SMOC’S MISSION:
To improve the quality of life of low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families by advocating for their needs and rights; providing services; educating the community; building a community of support; participating in coalitions with other advocates and searching for new resources and partnerships.

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www.smoc.org
SMOC'S VALUES

Freedom from Hunger
SMOC believes that hunger is an early warning signal of poverty and when food is so plentiful in the United States, everyone should have enough nutritious food to eat.

The Elimination of Poverty
SMOC believes every person has a right to be free from poverty. SMOC believes poverty reflects the declining number of jobs paying decent living wages, an increasingly inequitable distribution of wealth, continuing racial divisions and the absence of low-income people from the political resolution of the problem.

Respect for the Dignity and Value of Every Individual
SMOC respects the dignity and inherent value in all individuals. We relate to each other, to community partners, and to clients with respect, kindness, sincerity, and compassion.

The Right to Work for a Living Wage
SMOC supports the right of all people to work, be employed and earn a living wage.

The Right to Housing and the Abolishment of Homelessness
SMOC believes housing is a right, not a privilege and that homelessness should be abolished. Every person has a fundamental right to a decent, safe, healthy and stable home. We also believe that any person without a permanent, habitable housing situation is homeless.

The Right to Health Care
SMOC believes health care is a right and not a privilege. Every person has a fundamental right to quality, affordable and accessible health care.

Freedom from Violence Including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
SMOC believes every person has a right to be free from violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, and is entitled to safety in their own homes and neighborhoods.

Easy Access to Social Supports through Co-location of Services
SMOC believes low-income and disadvantaged people are best served when services they rely on to meet complex human needs are integrated, concentrated, and colocated in their communities.

Appreciation for Diversity and an End to Racism and Discrimination
SMOC embraces and values diversity. We strive to reflect the diversity of our clients and the communities we serve by providing employment, board, and volunteer opportunities. SMOC recognizes that racism is a critical barrier to social change and economic justice.

SMOC's Employees are its Greatest Strength
SMOC recognizes its employees are its most valuable asset and values their contribution to the success of its mission. We also help and encourage our employees to realize their potential, individually and as a team, and recognize that each and every one can and does make a difference.
On behalf of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council’s Board of Directors and Staff, I’m pleased to present our 42nd Annual Report.

In these extremely challenging economic times, the need for income supports, specialized programming and personalized attention to the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families are all the more critical and, as always, our dedicated staff and programs step up to the plate to serve these needs.

Mortgage foreclosures, or the threat of them, resulting from predatory lending practices, the loss of employment, family dislocation, health concerns and other root causes of poverty are an especially cruel predicament in which low income families find themselves this year due to the economic downturn. We are grateful to have been able to partner with state government to establish critical foreclosure counseling services this year to begin to meet this powerful challenge. We are establishing a strategic initiative around hunger and nutrition to ensure that area families and individuals will be able to rely upon a continuing wholesome food supply. We have hosted many community forums on the issues of the potential crisis of “no heat” situations for low-income people this winter if existing state and federal resources are not substantially increased to enable the purchase of adequate levels of home heating fuel. We have begun strategic planning around the issue of increasing numbers of homeless families as the state again has had to place many families in motels due to the severe shortage of affordable housing. As the state faces an impending budget crisis, we are examining our own fiscal situation and are tightening belts and looking for program economies. The national fiscal crisis will certainly have many other repercussions here in MetroWest as well. We will be prepared.

As foretelling as all of this sounds, there is reason for hope and solace if we stop to think about the impressive service delivery system we have been able to develop over these last forty or so years. Our work to provide housing, nutrition, behavioral health, adult education, child development, energy and fuel assistance, domestic violence prevention and intervention, employment and so many critical services makes a great difference in the lives of the thousands of people who rely upon us. Because of the availability and quality of our services and the dedication of staff, the vast majority of people who rely upon our services will succeed in moving to economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Relative to the federal court case we are pursuing to assert the Fair Housing rights of disabled people, be assured that the Board is unanimous in its work to ensure that these rights are guaranteed for all. Let me also reassure you that this effort has not distracted us from the goal of achieving excellence in all that we do.

I am again pleased to have this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members and all of the SMOC staff and volunteers for the time and work they have contributed to making our mission a reality. Your dedication and commitment to our stated goals to continue advocating for positive change is greatly admired and appreciated.
This past year has been an extraordinary one for our organizations. I use the term to connote not achievement, but difficulty. It has now been one year since we filed a lawsuit against the Town of Framingham and 13 individuals in Federal District Court, charging conspiracy to violate Fair Housing and Civil Rights laws and also defamation against our organization. There is no resolution, therefore I will not address it further here. As I write this, we await the financial impact of what appears to be the onrushing economic depression. It is axiomatic that needs will increase, but revenues to meet these needs will decline. We need to meet these challenges with grace and tenacity.

