

Crafty Yankee and Parenting Resource Associates Kick Off Holiday Gift Drive

The 6th Annual Sharing Tree Project to Help Local Homeless Families

Lexington, Mass., November 12, 2009 – Crafty Yankee and Parenting Resource Associates' COMPASS *for homeless families* program announce their sixth annual Sharing Tree holiday gift drive. This drive is a wonderful opportunity to support local homeless parents, mostly single mothers, and their children during this holiday season.

The Sharing Tree

The Sharing Tree is a way for generous community members to remember homeless families during the holiday season and help them provide essentials for their families. Crafty Yankee shoppers are able to pick a tag from the Sharing Tree with a name and information on a homeless family living in the Greater Boston area. The tag provides gift card preferences including local grocery stores, Charlie cards, and department stores, which enables these parents to meet basic family needs. The gift cards help homeless families to feel remembered and cared for when they otherwise would not receive any holiday gifts. Shoppers can then return the gift cards to the Crafty Yankee by December 18th to be delivered to COMPASS homeless families in time for the holidays. This season, the Sharing Tree will aim to serve a minimum of 100 families living in shelters and transitional housing throughout the local area.

“The drive is now a Lexington tradition that we hope will continue to flourish helping make homeless families lives a little brighter,” said Crafty Yankee owner Kathy Fields. “The generosity of our shoppers and the effort they make to help out with this initiative is staggering. It is truly a wonderful reflection of what the holidays are all about.”

The Recipients

COMPASS *for homeless families* participants are homeless parents and their children who are working with COMPASS to find permanent housing and make substantial progress toward self-sufficiency. COMPASS provides meaningful education and support focused on employment, educational achievement, life skills, and family strength. COMPASS encourages and helps drive progress toward the family's goal of autonomy.

“These phenomenal women are attending workshops addressing a variety of essential information and life skills in addition to caring and learning to be strong mentors for their children, said Jodi Wilinsky Hill, Executive Director, Parenting Resource Associates. “We are very fortunate to be able to partner with civic-minded business leaders like Kathy who have a deep interest in philanthropic issues and matters affecting the community.”

The latest data indicates that more than 3,000 families are living in the state's shelter system, with 1,021 families and 1,504 children living in motels. You can help the Crafty Yankee and COMPASS put a smile on the face of these families by participating in the Sharing Tree gift drive.

For more information

We hope you can join us in celebrating the season and help local homeless families for our sixth annual Sharing Tree gift drive. For more information, please contact:

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