



**HORIZONS FOR  
HOMELESS CHILDREN**

# NEWS UPDATE

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## Special Guests See Work Firsthand

In recent months, Horizons for Homeless Children has welcomed a number of prominent personalities to our Community Children's Center in Roxbury. Each event was an important one in that it was instrumental in building awareness of Horizons for Homeless Children and our efforts to break the cycle of child and family homelessness.

In December, *TV Diner* host **Billy Costa** and producer **Jenny Johnson** visited the Roxbury CCC, where they served lunch to, and spent time with preschoolers. Following time in the classroom, they presented a check for over \$35,000 to Horizons for Homeless Children, all of which was raised at the auction of NECN's Platinum Plate Gala in October. Costa and Johnson's visit was to celebrate the partnership of Comcast SportsNet / NECN and Horizons for Homeless Children and the success of the October Gala in raising much needed funds and awareness for homeless children and their families.



*TV Diner's Billy Costa makes a friend at the Roxbury CCC*



Former Red Sox pitcher **Lenny DiNardo** and *Glee's* **Mike O'Malley** with HHC's **Asa Fanelli** and **Meryl Sheriden**

In February, Horizons for Homeless Children was honored to welcome noted pediatrician and world renowned *Touchpoints* author, **Dr. T. Berry Brazelton** to its Roxbury headquarters. Accompanied by Linda Mason, co-founder of Horizons for Homeless Children, he spent time in the Infant Classroom with the babies, teachers and mothers who participate in the program. He addressed concerns and answered questions on early childhood development and offered valuable insight and advice to a group of very engaged mothers.



**Dr. Brazelton** spends time in the Infant Classroom

In January, The Foundation to be Named Later continued its support of Horizons for Homeless Children with a luncheon honoring several HHC families. The luncheon, held at the Roxbury CCC garnered support from leading Boston chefs, who were on-site to prepare some signature dishes. Legendary sports journalist **Peter Gammons** joined former Red Sox pitchers **Bronson Arroyo** and **Lenny DiNardo** and *Glee* actor **Mike O'Malley** in serving, chatting with and posing for pictures with both parents and children.

**COMING SOON!** Horizons for Homeless Children is close to launching a new website! Visit [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org) in the coming weeks to view the new design. Special thanks to Jack Rabbit Design for making this possible.

# From the President

Dear Friend,

Spring is a time of new beginnings. And here at Horizons for Homeless Children, there is a spring in our step! Signs of growth and steady development are apparent every day in the young children we serve through our programs. A child who was crawling on the floor of the Infant room this past winter, is now using her feet and walking down the corridor into her Toddler room. Her friends next door in the Pre-school room are making progress with the alphabet and basic math. Everyone is running, jumping and skipping outside in the playground. They are making up for a long winter of being indoors.

Walking into any of our Community Children's Centers and Playspaces, one would only notice cheerful, engaged children. As much as they thrive when they are with us, the crisis at large continues to worsen. State shelters are overflowing and the number of families residing in hotels/motels is the largest ever. Job losses and home foreclosures have continued to increase and only add to the already devastating number of families who have become homeless.

One positive outcome to result from this escalating crisis is media attention. Local and national media are now bringing attention to the issue and covering the plight of homeless families on a daily basis. The government too, at all levels, is paying more attention. There is a collective impetus in place to find a solution and Horizons for Homeless Children has an important place at the table.

Horizons for Homeless Children is involved in many coalitions, a partner in the effort to break the cycle of homelessness and give this at-risk population of children the potential for a better chance in life. With your help, we can raise the volume of our collective voice as we work to ensure that homeless children and their families can look to their futures with a much stronger sense of hope.

Our mission is more important than ever. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm Regards,



**Asa Fanelli**  
President and CEO

## 2nd Annual *Route for Kids* 5K Hosted by Horizons for Homeless Children Young Professionals Group



2010 *Route for Kids* 5K runners; over \$25,000 was raised for HHC!

Photography courtesy of Peter Rufo

Join us **May 21** at DCR's **Carson Beach in South Boston** for the 2nd Annual *Route for Kids* 5K! Let's raise funds and build awareness of the crisis of child and family homelessness and the work of Horizons for Homeless Children (HHC).

The 5K road race is for everyone. We encourage runners and walkers of all ages (strollers welcome), old and new friends to come out and support the work of HHC.

