



January 2001
Volume XV Number 5

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition NEWS

Health Care Solutions Topic of December Coalition Meeting

The December monthly Coalition meeting brought together elders, public officials, health care advocates, community service providers, and interested residents for a conversation about health care. About fifty Coalitioners attended our monthly meeting that also included updates on community events and opportunities for networking.

During the first half of the Coalition meeting, the Coalition was introduced to Brenda Briguglio, a member of the Northwest Artists Collaborative (Thanks Sally for bringing a new member). We heard about the United Way's planned Victory Breakfast and their hopes of raising up to \$700,000 for local service activities. We heard about an asset building workshop that the COTY Youth Center is doing entitled, "Don't Check Your Brains at the Door." We heard about the wonderful community of giving in Northern Berkshire that is assisting so many Northern Berkshire families with holiday presents. We heard about a Spanish Mass at St Francis Church planned and initiated by Angela Thomas for the Spanish community. News is that at least thirty five people attended this Mass, and another is planned for January. We heard from the VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire that the flu vaccine is here and that there should be enough for all to use. Contact the VNA for a schedule of local flu clinics. We also heard about an "Out of School Time Fair," that is being organized by 4-H Youth Development, the Coalition, and the Northern Berkshire United Way for February. This Fair will offer local organizations a time to meet together and introduce their out of school time activities to the families of Northern Berkshire.

Bob Marra from Health Care for All, and Mike Vito and Roger Fisk from Senator Kerry's office traveled to the Coalition meeting to talk about various facets of health access. Health care is a more complicated system than it was fifteen years ago, and despite great efforts locally by our local health care systems, universal access has yet to be implemented. Bob offered some creative thoughts about opening up local systems to greater access, ones that will need many people engaged in local health care advocacy. Mike Vito attended a monthly Coalition meeting about two years ago and heard lots of concern for the impact on home health care of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Mike and Roger Fisk (specialist in health care legislation for Senator Kerry) came to talk about new legislation that Senator Kerry will be introducing to the Senate that will rectify much of the harm done by the BBA of 1997 to home health care in rural areas. As Roger said, "Ignoring home health care is like keeping your windows open during the winter." The cost of an average home health care visit is well below the cost for hospital or nursing home care. That doesn't speak to the social costs for families that need to institutionalize their loved ones because of the lack of home health care services.

Marge Ware of the SHINE Program informed the Coalition meeting of the Prescription Advantage Program, due to be launched in April, that will offer every Senior Citizen access to drug coverage. The conversation about health access

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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

**First Baptist Church of
North Adams
131 Main Street,
Monday JAN 15TH
10:30 AM to 3 PM
Lunch will be Provided**

The annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration takes the place of the January monthly Coalition meeting. This celebration is open to the public, and offers a wonderful opportunity for experiencing the diversity of North Adams. Along with a keynote by the Reverend Wes Williams, there will be workshops, discussions, an ecumenical service, and the traditional Martin Luther King Day pot luck lunch. If you can, bring a dish to share. This is a day for both children and adults.

NBCCoalition INFORMATION

The mission statement of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is "organizing people and resources dedicated to improving the quality of life in Northern Berkshire."

The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is supported by the Northern Berkshire community, with funding from a variety of sources from Massachusetts including the Department of Social Services, the Cultural Council, and the Department of Public Health. The Coalition is a member agency of the Northern Berkshire United Way and the Williamstown Community Chest. The Coalition is also supported through grants from the City of North Adams, the Town of Adams, and through the generous contributions from its many supporters. Printing of the Coalition NEWSletter is supported by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

To Submit to NBCCoalition NEWS:

The NEWSletter is a publication of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. It goes out to our mailing list of about 700. The Newsletter works because so many contribute. Articles for the February NEWSletter are due January 17th. To submit articles for the NEWSletter :

E-Mail : albash@bcn.net

Fax : 413 663-9877

Mail : NBCC

85 Main St #332

North Adams, MA

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evolved. Pat Campbell and others began to muse about how difficult it is to attract workers into the health care industry. Health care jobs are tough, and other jobs that are less demanding in the region may take good workers away from our local health care jobs. There is a shortage of nurses, and there is a shortage of many people working in the human services sector. What can be done to recruit young people into the people industry? How can we make this industry more attractive? Chip Joffe-Halpern talked about the fluidity of the uninsured. People who lack health insurance do not necessarily stay that way. It's a population that's always changing and one that is a challenge to serve. These are all pieces of a bigger puzzle and that puzzle helps us to understand the lack of a long term health care policy for the country. According to the meeting's participants, "Medicare has to decide if it's in the business of long term health care." We heard from a number of residents who have experienced the cracks in our long term health care policy, resulting in care options that are not desired.

Bob Marra brought us back to looking again at the issues of choice and wondered aloud about the budget surpluses and the choices made about spending these monies. Joe Manning talked about how often we are leery as taxpayers to seeing our tax dollars going to programs that will help "the other guy." Well, as Joe pointed out, the other guy is us, or our relatives, who may require the types of care we were discussing. Bob Marra pointed out creative programs in Boston hospitals that use the free care pool dollars to pay for prescription drugs. Perhaps, a similar program can occur in Northern Berkshire.

So, it was an engaging discussion. I walked away with a renewed commitment to talk about the social issues that impact people living in our area. February's monthly meeting (2/9/01) will be about child care. Join us. - *Al Bashevkin*

January is a Time for Reflection

With the long nights and shorter days, December seems to be a time for reflection and January a time to recharge our ambitions. In that spirit, the Coalition will be supporting the Martin Luther King day celebration, January 15th from 10 - 3 PM at the First Baptist Church in North Adams in place of the monthly Coalition meeting. The day will feature an ecumenical service to honor Martin Luther King, Jr, a performance by students of Karen's School of Dance, Guest Speaker Reverend Wes Williams of Boston, presentation of essay contest winners, the traditional Martin Luther King Day pot luck lunch, and lots more. To experience diversity in Northern Berkshire is to participate in the Martin Luther King Day activities. Join us.