I’d like to mark what is now the 44th year since the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act, which created Community Action Agencies such as SMOC with a mandate to create local solutions to address and eradicate the effects of poverty, with an observation. The country was smaller then and there were a lot fewer people living here in 1964. One of the ways to illustrate the problem was the percentage of the population living below the poverty line, which was set using specific government standards and statistics. So what’s happened? A number of things. First, the percentage of people living in poverty in the population hasn’t changed much in 44 years, but the number of people living in this country has grown significantly. So that means there are a lot more poor people now than there were 44 years ago. So, there are a lot more poor people, and the other significant difference is that, unlike 1964, there are a lot of poor people who don’t have a place to live. Homeless families and homeless individuals have become a ubiquitous part of every community in our nation. There weren’t many people living in poverty in 1964 who were classified as homeless, but there sure are a lot of people now living in poverty who are classified as homeless. Maybe we can’t do much about the percentage of people living in poverty, but we should be able to do something about the percentage of people existing in poverty without a place to live.
PROGRAMS AND HIGHLIGHTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICES provides specialized counseling services for SMOC family programs and the community, including family stabilization services for the Department of Social Services.

MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES provide support for chronically mentally ill persons in order to live successfully within the community.

OUTPATIENT SERVICES provides mental health and substance evaluation, individual and group counseling and treatment, medication management, and community education services.

RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY PROGRAMS treat individuals and families who are living in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

DRIVER ALCOHOL EDUCATION, part of a court ordered program for first and second time offenders, is a six month program providing individual and group counseling, education, and evaluation.

YOUNG ADULT HOUSING PROGRAM serves adults 18 to 25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and facing the challenges of recovery. Some participants are transitions out of welfare or juvenile corrections facilities. Housing is supported with intensive case management and support.

COMMUNITY REHABILITATIVE SERVICES provides DMH consumers a broad range of case management support services that assist them in living independently in the community.

CHILD CARE / HEAD START

CHILD CARE serves children ages one month to twelve years. These subsidized programs provide healthy, safe and nurturing environments that are conducive to learning and personal growth. Programs emphasize the individuality of each child, a positive self-image, and the strengthening of family and peer relationships.

HEAD START is a comprehensive community based program for three and four year olds and their families. This pre-school program provides services in early education, healthy habits, dental care, mental health, and social services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG
COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS in Framingham, Marlboro and Milford, provide information, referral, and advocacy for residents on a wide range of needs. Landlord/tenant and affordable housing information is available.

RUSSIAN OUTREACH PROJECT provides information, referral and outreach to Russian immigrants.

METROWEST HELPLINE is a general information and referral service, which has an information specialist available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Helpline has listings for over 450 social service resources. There are no income or geographical limits.

ORGANIZATION FOR PORTUGUESE AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS provides information, referral and outreach to Portuguese-speaking immigrants.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

RE-ENTRY HOUSING PROGRAM is a statewide homeless prevention program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Correction. SMOC housing specialists provide pre-release housing search assistance to individuals in DOC custody who have been identified as being at risk for becoming homeless. Upon release, program participants may continue to receive assistance for up to a year in order to secure permanent stable housing.

WOMEN’S TRANSITION PROGRAM is designed to help recently incarcerated women establish strong foundations for social change and economic independence. Participants meet with a case manager to set goals and design an individual service plan that focuses on the woman’s strengths and a comprehensive array of services provided by the SMOC continuum. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Corrections.

“Re-entry was the catalyst for me to turn my life around. I am confident that SMOC will continue to be there to help others like me.”

-Steve, 35

NCSO RE-ENTRY PROGRAM provides a comprehensive schedule of re-entry classes for inmates. Group instruction focuses on education to help inmates prepare for a successful re-entry to the community. Areas of focus include substance abuse/recovery, GED preparation, reading/writing, budgeting & financial literacy, job-seeking skills, computer skills, cognitive and behavioral change, parenting, and domestic violence.