Register today and/or become a Trailblazer and pledge to fundraise: <https://hhc.ejoinme.org/hhc5k11>. Sponsorship

opportunities available. If you are interested in sponsoring the 5K or in learning more about the Young Professionals Group, contact Tracie Andrew at 617.445.1480 or [tandrew@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](mailto:tandrew@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org).



PAL and *Hero Among Us* awardee, **Barbara Shapiro**

Congratulations to Greater Boston Playspace Activity Leader **Barbara Shapiro**, who was recently presented with the Boston Celtics *Hero Among Us* Award for her tireless dedication to the children and families served by Horizons for Homeless Children.

Because of committed volunteers like **Barbara**, we can continue to work towards breaking the cycle of child and family homelessness.

## 2011 *Run for Homeless Children* Marathon Team

This year, Horizons for Homeless Children received 9 guaranteed entries to the 2011 Boston Marathon through the John Hancock Non-Profit Bib Program. Over the past ten years, HHC's *Run for Homeless Children* team has raised almost \$1 million to support our programs. We thank this year's team and wish them the best when they run the 26.2 on April 18th, 2011.

### *Run for Homeless Children* Marathon Team:

Mark Begor	Ryan Debin
Maura Buglione	Amina Edwards
Janet Chien	Mark Edwards
Bob Cremin	Rachel King
Mike Dowley	

# 12th Annual Women's Breakfast Raises \$575,000 for HHC Programs and Services

Horizons for Homeless Children's 12th Annual Women's Breakfast took place on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at The Westin Copley Place, Boston. With almost 1,000 people in attendance, the event was a huge success in that \$575,000 was raised to support the crucial programs and services of the organization.

The event was emceed by Lisa Hughes of WBZ-TV and featured a powerful keynote speech by Liz Murray of *Homeless to Harvard*, a made-for-TV movie that documents her life as a homeless youth. "I am so moved by the mission of Horizons for Homeless Children," she said. "Becoming homeless at some point in my life, it moves me so much to see folks stepping up and doing so much to help people who come from a place where I come from." The audience also heard from dedicated volunteers, committee members, staff, Board members and a wonderful parent from our CCC program, who shared her incredible story.

Special thanks to all of our event sponsors, volunteers, supporters and committed event Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Zachos and Leslie Wong.



Keynote Speaker **Liz Murray** of *Homeless to Harvard*



Second from right: **Jody Acford** with members of HHC's Board of Directors and Senior Leadership team at the Celebration of Light event in December 2010

## Horizons for Homeless Children mourns the loss of longtime supporter and friend

In January, Horizons for Homeless Children lost a dear friend and supporter, Jody Acford of Newton, MA. Jody served on HHC's Board of Directors for over ten years and during that time, she also played a key role on many of the organization's committees, including the Women's Breakfast committee, where she worked tirelessly on securing years of event sponsorship. She and her family have been longtime supporters of our mission and programs and Jody was instrumental in building awareness of our important work. "Jody Acford is missed by everyone here at Horizons for Homeless Children," said Åsa Fanelli. "Her unyielding dedication to our organization shone through everything she did to help us advance our important mission. She was a true inspiration."

## New Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Horizons for Homeless Children is delighted to welcome Katherine Carroll Day, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations to the Development team. Kathie has worked in both the non-profit and public sectors for over thirty years. Most recently she served as Development Director for Non Profit Capital Management. She has also worked at the state level in employment and training where she was responsible for the review of proposals and the selection and oversight of education and training programs across the state.

Since arriving at HHC, she has established relationships with new businesses, corporations and foundations. Like all staff, Kathie feels strongly about the issue of child and family homelessness. "I am interested in developing long-term relationships through partnering with like minded corporations and foundations that are committed to ending this vicious cycle of homelessness," she said.

To learn of different ways to involve your corporation in the work of Horizons for Homeless Children, contact Kathie at [kcarrollday@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](mailto:kcarrollday@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org).



**Kathie Carroll Day**, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations



Kathy and Kaylee get creative

## Where Smiles Make an Impact

“Can we do the superhero thing again?” Kaylee asks. “That was so much fun!” “Sure, we can do it again,” Kathy responds. “Let’s do something fun!”

It’s a typical Thursday afternoon at Malden’s Housing Families. Playspace Activity Leader Kathy Allen is spending time with Kaylee, who loves writing stories, drawing and having fun.

Down the corridor, Kathy’s husband Peter, a retired music teacher, is working on simple math problems with Jamil. “Six minus five,” he says. “That works.” They take a break from math for a while and chat about their favorite planets.