In the spirit of Martin Luther King day and in the promotion of his concepts of peace and tolerance, let's all spend some time considering how we treat each other. Civility is the word here. It is a mantra that has kept civilizations alive and active for generations, and one that we need to keep in mind with our neighbors and colleagues. How we treat each other is as important as what occurs.

February's monthly coalition meeting will address the many issues of child care. In order for the community to support livable family wages, we need a strong social infrastructure and child care is an important component of that infrastructure. Save the date! February's meeting will be Friday, February 9th. - *Al B*

Northern Berkshire Legislative Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Rep Shaun Kelly | 399 Main Street Dalton 01226 | 684-5133 |
| Sen Andrea Nuciforo | 74 North St Pittsfield 01201 | 442-6810 |
| Cong John Olver | 78 Center St Pittsfield 01201 | 442-0946 |
| Rep Dan Bosley | 3 Elmwood Avenue NA 01247 | 663-7486 |

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE COALITION

Martin Luther King Day Celebration : 1/15/2001

"Together We Can Make A Difference" is the powerful theme of this year's annual MLK Day celebration, which will be held on Monday, January 15th at the first Baptist Church in North Adams. (Eagle St. entrance). You are invited to come for morning refreshments at 10:00 A.M., then join us upstairs for an exciting program moderated by Alex Daugherty, MLK Co-Chair. The Reverend Wes Williams of the United Methodist Church of Boston, will deliver the keynote. Rev. Williams, a personal acquaintance of Dr. King, is also an accomplished speaker whose work reflects Dr. King's teachings.

We are happy to present for the first time on MLK Day, appearances by the Karen School of Dance from Adams, the Blafield Children's Chorus of the Berkshire Lyric Theater, and the Youth Choir from the First United Methodist Church of North Adams. A mainstay of our celebration is the popular Ellen Abbott who will rally us with her songs about the Berkshires. Local school children that participated in our essay contest regarding the theme will be awarded prizes for the best entries related to the theme. They will also be invited to read their essays. The MLK Committee will announce their first annual Book Donations to a local library. The first recipient of this year is the North Adams Public Library. The books will be formally presented to the librarians during the program.

Among the highlights of the day is the Peacemaker Award. This year, the recipient is Ms. Rosalie Girard, a Certified Lactation consultant, whose work has supported, nurtured and helped children and their families for over sixteen years in this region. Mayor Barrett will make the official presentation to Ms. Girard.

Of course, the luncheon will consist of delicious Subway sandwiches and a potluck of wonderful contributions from the community. For dessert, there will be a birthday cake for all in memory of Dr. King. Workshops facilitated by the Human Rights & Relations Task Force and the IICD will be part of the afternoon's activities, which will also include Button-Making projects for children and a MLK Logo contest for everyone. The annual Interfaith Worship Service will close the day's program with inspiring readings, prayers and songs from the clergy and choirs.

The MLK Day Celebration including lunch is free and open to the public. We encourage you to come and bring your families and friends to reflect, to enjoy, and have fun. - *Brenda H. Thomas, MLK Co-Chair*

Transportation Study Proceeds

A small subcommittee representing the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority has been working to better understand the transportation opportunities for Northern Berkshire residents who do not own cars. Zoe Neaderland, of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is convening this process. There are three activities planned to better understand the transportation infrastructure in North County. The committee is developing a survey that will go to people without cars to better understand their needs and resources. The "Inventory of Transportation Resources for the Elderly and the Disabled" is in the process of being updated for North County. A survey will be developed for local human services to better assess their capacity for transporting people and to get their perspective on the transportation needs for people without cars.

It is hoped that the Transportation Task Force will reconvene in February to look at the progress of the group and to help in the survey process of the car-less. For information about this group, or to offer your help, contact the Coalition office and you will be informed of the next meeting of the Transportation Task Force. - *A. Bashevkin*

Red Cross To Provide Transportation for Elders

Elder Services of Berkshire County is pleased to announce the awarding of \$12,000 in funds from the Federal Older Americans Act to the Berkshire County Chapter of the American Red Cross for transportation to medical treatments in Central Berkshire County. People over 60 are the target recipients of these grant funds. The grant is for December 15, 2000 through September 30, 2001. Elder Services is the Area Agency on Aging for the 32 Berkshire County cities and towns.

The role of the Area Agency on Aging is to administer the Older Americans Act and serve as an umbrella agency for aging programs and information throughout the county. Through the Older Americans Act, Elder Services awards Title III grants to fund needed community services. The grant from Elder Services will enable the Red Cross to expand its existing transportation services by targeting elders throughout the county who must get from North and South County into Pittsfield for treatments such as dialysis, radiation and chemotherapy.

Anyone in need of this or other aging services may call Elder Services at 499-0524 or 1-800-544-5242 for more information. - *Louise Weeden*

Volunteer Drivers Needed

The medical transportation service of the American Red Cross Emergency Services Department is made possible by their incredibly generous and dedicated volunteer drivers. At present, the Red Cross maintains a roster of thirty men and women who contribute many hours behind the wheel of our five-car fleet. Some volunteers drive every week, while others drive less frequently. They have drivers who prefer to stay within the county, and those who like the longer Boston area trips. Consequently, the Red Cross can never have too many drivers on their roster. For more information, please contact: Joe Coates, 413-442-1506.

Berkshire County is fortunate to have special transportation services, not a standard feature of every Red Cross Chapter. Funded in part by the United Way, County, and State Government, special transportation services is also dependent on the voluntary contributions of our patrons. Seniors, or people with special needs because of limited mobility or other disabilities, are eligible for Red Cross transportation services.

For more information about driving for the Red Cross, please call: 413-442-1506 or 800-332-2030.

New Funding from REACH

The REACH Community Health Foundation has awarded \$81,000 in grants to four local programs that will focus on children and youth health. The REACH Board of Directors approved five grants on Wednesday, Dec. 13, that will help to reduce the number of women who smoke while pregnant, and to improve the skills of young parents in managing the mental and physical development of their children.

Programs funded by REACH consisted of:

- **Outreach to reduce smoking among pregnant women by 25% in one year:** \$30,000 awarded to a collaborative effort of North Adams Regional Hospital and the Family Tobacco Education and Outreach Project of Child Care of the Berkshires to create a tobacco treatment program targeted at pregnant women. The program will make available treatment services that fit the needs of pregnant women, providing immediate referral, intensive counseling, transportation, and child care if needed. The goal is to improve the health of pregnant women and their babies, and to promote a healthy birth outcome.