FRESH START provides rental subsidy and case management services for men and women released from correctional facilities. National studies indicate that housing is a critical factor in reducing recidivism. Participants have four months to secure employment and save up enough money to be able to pay rent on their own. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts Parole Board.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG
CRISIS INTERVENTION

In 2008, Voices Against Violence helped more than 2,000 people stay safe.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE provides counseling and advocacy to battered individuals, sexual assault survivors, and their families. These services include a 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, assistance with hospital and police procedures, confidential domestic violence shelter services, supervised visitation, community education and referral. All services are confidential and provided free of charge.

EMPLOYMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION

READY, WILLING AND ABLE is a temporary labor program with the goal of moving temporary employees into permanent employment. It is fully integrated with SMOC’s shelter, housing and behavioral health programs. It is often a “first step” program that allows people the opportunity to engage (or re-engage) with the workplace.

METROWEST CAREER CENTER provides a broad range of career and employment services, public access to the Computer Resource Room, job readiness and job search workshops, job postings and other employment search related resources.

JOAN BRACK ADULT LEARNING CENTER offers GED classes in a supportive, educational community that is interactive, fosters cooperative learning and is individualized for each student. Complementing the traditional in-class setting is a volunteer mentoring component that matches a tutor to an individual student.

From the time she was fifteen, Hope battled substance abuse. Even with her addiction, she completed her bachelor degree and began work as a paralegal. However, a few years later, the struggle overwhelmed her as she was fired from her job and lost her home. With a consistent income, Hope became homeless. She lived in parks and woods; anything that might provide shelter. For the next ten years, Hope drifted in and out of rehab programs and assorted shelters while battling depression. In 2007, while living in one of SMOC’s shelters, she was offered a temporary job by the Ready, Willing and Able program director. For months, Hope walked through the snow, worked the night shift, and learned to fail. “Whatever it took, I did it. I worked hard every day.” RWA helped her find an apartment, become sober and hold down a job. “I hit rock bottom and RWA turned my life around. RWA trusted me when few others would. They really saved my life.” In 2008, the director, impressed with her work ethic, offered her a full time position as a supervisor. Today, Hope drives to work, oversees the night shift and helps those who have fallen on hard times turn their lives around. “You know, it’s a struggle,” she says, “but I am a survivor. My life has come full circle. I count my blessings every day.”

SERENITY OFFICE SKILLS PROGRAM provides a one-month class in job readiness and basic office skills to women who participate in qualified SMOC residential programs. The program prepares students for entry-level jobs in an office environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG
SERVICES FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT provides individualized client-centered services to assist DMH-eligible persons with severe mental illness to obtain and maintain competitive education and employment. The program emphasizes client choice, rapid job search and placement support where appropriate, integrated education and work settings, and follow-along support. The SEF staff believes treatment and rehabilitation should be integrated and coordinated.

KEHA PROGRAM assists DMH-referred individuals to make a successful transition to the community by providing structured activities, education, job readiness and career planning services. The program encourages explorations of one’s goals and communication skills by providing an environment that fosters building self-confidence, social competency and strength of mind.

ENERGY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FUEL ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP) assists low-income households afford the cost of heat. Those eligible receive cash assistance paid directly to their heating vendor. Income eligible households whose heat is included in the rent may also receive benefits.

WEATHERIZATION & HEATING SYSTEM ASSISTANCE provides energy conservation services to low-income households, including energy audits, insulation, weather-stripping, storm windows and caulking. Other services include client education, appliance replacement, and lighting efficiency. Heating system and burner maintenance are also provided.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM provides Section 8 families with access to supportive programming to enhance their self-sufficiency. It is designed to provide support and advocacy around employment opportunities, childcare, parenting, and budgeting skills.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS provides rental subsidies to low-income families who meet selection requirements. Rental payments are made directly to landlords monthly on behalf of tenants. Each rental unit is inspected annually for compliance to HUD quality standards and Department of Housing and Community Development requirements. The program serves as mediator and liaison between tenants and landlords.

HOUSING CONTINUUM OF CARE AND SERVICES

METROWEST EMERGENCY ADULT SHELTER PROGRAM provides shelter, meals and individualized assessment, education opportunities and case management services. The goal of this program is to find permanent housing for our guests as quickly as possible while wrapping services and supports through the continuum.

THE COMMON GROUND RESOURCE CENTER is the “hub” for services for homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. The CGRC staff is case managers, housing coordinators, housing specialists, employment specialists, mental health and substance abuse clinicians, outreach workers, domestic violence specialists, and more.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES IN TRANSITION provides emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction, foreclosures and utility shut-offs for families that meet eligibility criteria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG
FAMILY SHELTER PROGRAM maintains three congregate family shelters, including Family in Transition (FIT), as well as a scattered site shelter for homeless families. Staff assists families in acquiring permanent, affordable housing, as well as medical, education, vocational, and social services.

