

State Street selects Interfaith for 2012 Adopt-an-Agency



STATE STREET'S GLOBAL OPERATIONS division has selected Interfaith as their adopt-an-agency partner for 2012. The adopt-an-agency program provides Global Ops employees the opportunity to focus their volunteer and outreach efforts during the year with one local agency.

This allows the employees to build a relationship and make a significant impact with that organization.

"The State Street volunteers have jumped right in to help," said Interfaith's executive director Rick Doane. "They helped to coordinate our Easter Basket assembly and the first group of volunteers is coming to serve in our food pantry next week."

State Street's Global Operations division has approximately 1,500 employees in eastern Massachusetts, nearly all of whom work in Quincy. "Global Operations is excited about this partnership," said vice president Allison Bayramshian. "We are looking forward to finding ways that our organizations can work together to help Interfaith and their clients."

INTERFAITH SOCIAL SERVICES' 38TH ANNUAL SOUTH SHORE WALK AND FAMILY FUN EVENT — HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2012 | KENNEDY CENTER
440 EAST SQUANTUM STREET IN QUINCY, NEAR MARINA BAY

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. This year registration and the family fun event will all be indoors. Festivities include a three-mile walk route with beautiful views of Quincy and Boston, food, kids games, music, balloon animals, face painting, clowns, raffles, silent auctions and much more. Special guests include the New England Revolution cheerleaders and Miss Massachusetts.

The South Shore Walk has become an annual tradition for hundreds of families and individuals from all over the Greater Boston area. Even if you can't walk three miles everyone is invited to gather pledges and attend the family fun event. We need your support now more than ever. All of Interfaith's programs are experiencing unprecedented demands for our service; please help. Start gathering pledges now to help our neighbors in need. Walk participants must pre-register by visiting <http://southshorewalk2012.eventbrite.com> or by calling 617-773-6203 — ask for Paula.



INTERFAITH SOCIAL SERVICES

A 501(C)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

105 Adams Street
Quincy, MA 02169
617-773-6203
www.InterfaithSocialServices.org
info@interfaithsocialservices.org

Mission: Interfaith Social Services is a multiservice center for families and individuals in need. Since 1947 Interfaith has endeavored to strengthen family life and offer assistance to South Shore residents by feeding, clothing and comforting our impoverished neighbors.

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▶ A STORY OF REDEMPTION

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICK DOANE

I LOVE HEARING ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIFE STORIES, mostly for the elements of redemption and a desire to change which I hear from many of our clients.

That is why one of my favorite stories of all time is that of Jean Valjean from Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Valjean radically changed his life after a priest selflessly sacrificed on his behalf. The story resonates with me because of its message of hope, sacrifice and devotion.

That story came to mind when I met Patrick.* He was dropping off some suits here at our office to help our Career Closet program, which outfits low-income job seekers with free professional attire. Patrick heard about the program at church when his priest mentioned Interfaith, our need for donations, and the ways that people can support the programs we offer to the community. This caused Patrick to reflect on his life and remember a pledge that he needed to fulfill.

Patrick is in his 50s. He lives here on the South Shore and enjoys golfing, jogging and biking. He loves his family and is married with two children. Ten years ago life was very different. Patrick was addicted to prescription drugs and heroin. His life was divided between his cravings for drugs and the necessity to support his family. In desperation he turned to crime and made a series of fateful decisions which culminated in a three year prison sentence.

In prison Patrick sobered up, physically and emotionally. He thought about the people he had hurt, the laws he had broken, and the shame he had brought upon his family. The burden was more than he could carry, so he turned to God. Patrick's faith sustained him in prison. That feeling of redemption and hope which he experienced allowed him to change his life.

Shortly before his release from prison Patrick was given permission to visit a nonprofit organization's professional clothing program. He received some outfits to wear to job interviews, with the understanding that someday he would donate to a similar program so that others could benefit.

Upon his release Patrick got a job, put himself through college and is leading a happy and healthy life. He is drug and alcohol free to this day.

At church last week Patrick remembered his pledge to donate and that is what brought him to Interfaith. In a quiet corner of our offices he related his life story to me. "If you don't have faith you have no direction," he said. "I don't care if it is Jesus Christ or Buddha, everyone needs faith in their lives." Interfaith Social Services is a nonreligious organization; however we acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the transformative power of faith and hope.