- **Teen pregnancy childbirth classes:** \$14,000 for childbirth classes specifically designed to meet the needs of teen parents. A collaboration of childbirth educators from North Adams Regional Hospital, the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Northern Berkshire, Berkshire Nursing Families, Passages, and the Cooperative Childbirth Association will offer classes to engage more pregnant couples in childbirth education.

- **Father's outreach project:** \$9,600 to Child Care of the Berkshires, Inc., to expand outreach to fathers and to provide parent education and support for fathers. The grant will be used to increase the hours of the Fathers' Outreach Specialist. The goal of the program is to improve parent-child interactions and to stabilize and support families with young children.

- **Comprehensive lactation support:** \$20,000 to Berkshire Nursing Families to increase the number of women who use the lactation support program that is available to all nursing families in the area. Berkshire Nursing Families will also add a component directed at prenatal education of teen parents.

- An additional planning grant of \$7,400 has been reserved by REACH to assist with the creation of a future program which will provide an ombudsman or advocate for children as well as more intensive support for nutrition services. – *Paul Hopkins*

New Years Resolution ?

Recently, and with much prodding, I agreed to appear on Northern Berkshire Tonight. The topic included BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS. I asked one of my volunteers, Barbara Baran, to appear on the show to speak from a volunteers perspective. After the taping, Barbara said we should have suggested folks watching give thought to becoming big sibs as their New Year Resolution. Al and I think this is a GREAT idea! The time commitment is a couple of hours a week, at a time mutually agreed upon between the Big and Little. The activity is also mutually agreed upon. The most important component of the Bigs and Littles relationship is spending time together. It matters not if you are sliding, skating or sipping cocoa. It matters not if you are playing pool, Monopoly or a game of cards. What matters most is the time the Big spends with a Little and the importance the child feels from this relationship. Children in our community need to spend quality time with mature, responsible caring adults. And my guess is if you are reading this article, you are mature, responsible and caring. Won't you consider being a mentor as your 2001 resolution? For more information, contact me, Sarah Kline at 663-7588 – *Sarah Kline*

ELDER ASSISTANCE: Elder Services of Berkshire County 664-6512; COA Clarksburg, 664-6605; COA Adams, 743-8333; COA North Adams 662-3125; COA Williamstown 458-8250; COA Savoy 743-2132; COA Cheshire 743-1172; COA Lanesboro 448-2682.

EMPLOYMENT: Berkshire Works 663-7563; Massachusetts Department of Employment Security 663-1111.

FAMILY PLANNING: Tapestry Health Systems 663-8846; Liferight of North Adams 664-4106.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance 663-1100; Social Security 664-7951 or 1-800-772-1213; Family Life Support Center 664-8279; Unemployment Compensation 663-1111; Veteran's Assistance in North Adams 662-3040; Northern Berkshire Community Action 663-3014.

FOOD: Northern Berkshire Community Action 663-3014; Berkshire Food Project 664-7378; Meals on Wheels (Elder Service of Berkshire County) 664-6512; Food Stamps 663-1100; Women, Infants, and Children WIC 663-3012; Salvation Army 663-7987; Williamstown Food Pantry 458-5443; Northern Berkshire SHARE noon-4 p.m. 664-7400; A.M.E.N. 743-0947; or Refer to your local Council on Aging listed under Elder Assistance.

FUEL: No. Berkshire Community Action 663-3014; Weatherization Program 1-866-216-6200; Salvation Army 663-7987.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: Massachusetts Citizen Information 1-800-392-6090.

HEALTH CARE: North Adams Regional Hospital 664-5000; Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice of Northern Berkshire 664-4536; Ecu-Health Care, Inc. 663-8711; Northern Berkshire Health Systems 664-5140.

HIV/AIDS: AIDS Hotline 1-800-342-2437; North Adams Regional Hospital 664-5140; American Red Cross 1-800-332-2030; Berkshire AIDS Coalition 442-1506.

HOME HEALTH CARE: Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Northern Berkshire 664-4536; with disabilities, Ad Lib 662-2650.

HOUSING: Adams Housing Authority 743-5924; North Adams Housing Authority 663-5379; Williamstown Housing Authority 458-8282; Western Mass Legal Services 664-4531; Habitat for Humanity 664-4440; Elder Service of Berk. County/Pittsfield Adult Care Program 1-413-499-0524; Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority 1-413-443-7138.

LANDLORD/TENANT ISSUES: Western Mass. Legal Services 664-4531; Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority 1-413-443-7138; Family Life Support Center 664-8279.

LEAD SERVICES: Education: Child Care of the Berkshires Lead Education Project 663-6593; Testing: Massachusetts Department of Public Health 1-413-586-7525.

LEGAL SERVICES: Western Massachusetts Legal Services (public entitlement, tenant rights) 664-4531; Disabilities Law Center 1-800-222-5619.

LITERACY: North Berkshire Reads 664-0078; Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County 1-413-499-9487.

MEDICAID: Mass Health 1-800-332-5545.

MEDICARE: Social Security (entitlement) 664-7951; (reimbursement) 1-800-882-1228.

MEN'S COUNSELING: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Berkshire Batterers Intervention Program 1-413-445-9160

MENTAL HEALTH: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Alliance for the Mentally Ill, 1-413-443-1666; NARH Greylock Behavioral Health Services 664-5368.

MENTAL RETARDATION: Berkshire Support Services 664-9345; BFAIR 664-9382; Ad Lib 662-2650.

NURSING HOME INFORMATION: Ombudsmen Program 664-6512 or 1-800-462-5540.

PARENTS: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Parents Place 664-4597; Parenting Partnership; Child Care of the Berkshires 664-4725; Family Net 664-4821; Parents Helping Parents 1-800-882-1250; N. Adams Public Schools: LINC'S Parent Center 664-7512.

PREGNANCY: Tapestry Health Systems 663-8846; Liferight of North Adams 664-4106; WIC 663-3012; Child Care of the Berkshires 663-6593; Post-partum support group VNAHNB, Kathy Catelotti 664-4536; Passages/Healthy Families 664-6104.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES: Tapestry Health Systems 663-8846.