FIRST STEP SUPPORTIVE HOUSING provides enriched services, including intensive case management and on site individual and group counseling, for recently homeless individuals.

MOBILE STABILIZATION PROGRAM serves recently homeless individuals. Staff provides ongoing support that aims to keep individuals in permanent housing.

SOBER HOUSING PROGRAM is supported housing for single adults living in recovery. The supportive environment for tenants enhances continued recovery and increase self-sufficiency.

HOUSING CONSUMER EDUCATION CENTER provide information, referral and advocacy for tenants in rented housing. They also provide first time homebuyer training and support as well as hosting the foreclosure prevention program.

In the spring of 2008, SMOC teamed with three legal service providers to form the Foreclosure Prevention Center. SMOC staff works with consumers to explore a range of options, including legal assistance, in order to avoid bank foreclosure. The Center reaches out to thirty-six communities. In the first three months SMOC served 30 households:

- 14 were referred to legal assistance.
- 6 received direct financial assistance.
- 5 are pending final outcomes.
- 4 are modifying their mortgages.
- 1 is in the process of selling their house
- 0 were foreclosed.

HOUSING SERVICES CENTER is a multi-service center that provides information and referral to area health, education, housing and social services and links consumers to emergency services where appropriate.

HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM provides low-interest loans to homeowners for access modifications to primary residences of elders, adults with disabilities and families with children with disabilities.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS assists individuals living with AIDS with housing-related matters. Individuals are referred from community agencies, or are self-referred, and work closely with housing specialists to identify appropriate, and affordable, housing opportunities that will support their needs.

WORCESTER EMERGENCY ADULT SHELTER PROGRAM provides shelter, meals, case management, health services, housing search, employment search and other supportive services to homeless single adults.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM helps families in Department of Transitional Assistance-funded emergency shelter programs secure permanent, affordable housing.

In the last year, SMOC's housing programs, HECF, HOPWA, and HAP, helped 3,528 households avoid homelessness.
NUTRITION

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) provides free food and nutrition education to help keep pregnant women, infants, and children under five healthy. Participants in the program receive nutrition counseling, referrals to other services, and WIC checks to purchase nutritious foods and infant formula.

WIC ON WHEELS (WOW) is a mobile van that offers the full range of WIC program services plus basic health services.

METROWEST HARVEST encompasses several efforts that are designed to bring more food resources into the MetroWest area to assist low-income people. The efforts include rescuing perishable food from local restaurants and caterers, operating a food pantry and serving as a drop site for the Boston Food Bank. The project relies extensively on volunteers.

WIC improved the health and physical development through adequate meals, nutrition, and education of 7,518 infants and children.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM provides nutritious meals during the summer for all children in five camp or school sites in Framingham and Marlboro.

ELDERLY NUTRITION serves over 140,000 home-delivered meals per year in the MetroWest area. Group or congregate meals are served in most localities.

HEALTHY HABITS AT HOME educates families on the health risks of child obesity and instills healthy living habits by providing nutrition education.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION

The South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation addresses the need for safe and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, individuals, and disabled adults. The mission of the Housing Corporation is to preserve and improve existing affordable housing and to develop new housing choices for low- and moderate-income residents. SMOC’s Housing Corporation demonstrates a comprehensive and creative approach to regional housing needs by integrating human services within the housing units for individuals and families.

The Housing Corporation owns, develops, and manages the agency’s housing portfolio including residential, program, and commercial properties. Community development activities focus on efforts to expand economic opportunity, redevelop substandard and distressed properties, enhance participation in housing revitalization, and identify opportunities to enhance neighborhoods. SMOC’s housing continuum contains many choices for area residents ranging from emergency shelters, program-supported housing, affordable Single Room Occupancy units and permanent family rental units for individuals and families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG
AWARDS
MANAGERS OF THE YEAR

PATRICIA BRÉAULT
ACCOUNTING SUPPORT SUPERVISOR
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIVISION

Pat is a tireless, insightful and dedicated worker that has been with SMOC for 23 years. She is responsible for accounts payable and payroll for the agency. She makes insightful, sound and well thought out decisions based on the needs of each department and the agency as a whole.

Pat brings a wealth of knowledge from her long employment history with the Agency. She is able to easily recognize administrative and financial processes and procedures that have and have not worked previously. This information from the Agency’s history is a very valuable asset to all operational aspects of the Administration and Finance Department.

