

# Stepping Stones

www.thesecondstep.org

## TSS Celebrates 15th Anniversary

### Diane Patrick to Deliver Keynote Address

**The Second Step** is proud to have reached a new milestone: 15 years of helping to break the cycle of domestic violence. On Thursday, May 3, 2007, the annual *Celebrating Success* event will celebrate not just the success of the program graduates, but also the success of the program as a whole.

Massachusetts First Lady Diane Patrick has graciously agreed to speak at the annual benefit. Mrs. Patrick has said that she wants to focus public attention on domestic violence. According to *The Boston Globe*, "She also has spoken publicly about the fear of violence she felt in her stormy first marriage, and she said...that her own experience made her want to work on domestic violence awareness.

'I think that in recent years, particularly, domestic violence has lost a lot of important visibility and support,' Mrs. Patrick said. 'If I can do anything to give more prominence to the issues and to the solutions there, that's what I would like to do.'

The *Celebrating Success* planning committee pursued her to speak at the event. "As volunteers, we dedicate many hours to helping TSS make a difference in the lives of DV survivors and their children," said event Co-Chair Joanne Andrews. "What a thrill to learn that we now have a partner in the First Lady of Massachusetts."

Funny lady Loretta LaRoche will emcee for the evening. "Loretta is hilarious. Just flat-out hilarious," said Co-Chair Roberta Carson. "DV is a serious issue—all the more reason we need to laugh, to feel joy, to celebrate the achievements of the survivors who have conquered great difficulty and accomplished so much."

Celebrate :: continued on page 6



Diane Patrick, First Lady of Massachusetts, above, and Loretta LaRoche.



## Upcoming Events

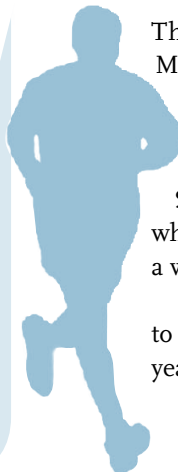
May 3, 2007

**It's our birthday!**

Don't miss the **15th Anniversary Gala Celebrating Success**. See article here.

November 3, 2007

Join us at **Step Up to the Plate** and enjoy a wonderful evening with a celebrity guest. For more information, call 617.965.2026 or visit [www.thesecondstep.org](http://www.thesecondstep.org)



## Team TSS to Run Boston Marathon

The Second Step has once again received 5 invitational entries to the Boston Marathon. Jared Courtney, Cindy Marrs, Claudia Moeller, Rocky Prozeller and David Savage are the remarkable runners who will run the elite road race to raise funds for TSS.

The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) sets a fundraising minimum of \$3,000 for runners participating in the charity program, which allows runners who might not meet the strict qualifying criteria to run the race, while also creating a wonderful benefit for deserving nonprofit organizations.

Deborah DeFrancesco, daughter of TSS board member Lynn Cohen, again agreed to be Team Leader. "The marathon is so fun and we have such a great team this year—I know they'll do an amazing job, and I'll do whatever I can to help."

Jared Courtney, 27, of Sheffield, learned of TSS through his brother, Sebastian,

Marathon :: continued on page 7

## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

When I was hired in July of 1992, I had no idea where The Second Step would be in 15 years. It has been exciting for me to see the growth and development of the program over these years. I am so grateful to the founders, Ellen Schoendorf, Margaret Grometstein, Lisa Giudice, and Nancy Doustiel, who hired and supported me through the first years of the agency's growth.

TSS has grown from a budget of \$250,000 to \$1.6 million. We began with one residence and then doubled our capacity with the second residence. CAN-DO partnered with us to develop Garfield House where TSS grads can live for two years with continued access to our services. We have created a dynamic Community Program and a vibrant After School.

The Board is composed of amazing people who put their time and energy into seeing that TSS remains strong and viable. The community has been wonderfully supportive as has the City of Newton. The staff has been outstanding, and without them TSS would not have earned its reputation for excellence. The survivors and children we serve have worked hard in the face of many obstacles. Their efforts and those of the staff who worked with them have built the continuing success of the program.

I hope you will join with us as we celebrate this 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. We are honored to have First Lady Diane Patrick speak at Celebrating Success on May 3<sup>rd</sup>—she is sure to inspire us all. The Step Up to the Plate committee is at work on another fascinating round of dinner parties for November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the events. The committee members are terrific people and there is lots of laughing and camaraderie at the meetings.

None of this could have been achieved without your support and encouragement. I hope you will join us as we look forward to our next 15 years.



Elisabeth Kirsch, LICSW, MMPH  
Executive Director



**The Second Step** breaks the cycle of domestic violence by providing women and children with transitional housing and support services that empower them to remain free from abusive relationships and to lead productive lives.