SHELTER/HOMELESS: Family Life Support Center 664-8279; Louison House 743-7957.

TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMS: Tobacco Awareness Collaborative of Northern Berkshire 458-4024; Family Tobacco Education Project 663-6593; North Adams Tobacco Awareness Program 663-9242; WIC Smoking Cessation Program 663-3012; North Adams Regional Hospital 664-5522.

TRANSPORTATION: Berkshire Regional Transit Authority 1-800-292-2782; Councils on Aging: North Adams 662-3126; Adams 743-8333; Clarksburg 664-6605; Williamstown 458-8250; Medical appointments, American Red Cross 1-800-332-2030 or 1-413-442-1506.

VETERAN'S INFORMATION: Department of Veteran's Affairs 1-800-827-1000; North Adams 662-3040.

VISITING NURSES: Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Northern Berkshire 664-4536.

WOMEN'S SERVICES: Elizabeth Freeman Center 663-9709 (Latina Counselor Available); MHSAB 664-4541.

YOUTH CENTERS: Williamstown 458-5925; Adams 743-3550; Northern Berkshire Y.M.C.A. 663-6529; COTY Center 663-3133.

For more information call Northern Berkshire Community Coalition 663-7588

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE HUMAN SERVICES CALL GUIDE

Sponsored by Northern Berkshire Community Coalition January 2001

24 -Hour Emergency Service

ABUSE, CHILD: Massachusetts Department of Social Services 1-413-236-1800 or 1-800-792-5200 after hours or 1-800-292-5022.

ABUSE, ELDERLY: Elder Services of Berkshire County 1-800-544-5242; Hotline 1-800-922-2275.

AA HOTLINE: Hotline 1-413-443-0212.

BATTERED WOMEN: Elizabeth Freeman Center 663-9709.

CRISIS INTERVENTION: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires(MHSAB) 664-4541; NARH Greylock Behavioral Health Services 664-5368.

DISASTER: American Red Cross of Berkshire County 1-800-332-2030 or 1-413-442-1506.

DRUG ABUSE: McGee Unit, Hillcrest Hospital 1-800-222-1664; for overdose No.Adams Regional Hospital ER 664-5256; Narcotics Anonymous Hotline 10413-443-4377; National Substance Abuse Hotline 1-800-662-4357.

FOOD & SHELTER: Salvation Army 663-7987; Family Life Support Center 664-8279; or Local Police Departments.

POISON: NARH ER 664-5256 or Poison Control Center 1-800-682-9211.

RAPE CRISIS & SEXUAL ASSAULT: Elizabeth Freeman Center 663-9709; or Local Police Departments.

STATE POLICE: 743-4700

SUICIDE: Emergency Services of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541 or 1-800-252-0227.

FIRE-POLICE-AMBULANCE 911

Services and Specialized Information For the Northern Berkshire Community

ABORTION, FINANCIAL AID: Abortion Rights Fund of Western MA 1-413-582-3532 or 1-800-450-6000.

ABUSE, CHILD: Massachusetts Department of Social Services 1-413-236-1800, and 1-800-792-5200 after 5 p.m.; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Parenting Partnership 664-4725; Child Care of the Berkshires 663-6593.

ABUSE, DOMESTIC: Elizabeth Freeman Center 663-9709; Berkshire Batterers Intervention Program 1-413-445-9160.

ABUSE, ELDERLY: Elder Abuse Hotline 1-800-922-2275; Elder Services of Berkshire County 1-800-544-5242 in North Adams 664-6512.

ABUSE, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Disabled Persons Protection Commission 1-800-426-9009; Ad Lib, 662-2650 or 1-800-232-7047.

ADOLESCENT SERVICES: Key Emergency Shelter and Counseling Services 1-413-443-7218; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Massachusetts Department of Social Services 1-413-236-1800; UNITY 663-4588; Berkshire Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy 1-413-448-2279.

ADOPTION: Massachusetts Department of Social Services 1-413-236-1800; (Post Adoption) Berkshire Center for Families & Children 663-7773.

ADULT DAY CARE: Adult Day Health Center 664-4048 or 662-3325.

ADULT EDUCATION: Learning Services Center of MCLA 662-5308; Parent's Place 664-4597; Berkshire Works 663-7563.

ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE: Substance Abuse Services of MHSAB 664-4541; Al-Ateen & Alanon 1-413-445-5852; Narcotics Anonymous 1-413-443-4377; Driver Alcohol Education Program 1-413-445-9160/1-413-445-9363; NARH Greylock Behavioral Health Services 664-5368; McGee Unit, 1-413-442-1400.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: Support Group, 2nd Tues., 7:00 - 9:00 at VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire 664-4536.

BEREAVEMENT: Support Group, meets 1st Mon., 6:30 - 8:00 at VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire 664-4536.

CHILD CARE: Berkshire Center for Families & Children 1-413-448-8281; Resources for Child Care 1-877-443-7830; Child Care of the Berkshires 663-6593.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) 663-3012; MHSAB Early Intervention (0-3 yrs) 662-3315 or 664-4541; Child Care of the Berkshires 663-6593; Head Start 664-4829; Hand in Hand @ Elizabeth Freeman Center 663-9709; Western Mass. Girl Scout Council 1-413-584-2602 or 1-800-462-9100 ex. 22; 4-H Youth Development 1-413-448-8285.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Northern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce 663-3735; Consumer Advocates 1-413-443-9128; Consumer Credit Counseling Services 1-800-282-6196.

COUNSELING: Northern Lights Program 664-4018; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires 664-4541; Counseling Center of the Berkshires 458-3279.

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING: Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing 1-800-882-1155; Ad Lib 663-6200; Massachusetts Relay Service 1-800-439-2370 for TTY access; 1-800-0183 for voice access or Dial 711 in Mass.

DISABILITIES, PEOPLE WITH: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission 663-5391; Ad Lib 662-2650 or 1-800-232-7047; Information Center 1-800-462-5015; Northern Berkshire Support Services 664-9345; Massachusetts Commission for the Blind 1-800-332-2772 or 1-800-392-6450; North Adams Commission on Disabilities 662-3014; Carson Center For Traumatic Brain Injury Services 1-413-572-4114.