This year, there were several major systems and software changes that had significant impact on Pat and her department as well as on the entire agency. She balanced implementing the systems while also having staff vacancies. She maintained all existing systems while also closing the books for the end of the fiscal year. Pat never missed a beat! She ensured that all of the work was processed and handled in an accurate and timely manner.

As a manager, Pat is very helpful in providing individual training to new program staff as well as assistance to those employees that need assistance. She is highly committed to staff development. As staff have become more proficient with their job duties, Pat has always worked to increase their job knowledge and expand their role and direct job functions.

DAVID DAVIDOWICZ
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, READY WILLING AND ABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

David is a hands-on guy, knows his employees and clients well, is a good listener, evidences great passion for the work he does, is tough but fair, honest, helpful and supportive. David has taken on a very demanding initiative which requires strong organizational skills, an ability to start something from scratch, work with and motivate people and then get them to perform.

The Ready Willing and Able program is a new SMOC initiative that seeks to put people to work in meaningful jobs that will help them to grow their employment skills and experience. David started the program and has managed it from its inception. He established, and is now refining, the entire necessary program protocols, including payroll, job and client referral process, links to housing and program counterparts. He has also been able to expand the program to external vendors. In addition to developing and managing the program, David is not shy about jumping in to help out when he is needed – going to the store to buy more paint or a part for a lawn mower, or doing the work himself if there is a temporary employee shortage.
David is constantly evaluating the skill sets of his clients to assess their readiness to take on more hours or more responsibility. RWA directly meets the agency's goals as it is a direct employment operation — helping people become more economically independent. This program generally targets people living in our shelter and housing programs, thereby directly helping people obtain and maintain permanent housing.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR**

**BARBARA POSTLER**
**NUTRITIONIST**
**CHILD CARE AND HEAD START DIVISION**

Barbara is a knowledgeable, conscientious, dependable and highly respected professional whose primary responsibility is to monitor the nutrition program within SMOCC Child Care and Head Start programs. She is responsible for overseeing a quality nutritional program for more than 500 children as well as the food safety practices of nearly 100 staff members.

During the six years that Barbara has been with SMOCC, she has created a comprehensive, multi-faceted nutrition program for SMOCC Head Start and ChildCare programs that continues to evolve. She serves on the Head Start Family Services Advisory Board and attends all Statewide Head Start Meetings for Nutrition and Health Managers. She created a food allergy policy for all children enrolled in the program and significantly contributed to last summer's food program.

Barbara trained all of the program staff on a Health and Nutrition Curriculum which is used in all classrooms and incorporated fun classroom activity plans with home learning activities. Barbara is also the Coordinator for the "I am Moving, I am Learning" program that focuses on childhood obesity offering education and suggested activities to staff, parents and children. She goes the extra mile by reaching out to families through phone calls, home visits and education through flyers, workshops and newsletters. Barbara has also reached families through a very successful cooking group where workshop participants receive instruction, hands-on meal preparation classes, weekly take-home food packages and graduation kitchen gifts. This program was highlighted in a review done by the New York Times.

Under Barbara's leadership, the Food and Nutrition program is more than a school meal. As an accomplished and highly skilled nutritionist, Barbara advocates for and ensures the nutritional health of hundreds of MetroWest children and families.

**MARK KNOWLTON**
**COMMUNITY REHABILITATION SERVICES CASE MANAGER**
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

Mark is highly organized, motivated, reliable and helpful manager who consistently works above and beyond the scope of his responsibilities. He meets all deadlines and produces high quality work. As a case manager, Mark assists people living with severe mental illness remain stable and live independently. He intervenes with landlords to sustain tenancies. He provides critical assistance to his clients to avoid hospitalization and he coordinates care with a wide range of service providers to meet the needs of his clients.
During the six years that Mark has been with the CRS program, he has demonstrated his outstanding ability to make sound decisions and provide impeccable services to his clients. One Saturday, Mark received a call from an elderly patient who was being treated for cancer and was dizzy from medication. Without hesitation, Mark went shopping and delivered the food to the client. When the same client was re-hospitalized and had no known family, Mark visited him in the hospital throughout the end of his life.

Mark was innovative with restructuring, coordinating and administering the PeerLine program. He has successfully managed the scheduling and day to day management of the program and provides weekly supervision for the five operators. Mark received an award from the Department of Mental Health for his extraordinary efforts, ethics and dedication to his clients. In addition, the Peer Line operators received an award from the Department of Mental Health for their support service to other consumers.

