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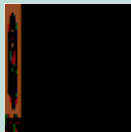
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NEXT COALITION MEETING:

Community Outreach

Friday November 14

10:00 a.m. to noon
First Baptist Church
North Adams
Eagle Street entrance



October "Food and Fuel" Forum

October's forum on the rising costs of food and fuel appeared to strike a nerve in our community, as 98 community members crowded into the community room of the North Adams First Baptist Church on October 10th. The goal for this forum was to establish what resources we have to address food/fuel needs and then to go one step further to identify gaps that might exist amongst these resources. The group also had an eye toward how organizations currently or could potentially connect in order to cover gaps. This well-attended meeting was buzzing with energy, as the room was packed and nearly everyone was eager to contribute ideas and resources to the conversation.



Participants of the October "Food and Fuel" Coalition Forum pose for a photo following the energetic discussion

The discussion on existing resources opened with an invitation to Congressman John Olver—who joined us because this month's topic particularly piqued his interest—to share what's happening on a federal level to address the rising costs of food and fuel. Congressman Olver explained a number of spending increases that Congress has authorized to this end in the areas of heating assistance, support for weatherization, and funding for WIC. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)'s funds have been doubled.

From there, many representatives from organizations such as the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts/Target: Hunger, the Berkshire Food Project, WIC, SHARE, and a variety of faith institutions helped identify what they do—both separately and collaboratively—to make meals and food supplies available to those who need them. There was some discussion on the dip in available meals on weekends, though—in a great example of how we can pull together as a community to fill service gaps—several attendees pointed out churches that noticed this and now provide meals during weekend hours.

On the topic of fuel costs, Don Atwater and Marie Harpin of Berkshire Community Action Council shared details about their fuel assistance program guidelines, described new efforts to conduct greater outreach (particularly to Councils on Aging), and talked about their collaboration with Williams College to provide winter weatherization for lower-income residents. Kate Agin of Western MA Electric offered that WMEC has a program to help customers pay off existing balances as well as an energy assistance resource guide.

As people were so engaged in the process of identifying our abundant existing resources, little time was left to address gaps in services. Ultimately, free meals on weekends emerged as an area that needs more attention. Additionally, some folks noted that, while we have numerous resources, the challenge might be making sure that those who need them are aware of what's available. Fortunately, we'll be able to further explore that conversation thread at next month's forum, which will focus on community outreach efforts. All in all, the October meeting was energetic, very informative, and sparked a lot of great conversation. Many thanks to all who attended!

-- Kate Merrigan

COALITION NEWS

Improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.

Our Mission

“Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.”

In pursuit of this mission, we place particular emphasis on the following:

- Strengthening neighborhoods and community life
- Preventing alcohol and substance abuse
- Fostering economic development
- Mitigating poverty
- Supporting positive youth development
- Building bridges between residents and service agencies

Coalition Supporters

Public Sources

- MA Department of Social Services
- MA Cultural Council
- US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

Foundation Supporters

- Fund for North Adams
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Local Support

- North Adams Human Services
- Contributions from our many individual supporters

The Coalition is a member agency of the **Northern Berkshire United Way** and the **Williamstown Community Chest**.

To submit announcements to the *Coalition News*:

The *Coalition News* is a publication of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. We encourage submissions of announcements from local organizations.

December Newsletter Deadline November 19, 2008

Please submit announcements (100 words in paragraph form) via e-mail to: jcece@nbccoalition.org or abashevkin@nbccoalition.org. If necessary, announcements may also be faxed to **413-663-9877**. Thank you!

November Coalition Meeting:

Community Outreach

Please join us on **Friday, November 14** as we discuss Community Outreach at our monthly Coalition forum. Coalition monthly forums are a vehicle to address current issues. At the forum discussion about Community Outreach, you can expect to hear current information about existing outreach efforts, talk together about how we can better coordinate our outreach efforts, and consider a neighborhood based approach using Community Health Workers to enhance our outreach work. The forum will allow the opportunity to share this important topic with others that care.

We will begin, as always, with a round of introductions, followed by brief announcements of your upcoming events or new projects. Please don't forget to bring flyers about announcements also, as there will be a display table for them in the center of the room. Childcare can be available for our meeting if you contact the Coalition office before November 8.

We hope to see you on **Friday, November 14, 10 a.m. to noon, at the First Baptist Church in North Adams.**

-- Al Bashevkin

Youth Collaborative To Discuss Green Movement Among Young People

At the October meeting of the Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative, Jim Ciullo, a consultant with the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, presented and facilitated a discussion on youth employment with Heather Shogry, Youth Director of BCREB. The Youth Collaborative learned about current initiatives in Pittsfield (the RECONNECT Center) and discussed how efforts to focus on preparing 16-21 year-olds for the workforce might spread from Pittsfield into northern Berkshire County. Given the high interest and need around this topic, future meetings were set up to discuss possibilities for bringing this project up north.