Like Jean Valjean many of our clients are looking for hope. We are grateful to everyone who sets examples for those who may be watching. Thank you for the wonderful work carried out by all of our local houses of worship. We recognize the selfless examples of volunteers who donate so much of their time. Likewise, we appreciate all of the individuals, businesses and churches whose support has sustained Interfaith for more than six decades. As we celebrate Interfaith Social Services 65th Anniversary this year we look forward to many more decades of service to our neighbors in need.

**Name has been changed to protect his identity*



Volunteer Maureen Mills sorts clothes in the Career Closet

Easter Baskets for South Shore kids!

FOR MONTHS VOLUNTEERS COLLECTED THOUSANDS of pieces of candy, small toys and goodies to be assembled in Easter baskets for local children whose families are clients of Interfaith's food pantry. On a Saturday in February, amidst a flurry of plastic grass, Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies these "Easter Bunny helpers" assembled over 300 Easter Baskets.



"Assembling the Easter baskets brings together friends, family, and community members to help less fortunate families" said Quincy resident and State Street volunteer Cristiana Amara. "What a great sense of satisfaction to take part in a project that will light up a child's face on Easter morning."

Volunteers conducted Easter drives at their offices and sent volunteers to help with basket assembly. State Street's Global Operations division, as well as J. Calnan & Associates, both located in Quincy, collected items and assembled baskets. National Amusements Theaters in Norwood donated boxes of candy. A local mother's playgroup from Cohasset gathered small toys for each basket in addition to bringing a group of kids to help assemble them.

"Organizations like Interfaith continue to inspire us every day to be the very best we can," said Maureen Rystrom Director of Marketing, J. Calnan & Associates, Inc. "We feel strongly that it is our obligation to return that support. Interfaith has afforded our employees the opportunity to get involved with so many different activities that directly tie back to our South Shore community. Spending the morning...to create Easter baskets was extremely rewarding and such a wonderful experience. We look forward to our continued involvement with this organization."



Eighteen kids from all over the South Shore hold some of the Easter baskets that they assembled for the children of Interfaith's food pantry clients. David and Jack McSweeney, Sam and Mathew Brown, Ben and Nicholas Henry of Cohasset; Rebecca and Abigail Wielhouwer of Bridgewater; Abigail and Emily Nicholas, Brendan Pridgett, Brooklyn and Breonna Speed of Weymouth; Luke and Logan Doane of Randolph; Shawna Dyer of Quincy and Amanda Thorne of Milton.



At left, Rebecca and Abigail Wielhouwer of Bridgewater and Logan Doane of Randolph assemble some of the candy-filled Easter eggs that will be given out to Interfaith's clients. Center, right and upper left: Hundreds of chocolate Easter bunnies, 1,800 Easter eggs filled with candy and 300 Easter baskets were assembled by Interfaith's volunteers.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Support for Interfaith Social Services' programs comes from several sources including caring individuals, faith communities, organizations, businesses, foundations, and program fees. Additional funding is provided through a number of special events held throughout the year. Programs include:

Pantry Shelf: Distributes bags of groceries to needy families and individuals.

New Directions Counseling Center: Structured around a sliding fee scale, ensuring that anyone who needs help can get it, regardless of income.

HomeSafe: A homelessness prevention and emergency financial assistance program.

Career Closet: Free professional attire for low income job seekers.

Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop: Offers low cost clothing and household goods to the community.

Quincy Medical Center Interfaith Chaplaincy: Delivers comfort to hospital patients and grieving families.

Learning Pantry: Educates food pantry clients about vital life skills such as financial literacy, nutrition, etc.

Harvest Helpers: Organizes backyard gardeners and community groups who donate fresh local produce to food pantries.

GIVE TIME, GAIN A FRIEND

Volunteers are always needed to operate the programs of Interfaith Social Services. Most opportunities are available between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paula Daniels at 617-773-6203 ext. 28, or via email to pdaniels@InterfaithSocialServices.org

Meet Shirley Poore, one of Interfaith Social Services' longest-serving volunteers

IF YOU'VE EVER COME INTO INTERFAITH'S Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop you've probably been greeted by Shirley Poore. Whether she is sorting clothes or helping customers Shirley has been serving at Interfaith for over twenty years.