The connection is clear.

Kathy and Peter Allen have been volunteering together as PALs for three years and there isn’t a week that goes by when they don’t feel as rewarded as the

week before. “It is amazing that we have been volunteering for three years!” says Kathy. “Working with the children is fun and very rewarding. It is a wonderful learning experience for us too!”

The Allens learned about the work of Horizons for Homeless Children when Kathy worked at Millipore Corporation and connected with a colleague who spoke of her positive PAL volunteer experience. Kathy decided to attend HHC’s Women’s Breakfast that year and was “powerfully moved” by the stories of the families whose lives had been so profoundly impacted by the organization.

A few months later, with support from Millipore Corporation, HHC opened a new Playspace at Tewksbury’s Hart House (a family residential substance abuse program for women and their children). The contribution was made in honor of Kathy, who was about to retire as Millipore’s Corporate Vice President and in recognition of her commitment to helping less fortunate members of her community. “I have been so fortunate to work for a company whose mission it is to help people live longer healthier lives,” said Kathy at the time. “Now I look forward to working with a wonderful organization that has a similar mission focused on helping children and their families.”

In April of 2008, both Kathy and Peter began their volunteer placement at Housing Families in Malden, whose mission is to end family homelessness in the communities they serve. They do this by providing safe, temporary shelter, creating affordable housing, and offering individualized supportive services to family members of all ages. As PALs, Kathy and Peter work with the children on homework and other academic enrichment. Above and beyond their

weekly commitment with the children, they are both members of the Northeast Region PAL Council and Kathy is also the PAL Liaison for Housing Families.

As PALs, this dedicated pair sees progress each week and values the longterm impact that is being made in the lives of young homeless children. “Each week we have stories to share of little victories we have experienced with the children,” says Peter. “They can range from smiles from a shy child, to seeing the “light go on” when a problem is solved, to discovering that the healthy snack of the day is actually yummy!”

Kathy and Peter Allen bring light to the lives of young homeless children in Malden each week and consider the experience to be something everyone should be a part of. “The rewards are tremendous,” they share, “and you never really know what impact you are having on these children just by your smile.”



Peter and Jamil work on math together

### Get Involved Today!

Horizons for Homeless Children is in need of volunteers.

Join one of the largest volunteer corps in the state.

You will make a difference and have fun too!

#### You can help.

Here are some ways to be involved:

1. **Sign up** to be a PAL. Visit [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org);
2. **Post flyers** in your community (available at all HHC office locations or call 800.560.7702 to request them);
3. **Invite us** to your **place of worship/community organization** to promote the agency/programs/need for PALs;
4. **Invite us** to your **corporation** to promote the agency/programs/need for PALs;
5. **Post** our information and **web link** on your **intranet**;
6. **Call us** for more ideas.

**Thank you!**

## Volunteers Needed

Special thanks to all of our Playspace Activity Leaders (PALs) for their commitment of time and energy! We are recruiting PALs statewide. Join this remarkable group of people who care about giving homeless children the opportunity to play. Please consider becoming a PAL today. Visit our website at [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org) or call **800.560.7702**.

*Attend a PAL training session to learn more about what it is like to be a PAL. Our next PAL training dates are:*

### April 2011

#### Northeast Region

Saturday, April 9th  
9:30am – 4:30pm

*Wilmington; Call 978.557.2182 for details.*

#### Greater Boston Region

Saturday, April 30th  
9:30am – 4:30pm

*Boston; call 617.445.1480 for details.*

### May 2011

#### Central Region

Saturday, May 14th  
9:30am – 4:30pm

*Worcester; call 508.755.2615 for details.*

### June 2011

#### West Region

Tuesday, June 7th and Wednesday, June 8th  
6:00 – 9:00pm (both evenings)  
*Springfield/Holyoke; call 413.532.0467 for details.*

#### Southeast Region

Wednesday, June 8th and Thursday, June 9th  
6:00 – 9:00pm (both evenings)  
*West Bridgewater; call 508.510.3250 for details.*

#### Northeast Region

Tuesday, June 14th and Wednesday, June 15th  
6:00 – 9:00pm (both evenings)  
*Lawrence/Lowell area; call 978.557.2182 for details.*

#### Greater Boston Region

Wednesday, June 22nd and Thursday, June 23rd  
6:00 – 9:00pm (both evenings)  
*Boston; call 617.445.1480 for details.*

### New Southeast Region Playspace Programs Office Location

The Southeast Region Playspace Programs office has moved from New Bedford to West Bridgewater. New contact information:

234 West Center Street, Suite 15, West Bridgewater, MA 02379  
T 508.510.3250 / 508.510.3587 • F 508.510.5243

### HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

#### Board of Directors

Matt Epstein, *Chair*  
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Howard Hiatt	William Julius Wilson
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### HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

#### Senior Staff

Åsa Fanelli  
*President & CEO*

Kelly Bovio  
*Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer*

Paula DiMascio  
*Chief Finance and Administrative Officer*

Stacy Dimino  
*Chief Education and Training Officer*

Sarah Fujiwara  
*Chief Playspace Programs Officer*

Meryl Sheriden  
*Chief Development Officer*

Andrea Urbano  
*Director of Center Based Programs*

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE:

### *HHC Launches On-Site Learning Tour Pilot Program*

In the fall, Horizons for Homeless Children's Training & Technical Assistance Program launched a two-day pilot program: an onsite learning workshop for service practitioners that included a series of classroom lectures and classroom observations at HHC centers. Cuidando los Ninos (CLN) from New Mexico was the first client and brought seven teaching and administrative staff to participate in the program. "The experience for CLN staff was excellent," said Dr. Jaime Tamez, Executive Director, CLN. "It gave us insights into not just early childhood development for homeless children, but the interaction and collaboration of the entire spectrum of support services relevant to child and family homelessness."

### *6th Young Children Without Homes National Conference*

The 6th *Young Children Without Homes* National Conference will be held **June 20-21, 2011** at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in **Washington, DC**. This year's featured speakers include Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Director, Office of Head Start, and Dr. Joan Lombardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children in Families. We will also host a panel of federal officials including John McLaughlin from the Department of Education, Kiersten Beigel, Office of Head Start, and Shannon Rudisill, Office of Child Care, moderated by Barbara Duffield,

Executive Director of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

The conference will feature a variety of workshops on topics such as impacts of homelessness of children and families, best practices, implementation and application of collaborative models, current policies and new policy initiatives.

The event will also include an **Advocacy Day**, which will give participants the chance to not only talk *about* how federal policies



affect their work, but to talk *to* members of Congress and their staff about critical federal programs and funding. This will provide conference attendees with an opportunity to share their experiences with members of Congress and the Obama Administration and to educate them about how the work *they* do affects the work that our Conference participants do. For more information, visit [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org).

## AN ADVOCACY UPDATE:

In December, HHC's Chief Policy Officer, Kelly Bovio, met with Dr. Joan Lombardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families. Dr. Lombardi, an alumna of the Carter and Clinton Administrations, is a leading authority on national child care policy and has written extensively about the benefits of early education for at-risk children and their families. Kelly also discussed HHC's federal agenda with Melody Barnes, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. She also had an opportunity to talk briefly with Vice President Joe Biden about HHC at his annual holiday party.



HHC Teacher **Sheila Restrepo** speaks at the State House in February

On behalf of the Homeless Advocates Group, a Washington, DC-based coalition of homeless advocates, HHC is spearheading the issuance of two letters to Congress. As the House of Representatives begins to consider FY 2011 appropriations, HHC is leading the fight to ensure adequate federal funding for child care, education, health and nutrition programs for young homeless children.

In February, Horizons for Homeless Children, along with a coalition of the state's early learning and child care advocates, organized an Annual Early Education Lobby Day at the State House to advocate for our funding priorities in 2012. Speakers included Senate President Therese Murray, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, House Education Chairwoman Alice Peisch, Senate Education Chairwoman Sonia Chang-Diaz, State Rep. Gloria Fox, Education Secretary Paul Reville, and EEC Commissioner Sherri Killins. Also among the speakers was Horizons for Homeless Children's Lead Toddler Teacher at the JP Community Children's Center, Sheila Restrepo. More than 300 advocates, teachers, families and elected officials were in attendance in the Great Hall. Following the morning program, Sheila and the HHC Policy & Advocacy team met with her State Representative and State Senator to urge them to support early education funding, specifically for homeless or "income eligible" populations.

**Homeless children need your voice on their behalf. To learn how *you* can advocate for homeless children, visit [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org) and click on "Advocacy."**

# Lending a Voice to an Increasing Need

The crisis of child and family homelessness has garnered a significant amount of attention in the public arena in the past several months. Along with an unfavorable economic climate has come a new and heightened awareness that an increasing number of families are without a place to call “home.” National and local media are covering this ever-worsening social issue on a daily basis.