On Wednesday, November 5, Kara McCall, an MCLA student Intern working on Take Charge, will share information on ways that young people are connected to the green movement both locally and nationally, and will facilitate discussion on ideas for engaging our own youth program participants in green action. Meetings are held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and include a light lunch. For more information, please email Kate Merrigan at kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org.

-- Kate Merrigan

nbCC Seeks Program Coordinator

The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, in cooperation with the North Adams Public Schools, is looking for a program coordinator to provide and oversee programming for children and youth at Brayton Hill Apartments, and to coordinate with other after school programs. This person will need weekday afternoon and some early evening availability with flexibility in scheduling. Please contact **Kathy Keeser** at **663-7588** for more information.

-- Kathy Keeser

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Take Charge Announces Winter Blitz Weatherization Day!

Take Charge, working through the nbCC, is supporting the Williams College Center for Community Engagement in its efforts to improve and expand its annual weatherization program. Students have previously helped to prepare 20-30 local homes over several weekends for the winter by caulking around doors and windows, installing plastic sheeting as window insulation, and more. This year, we're hoping to improve at least 60 homes in one day: a **10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. "Winter Blitz" on Saturday, November 15**. We are recruiting students, faculty, and facilities on the Williams campus, as well as working on partnerships with MCLA and the community, to help with this great project, and are very hopeful that it will set a precedent for future years. This is a perfect example of environmental issues overlapping with other areas, such as poverty and economics; essentially, greener homes will save more money due to the high costs of heating oil. There is serious discussion right now over whether people will have to choose between food and fuel this winter. We are finding the homes through the Berkshire Community Action Council, which handles the applications for fuel assistance.

Take Charge is actively looking for people who would like to participate; individuals in the community would be especially valuable as team leaders, who would attend a training session the morning of Nov. 15, and then lead a group of 4-5 people throughout the day in their work. For more information, with questions, or to sign up, please contact **Madeline King** at mks1@williams.edu, or send an email to take.charge.north.adams@gmail.com.

-- Madeline King

Take Charge Energy Workshop Series Wraps Up

The Take Charge workshop series was a huge success! Each workshop brought more participants than the last. The aim of the workshops was to provide the community with a wide range of information relevant to saving energy. We kicked off the series with Mike Tillou who took us on a virtual tour of a home, explaining the different ways a typical home can save energy and money on their bills. Bruce Harley discussed the importance of insulation in a home and gave some great tips on how to seal off leaks and trouble spots. The third workshop brought Craig Robertson and Chris Kilfoyle, who spoke about solar power options. Participants took advantage of their extensive knowledge, continuing the question and answer segment of the presentation right up until library closing. Nancy Nylen presented participants with specific and direct ways to lower their energy bills with tips ranging from simple to more complex. All workshops were taped, thanks to Gail Cariddi, and are running on Community Television. The schedule will be up on the website. A big thanks to all of our presenters for sharing their knowledge, and to the Williamstown and North Adams Public Libraries for all their support and hospitality. We also thank our funders, the Attorney General's Office and the Henry David Thoreau Foundation through Williams College, for making this series possible. With such high attendance and interest in this series, Take Charge is looking to host a second series. If there are topics or speakers that you would like to see, contact us at take.charge.north.adams@gmail.com or post something at takechargenorthadams.org.

-- Kara McCall

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

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Washington, DC 20500
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president@whitehouse.gov

The Prevention Needs Assessment Survey is Set for 2009

The nbCC has long been surveying the youth of North County to assess the risk and protective factors that surround them. In 2006, we joined forces with other members of the Berkshire Youth Development Project to administer the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey countywide. Offered to youth in grades 8, 10, and 12, the survey has become a bi-annual assessment of how our kids are doing – individually and with their peers, at school, in their neighborhoods and in the larger community.

We are pleased to announce that the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey will be administered, prior to February school vacation, to all 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in North County. Staying connected with our youth, and learning about their perceptions and beliefs is a big part of what we do here at the Coalition. Sharpen your #2 pencils and get ready for the PNAS!

-- Lois Daunis

Safe Homes: Have You Taken the Pledge?

The Safe Homes of North Berkshire program is up and running for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are the parent or guardian of youth in grades 6-12 take a moment to read, sign and mail the pledge below:

I, _____
(Parent name – please print clearly)

I, _____
(Parent name – please print clearly)

- * I will not allow teen parties in my home or on my property when I am not present.
* I will not allow the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by teens in my home or on my property.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Grade levels of your children:

Here are three more simple things you can do to increase the effectiveness of Safe Homes:
*Spread the word. When your teenager is invited to a party, give the host's parents a friendly call. Explain that your family has a policy about drugs and alcohol at parties and ask if their family follows the same rules. If they don't, tell your teenagers that they cannot attend.

*Spread the pledge. Tell your friends and neighbors that you've taken the pledge. Explain it to them and ask if they'd like to take the pledge too. Keep some copies around the house so you'll always have the pledge on hand for them to sign.