Volunteers Needed for Community Activities

VOLUNTEERS FOR BAY STATE GAMES - All volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Volunteers are needed at all sports events. Locations include : Jiminy Peak, Brodie Ski Area, Cranwell Resort, Williams College Lansing Rink, and Vietnam Veterans Skating Rink. Volunteers are also needed to assemble the athletes' packets on Sunday, January 21, 2001 beginning at 9 a.m. at Western Gateway Heritage State Park in NA in the Shipper's Office. For further information or to volunteer, call 663-6312, Or download an application from the website at www.baystategames.org.

AMERICAN RED CROSS, seeking volunteer drivers for county and state. First Aid and CPR training provided. Also seeking members for their Disaster Action Team. 442-1506, (800) 322-2030.

BENNINGTON MUSEUM, W. Main St., Vt. volunteers needed for genealogy library, help w/special events, office and gift shop or to meet and greet bus tours act as gallery guide or docent. Training provided. (802)447-1571.

BERKSHIRE CENTER FOR FAMILIES and CHILDREN, volunteers needed for Homework Club and Mentoring Moms. High school students willing to tutor elementary school students, 443-1609. Women role models for Redfield house program for pregnant and parenting young mothers 448-2997.

BERKSHIRE MUSEUM, 39 South St., Pittsfield. Volunteers needed in most areas of the museum. Also looking for interns. 443-7171, ext. 20.

BERKSHIRE TEEN NETWORK seeks volunteers and camp counselors. 448-2279.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES for child abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to research and advocate children's cases. Guardian Ad Litem volunteers assure children reach homes. seeking volunteers for fall training program. 445-6877, www.casanel.org

ELDER SERVICES VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS. Elder Services, 66 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield. Volunteers to assist elders with budgeting, reading mail, check writing, or to meet with and address the concerns of residents in area nursing homes, 1 hr./ month. Grocery shopping aides needed. 499-0524.

FRESH AIR FUND program, bringing inner city N.Y. children ages 6-12 to the country for a two week summer vacation, needs host families for summer 2001. host families may select the gender and age of their guest. (800) 367-0003, www.freshair.org.

GIRLS INC. LOOKING FOR BIG AND LITTLE SISTERS. Women 18 and older who can make at least one-year commitment encouraged to apply. 442-5174.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES. Volunteers needed for a number of tasks. Please call 442-0061.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY immediate need for volunteer project supervisor for next building project, coordinated with NBHfH and McCann High School. Will work on site. 664-4440.

IMAGES CINEMA. Volunteers in exchange for free admission. 458-5612, email comments@imagescinema.org or stop by after 6:30 p.m.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS. Volunteers needed to facilitate support groups for parents who are at risk for child abuse. Training and support provided. Call (800)882-1250.

RECORDING FOR BLIND AND DYSLEXIC. Williamstown Studio needs more volunteers. 458-3641.

Thanks to iBerkshire.com for compiling this list of volunteer opportunities. This list is a regular feature of their website.

ESOL Classes Available

Free ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes are now available in Williamstown. The instructor for the classes is Mila Kirshteyn and the classes meet at Williams College on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:30-8:30PM, starting December 5, 2000. Students can enroll by coming directly to class or, preferably, by contacting John Breen, Northern Berkshire ABE Program Coordinator at 662-5308. Please call (662-5310) or email (jbreen@mcla.mass.edu) for more information. Enrollment is ongoing. Please spread the word. - *John Breen*

Nursing Home Ombudsmen Needed

Elder Services of Berkshire County announces a training program for volunteers wishing to serve as ombudsmen who protect the rights of citizens residing in nursing and rest homes. Volunteers who successfully complete this three day training program, January 10,11, and 12, 2001, will be able to receive, investigate, and mediate complaints made by or on behalf of, nursing and rest home residents.

For additional information on the Ombudsman Program or to inquire about joining the training program to become a certified ombudsman, call Dorinda Gamberdella, Ombudsman Supervisor, at 499-0524, ext. 126. *Louise Weeden*

Louison House Project Published by Constitutional Rights Foundation

"Elementary Students Tailor Homeless Project to Hit Academic Standards, Ease Classroom Conflict" is the title of an article about a North Adams classroom. Linda Reardon, teacher at Sullivan Elementary School, and her students have partnered with the Louison House to create a Service-Learning project that has developed and grown over the years. The youth have created care bags of goodies including books with book reviews and personal care items. They have planted a perennial garden and built an outdoor sand box at the home. They have painted and decorated and learned curriculum while developing an understanding of hope and human dignity.

The Constitutional Rights Foundation is among the leading national organizations promoting school-based youth service and service-learning. Since 1962, CRF has used education to address some of America's most serious youth-related problems: apathy, alienation, and lack of commitment to the values essential to the democratic way of life.

The North Adams project was chosen for publication as an example of a community project that link service learning to standards-based education. The Louison House project was profiled as an example of best practices in Service-Learning.

8 - Deb Coyne

The Kids Place Offers New Program For Boys Who Are Victims of Sexual Abuse

When most of us think about child sexual abuse the image conjured up is of a female victim and an older male perpetrator. While this scenario is true in many of the cases that come to the attention of authorities, research indicates that boys are nearly as likely to be the victims of sexual abuse as girls. Studies of college students over the past ten years have shown that about one in six males report having been sexually abused as children. The estimate for females is one in four.

Although the Berkshire County SAIN (Sexual Assault Intervention Network) team is quite knowledgeable about boys' victimization, the team rarely interviews boys over eight years old. This could very well indicate that boys, to a much greater extent than girls, learn to tough it out as a function of early socialization, which teaches boys not to be vulnerable or express emotions. Nearly 75% of the children interviewed at The Kids' Place through our SAIN program, since July 1996, have been girls. This gender disparity increases as children get older. Boys over the age of ten rarely make disclosures of sexual abuse or seek treatment. In general, if a boy hasn't disclosed abuse by age eight, it is highly unlikely that any disclosure will be made until well into adulthood, if at all. When compared to girl victims of sexual abuse, boys are much less likely to identify behavior as abusive (particularly if the perpetrator is female), to report abuse to others, and to reach out to treatment programs for healing and support.

