



Needham Community Council Newsletter February, 2009

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LETTERS:

FROM A NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL FUND DONOR:

"Today I read that almost two-thirds of all charitable funds go to professional fundraisers, instead of to the charities. Another reason we in Needham should be thankful to have the Community Council, which gives, rather than keeps, the annual fund proceeds."

FROM A NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL CUSTOMER:

"It's starting to look like every time I drive within 500 ft. of the Needham Community Council headquarters, somebody runs out and gives me something necessary, helpful, quality-oriented and something which adds to the quality of my life."

With your help, my wardrobe is improving every year over the last...the two best things that have helped me this year are - Barack Obama and the Needham Community Council. With a team like that it is almost impossible not to have a real good 2009."

editor's note: The above letter reflects the opinions of the writer; The Needham Community Council does not support any particular political party or candidate.

Thanks to all of you who have donated to our 2008-09 Annual Fund Drive. The response from the community has been great; this will allow us to continue to provide quality programs and services throughout the year. It is never too late...if you missed sending in a gift before the end of the year, why not start off the new year with one?

Support from the Needham community has always been strong, but in this very difficult economic climate we have been heartened by the success of our fundraising drive and the outpouring of appreciation for our work. This year the number of individual donors to our fund drive increased more than ever. We are especially grateful because there has already been an increase in residents who need our programs and we expect this to continue throughout 2009.

This past holiday season we received many donations by families who chose to give *in honor* of each other instead of *to* each other. We received new toys and warm hats, gloves and scarves for our holiday gift program, as well as generous financial support to help support us during 2009.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- **HAVE A HEART FUNDRAISER**

Thursday, February 12th 6-8 p.m.

**To support: The NCC ESL Tutor Training Program &
Needham Housing Authority Arts Program for
Residents**

Stone Hearth Pizza Co.
947 Great Plain Ave.

\$ 25 per person, cash bar, silent auction & entertainment
\$ 30 per person at door [space available]

Stone Hearth Pizza Co. will be serving delicious treats throughout the evening and entertainment will be provided by Selectman Jerry Wasserman and other local musicians.

Reservations may be made online by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check to the Needham Community Council, 51 Lincoln Street, Needham, MA 02492. Please include your email address with your reservation in order to receive a confirmation. Otherwise, reservations will be held at the door.

Officers and Board of Directors 2008-09

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• FOOD PANTRY MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Throughout the months of March and April, 2009

For the 12th consecutive year, the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation of Cranston, Rhode Island will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide who raise funds and collect food items for distribution. Counted toward this program can be cash, checks, online credit card gifts, pledges and direct food donations. Organized food drives, such as the upcoming Boy Scouts Food Drive on Saturday, March 14th, your donations when you shop at the Needham Roche Bros. or Sudbury Farms, or direct food deliveries from individuals and groups count towards our share of the \$1 million. Contact us for more information on how you can help.

• VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

Tuesday, March 3 3-6 p.m.

Needham Historical Society

free admission raffle prizes refreshments

Needham is proud to be a *town of volunteers*, but do you know how to find the right volunteer opportunity for you? To fit your schedule? That meets your interests and skills? Representatives from a variety of town-wide agencies and organizations will be present to share information about volunteer opportunities.

Among those groups participating: Needham Community Council; Needham Council on Aging; Needham Public Schools; Needham Historical Society; Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham; Needham Women's Club; Needham Housing Authority; Needham Health Department & Traveling Meals Program; Needham Public Library; The Charles River Center; The Walker School; Needham Rotary; The Needham Community Farm; League of Women Voters of Needham.

• ENGLISH AS A 2ND LANGUAGE [ESL] TUTOR TRAINING COURSE

5 Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 24 and April 1

Space is still available in our spring tutor training program. There are many students waiting to be paired with a tutor; tutors do not need to have foreign language fluency, but an interest in working with someone trying to improve their English speaking skills and to learn about our culture. Contact Sandy Robinson, 781-444-2415 for more information.

- [**NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
79TH ANNUAL DINNER**](#)

**Thursday, March 26 6 p.m.
Needham Sheraton Hotel**

Join us at this year's Annual Dinner "How Green is Needham?" Keynote speaker, Needham resident Seth Bauer, is the director of East Coast operations for Cooler, Inc. a for-profit social venture that enables businesses and individuals to eliminate the global warming impact of their everyday purchases and activities.

The Needham Community Council's re-sale thrift shop and clothes closet provided local residents an opportunity to recycle their unwanted belongings long before "green" was more than just a color, while the funds from these sales helps support other programs of the Council.

As we celebrate our 79th year of "People Helping People," our Annual dinner is a chance to thank and show our appreciation for the support of our many volunteers, donors and the entire Needham community.

- [**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING & SHREDDING
FUNDRAISER**](#)

**Co-sponsored by the Needham Rotary Club and the
Needham Community Council**

Saturday, May 9

Location & Time: TBA

Save your tired, old electronic equipment [including computer monitors and TVs] and bring them to our town-wide recycling event. Bring bags and boxes filled with old bills, papers, documents...toss them into our industrial shredding truck. You will be helping the environment, protecting your identity, and clearing clutter from your homes all while supporting the NCC and Rotary.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

**SAVE AT TAYLOR'S STATIONERY & HELP
THE NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FOOD PANTRY**

Bring a donation for our food pantry to Taylor's during the month of February and receive a **20% discount** on your entire purchase. All items should be either canned, boxed or in plastic containers; no glass please. We especially need canned fruit, coffee, canned or bottled juice and cooking oil. All donations are gratefully accepted.

THE NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL HITS YOUTUBE!

The Needham Channel aired a story about our Holiday Gift Giving program in December and did a segment about our many support programs on "It's all Local" this past month. Both segments have been posted on *YouTube*. These may be our first, but certainly not our last, appearances on *YouTube*...[Click here](#) to check them out.

WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

There are so many ways to help us out throughout the year...food drives are held all year long; buy an extra box of pasta or jello when you shop and drop it into the donation box at Roche Bros. or Sudbury Farms; or bring donations directly to our office at 51 Lincoln Street. Needham elementary schools and houses of worship collect food, as do many businesses around town.

Check out our website homepage every month for a list of items which are most helpful... one of the items that we are now looking for are recycled glass flower vases [preferably 6" or so tall and square or rectangular shaped].

Our new online donation site makes it easy...click on the link "Donate Now" on the left side of this newsletter...and of course, we always appreciate a check sent to us at 51 Lincoln Street, Needham, MA 02492

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Send a financial donation
- [Click here](#) to see if your company has a matching gift program or
- Check with your company to see if they have a matching program
- Visit changingthepresent.com for gift giving options
- Register and go online through igive.com
- Visit our [website](#) or call us for more ideas

To be removed from our online newsletter, or to change your email address, please [click here](#) to send us an email & include "remove" or "change address" in the subject line.