*Spread the network. Some adults have joined the Parents Committee. This Committee selects the format for the annual Safe Homes Resource Guide and brainstorms ways to get the message out to the community. To learn more about spreading the network, call 663-7588 or email Lois Daunis, ldaunis@nbccoalition.org, or Jenna Cece, jcece@nbccoalition.org at the nbCC.

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Berkshire Idol To Benefit the Windsor School of Music

On November 15 and December 6, the public is invited to audition for Berkshire Idol, modeled after the hugely popular television program American Idol. Auditions will be held on **November 15 at 10 a.m. at the Church Street Center of MCLA in North Adams**, and on **December 6 at 10 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Pittsfield**. Anyone from the age of 10 through adult may come prepared with a 30-second a cappella piece to present.

Contestants from two age brackets, 10-15 years and 16 through adult, will be selected to compete in the second round semi-final competition on January 24, also at the MCLA Church Street Center. Six people from each age bracket will then be chosen to compete at the final competition on March 14, hosted by Tred Hulse, a popular DJ on The Morning Show, aired on 99.5 FM "The River" out of Albany. The winner of the 16 to adult category will receive \$1000.00 and four hours of studio time at Skyboro Sound. The winner of the younger category will receive a \$1000.00 savings bond (\$500.00 cash value) and four hours of studio time at Skyboro Sound.

Last year Berkshire Idol raised over \$20,000 for charity, and with the generous support from our sponsors: Hoosac Bank, iBerkshires.com, Skyboro Sound, Vacation Village, and members of the community. We hope to surpass that goal for this year's charity, the Windsor School of Music. To register or for more information, log on to <http://www.iberkshires.com/berkshireidol/>.

North Adams Service-Learning Conference

The North Adams Public Schools will host the 10th Service-Learning Conference on **Wednesday, November 19 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the MCLA campus** in partnership with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) and the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (nbCC). Service-Learning is a method of teaching and a way of learning whereby students use academic knowledge and skills to meet real community needs through service activities connected to their curriculum.

The theme for this year's conference is: "Reflections, Traditions and the Promise of Service-Learning." This tenth conference marks a significant milestone for the North Adams Public Schools Service-Learning Program and their major partners. Our local dignitaries and leaders, including North Adams Mayor John Barrett III, State Representative Daniel E. Bosley, MCLA President Mary K. Grant and nbCC Director Al Bashevkin will be in attendance to commemorate the day. They will offer reflections on the advances of service-learning as an instructional strategy and the importance of meaningful partnerships, as well as visions for the future of our youth leadership in civic engagement.

Attendance is free and open to youth, educators, community agency staff, civic leaders, and interested citizens. Sample workshop offerings include "Intro to Service-Learning," "Breaking Ground: Drury Gardens," "Top Secret Tips for Youth/Adult Partnerships," "TAKE CHARGE with Service-Learning," "Water is Essential," with additional themes of local history, pre-kindergarten service-learning, addressing hunger, bully prevention, solar energy and more! Pre-registration is necessary. **Registration deadline is November 10, 2008.** Conference registration is FREE. For more information or to register, contact **Debbie Rosselli**, Service-Learning Coordinator at Drury High School at **413-662-3240 ext 1205** or at sl_rosselli@yahoo.com.

Calling All TIPS Trainers...Please Send Proposal!

The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is seeking proposals for conducting an alcohol server training session once during the month of December 2008. The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is committed to reducing underage drinking in North Berkshire County. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community. The Coalition has used environmental strategies to prevent underage drinking through our program, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA). Training the employees of bars, restaurants, and package stores to properly check ID is an important part of our work.

Through a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, the Coalition has agreed to conduct alcohol server training in North Berkshire. Establishment owners and their employees from throughout Berkshire County may receive the training, however those located in North Berkshire will be given priority.

Please contact **Jenna Cece**, **Coordinator of CMCA**, by email at jcece@nbccoalition.org or by phone at **663-7588** for more information and for the proposal request form. All certified TIPS trainers are encouraged to apply. All proposals must be received by **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2008**. Those involved will be informed of our decision by Wednesday, November 26, 2008.

-- Jenna Cece

Extreme Makeover: Grooove Edition

In October, Grooovers decided not to host a show, but rather to step back and think about the way Grooove presents and markets itself. With the benefit of 3 student volunteers from MCLA's Arts Management Program, who will be working with Grooove through the fall semester, the teen planning committee explored ways to increase membership and audience by redesigning Grooove's image and shows. Hopefully we'll be able to debut a new look in an upcoming issue of this newsletter. Keep your eyes open!

