malpractice & liability defense.

We look forward to Emily's contributions and leadership.

In 2017
28,000 meals were served and
90 individuals and **18** families
were sheltered at
Beth-El Center



Help Milford's Hungry and Homeless

Please Donate



Beth-El Center | 203.876.0747 | www.bethelmilford.org