Out of concern for this under-served population, The Kids' Place has developed a program to specifically meet the needs of boys who are victims of abuse. Funded by The Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, this new program will offer comprehensive individual and group treatment to boys and their non-offending family members. Two local therapists, **Randy Fisher** and **Robert Boylston** have been consulting on the project. According to Mr. Fisher, "The symptomology of boys who have been abused generally differs from girls, with boys displaying more disruptive, aggressive behaviors, in addition to problems with attention. In treatment, boys are much less responsive to traditional 'talk therapies' and more responsive to activity based therapies which are grounded in the achievement of competence and mastery of goals."

Components of the program will include: community outreach and education, assessment and planning, individual and group treatment, adventure and activity based programming, family therapy, parent education, case management and community coordination.

Joshua Bohmier who comes to The Kids' Place from Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Camp E-Wen-Akee, a residential treatment program for boys in Benson Vermont, has joined the clinical team as the Boys Counselor.

We, at The Kids' Place, take pride in our ability to develop innovative, cutting edge programs in order to reach and respond to more victims of child abuse and their families. This new program will add to our already existing responsive, activity-based therapies for child abuse victims from throughout the county. - *"as published in The Kids Place Newsletter Fall 2000 issue"*

Coalition Bulletin Board

- **Volunteers needed!!** 4-H is always looking for adults willing to get involved with youth (6-18) in our community. Interested? call Angelica at 413-448-8285.
- Maggie Bittman will be facilitating a group, "Greeting Mid-life". She has been providing services to the Northern Berkshire Community since 1978. She is a licensed Mental Health Counselor in private practice on Church Street in North Adams since 1988. Call her at 743-1520 to pre-register and for additional information.
- The **Children's Medical Security Plan** is pleased to announce **dental benefits**. As of May 1, 2000, members will be eligible for: exams, X-rays, cleaning, fluoride treatment, sealants, fillings, extraction's, full or partial root canals, crowns and space maintainers. For more info call 1-800-531-2229.
- Free, **confidential HIV testing** is offered at North Adams Regional Hospital on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 11 a.m. Those interested should arrive at NARH's Emergency Department waiting area at 11 a.m. and may have to wait briefly to be seen. For info call 664-5140.
- For **inclusion in the Coalition calendar**, be sure to get your announcement into the Coalition office. E-mails are the best way, albash@bcn.net
- When you are running off flyers to announce community events and concerns, be sure to **fax a copy to Northern Berkshire Community Television (NBCTC)**, so we can post it on our Community Bulletin Board. NBCTC 663-3924.
- **Northern Berkshire Reads'** An Adult Library Literacy Program based in the public libraries in Adams, N. Adams, and Williamstown is looking for tutors and adult learners. The program provides tutors to individuals over 16 years old who need help with basic literacy or English as a second language. Please call Dedee Hynes at 664-0078.
- **The New World Fund**, founded last year, invites applications for grants between \$100-500 for new immigrants and programs that serve them. Call Abby Pratt, 413-274-6257 or Maeve O'Dea 800-969-2823.
- **Northern Berkshire Domestic Violence Task Force Meetings** are held the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m., 85 Main Street, third floor, room 311. The meeting for January will be on the 17th (Weds) 2:00 p.m., 3rd floor. For information, please contact Liz at 663-9709.
- **The annual UCP Telethon will take place Jan. 21st, 2001.** We are looking for help on that day from 2-6p.m. And donations are needed. Please contact (the Northern Berkshire UCP office) at 664-9345 ext. 15 or Pittsfield UCP office 413-442-1562, to volunteer or donate.
- The new website with current social and economic information about Northern Berkshire County is up and running. Visit the site at <http://lanfiles.williams.edu/jbacon/nbcweb>. Contact Jean Bacon 597-2566 to answer any questions.
- **"Urgent Care" services are available at North Adams Regional Hospital** Emergency Department. Urgent care is available for less serious illnesses and injuries, and is provided by physician assistants and nurse practitioners. For more information, please call 664-5742.
- **CHOICE (Children Helping Others In Caring Environments)** A community service learning program for 8 & 9 year olds who recycle bottles and cans with deposit value and donates the money to agencies that provide food for the less fortunate in our community. Call COTY Youth Center (663-3133) for a pick up. Funding for this program is provided through the Massachusetts Service Alliance.
- When you're running off flyers to announce programming and community events, send one to **Northern Berkshire Community Television**, by fax, 663-3924 or by e-mail, nobctv@bcn.net. NBCTV will post the information on their Video Bulletin Board.

Proposals Sought for Human Rights

Public Welfare Foundation's Human Rights and Global Security program is seeking letters-of-inquiry (or proposals) from grassroots community-based organizing efforts in the following areas:

- **Countering Hate-Motivated Activity and Discrimination:** Supports community-based efforts that address hate-motivated activity and discrimination directed at people because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or national origin, and understanding that such problems cannot be addressed separately.
- **Immigration and Refugees:** Supports community based programs that provide services to and advocacy for immigrants and refugees to the United States.
- **International Human Rights:** Supports efforts to promote and protect economic, social, political and civil rights and to promote the development of democratic institutions, with a particular focus on efforts in El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico and South Africa.

- **Global Security:** Supports programs that provide information and public education on reducing weapon systems, eliminating biological and chemical weapons and land mines and restraining the spread of nuclear arms.

More information about Public Welfare Foundation and its funding guidelines can be found on its Internet web site at www.publicwelfare.org, or by calling 202-965-1800. *A Pratt*

Soldiers Wanted for Campaign for Community Participation

The Campaign for Community Participation was conceived during the November Coalition meeting. The conversation about the Campaign raised more questions than answers. What opportunities are available for residents to participate in community activities? Where do people see each other? How do we mingle? And why are we interested in bringing people together?

"A healthier community is not just some random outcome. It is instead the result of caring, committed individuals joining together in an ambitious joint effort"

I would propose that as a step for an intentional movement to build a healthier community to occur, we need to think about how people come together. We need to catalogue and market the opportunities people have to meet and work together. And we need media partners to talk and work with us as we seek out new ways of coming together.