Teen Writing Workshop Hires Facilitator

The Teen Writing Workshop has a new facilitator! UNITY youth and staff have selected Juliane Hiam Scribner to join us for this year's workshop. Juliane, a Berkshire native, has experience as a filmmaker, playwright, and columnist. Currently, Juliane is working on an original play commissioned by Berkshire Country Day School and serving as an Artist-in-Residence at Kidspace at MASS MoCA. The start date for the workshop is planned for **Wednesday, November 12!**

Youth Leadership Program: The Next Generation

UNITY kicked off the 4th year of our Youth Leadership Program on Tuesday, October 14th. During our first session, 22 teenagers from 4 high schools participated in ice-breaking games ranging from silly to serious. Of this group, 7 youth leaders were returning for a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of the program and played an active role in welcoming new folks and running the evening's activities. We opened with our traditional "rose and thorn" check-in where everyone gets a chance to share the best and worst thing about their week, moved on to an activity where participants are invited to share where they stand on different issues important to teens, and finished with a game that used Skittles to help us learn new things about each other (can't share any more details of the Skittles game here, because I wouldn't want to ruin the surprise twist for anyone else who experiences it in the future!). We here at UNITY are really looking forward to working with this interesting and diverse group of teenagers this year.

nBEAT Kicks Off!

nBEAT (northern Berkshire Exploratory Art Troop) began at a workshop on Wednesday, October 14th with some new faces and a few returnees. Space is filling up, but there is still room for 2-3 more participants, so if you know any interested middle schools students, parents or guardians please send them to **Alison**, at **663-7588** or **abasdekis@nbccoalition**.

nBEAT's first exploration is scheduled for MCLA's Gallery 51. Students will learn about the current exhibition and create a story in response to what they see. Many more explorations will follow. Stay tuned!

-- Kate Merrigan & Alison Basdekis



Early arrivals get ready to greet new members of the Youth Leadership Program



Congratulations to Grooove's new Co-Chair, Dan, seen here emceeding August's MoCA show!

“The mission of NBN is to connect and support residents within neighborhoods to build community, create stronger neighborhoods, and make linkages to groups, institutions and other resources.”

Neighborhood Volunteer Profile: Barbara McKenzie

Barbara McKenzie chooses to live in the Berkshires because her mother grew up here and she appreciates the friendliness of the people and the small town culture. Tunnel Brook has been Barbara’s neighborhood for four years where her primary concern has been raising her daughter. Until recently, she went to work and quietly tended to her own household. Her social world was small.

Last winter residents were encouraged to come together to see what they could do to address safety concerns and develop a sense of community among themselves. Barbara showed up to this meeting. She experienced listening to other peoples’ ideas, and asked herself how she could fit in with it all. Soon she found herself offering to help. It became an opportunity to widen her circle and become involved socially with others in making a positive difference.

Barbara received more encouragement when she was asked to attend the “Neighborhoods USA” conference in May. “From my side of the fence, I wondered what was out there and what other people do. I saw an extension of my own goals and met some wonderful people who are doing incredible things in their neighborhoods.”

In a short time, Barbara has learned a lot about working with others in a neighborhood setting. She began taking charge of contacting people and helped to organize a neighborhood picnic. She has seen the difference a neighborhood crime watch can make, the way a community garden can involve different generations of people in learning about food and sharing the bounty, and the generosity of neighbors helping to create positive memories for the children. As for rewards, she has many new people in her life, and her daughter sees the value of helping with projects. Though not always easy, she is willing to stay involved and do what she can.

“Like so many people, I used to wonder why ‘they’ don’t do this or that. Now I have to say ‘What about me?’ We’re all in this together and we are here because we care. In a small community, where we see each other every day, we can be more nurturing and caring. No problem is insurmountable. Everyone has something to bring to the table.”



Thanks To Williams College For Support of Neighborhood Baseball!

The Williams College Baseball Team provided a baseball clinic and scrimmage for youth from the Neighborhood Baseball program in October. Luckily, the date chosen in mid October was the only day that week with sun and nice weather! The youth enjoyed playing with and learning from the members of the baseball team. A cookout meal was provided for more than 150 youth and adults who attended this year-end event. Certificates were given to all participants of the 2008 Neighborhood Baseball Program, including coaches, volunteers and players.

Special thanks goes to Williams student Zach Miller for organizing the event, including working with fellow students and the Williams dining service to donate some of the food, arranging the date with the baseball team, barbecuing, and helping to set-up and clean-up at the event. Additional thanks goes to Justin Troiani and Evan Seely for helping to grill, set-up and clean up at the event. The Greylock Club provided super support by allowing us to use the pavilion and donating hot chocolate, coffee, paper goods and more to help us have a successful event.



-- Kathy Keeser & Natalie Cain

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Media Contacts for Northern Berkshire

All news outlets in Northern Berkshire are happy to receive press releases by e-mail. Be mindful of the deadlines for each outlet, and make sure the important details -- who, what, when, and where -- are clear in the beginning of your release. Include a contact name and phone number.

Sometimes a follow-up phone call is helpful, and if you have a relationship with a reporter, make sure he or she gets a copy, too.