The high quality level of service that Mark provides to our clients is an asset both to the enhanced well being of his clients and to the clinical integrity of the CRS program. One colleague remarked that, “Mark is devoted and invested in his clients which is a valuable asset to the clinic.”

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

SATHYA SAI BABBA CENTER
PIP SHELTER IN WORCESTER

The Sathya Sai Babba Center, under the leadership of Glenn Rothbart is a constant partner to the PIP shelter and the homeless individuals in Central Mass. Two years ago, the Center embarked on their first project at the shelter. They provided the paint and labor to spruce up a good portion of the building which includes a large meeting hall, a community room and meeting room -- approximately 4000 square feet including nineteen 8-foot windows and some carpeting. And – they did a wonderful and professional job.

In addition to the periodic large projects, the Center provides two meals a month to shelter guests – one hot and one of bag lunches as well as the annual holiday meal. The Sathya Sai Babba Center is a community partner that eases the burden of homeless adults in Central Massachusetts through a philosophy of respect and dignity for our clients.

ANDREW FOIB
MEDWAY HOUSE FAMILY PROGRAM

Andrew is a local businessman who became interested in supporting homeless families. The relationship began with Andrew and his employees making small donations of food, grocery store gift cards and money to Medway House. Andrew’s contributions to the program, and families staying there, has increased to household and office goods and monetary donations which he has done directly and through his networks and contacts in the community.

In addition to raising funds for the program, he has provided significant donations of office furniture and furniture for families that leave and move into their own homes. When he has items that cannot be brought to Medway House, Andrew stores furniture for families at his business and garage. Andrew obtained donations of cars, four of which went to families and others were sold and the proceeds were donated. Further exemplifying his commitment to self-sufficiency, Andrew provided employment to three individuals living at the shelter.
These donations have helped the children and adults at Medway House in immeasurable tangible and intangible ways. Funds have helped pay for summer camp and field trips for kids, entrance to community events, holiday and other special events at Medway House, train tickets, cab fare, gasoline, and medicine for shelter families, week-long school trips for two students, expenses for GED books and exams, enrollment of four adults in an English as a Second Language class, clothing, food, and so much more. Andrew has given hundreds of hours of his time and thousands of dollars to Medway House. He has a very big heart and his generosity has meant so much to the families, children and staff of Medway House.

JESSICA ORDWAY
HEALTHY HABITS AT HOME PROGRAM

For the past year, Jessica volunteered for six 6-week community sessions of Healthy Habits at Home classes. She never misses a class. She is very friendly, punctual, helpful, organized and always assures that the class runs smoothly. Jessica distributes materials, works with latecomers, and helps with recipe preparation. As a graduate student in nutrition, Jessica participates in group discussions and is able to use this volunteer experience to enhance her studies.

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

RITA BLUM

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has chosen Rita Blum as this year’s recipient of the Frederick Rubin Award for Board Member of the Year. Rita is a longtime Framingham resident who joined the Board in 1998 representing the League of Women Voters. She is an active, thoughtful presence on the Board. She is also a Town Meeting member who works hard to help that body understand the vital role SMOC plays in the community. Rita also serves as the Board’s representative to the Head Start Policy Council. Phil Fokus, Director of SMOC Head Start and Child Care services, said, “Rita has been a wonderful support to our Policy Council, to our Head Start parents and to our program.” Congratulations, Rita. Thank you for being a part of our Board.

RECIPIENT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CORPORATIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS’S 2008 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MARGARET DAVITT
DIRECTOR
TURNING POINT SHELTER PROGRAM

SMOC was honored to learn that Margaret Davitt is this year’s 2008 MHSCAM Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. Margaret has devoted her professional life to the care and well-being of literally thousands of men, women and children in the greater MetroWest area. It is especially rewarding for Margaret to know that it is her peers in the world of human services who have recognized her inspirational service of the last five decades.

As a Head Start nurse, a nurse-manager at Framingham Detox, a family advocate, an adult shelter program director and more, Margaret is a pragmatist who counsels, advises and works closely with individuals and families to help them develop and grow, build self-esteem, get their health in order, build daily living and employment skills and so much more that helped so many to move on to successful and productive independent community living.
To this day, many of the graduates of the various programs Margaret has so ably served over the years return to thank her again and again. Self-effacing and shy about taking credit for all the good work she has done, Margaret shrugs off the praise and gets right back to work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FINANCIAL DATA

SMOC REVENUE IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SMOC.ORG