Local school activities, whether they be sports, plays, musical revues, or just getting together with your child's classmates and families seem to be one of the most popular ways to bring people together. Lacking kids in school, lunch time and dinner time at one of the local eateries bring people out. Of course if employed locally, we see much of our workmates. Our public libraries are a place to see others and grab a book at the same time. Shopping at a local store allows us the opportunity to see others we live with. Government meetings, local organizational gatherings, neighborhood meetings, and participation in our faith community are excellent ways to be with our neighbors. These are some ways that people come together, but there are more and my list is limited by my experiences and culture in Northern Berkshire.

In a recent national study by the Coalition for Healthier Communities, over three hundred cities nation wide had conversations about what makes their communities healthy. The distillation of these conversations are what the Coalition calls the "Seven Patterns of a Healthy Community." These patterns for communities are : practices ongoing dialogue, generates leadership, shapes its future, embraces diversity, knows itself, connects people and resources, and creates a sense of community.

Take a moment and think about the activities listed above. Where do they occur in Northern Berkshire? How do we support what works? Many of these activities are at the core of the mission of the Community Coalition, but the Coalition is but one participant amidst many different cultures and systems in Northern Berkshire. We need to make the Coalition one of the players among many in a much larger local movement to build a healthier community.

The Campaign for Community Participation needs soldiers from a variety of experiences who have ideas and energy about fostering a healthier community. Got some ideas about how to make it work? Join us. – **Al Bashevkin**

Durable Medical Equipment Available for Loan

As a result of Berkshire Disability Pride Day and the need to access the stage, a necessity was met. Due to the generosity of Bob Wells of the Berkshire Bank and the City of Pittsfield, a new \$7000 wheelchair lift has been made available for loan to the residents of Berkshire County. The lift is a hand cranked platform that raises to 5 feet in the air. It is ideal to get onto stages, trains, or other sites that are inaccessible by wheelchairs.

With the increased need for handicapped accessibility and the inability to put in permanent ramps becoming a reality, UCP will provide a portable ramp for temporary use. The maximum height the ramp will accommodate is three steps which equates to a length of 10 feet.

These items are ideal for the physically challenged individual whether they are permanently or temporarily disabled. Now accessibility can be provided for that church wedding, reception hall, family gathering, or any event that is conducted in a place that does not provide for handicap access.

In addition, telephones and other durable medical equipment are available from UCP. There are no charges to borrow these items. All you need to do is contact Steve at UCP in Pittsfield (442-1562). He will make the necessary arrangements and ensure that the equipment is properly installed and instructions given for its safe operation.

UCP will gladly pick up used medical equipment in good condition for their Loaner Program, just call Steve at 442-1562. Of particular need at present, are wheelchairs and shower chairs.



“Superhero Grooove” Raises \$100 for Northern Berkshire Community Action

“Superhero-Grooove” was held at Eagles Hall on December 8th with an audience of more than 100 people, raising \$100 for Northern Berkshire Community Action. DJ Denning played from 8:00 to 10:00 and Drury punk band ROTN (Revenge of the Nerds) played from 10:00 to 11:00. The event included door prizes, a hoola hoop contest, and a costume contest. The Grooove’s next event will be Chick Nite at Papyri Books on January 26 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The program is free and open to all audiences, and will include performances from teen female musicians and a poetry open mike. If you would like to perform, please contact Erica at 663-7588 or email the_grooove@yahoo.com.



UNITY Middle Schoolers Discuss Peer Pressure

The second middle school forum of the year was held at Adams Memorial Middle School on December 5 around the theme of Peer Pressure, with an attendance of 40 students from Adams Memorial Middle School, Conte Middle School, Mt. Greylock Regional High School, and Clarksburg Elementary School. The discussion was led by UNITY high school seniors April May, Kristen Cummings, Amber LaGess, and Angela Sirois. The program began with a name game led by Amber LaGess and an ice-breaker led by Angela Sirois. The discussion explored the unique aspects of middle school peer pressure, positive and negative peer pressure, and different ways (non-assertive, aggressive, and assertive) to respond to peer pressure. After sharing some personal experiences, the high school presenters did some role-plays of the three responses, and then broke the group into teams to do similar role-plays around different peer pressure scenarios. Following the role-play presentations, the group discussed the role of friendship and friendship choices in peer pressure, and came up with a list of “good friend” and “bad friend” characteristics. The next MS forum will be held on February 6th at Conte Middle School around the theme of “Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs.”

UNITY High Schoolers Learn About Teen Suicide Prevention

Thirty five UNITY students representing McCann Technical School, Hoosac Valley High School, and Mt. Greylock Regional High School convened at McCann Technical School on December 7 for a discussion and training around the issue of teen depression and suicide. The presentation was led by Glenda Georgens and Rebecca Lord of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Berkshires. The presentation, based on a training program called “Life Guards,” included a survey, discussion, and film to help participants to recognize warning signs of depression and suicide and know how to respond to these signs. Participants were encouraged to 1) pay serious attention to warning signs; 2) think of at least 2 non-family adults to turn to in such situations; and 3) always tell, even if it might mean making a friend angry. Participants felt that the training was helpful in providing practical knowledge and skills in dealing with the issue. The next HS forum will be held on February 1 at Hoosac Valley High School around the theme of “Anger and Violence.”

UNITY CALENDAR

Jan 4

CommUNITY Arts

Advisory Board Meeting.

85 Main Street, 5:30-6:30.

Jan 8

UNITY Council

Meetings are the second and last Monday of every month, with the middle school Council meeting from 3:30 to 4:30, and the high school Council meeting from 5:00 to 6:00.

Jan 11

Writer’s Workshop

Session II Begins

4:00 to 5:30, 85 Main Street, North Adams.

Jan 26

Chick Nite

Sponsored by the Grooove, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Papyri Books, North Adams.

Northern Berkshire Neighbors

December Reflection

As I reflect upon the month of December and the opportunities I've had to be with neighborhood people, I sense such gratitude for the job I have with the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. We work hard during the year organizing programs and activities that bring residents together. This was a time to have fun together.