In early March, CBS’ *60 Minutes* aired a segment on child and family homelessness and estimated that the poverty rate for children in the U.S. will soon hit 25%. This would mean that these children would be the largest American generation to be raised in hard times since the Great Depression. Locally, the *Boston Globe* reported in February that while the area housing market dropped 20 percent in 2009 from its 2005 peak, for many families, finding a place to call home is still out of reach.

At Horizons for Homeless Children, staying tuned to the economic frequency wave is a priority. The agency is continually refining existing programming but has also established new initiatives within the Community Children’s Center model to meet the growing needs of homeless families. These initiatives include an **evaluation** of the impact of the three Community Children’s Centers and the introduction of a **Family Partnership Program**. The latter works to ensure that the organization deepens and broadens its influence on the lives of homeless children by assisting homeless families as they transition to permanent housing in communities throughout the Commonwealth. These initiatives are managed by HHC’s new Chief Education and Training Officer, Stacy Dimino, a returning staff member who is also focused on increasing the national visibility of the Training and Technical Assistance Program.



**Stacy Dimino**, HHC’s Chief Education and Training Officer

Despite the harsh realities of homelessness, the families who participate in our CCCs continue to make progress, because of the support system at HHC.

Take Anna for instance, a mother who shares that she has entered permanent housing with the help of HHC and is now giving back by volunteering in an HHC classroom, where she devotes at least 20 hours per week. “I am interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education,” she says. “I see the value of that here at HHC and I want to be a part of the solution for these children.”

Maria is a preschooler in that same classroom. She enrolled at HHC a year ago with below-average language skills and an unwillingness to participate in group activities. The trauma of home-



Learning, growth and development inside a Preschool classroom at HHC’s Roxbury CCC

lessness and transitional living had taken their toll. Now, 12 months later, with the close support of her teachers and family advocates, she is blossoming and is known across the center as a “budding artist.”

At Horizons for Homeless Children’s Community Children’s Centers, important work is taking place each day behind the walls of each classroom. Children are given a chance at success and their families, a chance at a better life. As the nation becomes increasingly aware of family homelessness, Horizons for Homeless Children will continue to provide the early education and parent support services that support and nurture the children and families involved in our direct service programs. We will also continue, with advocacy and communication efforts, to lend a voice to this issue across the nation so that homeless families have access to services that expedite their return to self-sufficiency and can look forward to brighter futures ahead for their children.

Horizons for Homeless Children urges you to continue to keep an eye on our wish list at [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/How\\_To\\_Help\\_Donate\\_Goods\\_Services.asp](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/How_To_Help_Donate_Goods_Services.asp). We are always in need of tools and supplies to keep enhancing our direct service programs! Our high priority items include:

- Paper goods and supplies
- Dustbuster
- Swiffer mop
- Portable CD player with FM transmitter
- Children’s toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Durable child-sized art smocks
- Laminating sheets/rolls
- Laptop
- CD/Tape Players (shock proof if possible)
- Digital camera
- Digital video camera
- Desktop laser printer

**AND MORE!** Log on to [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/How\\_To\\_Help\\_Donate\\_Goods\\_Services.asp](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/How_To_Help_Donate_Goods_Services.asp). to see the complete list.

# A Night for Tomorrow



Horizons for Homeless Children  
22nd Annual Spring Gala  
SEA PORT HOTEL • BOSTON  
April 30, 2011

## SAVE THE DATE: 22nd Annual Spring Gala

Horizons for Homeless Children invites you to our **22nd Annual Spring Gala**, to be held **Saturday, April 30** at the **Seaport Hotel** in Boston. A wonderful night is in store, with dinner, dancing, raffles, auctions and more! Featuring guest emcee Lisa Hughes of WBZ-TV and comedian Jimmy Tingle among others.

Join us for a unique online auction this year, beginning on April 6th and closing at this year's Gala on April 30th. Start the bidding online at [www.bidsforhomelesskids.cmarket.com](http://www.bidsforhomelesskids.cmarket.com). Featuring exclusive travel, sports, and dining packages, among others!

Contact Alisha Atlas-Corbett at [aatlascorbett@horizons-forhomelesschildren.org](mailto:aatlascorbett@horizons-forhomelesschildren.org) or call 617.445.1480 for information. Sponsorship opportunities available.

*Artwork courtesy of Peter H. Reynolds.*

*Address Service Requested*

[www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org)

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**HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**



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