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Executive Director: 617.965.2393  
Development Office: 617.965.4173  
In-Kind Donations: 617.965.3999  
Volunteer Coordinator: 617.965.3999

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jennifer London

DESIGN Debra M. Beck  
Studio 18 Group

## Spotlight on Foundations

The Second Step would like to specially recognize the following Corporate Foundations whose generous support helped to fund the agency in 2006. As federal, state and city money cover only one-half our operating budget, we are extremely grateful to these corporations for their generosity.

The Genzyme Foundation grant of \$10,000 allows TSS to provide services focused on health care and understanding trauma. The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation gift of \$20,000 and the Verizon Foundation's gift of \$2,500 support the work in our residences with survivors and their children. The Capital One Foundation's grant of \$10,000 helps us in our efforts to work with survivors in Greater Boston and MetroWest who do not need to be in shelter but do need supportive services to recover from domestic violence. Thank you again. ■



# Calling all Amazing Women!

The Second Step is seeking volunteers to participate in its new Mentoring Program, I.M.A.G.I.N.E. (Inspiration, Motivation and Growth in Networks that Empower).

After a highly successful first year, TSS seeks 10-15 women interested in partnering with a domestic violence survivor as she continues to build toward an independent future.

Mentors must commit to a year-long program that includes a 20-hour training, a monthly supervision group and a weekly meeting with a mentee. No special expertise or previous experience is required, only the desire to be part of the process.

"This was one of the most enriching experiences of my life," said current mentor Roz Salinger of Weston. "Getting to know my mentee inspires me. I learn so much from her. The

relationship has touched my heart and added a very meaningful dimension to my life. I would encourage any woman who has some time to give and some capacity to encourage a new friend to apply."

In addition, TSS seeks those with specific expertise in social work, financial planning, career services, or other life skills to lend an evening as a special guest at a Mentoring group meeting. Volunteers are also needed to lend a hand with the logistics of the meetings on an as-needed basis. Finally, TSS seeks the donation of meals to the mentor and mentee meetings. If you or someone you know could provide a casual, take-out dinner for 50, please get in touch. To learn more, visit [www.thesecondstep.org](http://www.thesecondstep.org) or call Carole Thompson at 617.965.2538



"Mentors are primarily chosen because of one quality: respect. People offering mentorship are able to foster self-exploration and self-appreciation by the way they treat those who come to them for listening ear or guidance."

Barbara Quick  
*Under Her Wing: The Mentors Who Changed Our Lives*

## Volunteer Mentor Job Description

### Mission of Program

To empower women who have survived domestic violence to make progress toward their goals by providing individual support and creating community.

### Mission of the Mentor

To be a partner to a woman who is striving to improve her life.

### Responsibilities

- To meet with mentee 1-3 hours per week; to travel to visits as needed
- To be reasonably available by phone, if needed
- To act as a partner in the process of a woman's "becoming" by accepting her individuality and empowering her to tap into her own inner resources—our mentors do not criticize, give advice, or impose their own values

- To provide mentee with consistent support
- To build trust by being a reliable and dependable visitor
- To act as a role model for basic life skills such as keeping appointments, handling and expressing feelings, and exploring options for problem solving
- To respect the confidentiality of information the mentee shares
- To participate in required trainings and meetings
- To complete a documented interview upon termination with the mentee

### Characteristics of a Mentor

- Wants to make a difference in another woman's life
- Can become a role model through relationship
- Able to provide reliable, consistent support, but not expected to act as therapists or case managers.

- Grounded in her own life choice
- Non-judgmental, real and authentic
- Can see the positive and potential
- Able to handle difficult histories and emotions without becoming overwhelmed
- Flexible and patient
- Willing to be profoundly and personally changed by the experience.
- Willing to volunteer her time
- Able to provide own transportation.

### Time Commitment

- Overall minimum 9 months
- 20-hour initial group training
- Monthly group supervision
- Weekly visit with mentee

### Benefits

*An opportunity to join with other amazing women who will support, empower and nurture each other and create lasting change. ■*

# PROFILES Get to Know The Second Step

There are many special people who make The Second Step the extraordinary organization that it is. In this ongoing feature, Stepping Stones profiles a program graduate, a volunteer, a donor, a board member and a staff member.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS Robert H. Smith** has been the Dean and a Professor of Law at Suffolk University Law School since the Fall of 1999. He previously taught at Boston College Law School for 24 years and served there as the Acting Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “I first

learned of TSS many years ago when I was director of Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau. We represented some women who were TSS residents. I saw the tremendous challenges they faced in dealing with domestic violence and in establishing independence, and I came away very impressed with TSS’s mission and staff. More recently, I have become involved with TSS as a neighbor of one of the residences. I have learned that domestic violence is a far more prevalent issue than so many of us realize, and I find it rewarding to be part of an organization that finds solutions and fosters enduring change.”

