



# Needham Community Council Newsletter March, 2009

## LETTER RECEIVED BY OUR THRIFT SHOP

Dear Needham Community Council:

Friday, February 13th, a day before Valentine's Day, my daughter and I made our usual Community Council visit. I hoped to find a little something to give to my husband John. Something meaningful. Looking through the different rooms nothing seemed right and I gave up.

Cathy, standing at the jewelry counter asked: "Did you find something for him?" I said no, and added sarcastically "unless you have an octopus"? [I have to explain. At home, my husband is an octopus and I am a bunny].

Cathy said "we have one" - I thought she was joking. She pointed up, and there was a beautiful red octopus hanging from the wall. My daughter and I were dumfounded! John loved the octopus and said "you could go over all of Boston and couldn't find one: *ONLY AT THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL!*"

*Editor's Note: Cathy is a volunteer who works in the NCC Thrift Shop and forwarded this letter to me. It included an adorable pencil drawing which could not be reproduced for this newsletter.*

Volunteerism is the cornerstone of our efforts and our mission at the Needham Community Council. We fulfill our efforts to support Needham residents with a small professional staff but a large group of dedicated volunteers. As such, we have helped to coordinate the first ever town-wide volunteer opportunities fair...see below for details.

Volunteerism is included in our mission statement: ***The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organization which supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community and a sense of shared responsibility.***

Our newly elected President has dedicated himself, and has asked this country to focus on, this same sense of shared responsibility and volunteerism. As a result of his call to action during inauguration weekend a group of local volunteers came together on Saturday, January 21 to offer their support, energy and elbow grease to volunteer at the NCC. We are grateful to them for their initiative and energy and for the new paint job in our food pantry and storage areas.



## THANK YOU!

Our ***Have a Heart*** Fundraising Event at Stone Hearth Pizza Co. was a tremendous success. Not only were funds raised to support our spring ESL Tutor Training Class and the Arts Program for residents at the Needham Housing Authority, but a great time was had by all! Thanks go to Jonathan Schwarz, owner of Stone Hearth Pizza Co. and his staff, to the HomeGrown Coffee House for lending their sound equipment and to everyone who joined us to support our programs.

Thanks also to all of the musicians who performed throughout the evening: Jerry Wasserman; Bill Okerman; Christ Gerstner; Mel Green; Bo Veaner; Eric Luskin and Amy Robinson.



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### WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Send a financial donation
- check with your company or employer to see if they have a matching gift program
- Visit [www.changingthepresent.com](http://www.changingthepresent.com) for gift giving options
- Register, go online and shop through [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)
- Visit our website or call us for more ideas

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## JOIN US!

### • 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; Needham Exchange Club; and Springwell.

### • NEEDHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL 79TH ANNUAL DINNER

**Thursday, March 26 6 p.m.**

**Needham Sheraton Hotel**

**Keynote Speaker: Seth Bauer**

**Silent Auction/Appreciation Awards**

Join us at this year's Annual Dinner "A Convenient Truth: Needham is a Great Place to Go Green". 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.

Tickets may be purchased for \$45 per person by sending a check to us at 51 Lincoln Street. Please include the names of all attendees.

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## **FOOD PANTRY**

Visits to our food pantry have increased throughout the last several months...as we expected due to the economic challenges faced by us all. Please continue to be generous with your donations throughout the year as you help us keep Needham residents healthy and well fed.

- **BOY SCOUTS FOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, March 14th is the Annual Boy Scouts Food Drive to benefit our Food Pantry. All food donations should be left on your front steps and will be picked up by the Scouts throughout the day. Items should be non-perishable and with current expiration dates [if any]. Please no glass items. All donations received will count towards the matching grant opportunity described below.

- **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, as well as your food or cash donations when you shop at the Needham Roche Bros. or Sudbury Farms. Contact us for more information on how you can help.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

- **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.

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