

Joyful Tidings

The Newsletter of Joyful Harvest Neighborhood Center
Winter 2011/2012 Issue



Kids' Christmas Shopping Event



At Joyful Harvest we empower children to take part in Christmas by providing an opportunity for them to give gifts that they could otherwise not afford to buy for members of their families. Each

child will be allowed to pick two to four gifts for family members. They will then be assisted in wrapping the gift before taking it home to put under the tree.

For this year's Kids' Shopping Event, we are once again partnering with Second Congregational Church and Bon Appetit in Biddeford and we will be offering a special Santa Pancake breakfast which will take place before the kid's do their shopping. The date for the Kids' Shopping and Pancake Breakfast is **December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** For those unable to attend the pancake breakfast we will offer a chance for kids to *just* shop **December 19 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.** at Joyful Harvest.

Last's year's event saw 163 folks for the breakfast alone, and we distributed 537 gifts, with participants from as

far away as Acton! In past years, kids have truly gotten caught up in the spirit of giving when presented with the chance to bring gifts home to their loved ones. **However, in order to make this happen we need your help.**

Joyful Harvest needs donations of items that are suitable for a child to give to a mom or dad; especially critical is getting items for the male figures in their lives. The Dollar Store is an excellent resource, and items such as small tool kits and work gloves, for example, are greatly appreciated. Just imagine a gift you would be delighted to receive from a child and bring it over. Gently used items are accepted as well as long as they are able to be re-gifted. This year we can also use assistance with the breakfast; specifically, we still need donations of sausage, juice, fruit and paper goods!

We also **need a total of 40 volunteers** for this event: volunteer cooks, servers and gift wrappers. This is an excellent opportunity for groups and families looking to volunteer together to come out and make a real difference. To volunteer, you can either call Shay at the center at 286-9105 or email her directly at shaybouley@gmail.com

To donate items, you may drop them off at the center Monday-Thursday from 2:30-5:00 p.m. or call Shay to arrange a time for pickup, and if you can please help us out by volunteering on either December 17 or 19.

It may not look like much now, but just you wait! This is part of the future (and larger) new home of Joyful Harvest at 128 Main St. There's a lot we need to do to build out the space and move into it around the beginning of next year, so your help would indeed be a blessing. For more info about our needs and the new space, see pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.



Financially Speaking...

For the first fiscal quarter of our year, Joyful Harvest's operations will track very close to our budget and cash break-even. However, we have recently paid out \$3,900.00 to our new landlord for leasehold improvements and the "last month's rent" required under our lease. As a result, our cash balances are down by approximately the amount of these rental expenses.



During the quarter, we were happy to receive a significant corporate grant from Pratt and Whitney, which was key to our being comfortable in making the cash advance on the new facility. Unfortunately, the City of Biddeford was unable to support us (and some other youth programs) this year. Our "Great Downtown Yard Sale" turned a profit of approximately \$1,000, despite the on-and-off downpours.

Looking ahead, our moving expenses, including the funds already advanced for the leasehold improvements, are expected to total about \$5,000. A letter was recently mailed to our supporters and friends requesting year end support to meet these expenses. We hope you can help!

How can you help?

1. Church and individual donations are our most dependable source of funding. We particularly need a few more donors who are prepared to make a monthly gift—no matter the amount—to Joyful Harvest. It is helpful when we can depend on some level of support for our month-to-month expenses for rent, utilities, and insurance. Some of our continuing monthly expenses for 2012 are:

Salary/Payroll Taxes (Net of anticipated United Way support)	\$1504.00
Rent/electricity	\$ 900.00
Utilities	\$ 70.00
Supplies	\$ 170.00
Insurance	\$ 130.00
Total	\$2,774.00

We would like to increase our level gifts from monthly donors by about \$500 per month to provide more reliable support for these continuing expenses.