**DONORS Sarah and Peter Monaco** live in the Back Bay with their dog Lucy.

They were introduced to TSS by their dear friends Jill and Michael Stansky. Peter is a partner in an asset management firm; Sarah is a former advertising executive who now devotes all her time to a host of nonprofit interests, with a particular focus on educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and poverty relief/homelessness. They have an affinity for organizations demonstrating that results are measurable and that time and money dedicated are immediately impactful. “Our longstanding involvement with The Women’s Lunch Place, The Steppingstone Foundation, Big Brother and Big Sister of Mass Bay and the Robinhood Foundation allowed us to recognize in Second Step an organization that fit our philanthropic criteria. Because of Second Step’s excellent track record addressing the interrelated concerns of domestic violence and homelessness, we are proud to include it among the organizations we support.”



**STAFF Claire Brennan** has been a Child and Family Services Coordinator in the Residential Program for two years. She is a graduate of Connecticut College, and holds a Masters degree from the specialized Risk and Prevention program at Harvard Graduate School of Education. “As part of

the case management team, I work with the women on their children’s needs from the moment they enter TSS until many

months after they move to a permanent home of their own. I have relationships with families for well over a year, which provides me the opportunity to work on long-term goals. Kids really thrive at TSS, and it’s a pleasure to work with moms as a team to advocate for their children in all areas of their lives. The most rewarding moments are when I see families reach a comfortable place—a fulfilling job, a great new school they can stay in, a fun camp experience or a place to call home. When a graduate calls six months after she’s left TSS and says ‘Things are going really well!’ I know that not only is she making things happen, but the family is on its way to a better and happier life.

**GRADUATE Alicia** and her daughter, 10, and son, 8 lived at TSS for 13 months. “Second Step helped me with so many things! Especially to go to school to improve my English and then to get a job. I got turned down a few times but I didn’t give up! They helped me to find that attitude. *Don’t be scared! Nothing matters.* You think: something goes wrong, I’ll have to go back to my husband. My car breaks down? How can I deal with that? How can I pay for that? But they said, *NO! You’re not going back. That’s not a reason to go back! You’ll learn how to get your car fixed, how to get what you need.* But they don’t give it to you, they show you how YOU can find it for yourself. I went through a lot in my life. Abuse is not just physical. I went through all of it, the emotional, the psychological, the hitting...my ex-husband almost killed me. But it wasn’t the end of the world. I survived and I made a new life...and everything came back: the color in my face, my voice, my smile, I came back! And if someone ever puts a hand on me again, I’m going to *scream* and tell *everybody!* I will not wait or hide. I’m not scared anymore.

**VOLUNTEER Joni Lohr** attended *Step Up to The Plate* and heard dinner host Amy Cody speak about TSS’s various programs, and how successful it has been in assisting DV survivors put their lives back together. She was inspired to call Volunteer Coordinator Joan Tepper about how she might help. “I



am thrilled to volunteer with this amazing group of women who put their hearts and souls as well as time and energy into making TSS a viable and successful organization. I’ve worked on committees, helped with the holiday gift drive, configured computers, schlepped, folded & stuffed, taken photographs, and numerous other tasks—each has been fun and rewarding. It’s a pleasure and an honor to support these wonderful people who work so hard every day to create positive experiences for women and children in need. ■

# STEP UP TO THE PLATE



## Scores a Home Run

Rave reviews and heartfelt thanks were the emails received by the chairs and committee members for the second annual Step Up to the Plate event Held on the evening of Saturday, November 4, 2006.

Step Up was comprised of 22 elegant dinner parties hosted in homes around the area. Over 400 people attended. Each dinner featured a very special guest, among whom were Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger, Michela Larson of Rialto, NPR host Robin Young, author and radio personality Charlie Pierce, Boston Globe film critics Ty Burr and Wesley Morris, sportswriter Dan Shaugnessy, and Samuel Adams entrepreneur Jim Koch.

"We try to provide a variety of speakers who are prominent in their fields to appeal to the diverse interests of our supporters" said Co-Chair Susan Benjamin.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of our hosts, our celebrity speakers, and our supporters for helping The Second Step to raise over \$200,000 this year to provide essential services and opportunities for victims of domestic abuse who live in our own communities," said Co-Chair and board member Claire Villari.

Planning is underway for next year's Step Up to the Plate. If you would like to host or help find a compelling special guest, please call 617-965-4173. ■

*"Just had to let you know what a wonderful time we had last night at Step Up to the Plate."*

*"Our hostesses were wonderful. We were wined and dined."*

*"The gathering was a really nice mix of people who were very friendly...Our speaker directed the dinner conversation after the main course, which had the effect of bringing everyone into the same lively discussion."*

*"My husband and I find it amusing that these events have been some of the nicest dinner parties we've ever attended. Can't wait until next year!"*



Ethan and Claudia Moeller with hosts Barbara and Steve Grossman



Event Co-Chair Chana Meyer listens to Ty Burr



Hosts Ron and Suzi Kahn, center, enjoying Michela Larson and Gary Sullivan's restaurant tales



Radio's Neil Chayet looking at the law

### Thank You to our Step Up to the Plate Sponsors

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Anonymous

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Lisa d. Finkel

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# Thank You all Angels, Elves and Reindeer!