Advocate	news@advocateweekly.com
Beacon (MCLA)	beacon@mcla.mass.edu
Bennington Banner	news@benningtonbanner.com
Berkshire Eagle	news@berkshireeagle.com
Berkshire Living	seth@berkshirelivingmag.com
CapNews9	news@capitalnews9.com
CBS6 Albany	mbw@wrgb.com
Gazette	gazette@berkshire.net
Hill Country Observer	calendar@hillcountryobserver.com
iBerkshires.com	info@iBerkshires.com
N. Adams Tourism Office (Rod Bunt)	tourism@northadams-ma.gov
Northern Berkshire Community TV	nbctc01@gmail.com
Time Warner	albch22ad@twcable.com
Transcript	news@thetranscript.com
WAMC Berkshire Bureau	news@wamc.org csaldo@wamc.org
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WNYT	releases@wnyt.com
Women's Times	berknews@thewomenstimes.com
WUPE/WBEC	news@wupe.com

"How Can I Quit Smoking? Your Questions Answered."

"How can I quit smoking? Your questions answered": A presentation sponsored by REACH Community Health Foundation, featuring Jake Nichols, Pharm. D., M.B.A., BCPS, Director of Clinical Affairs from the University of Massachusetts Medical School & Jennifer Civello, Tobacco Treatment Program Coordinator at NARH will be held on **Tuesday, November 4, 5:30 p.m., at the VNA, Community Room, Curran Highway, North Adams**. The program will highlight using pharmacology to assist in quitting & cessation programs offered by REACH. Refreshments provided. Call **664-5567** for information or to register. Please vote on November 4, and then join us to learn how YOU CAN QUIT!

Wordplay @ Papyri Books

Wordplay, co-sponsored by Inkberry and Papyri Books, is held the **second Saturday of each month** at Papyri Books at **7:00 p.m.** Wordplay hosts a guest author/reader each month followed by a short Q/A session, refreshments, a visit to Papyri Gallery, and Open Mic. Our featured author for November is Seth Brown, local author of three books and a contributor to The North Adams Transcript. Open Mic is an opportunity for local authors to share a snapshot of their written work within a loose five-minute limit. Papyri Gallery features the work of local photographer Ian Grey for the months of November and December. Join us **Saturday, November 8 at 7:00 pm @ Papyri Books, 45 Eagle Street, North Adams**. For additional information please call **662-2099**. Hours are: Monday – Friday: 12-6, Saturday 10-6 and Sunday on occasion.

Fall 2008 Compassion Massachusetts Trainings

All trainings through Compassion Massachusetts are open to the public. On **November 13, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce in Pittsfield**, the training will be **"Outcome Measurement"** with Doug Tanner. The second training, which is by phone, will be on **November 18, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, entitled **"Fundraising Webinar Part II"** by New England Network. On **November 19, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington**, please join us for **"Fiscal Management for Non-Profits"** with Jamie Williamson. Finally, on **December 5, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church, The COTY Center in North Adams**, the training will be **"Positive Youth Development Part I"** with Cindy-Carraway Wilson. Please contact **Kathleen Jackson** at **528-1919** to register for a training or email her at **kjackson@donahue.umassp.edu**. Space is limited!

Berkshire AHEC Presents Continuing Education Programs

On **Wednesday, November 19, "Integrating Ethics in Professional Practice: A Multidisciplinary Conference for Health and Human Service Practitioners"** will be held at the **Crowne Plaza, Pittsfield, MA**. Workshops will be offered that will examine ethical practices and decision making as they relate to the practice of health and human service professionals. Registration & continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will run until 3:30 p.m. Contact hours/credits will be offered for social workers, psychologists, marriage/family therapists and mental health and substance abuse counselors, nurses, occupational and physical therapists and nursing home administrators.

A program in recognition of World AIDS Day will be held on **Monday, December 1, 2008 at the Berkshire Hills Country Club, in Pittsfield**. The theme will be **Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise**, and this program is sponsored by Berkshire AHEC, the Berkshire HIV/AIDS Service Coordination Collaborative and the New England AIDS Training Center. Registration and continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will run until 3:00 p.m. Credits will be offered for health and human service professionals.

Please visit **www.berkshireahec.org** to register and for registration fees, deadlines and more information.

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Railway Cafe Announces November Show

The next Railway Cafe show will take place on **Friday, Nov 21 at MCLA Gallery 51 with Don White**. A cross between a stand-up comic and a sensitive singer-songwriter, Don will have you laughing and crying at the same time! Admission is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$10 for students and seniors. Special rate for those with MCLA ID. For more information, please contact railwaycafe@juno.com or visit our website at www.railwaycafe.org.

Berkshire SHARE Announces November Delivery Day

Berkshire SHARE's next delivery day will be on **Saturday, November 22, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** The last day to place an order will be **November 6**. There are currently two different offers: you may purchase the November Family Meal for \$26, or choose the Holiday Meal Package for \$30. Berkshire SHARE/ Serve New England can help stretch your grocery money. The \$26 package contains lots of healthy food choices with delicious meat options, fruits and vegetables, and a surprise product. The Holiday package includes a 14-16 pound turkey, lots of vegetables, stuffing mix, gravy, rolls, and apples. The Berkshire SHARE Co-op is open on **Thursdays 2-6 p.m.** through the red door on the parking lot side of **St. John's Church in North Adams**. Cash, checks, and EBT cards are accepted. This offer is open to all community members, regardless of income. For information, please call **664-7400**.