It was a wonderful month to enjoy some of the great programs that are available to people in Northern Berkshire. Mass MoCA had a community day on Dec. 2nd and that evening a group of twenty or so neighborhood leaders and their families attended a concert by the Persuasions. We took up a whole row with our extended neighborhood family. I sat next to Deja, who is three years old. This was her first concert. She instinctively knew to clap to the rhythm and delighted in the colored lights, noting every change. I delighted in her. For many, it was the first time at Mass MoCA and everyone just loved the Persuasions. A few weeks later, thanks to the Community Chest, a crew of us attended Wassail at the Adams Memorial Theater in Williamstown. Again, it was a delight to be sitting with some of my new young friends and old friends from Brayton Hill, as we sang and clapped and enjoyed the performance.

Dale Waterman of Heritage State Park prepared a candle-making workshop to which we brought the 4H and after-school program children from Mohawk Forest. It was my first time making dipped candles and I enjoyed it as much as the kids. The following week we visited the residents of Sweetwood in Williamstown and sang holiday songs. The kids were great. Three cheers for Dan Farrell, after-school program director, who drove them in the van to both activities.

Sue Daugherty invited me to the holiday celebration of the Brayton Hill play group to play the guitar and sing some songs. It was another delightful experience.

One of the definitions of opportunity is a favorable juncture of circumstances. This is the fruit of the development work of Northern Berkshire Neighbors. With many residents we have created a neighborhood based community structure that provides a sense of connection for many families. We are all richer because of these relationships. I am so grateful for the people in my life who have come to be extended family because of the work with the Coalition.

Natalie C. Cain

Coffee Break with Doris and Linda

Greylock Community Coalition

First of all we want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Now we want you to know that our Christmas party was very successful. With all the shopping, wrapping and so on we had 55 children. Each received a gift from Santa and was able to talk to him one on one, which was great. Our Santa resembled Butch Decker. What a great job, Butch! Thanks so very much. The children played games and had snacks as well.

Thanks to the parents who helped out and to the Greylock Community Club for the use of the hall. To all of the people who decorated their houses, thanks for making our neighborhood spectacular! Now we are going to have one more coffee. See you next month.

Linda Bissailon and Doris Gamache

Marilyn's Front Yard *Brayton Hill Housing Complex*

Our office building, which houses the community room, was crowded and rocking at our neighborhood Christmas party. There were many refreshments and hot chocolate for a cold winter's night. A number of people won some great door prizes. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa and his elf. They distributed special gifts to all of the children.

Thanks to Brenda and Doreen for all that they did to make this such a successful event. We appreciate the community get-togethers we have had this past year such as the November pot luck dinner, the October Halloween party, and the September Back to School picnic. We look forward to planning more such events in 2001.

Marilyn Boesse

UNO News From Shirley's Kitchen Table

The Holidays are almost over. I hope everyone had a happy and blessed holiday shared with family and friends. UNO held its second annual Holiday House Decorating contest. The homes are decorated better and better each year. UNO's steering committee had a difficult time choosing winners, however we gave out prizes to seven families. They were very excited about winning and we all had fun driving around enjoying all the lights. After the contest we came back to my house for a pizza party. UNO members judging were Art and Gail Nelson, Arlene Palumbo, Karen Cahill Wallbank and myself. We hope to do a city wide contest next year.

We will be meeting at my home on January 19th to make plans for 2001. Happy New Year to all!

Shirley A. Davis

Neighborlies

My neighbors made holidays merry and bright ... They lifted my spirits and made me feel light .. When snow came for hours and covered the ground ... help from my friends was sure to be found ... So I'm taking the time to call the Coalition ... To celebrate them with a Community Recognition.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 8

Community Wellness Advisory Board

First Baptist Church in North Adams, 8:45 AM. This prevention focussed committee will talk about what is happening for our youth. For information, call the Coalition office.

Jan 8

CHNA Meeting

Monthly meeting for Department of Public Health Berkshire County Providers and others. Meeting will be at Hillcrest Hospital from 9 AM to 10:30 AM.

Jan 8 / Jan 12

Northern Berkshire Tonite

Local Access TV at 7:30 PM (1/8) and 8 PM (1/12). Hosted by Al Bashevkin and Ken Swiatek, this month's show features Sarah Kline and Barbara Baran in a show that looks at volunteerism in Northern Berkshire and the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

Jan 8

Bereavement Support Group

VNAHNB Community Room (535 Curran Highway, NA) from 6:30 - 8 PM. Sponsored by the VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire, this support group is free of charge and open to members of the community who have experienced a loss.

Jan 10

Power of Play

Haskins Community Center at 6:30. This workshop, back by popular demand, is a hands on look at why play is important and how it shapes a child's development. Childcare provided. RSVP to 664-4821.

Jan 11

Writer's Workshop Session II Begins

As part of the COMMUNITY Arts program, this offers young writers opportunities to explore their potential in a safe environment. To register, call Erica Schmitz at 663-7588. Supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Jan 11

Infant Massage

Haskins Community Center at 10:30. Infant massage therapist Molly Kearns will present infant massage at their infant group. Bring a towel and blanket.

Jan 15

Martin Luther King Day Birthday Celebration

Our annual celebration for the birthday of Martin Luther King is a community celebration for diversity. Join us at the Baptist Church in North Adams from 10:30 AM to 3 PM.

Jan 23

Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative

Noontime at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition office. This meeting is an opportunity for all youth serving organizations to talk together about youth and their work. Lunch will be provided. For information, contact the Coalition office.

Jan 24 / Jan 31

Infant and Child CPR / First Aid

Haskins Community Center from 6 - 10 PM. \$15 fee covers the cost of the book for the class which participants keep. Register by calling 664-4821. Space is limited.

Jan 26

Chick Nite Groove Concert

Papyri Books in North Adams. 7 - 8 PM, featuring some of the best young women artists in the area. Supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Seasonal Memories



Summer activities provided by neighborhood volunteers at Greylock Housing Development



Our Make a Difference Day Volunteers who helped make the baskets for foster care children



A Public Health Incentive Grant supported activities at the South Church Street Neighborhood.



North Adams Community Police participating in a Brayton Hill neighborhood meeting.

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