

Mission of Deeds, Inc.
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MISSION of DEEDS, Inc.

Transforming Generosity into Hope,
Providing Beds & Furniture for People in Need.

WINTER 2004

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Any Day, Any Season...

Our President's Message...

You will read in these pages about a typical day at the Mission of Deeds.

The particular day profiled was in the fall, but it could have been any day or any season because, in some ways, every day is the same – furniture comes and goes in vast quantities, the phone rings constantly, volunteers work tirelessly, and families in need are helped.

But, in other profoundly important ways, every day is different because each day brings a new group of families to help – each one of them with their own unique story of how their lives unfolded to the point of starting all over again after losing most of their possessions. It may be due to fire, illness or job loss. It may be due to eviction, abandonment or domestic violence. Or it may even be due to trouble in another country which caused a family to relocate to America.

Another way in which each day differs is that it brings new donors whose generosity makes our work possible. Whether you offer a bag of linens or an entire house full of furniture, we are continually moved by those of you who support us. The goods you donate, the hours you volunteer, the financial support you give – so many worthy organizations could use them... yet you choose Mission of Deeds and, for that, we are ever grateful. We are always thinking of you and every day we try to carry out our work in a way that is worthy of your support.

We think how Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is within us. We see that every day in our clients – in the strength and hope that motivates them despite the huge hardships they face. We see it in our donors and volunteers who embody generosity and compassion. And we give thanks for being able to do this work and see the Christmas spirit in action – not just one day in December but day after day, throughout the entire year.

Thank you for everything. May God bless you and your families at this holiday season and forever.

Founder and President Emeritus

President



A Day in the Life of the Mission of Deeds

It's early on a bright, sunny, fall morning as the Mission of Deeds staff arrives at the office. Volunteers Chuck Adelsberger, Ed Torell, and Brian King arrive to get the truck on the road. Once they have been briefed on the route, they set out to make six pick-ups of donated furniture. Today they are headed to Reading, Stoneham, Winchester, and Woburn.

Around 9 a.m., volunteers Marie Tucker, Joan Tarbox, and Erin Haverty arrive to sort linens, measure curtains, and organize the shelves. George Panosian, our 91-year-young "Mr. Fix-It" begins to fix lamps, small electric appliances, and furniture. Also arriving is our telephone volunteer, Ann Tierney, who will retrieve messages left from the previous evening and answer new calls. This first hour's hubbub of activity will continue all day.

At ten o'clock Anna, the first client, arrives. Marie, Joan and Erin go over the request that her social worker has sent to make sure that Anna gets everything she needs.

Anna is a single mother with three small children, who are all sleeping on the floor. They have recently left a homeless shelter to live in a new apartment. Along with beds, they need furniture for a livingroom, two bedrooms, and a kitchen, plus all the other items needed to make a home livable.

Who We Serve...

The caseworker found Rebecca and her three children living in an unauthorized, basement apartment where they all slept on the floor.

Rebecca had shared the apartment with a friend who subsequently began to drink and abuse drugs. He then started physically and verbally abusing Rebecca and her children. In order to support his habits, he sold off the

While Anna is assisted in choosing her furniture, volunteers prepare her linens and kitchenware. Phil Barnes, our warehouse manager, packs the truck with all the items. The last item given to Anna, and to all our clients, is a crucifix. After almost two hours, Anna leaves with hugs, best wishes, a big smile, and a U-Haul full of furniture.

Next, the Mission of Deeds truck returns packed with donated furniture. In addition, five people had dropped off donated items at MOD that morning. Chuck, Ed, Brian and Phil unload the truck and store everything in the warehouse.

By now it is after 12 noon and everyone takes a quick break for lunch.

Claire O'Brien takes over for Ann on the telephone desk. She will handle another 30 calls in the afternoon, in addition to the 30 which Ann handled in the morning.

At 1:00 p.m., Maria arrives. She is a client of the Department of Mental Health. She was adopted by a Massachusetts family when she was young, but that adoption ended some years ago. With no family support, Maria completed high school and survived on her own. She is now attending a community college where she maintains an A average and has

furniture, then smashed and ruined whatever was left before finally leaving the apartment. Rebecca could not afford to replace her furnishings.

The social worker found Rebecca and her family a small apartment which they set up with a few items retrieved from the trash, but they were still sleeping on the floor. They were surviving with very little...

plans to continue her education.

Maria has been living in an apartment for the last year with only bedroom furniture. It has been difficult. The Department of Mental Health has resources for people who are homeless, but Maria does not fall into that category. Mission of Deeds is the one agency that is able to assist her. Today she will get a kitchen set, livingroom set, a TV, lamps, kitchen items, and much more.

Maria is a delightful young woman who leaves the Mission with hugs, a big smile, and everything she needs to furnish her apartment.

At 2:30 p.m., our third client of the day arrives. You will find Rebecca's story below.