Thanksgiving Meals For Homebound Senior Citizens

Northern Berkshire United Way and St. John's Episcopal Church will sponsor Thanksgiving meals for senior citizens who are homebound. Residents in North Adams, Clarksburg, Williamstown, New Ashford, Savoy, Adams, Florida and Cheshire who are at least fifty-five years old and are homebound on Thanksgiving may make a reservation by calling **St. John's Church in North Adams, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at 664-9656**. The deadline for ordering dinners will be **Saturday, November 21**.

Following the tradition of Help Line, Inc., volunteers will bring meals to the homes of these homebound residents. The dinner began 24 years ago when the director of Help Line became aware that there were senior citizens in North Berkshire who went without a turkey dinner and having company on Thanksgiving Day. The dinner provides a needed service for many people in the North Berkshire area, but it also provides an opportunity for concerned community friends to come together to prepare, serve, and deliver the meals. Volunteers who wish to assist with the preparation of meals, delivery, or clean-up may also call St. John's Church.

Youth Center Inc. Will Host Make-It-Take-It Craft Fair

Youth Center Inc. has set **Saturday, December 6** for their annual Make-It-Take-It Craft Fair. The event will be held from **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center on East Street in Adams**. Featuring at least 15 crafts of varying degrees of difficulty, there is something for everyone. "People think it's just a kids craft fair, but the adults can enjoy making things too, or work on a project as a family," said Director Liz Baker. Prices range from free to \$5. For information about the event call **743-3550** or email lbaker@youthcenterinc.org. Volunteers are also being sought.

Parent Child Home Program

Calling all parents, grandparents, foster parents, or guardians: The Parent Child Home Program has begun for the fall. There is still time to enroll your toddler or preschooler. This adventure through literacy with free books and toys, that you keep, is a wonderful way to play with your child. A trained home visitor will come to your home for 1 hour a week. If you have a child between 18 months and 4 years, please give us a call for enrollment. We can schedule visits from **9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.** for your convenience. For more information, please call Program Coordinators **Gretchen Wells or Jennifer Gauthier** at our new phone number for Child Care of the Berkshires, **663-6593**.

Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders

Adams

First Baptist Church 15 Commercial Street
Pastor Donald E. Gray
First Congregational 42 Park Street 743-1677
Rev. Mike Mullany
Notre Dame Church 21 Maple Street 743-1767
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle
St. Mark's Episcopal P.O. Box 191 743-0947
Rev. R. Ellen White
St. Stanislaus Kostka 25 Hoosac St., 743-0041
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle
St. Thomas Church Columbia Street 743-0575
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle

Cheshire

Cheshire First Baptist Church 743-3649
Pastor Rick Newton
St. Mary of the Assum. 159 Church Street 743-2110
Rev. David Raymond
United Methodist Church 743-0133
Pastor Warren Scamman

Florida

Florida Baptist Church Road 664-6055
Rev. Roy Burdick

Hancock

Hancock Baptist Church Box 10A
Rev. Angela Buchauer

Lanesboro

Berkshire Union Chapel Route 8 445-4299
Rev. William D. Furey
St. Luke's Episcopal 20 S. Main Street 443-0165
Rev. Mary Schreiber

New Ashford

Christian Harvest Cntr 199 Mallory Rd 458-1083
Pastor Joseph D. Slonski

North Adams

Bethel Pentecostal 55 Harding Avenue 663-8998
Rev. Robert Bellofatto
Blackinton Union Massachusetts Avenue 458-8302
Pastor Eugene Kemp
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Holiday
Inn Annex of Amer. Legion Drive 802-694-1726
President: Jim Law
Congregation Beth Israel 53 Lois Street 663-5830
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser
COTY Center 70 Marshall Street 663-3133
Sister Eunice Tassone
First Baptist 131 Main Street 663-3780
Rev. David Anderson
First Bible Baptist 35 Notch Road 662-2107
Pastor Eric Malachuk
First Congregational 134 Main Street 663-9940
Rev. Steven Alspach
First United Methodist 159 East Main 664-9655
Rev. Dr. Pat. MacHugh
Jehovah's Witness 984 Union Street 663-5030
St. Andrews Episcopal 1438 Mass Avenue 662-2775
Rev. Peter Pierson
St. Anthony of Padua 68 Marshall 663-5316
Rev. William Cyr
St. Francis of Assisi 12 Union Street 663-5316
Rev. William Cyr
St. John's Episcopal 59 Summer Street 664-9656
Rev. Edward King
Salvation Army 393 River Street 663-7987
Russell & Cynthia Crowson

(continued on page 10)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.

Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders (Continued)

Savoy
Sovereign Grace Baptist 664 Main Road 447-8127
Pastor Kenneth Mick Jr.

