



## Needham Community Council Newsletter November, 2008

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the new President of The Needham Community Council. This organization has been running strong for over 78 years and I am excited to be part of its continuing good works on behalf of the Needham community. Over the past several months we have developed a new mission statement which better reflects our purpose and our dedication to Needham.

"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." This mission statement is also the Council's cornerstone as we build a foundation to support future growth. Our focus has been and always will be the needs of the people of Needham.

Welcome to the first online newsletter from the Needham Community Council. We are in the middle of our Annual Fund Drive. Thank you to all of our current supporters. In these times it is more important than ever that we are available to support residents and employees in Needham with our many programs and opportunities; including our Food Pantry, medical loan closet, transportation programs, English as a 2nd Language tutoring, etc....and to you...**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!** Our new online donation site makes it easy...click on "Donate Now" on the left side of this newsletter or [click here](#) to go directly to our online donation site...also available on our [website](#)....and of course, we always appreciate a check sent to 100 Main Street, Needham, MA 02492. **Does your company have a matching program for corporate donations?** You might be able to increase your support of NCC by checking with your

### DO YOU SHOP AND/OR SEARCH ONLINE?

We have registered the Needham Community Council with [igive.com](#) which is an online shopping site. When you create an account at their homepage, and choose the Needham Community Council as your "charity of choice" they will send us a donation each and every time you shop through their site...either to search or shop. At no additional cost to you, a share of your purchases on select websites will be donated to the Needham Community Council....how easy is that? Many online sites are participating including Ebay, Amazon, Netflix, Dell, airline sites, and many more.

### HOLIDAY TIME AT THE COUNCIL

We are very busy getting ready for the upcoming holidays. In addition to our annual **Thanksgiving Day Dinner** co-sponsored by the Rotary Club and the **Christmas Day Dinner** sponsored by Temple Beth Shalom's Project Ezra, we provide holiday gifts and gift bags to many members of the Needham community who might otherwise go without during the upcoming holiday season. Our volunteers package and deliver approximately 300 **gift bags** filled with small personal and useful items. This is truly a gift from the community and from the heart...bags are decorated by Needham youth, filled with new items which have been donated [or purchased with donated funds] and are then delivered to local residents who might be in nursing homes or housebound. Not only do they receive a special gift, but they also love the visit of the person or family delivering the gift.



Other holiday projects include

....our **Holiday Boutique** on **Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15** from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Residents are invited to shop for holiday gifts and clothing, decorations, toys, trinkets, which have been collected and saved throughout the year by our thrift shop volunteer. This is a "one of a kind" shopping opportunity [and a great bargain]! All proceeds directly support our programs.

As a community and as individuals, we have all been touched by the economic situation our country is in right now. Rest assured that the NCC is still running strong. This is not due to any special federal or state funding received by the Council (we receive no tax dollars). This is all due to you, our friends and supporters. With this support we continue to offer the great programs that have been a part of this organization for so long; such as the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet (I bought 3 great skirts there just the other day), ESL (English as a Second Language), Courtesy Van and Medical Loan Closet to name just a few. Of course, none of this would be possible without our great volunteers who dedicate many hours to keeping these programs open and available to everyone.

I am also excited to be working with such a strong and dedicated board of directors. This group of volunteers brings a wide range of expertise to the Council which I have not seen before. With this expertise, we are looking to the future of the Council, to prepare for new challenges and to be there to support Needham in any way we can.

I look forward with excitement and enthusiasm to the next couple years as President. Please stop by the Council – we enjoy meeting new friends.

Peg Coles  
President, Board of Directors

#### **Officers and Board of Directors 2008-09**

President:	Peg Coles
Vice President:	Barry Coffman
Secretary:	Peggy Powers
Treasurer:	William Mather
Asst. Treasurer:	Jack Currie
	Kate Robey
Past President:	Connie Barr
Ted Ballard	Rich Bernardo
Frank Bond	Sybil Bower
Lisa Cherbuliez	Colin Coleman
Louise Condon	Patricia Drake
Mark Fisher	Dan Fitzgerald
Shirely Holland	Larry Lodge
John Logan	Charles Mangine
Fran Moore	Linda Polach
Tom Roach	Lynne Salzman
Colleen Schaller	William Tilburg

....our **Gift Distribution Program** for families and individuals in town who are custom Pantry. We collect new toys and gifts that are then provided at no charge in time for holiday season. Gifts are age appropriate, from tots to teens to adults to seniors.

...our **Holiday Food Program** for our Food Pantry customers. Thanks to the generous Sudbury Farms and the entire community, each of our Food Pantry customers receive both a Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey and all the fixings needed to create their o

### **THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER**

Along with the Rotary Club, we co-sponsor a free Thanksgiving Day dinner for any Ne What a great way to celebrate community! Many volunteers from the schools, local b families and religious and community organizations help prepare and cook a tradition: dinner, package deliveries and host the event. This is a yearly tradition which benefits people in Needham and surrounding towns, in particular our seniors and shut-ins. Tra home delivery are available for those Needham residents who need it.



### **ENGLISH AS A 2ND LANGUAGE TUTORS AVAILABLE**

We have just completed another session of our training program for ESL tutors. Are y someone that might benefit from free ESL sessions? It is as simple as calling us at 78 up an appointment to arrange a match. If you are interested in becoming a tutor we w another training session Spring 2009....call or email us to be put on on the list.

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP**

- Donate to our Annual Fund Drive
- Check with your company to see if they have a matching program
- Register and go online through [igive.com](http://igive.com)
- Purchase and donate new toys and holiday gifts
- Donate \$20 gift certificates for teens and adults to local retail & online stores a [such as CVS & Walgreens, Staples, Amazon.com, Best Buy, book stores, Ma Comics, etc. and Bertucci's, Friendly's, Not Your Average Joe's, etc.]
- Donate new men's and women's gloves and hats
- Visit our [website](http://website) or call us for more ideas

***The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organi supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educat needs and promotes volunteerism, community and a sense responsibility.***

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