When this typical day ends, we have assisted three families, handled 60 phone calls, had seven donors drop off items, received a delivery of 20 beds from our wholesaler, and taken in an entire truck full of furniture. Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors who make it all possible.



If you would like to be part of this challenging, exhilarating experience, call 781-944-9797 to volunteer or donate items.



until they arrived at the Mission of Deeds.

Volunteers Elaine Imbrascio and Elizabeth Rogers helped Rebecca choose her items. She cried happy tears as she left with a truck full of furniture and household items. She was grateful not only for all that she received, but for the compassion and thoughtfulness with which she was treated.

The Faces of Need...

Jane... approached Mission of Deeds through her caseworker at Department of Mental Health. She has not only emotional issues but is also a cancer patient. The cancer gives her serious back pain and, when she came to us, she had been sleeping on the floor. She and her teenage daughter had left a furnished rooming house for an apartment of their own but had no furniture. Now they do... beds, a kitchen set, a recliner, linens, kitchenware, and much more.

Alicia... and her four children fled violence in Uganda for a new life in the U.S. Alicia works seven days a week as a home healthcare aide but could not afford to furnish her apartment. Members of a local church found donations of bunk beds and a dining table, but the family needed much more, so a church member contacted Mission of Deeds. An enthusiastic group of teenage volunteers from Winchester High School loaded the Mission



of Deeds truck with all kinds of furniture and housewares and brought it to the family's apartment in a nearby town.

The Winchester High teenagers worked with Alicia's own teenage children to unload the truck and set up the apartment. Now this hard-working family of five has a comfortable home from which to continue rebuilding their lives.

Lily... was referred by Head Start. She made an appointment and was greeted at our warehouse. As always, MOD volunteers interviewed Lily to make sure we had a full picture of her needs and we then proceeded to help her pick out her things. We loaded a rocking chair, nightstand, toaster oven, linens and a few other items into her borrowed van and away she went, all set... or so we thought.

The next day her caseworker called us. She had visited Lily's apartment and found it still lacking critical items. There was no light in any of the rooms, mattresses and box springs were on the floor without bed frames, she had only two pots in the kitchen, and blankets were being used as curtains. Lily, a shy, polite, and proud mother of three small children, hadn't dared tell us of these needs at her first appointment. Now that we knew, we invited Lily to return for the additional items. She left the second time with all these things and now she is really set... we hope.

Who is the Mission of Deeds?

We are a local, non-profit, volunteer organization established in 1993. We provide furniture and housewares, without charge, to those in need in northeastern Massachusetts. We receive referrals daily from social workers and clergy. Since our inception we have made in excess of 6,000 pickups and provided furniture for almost 4,000 households. We rely solely on the generosity of people for volunteer efforts and the donations of goods and funds.

Would you like to make a real difference? Please consider a tax-exempt donation this holiday season. Would you like to volunteer with us? Please contact Bruce Murison today at (781) 944-9797.

Would You Like to be Part of a New Beginning for a Family?

If so, please complete and return the following form.

NAME: _____ TEL.# _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

I am making a tax deductible gift of: _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other

I want to be a monthly sponsor \$ _____

[] Check enclosed Charge to: [] Visa [] MasterCard

Credit Card Information:

Account # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

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Beds, Beds, and More Beds!

On Tuesday, November 9th, twenty new mattresses, box springs, and frames were delivered to our warehouse. By Friday of that week, all twenty bed sets, plus a few more that were donated, had been given to those in need.

As you can see, THE NEED IS GREAT!

Contributions given to the Mission of Deeds are primarily used to purchase new bed sets. We spend at least \$50,000 per year for this purpose, our largest expense.

Linen Drive

A heartfelt thank you to the members of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Lynnfield and the First Congregational Church of Winchester for the wonderful linen and pillow drives they recently organized. It made a tremendous difference on the warehouse shelves.

If you would like to organize a linen drive through your church or organization, please call us today at 781-944-9797.

Memorial Donations

Donations "in lieu of flowers" or "memorial donations" made in honor of a departed family member or friend are accepted at the Mission.

Your donation will be acknowledged to the family of the person remembered.

Gift of Giving

In lieu of a Christmas gift for those who have everything, Mission of Deeds offers a way to make a lasting gift that will support those in need. In place of a gift, make a donation to the Mission of Deeds and a card will be sent to the person who you are honoring with the following message: "A gift has been made in your honor to the Mission of Deeds to help purchase new beds for those in need."

You may make a donation over the phone and charge it (781-944-9797), or mail a check to the Mission of Deeds, 6 Chapin Ave., Reading, MA 01867.

Credit Cards

Remember Mission of Deeds now accepts Visa and MasterCard so that you may charge your contributions. You may also become a "MISSION OF DEEDS PARTNER" by having a monthly donation charged to your credit card. Your contribution is tax deductible. As always, we at the Mission of Deeds appreciate your financial support.

Address Service Requested

MISSION of DEEDS, INC.
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