THE BUREAU DRAWER THRIFT SHOP provides the community with an affordable option for clothing and household items. The Shop is run entirely by volunteers. Over thirty-five people give their time each week to sort thousands of bags of clothing and assist shoppers. All of the proceeds from the shop help support Interfaith's various programs. The Shop is open Monday–Friday, 12:30–3:30 p.m. and Tuesday nights until 7 p.m., and is located at Interfaith Social Services' office at 105 Adams Street in Quincy.

year since 1991 Shirley has walked or volunteered in Interfaith's annual South Shore Walk. Also, each week Shirley transports the donated food from her church, Quincy Community United Methodist, to Interfaith's food pantry.

"Many people really love and care for Shirley and I am one of them," said Bureau Drawer Thrift Shop manager Cindy Lee. "Shirley is an important member of Interfaith's family of volunteers."

On May 2nd Shirley will celebrate her 90th birthday. So, the next time you see her make sure to wish her a Happy Birthday, and thank her for the dedicated service that she offers.

"When I started volunteering in the fall of 1991 the shop was only open a few days a week," said Shirley. With the shop now open Monday through Friday, Shirley works at least two shifts a week and covers for other volunteers who may be out sick or on vacation.

Shirley was introduced to Interfaith Social Services by one of her friends from church who was a volunteer at the time. She asked Shirley to help her transport some donated clothes to the shop. As soon as Shirley found out that she could volunteer in the thrift shop she was hooked on helping out wherever she could.

"I used to do other things besides the thrift shop" said Shirley. From sorting files, answering the phones, stocking food in the Pantry Shelf, and helping as a crossing guard at the South Shore Walk; over the years Shirley has volunteered in virtually every program at Interfaith Social Services.

Since recovering from a broken hip which she fractured while on a cruise in 2002; Shirley has had to slow down a little. She no longer golfs every Thursday with fellow volunteer Martha Chase, and she can't do as much as she'd like to around the shop.

However, she is still a very active lady. Every

Client's Perspective: Eviction

BY SUSAN WHITEHEAD, INTERFAITH'S MANAGER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE gets evicted from their apartment? I will use a recent client, Betty (not her real name), to illustrate the process.

Betty is a mother with three children ages 7, 9 and 14. Her husband had been an independent contractor until he hurt his back and could not continue to do the same type of work. He applied for disability and was rejected. His doctor urged him to appeal. He started the long appeal process; in the meantime, the family's rent was nearly \$500 a month more than their income.

When Betty called me, they owed \$4,000 in back rent, and they had to vacate their apartment within two days. This mother of three young children was so emotionally distraught that she could barely speak.

When a tenant is behind in their rent, the landlord can issue a 14 Day Notice of Quit. This gives the tenant two weeks to either come up with the amount owed or work out some type of payment plan with the landlord. If that doesn't happen then the landlord begins the eviction process. A court date is set for the tenant and landlord to appear before a judge. Oftentimes the judge will urge some type of settlement because they know that the homeless shelters are full. However, in Betty's case that didn't happen because there wasn't any way she could get caught up. So the judge set a date for when she and her family had to be moved out.

We wish that we could say that we were able to swoop in and prevent this family from becoming homeless. The truth is that Interfaith Social Services was not able to help Betty financially — at least not yet — but there was a lot of assistance that she still needed. We made sure that she understood what she needed to do now to protect her family. She needed to make an arrangement for her family's

possessions. Next, Betty needed to go to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Under Massachusetts law, every family has a right to housing. The catch is the family needs to be "unhoused" at the time of application, that is, homeless. So Betty needed to appear at the state offices on the day she was being evicted. We made sure she understood what documents she needed to take with her. Because the shelters are full, her family is likely to be put up into a motel, hopefully somewhere in the area. However there is no guarantee as to where her family will be placed. As we explained to Betty, while that is a not a great solution, at least it will buy her time to save some money and work with a housing specialist to find affordable housing. When she does find affordable housing, Interfaith Social Services will be able to step in and help the family get back up on their feet.

What Interfaith gave to Betty was information she desperately needed to get through the next several weeks. She needed to understand what was going to happen so she would be less anxious and better able to cope with the situation. Above all we gave her hope — while the next few weeks for Betty and her family will be difficult, that there is light at the end of their tunnel.

► PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY

When you are planting your garden this spring, consider planting a little extra for your hungry neighbors. Harvest Helpers is a collaborative program between Interfaith and Keohane Funeral and Cremation Services. Each growing season we encourage local gardeners to donate a portion of their crops to Interfaith's food pantry through this program. There are over 84 million backyard gardeners in the United States. If everyone donated a small percentage of their harvest to local food pantries it would supply all of our clients with healthful, fresh, locally-grown food. To promote this program and to show that produce can be grown virtually everywhere, each year we plant a garden at our office in Quincy Center. In addition, Keohane Funeral and Cremation Services have graciously volunteered to donate vegetable seedlings to anyone who is willing to become a Harvest Helper. If you would like to help plant and maintain this year's garden, or would like to receive some free seedlings, please contact Paula and ask to be included in our list of Harvest Helpers: 617-773-6203 ext. 28 or pdaniels@InterfaithSocialServices.org.



Harvest Helpers

BUREAU DRAWER THRIFT SHOP WISH LIST

- | Knickknacks and curiosities
 - | Clean clothing in current styles and all sizes for men and women
 - | Books (please, no encyclopedias)
 - | Small working appliances
 - | Greeting cards
 - | Jewelry
 - | Shoes and handbags
 - | Household items
 - | Toys (no stuffed animals)
- ... and volunteers who want to join in the fun.

Shop the Bureau Drawer for great buys, Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., and Tuesdays until 7 p.m.

▶ WHAT ARE MATCHING GIFTS?

Employee matching gifts are funds an employer gives to match its employees' charitable contributions. Matching gifts are usually dollar-for-dollar. By participating in your company's matching gift program, you are able to increase, and often double, the value of your gift and thus will be recognized at that giving level. Some companies may also give matching gifts for employees' volunteer time. In these cases, companies will donate a certain amount of money per hour of volunteering that an employee did on their own time or they will donate money after a given amount of committed volunteer time. To find out if your company has a matching gift program ask your human resources department or go to www.charitywater.org/donate/match.php and search for your company. The process to procure a matching gift will vary from company to company. Typically, after you make a donation you need to obtain a matching gift form from your employer. Fill out the section reserved for the donor and mail it to us. Once we have verified that your donation has been made, we complete the form and return it to your employer, who will then, in turn, disburse the matching funds to us. Some companies have an online procedure to follow. Double your contributions and inquire today about matching gifts in order to help us help more families!

UP FOR A CHALLENGE? The Feinstein Foundation in Rhode Island, will match part of every donation made to Interfaith Social Services between now and May 1, 2012. Please give generously.

HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY SHELF

Please remember The Pantry Shelf when you shop. Call Bettyanne Lang at 617-773-6203 or email balang@InterfaithSocialServices.org for information about holding a food drive in your workplace, faith community, school, or neighborhood. Here is a list of items that are always needed:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Fresh produce | Rice |
| Tuna fish | Pancake mix |
| Canned meat | Instant meals |
| Canned vegetables | Soup |
| Cereal | Peanut butter |
| Shelf stable milk | Jelly |
| Canned beans | Coffee/tea |
| Canned fruit | Healthy snacks |
| Pasta | Personal care products |
| Pasta sauce | Diapers |
| | Baby food |

▶ MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

38TH ANNUAL SOUTH SHORE WALK

Saturday, April 21, 2012
Kennedy Center, 440 East Squantum Street, Quincy, MA

A 3-mile route culminates in a family fun event with food, music, silent auctions kids games and other fun activities.

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Every year the Postal Service conducts their Letter Carriers Food Drive. Don't forget to leave a bag of canned goods out for your letter carrier that day. If you'd like to volunteer helping to sort the donations please contact Paula at 617-773-6203 etc. 28.

THE SOUTH SHORE WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 16, 2012
St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, 119 Common Street, Braintree, MA

A wonderful morning of prayer, food, music, and fellowship

SOUTH SHORE OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 12, 2012
The Tirrell Room, 254 Quarry Street, Quincy, MA

Sponsored by The 8th Masonic District and Quincy Elks to benefit Interfaith's food pantry. The evening brings a little piece of Germany right into the heart of Quincy.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND OTHERS VISIT WWW.INTERFAITHSOCIALSERVICES.ORG, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK OR FOLLOW US ON TWITTER.