Stamford, VT
St. John Bosco Chapel Main Road 802-694-1950
Father Joseph H. Tate
Stamford Community Main Road 802-694-1533
Rev. Bill Wilson

Williamstown
Baha'i Faith Williams College 458-8092
Sponsored by Williams College Baha'i Club
Community Bible Ch. 160 Bridges Rd. 458-5556
Rev. Douglas Duncan
First Baptist 731 Main Street 458-4811
Rev. Peter Daniels
First Congregational 906 Main Street 458-4273
Rev. Carrie Bail
First United Methodist 777 Main Street 458-3183
Rev. Michelle Grube
St. John's Episcopal 35 Park Street 458-8144
Rev. Peter Elvin
St. Patrick and Raphael 54 Southworth 458-5443
Rev. Mark Burke
Second Congregational 81 Hancock Rd. 458-3467
Rev. Penny Rich Smith
White Oaks Cong. 480 White Oaks Road 458-4633
Rev. Ralph "Ty" Campbell
Williams Coll. Chap. 39 Chapin Hall Dr. 597-2483
Rev. Richard Spalding

CORRECTIONS BOX:

Clarification on an October announcement:

The Youth Center Inc. and the Adams Cheshire Savoy (ACS) Youth Coalition are individual non-profit 501(c)3 agencies. The ACS Youth Coalition can be reached through Carrie Crews, Director, at ccrews@acsyouth.org. Youth Center Inc. can be reached through Liz Baker, Executive Director, at lbaker@youthcenterinc.org.

UNO Announces Plans For 2009

United Neighborhood Organization celebrated their 18th anniversary on October 1, 2008, and the UNO Steering Committee met on September 25 to plan for the remainder of 2008, and for 2009. There will not be a Halloween House Decorating contest this year, but there will be a Christmas House Decorating contest in December. In January, an "After the Holidays" party will be held at the Salvation Army Hall on River St. in North Adams. May will bring our annual Spring Fling. June is our distribution of free flowers to UNO residents, and the planting of our neighborhood community garden in conjunction with REACH Community Health Foundation. July will be our neighborhood picnic. In August, we will have our "Back to School Party." Exact dates will be announced as events get closer. For more information about UNO, please call Shirley at 663-5516.

Fall 2008 Community Recognitions Recipients Were

Honored on Tuesday, October 28!

Over 90 people, 12 businesses, 10 grassroots organizations, and local residents from community and neighborhood programs were awarded certificates of recognition at the Fall "Neighborlies" Award ceremony on Tuesday, October 28 at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams. They included the following:

Pulling Together: Adams Outdoorsmen & Berkshire County League of Sportsmen; Brayton Hill Garden Club, Greylock Valley Garden Club; UNO Garden Club; Mohawk Forest Garden Club; Tunnel Brook Garden Club; First Baptist Church of North Adams; Greylock-Lafayette Lodge of Masons; Pi Upsilon Omega sorority.

Open Studios: Jessica Conzo, Jason Morin, Sharon Carson, Diane Sullivan, Jane Hudson.

Downstreet Art: Matthew Belanger, David Carver, Jessica Conzo, Joshua Field, Denise Markonish, Jarvis Rockwell, Marianne Petit, Jonathan Secor, Diane Sullivan & City of North Adams.

Best Parents We Can Be Program: Berkshire Children and Families: Kathy Gaspardi and Marcia Hickson; Berkshire WIC: Michelle Sylvester; Child Care of the Berkshires: Ellen Baer, Amy Hall; Department for Children and Families: Ray Burke, Jane Lawless, Heidi Lennon, Jonathan Lothrop; Family Networks: Steve Denton, Chris Griffith, Charlene Lawson; LINCS Parent Center: Sue Beauchamp; Northern Berkshire Neighbors; and the Violence Prevention Center.

Community Support: Maggie Bittman, Margaret Brown, Bruce Harley, Dorothy Houston, Jennifer Munoz, Karen Murach, Officer Brian Kelly.

Program Support/Business Support: Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue, St. John's Episcopal Church of North Adams, First Baptist Church of North Adams, Berkshire Bank Foundation; Jack's Hotdogs; H.A. George & Sons Fuel Corporation; Greylock Community Club; North Adams Little League; Papyri Books; SteepleCats; Target Stores; The Transcript.

Neighborly Acts: Savoy Angel (Anonymous), Kaitlyn Arnold, Ken Aubin, Irma Baez, Gailanne Carridi, AJ (Aaron) Chappell, Jr., Keith Davis, Emily DeMoor, David Duprea, Mike Field, Nick Flynn, Nancy Fritz, Bruce Harley; Chris Horsfal, Maya Kenner, Madeline King, Ray LaBombard, Mary Lou Levanos, Cassandra Joy, Paul W. Marino, Kara McCall, Barbara McKenzie, Zach Miller, Vicky Moncecchi, Kellie Morrison, William Mullett, Bob Noel, Jeff Parkman, Damien Peters, Haley Peters, Melanie and David Rancourt, Isabella Raven, Mark Rondeau, Evan Seely, Justin Troiani, Enid Shields, Nate Trong, Bryan Zatorski.