2. We are *always* grateful for gifts of needed supplies (detailed on the last page of this newsletter) which reduce the need to buy these items and will save our scarce resources for monthly expenses.
3. Please consider designating Joyful Harvest as a recipient of some of your United Way giving.
4. Please patronize our fund-raising activities. We plan several in the coming months.
5. Continue to pray for Joyful Harvest's mission and for our volunteers and staff.

George Brunns, Treasurer

Director's Corner

These are indeed exciting and joyous times at Joyful Harvest! In the three years that I have been blessed to serve as Executive Director, we have seen so many changes, but one constant has been that as the number of kids we serve continues to grow, we have needed additional space.

Well that need has been met at last! Now it's on to the work of physically moving and settling into the new space, which will happen at the beginning of the New Year. As anyone who has ever moved after years in the same space knows, moving is a process! But it's one I look forward to. The school year has started and what a start it has been; this year we have more kids, and kids from a diverse array of places, but one thing all the kids have in common is that they want a safe place to be. Joyful Harvest strives to be that place. Thus far this school year, we have been blessed with great volunteers; Barbara our retired librarian comes in every Monday with a stack of books and gets the kids involved in storytelling and reading! Lately the kids have been going through the books on our shelves so fast that we are hoping a book fairy will visit us...or perhaps just a generous human. Kids are creating art, and thanks to Nancy the cooking lady, kids are learning about cooking and nutrition, too. Good thing, since in January, Joyful Harvest will be following the guidelines of the 5210 program where all our snacks will be healthy, and physical activity will be even more of a priority. Thankfully our new home will allow us the space to exercise in.

As you can see from reading the newsletter, there are many opportunities for service. We need volunteers and assistance for the annual Kids' Shopping Event and Pancake Event. We will also need volunteers when we open up the doors in the new space in January and we still need financial assistance to cover the moving costs as well as the ongoing support we depend on to keep this ministry alive. Yet no matter what, we also need your prayers and good thoughts as we forge ahead for a new path for Joyful Harvest.

Shay Stewart-Bouley, Executive Director



The front of our soon-to-be new location at 128 Main St. in downtown Biddeford.

Volunteer Opportunities This Winter

You can make a difference in the life of children and families in our community. Programming at Joyful Harvest is dependent on volunteers and with the move to a larger space we desperately need more volunteers to ensure we can keep all the kids safe and engaged. We are looking for volunteers who are talented in working with teens and keeping them engaged as well as volunteers to provide homework assistance. Volunteers must be able to commit to one afternoon a week from 2:30-5:00. If you or a group would like to volunteer, please call our office and speak with Shay to discuss your interest and what our needs are.

We also are in dire need of groups or individuals who would be willing to come in several times a month and help with keeping the center clean and tidy. This is a great volunteer opportunity for any group or individual who wants to get involved but cannot commit to a regular weekday schedule. Cleaning would take two hours each time and if we can get two or three groups or individuals a month to assist us, that would enable our paid staff to focus their energy on working directly with the kids.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or would like more information please call us at 286-9105.

Joyful Harvest Wish List

Joyful Harvest runs its programming on a very limited budget. In order to maintain the high-quality programming that the community has come to expect from us, we need your assistance. Donated items help us provide great programs and make it possible to do things that would not be possible otherwise. If you are too far away to provide items and have the means to do so, we are always in need of financial support to pay our rent and utilities.

These are items we need right now:

- Non-perishable nutritious snacks
- Dish soap, dishwasher detergent, hand soap and hand sanitizer
- Ziploc bags, all sizes
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Fresh fruits and vegetables. Even frozen fruits would be useful
- Milk and 100% fruit juice that is shelf stable
- Art supplies, such as colored construction paper, tempera paints and brushes
- Gift cards for Shaw's or Hannaford to assist in purchasing snacks and supplies
- Air hockey or Foosball table
- Tables and chairs

If you have questions, comments about our newsletter or just want to make contact,
call: 286-9105 | Shay Stewart-Bouley, Director - joyfull@gwi.net | www.joyfulharvestcenter.org

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