Engage your employees

ORGANIZE A VOLUNTEER TEAM OR MAKE YOUR NEXT CORPORATE FOOD DRIVE A COMPETITION

INTERFAITH'S FOOD PANTRY relies on dozens of volunteers every week to sort food, stock the shelves and distribute groceries to clients. This can be a great team building opportunity for businesses and service organizations.

"The food pantry is open for two hours every day and it requires eight to ten volunteers every shift to make sure that all of our clients are served in a timely fashion," said Interfaith's Volunteer Coordinator Paula Daniels. "This time commitment of two hours is perfect for businesses that are looking to give back to the community while building team spirit."

Not all businesses can assemble teams of volunteers to serve in the food pantry, but there are many other ways that employees can give back and have some fun at the same time. Arbella Insurance in Quincy recently conducted a very creative food drive. Staff members competed to see who could assemble the best themed meal — "south of the border," "Asian infusion," etc. Participants brought in the recipes and the raw ingredients for the meals; then everyone voted on the best meal. The food baskets were delivered to Interfaith and immediately distributed to our clients.

Your employees could assemble hygiene kits for Interfaith's Food Pantry clients. Instead of collecting food, ask people to bring in personal products like soap, shampoo, toilet paper, shaving cream, razors,

etc. These are products that everyone needs, however they are rarely donated. Likewise you could conduct a drive for baby products like diapers, wipes, baby food, etc.

You can donate a few bags of groceries to the food pantry in lieu of flowers when someone is sick.



Winner of Arbella's creative meal food drive competition, "Luck o' the Irish Corned Beef Dinner."

If you work in a larger office or school you could have your departments, grades or classes compete against each other.

Each group is assigned a specific product, like canned corn, peaches, or green beans. The challenge is for each group to collect as many of their product as possible and then build a pyramid with the cans. Whoever has the highest pyramid wins. It is fun, and a great visual.



A Volunteer from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts' "Blue Crew" helps to stock gifts in Interfaith's toy storeroom.

"We are so grateful to all of the individuals and businesses who organize volunteer teams, or who support Interfaith in countless ways," said Daniels. "We love hearing about the creative ideas people come up with to help our neighbors in need." If you would like to help out in the food pantry or in one of Interfaith's other programs please contact Paula Daniels at 617-773-6203 ext. 28 or email pdaniels@InterfaithSocialServices.org

STEWARDSHIP: At Interfaith Social Services our staff and volunteers are committed to the stewardship principle. We are stewards of the donations that we receive, and we take that responsibility seriously. We pledge that the time, money and other goods that are donated to our organization will go towards helping the most number of people, in the most efficient and caring way possible.

REMEMBER US...

If you would like to make a contribution to Interfaith Social Services through a bequest, trust, or as a gift, we would be happy to refer you to a certified public accountant or attorney who works with the organization to assist you in your charitable financial planning. Interfaith Social Services welcomes your contributions and will use them to strengthen family life and offer assistance to anyone in need on the South Shore.

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THAT CAR YOU NO LONGER USE?

Donate it to support Interfaith Social Services! Your donation will provide much needed revenue to fund our programs and services. Donating is fast, easy and free, and all donations qualify for a tax deduction! To donate call 617-773-6203 ext. 17.

ENDURING EXTREMES FOR THOSE IN NEED



On Saturday January 21, hundreds of people braved one of the season's few snow storms to watch the Sixth Annual John Hancock Birthday Polar Plunge to benefit Interfaith Social Services. Pictured above are Don Pettinelli and his daughter Michaela, who won for Best Costume.



INTERFAITH
SOCIAL SERVICES

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Interfaith's Feed the Hungry Gala raises over \$60,000

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The gala featured interactive raffles, silent and live auctions, as well as fine wine and delectable desserts from distinguished South Shore retailers. Pictured here are Patriots cheerleaders Asia Barnes of Braintree, Sarah Wiewel of Allston, Miss Massachusetts Natalie Pietrzak, and event MC NECN news anchor Chet Curtis, who all helped coordinate the live auction.