Beautification: Mary Georgini.

Thanks to those who took the time to make these recommendations.

Improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.

November 5, 11:00 a.m.

Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative

The monthly meetings are held **the first Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 11:00 a.m.** at the Coalition, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams. At the November meeting, the group will hear from Kara McCall, an MCLA student intern working on Take Charge, who will share information on ways that young people are connected to the green movement, both locally and nationally. To get on the group's e-mail list, contact **Kate Merrigan** at kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org.

TBA in November, 7:00 p.m. (Mt. Greylock)
November 19, 5:30 p.m. (Adams)

CMCA Strategy Team Meetings

Adams Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (AMCA) and Mt. Greylock Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (MGMCA) are grassroots initiatives to reduce teenagers' access to alcohol. Strategy teams made up of local citizens meet monthly to guide project priorities and actions. To learn more about getting involved in the Mt. Greylock team, contact **Liz Shiner** by e-mail at dzylyzy59@hotmail.com or leave a message for her at the Coalition office (663-7588). For the Adams team, contact **Sarah Kline** at 663-7588 or bbbs@nbccoalition.org. For information about the CMCA program, please call or email **Jenna Cece**, Prevention Coordinator at the Coalition office, 663-7588 or jcece@nbccoalition.org.

November 3, 7:30 p.m.
November 7, 8:00 p.m.

Northern Berkshire Tonite

The talk show of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, hosted by Al Bashevkin and Scott Nichols, each month takes a look at key issues of concern to the residents of Northern Berkshire County. This month Al and Scott will discuss Community Outreach, the topic of this month's Coalition Forum, with their guests Kate Agin from the Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and Kathy Keeser and Kate Merrigan from the Coalition.

November 14, 10:00 a.m.

Coalition Monthly Forum

Join us for the November monthly forum of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The discussion will be about Community Outreach. (*see story on page 2.*) The meeting is held at the **First Baptist Church in North Adams, at the corner of Eagle and Main streets.** Use the Eagle Street entrance.

November 15, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Take Charge "Winter Blitz"

Take Charge has planned a Winter Weatherization Blitz to hopefully improve at least 60 homes in one day. (*See story on page 3.*) Plans include caulking around doors and windows, installing plastic sheeting as window insulation, and more. Take Charge is actively recruiting for volunteers to help with this event. For more information, with questions, or to sign up, please contact **Madeline King** at msk1@williams.edu, or send an email to take.charge.north.adams@gmail.com.

November 19, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

North Adams Service Learning Conference

The North Adams Public Schools will host the 10th annual Service Learning Conference on the **MCLA campus**. (*See story on page 5.*) The theme for the conference is "Reflections, Traditions, and the Promise of Service Learning." For more information or to register, please contact **Debbie Rosselli** at 662-3240 or sl_rosselli@yahoo.com.

Save The Date!

NEIGHBORHOOD EXPO

Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

"Keep the B in the Berkshires!"

November 2008

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MCLA student, Take Charge Campaign

Madeline King: msk1@williams.edu

Center for Community Engagement at
Williams, Take Charge Campaign

Final Thoughts . . .

This month, with all the news of budget cuts, economic downturns, and fears for the future, I feel like hiding under my desk with a bowl of comfort soup. These times are far different from any I have experienced, and the news we hear every day does little to comfort. With recent budget reductions, our programs at the Coalition have experienced a nearly 11% decrease in funding. We're not alone, as programs from family support to mental health to teen pregnancy prevention have experienced similar cuts.

Yet there has to be another side to this story. What does the optimist say in these challenging times? Current conditions force us to look at what we do in a different light. We must change. If the rising price of oil means we have to think about sharing rides, taking public transportation, or using our own power to get around then that's positive. If our current economy means we have to slow down our lives, then let's embrace a less complicated life.

Our recent ventures in food security and climate change keep bringing me to that place that says, "live simpler." A recent article in the New York Times Magazine by Michael Pollen heartens me. He writes a letter to the President-Elect where he suggests the President appoint a new cabinet position, a Farmer-in-Chief. This Farmer-in-Chief would oversee the White House vegetable garden (he calls it a Victory Garden) that supplies healthy food to the White House, as well as to soup kitchens and food pantries in the greater DC area. Imagine the energy saved by using foods in the White House that were grown on its property, and the enhanced environment resulting from fewer lawn pesticides used.

Our years of national prosperity have taken us away from our basic life experiences. Growing your own food (or seeing it grown nearby); getting to places under your own power; walking in the woods; being with nature bring me back to what's important. A simpler life brings us closer to the love of life itself that our ancestors had the privilege of experiencing.

This brings me back to my 'bowl of comfort soup under the desk' concept. Energy, food security, and community economics are all connected on some level. Our current conditions dictate change will occur. If it's change for the simpler, we all win. We need leadership to help make that happen. Remember to vote on November 4.

--Al Bashevkin

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Northern Berkshire Community Coalition



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