## Holiday Gift Drive Helps 109 Families



Thanks to the generosity of countless supporters, The Second Step Holiday Gift Drive served 109 families, including 231 children. In addition, 12 boxes of toys and gifts were delivered to the local Red Cross

Holiday Assistance Program, which serves homeless and struggling families in the area.

Carole Thompson, Community Program Director, managed the gift drive with volunteers Debbie Crispo, Joni Lohr, Joan Tepper and the support of many others. Carole compiled a list of needy TSS families and a list of the individuals, groups, clubs and companies wishing to “adopt a family” or contribute.

Richard Kleinberg of United Properties Group generously donated 4,000 square feet of office basement space in which dedicated “Elves” created the “The North Pole,” to receive, sort, store and wrap the 1,000-plus donated gifts. Volunteers affectionately known as “Reindeer” loaded their “sleighs” and delivered gifts to the struggling families.

Said Carole in her letter to each donor, “On behalf of the staff and families of The Second Step, thank you for the gift of wonder...for tears of joy...for warm coats and snuggly pajamas...for necessities and toys...for hot cocoa and bicycles...for new clothes and baby buntings...for nourishing food...for gift cards to purchase a special notion...for perfume and body lotion...for Christmas cookies and a new bear to hug...for your time and financial contributions. Most of all, thank you for reaching out to those who need to be remembered most and giving them the gift of hope! It’s people like you who remind them that the world can also be a kind, gentle place...and that Angels really do come through when least expected.” ■



Clockwise from upper left: Maia Rose and Betty Lee; Politzer and Haney employees; Lasell College students and staff; Joan Tepper and Carole Thompson with generous teddy bear donors.

### Celebrate :: *continued from page 1*

Loretta LaRoche is an international stress management and humor consultant. She is a faculty member at the Mind/Body Medical Institute in Boston and writer of a weekly newspaper column called “Get a Life.” She is the author of several books, including *Life is Not a Stress Rehearsal*, *Life is Short—Wear Your Party Pants* and the soon-to-be-released *Kick Up Your Heels Before You’re Too Short to Wear Them*.

The Second Step has reached out to its founders and to numerous longtime supporters, past volunteers and staff to join the festivities. Liz Kirsch, Executive Director, said, “We

created an Honorary Committee this year as a way of acknowledging the many wonderful people who helped to build The Second Step. These are just a few...there are so many others. I hope everyone will come enjoy this very special celebration.”

Tickets are \$150 with a table for 10 at \$1,500. TSS welcomes you to greet First Lady Diane Patrick in the *Celebrating Success* Program Book. To purchase tickets or a program book greeting, call the Development Office at 617.965.2026 or email [tcrowley@thesecondstep.org](mailto:tcrowley@thesecondstep.org). ■

# Special Thanks to Holiday Gift Drive Donors 2006

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 Joanne Zangrillo  
 Zonta Club of West  
 Suburban Boston  
 Martha Parks

## Marathon :: continued from page 1

a volunteer in TSS's playspace. Jared, a teacher at the Berkshire School, said, "Although I live at the base of a mountain, I have to travel to run on hills." Training on hills is what all the runners need to prepare for Heartbreak Hill.

Claudia Moeller 37, of Newton, is a TSS volunteer and member of the Finance Committee of the board. She and Cindy Marrs, 44, of Wellesley, are colleagues at Wellington Management Company.

Rocky Prozeller, 27, of Brighton and David Savage, 40, of Holliston are colleagues at Communispace, a marketing

strategies company based in Watertown.

All avid runners, the team looks forward to the challenge of training for the legendary race, as well as the opportunity to reach out to their friends and family on behalf of domestic violence survivors and children.

If you are interested in learning more or sponsoring a runner, please call the Development Office at 617.965.2026. Please join us on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to cheer them on. Go Team TSS! ■

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## Domestic Violence Emergency Numbers

Statewide: 877.785.2020 | Newton, Waltham and western suburbs: 800.899.4000  
Information and non-emergency referrals, call The Second Step 617.965.2538.



## Good Night, Sleep Tight

### Newton-Wellesley Hospital Organizes Bedding Drive

Each family who arrives at TSS is given new sheets and towels, theirs use during their stay and to keep when they graduate. To help meet the ongoing need for new linens, Michelle Freshman, Nurse Practitioner at Newton-Wellesley Hospital coordinated a bedding drive called “Good Night Sleep Tight.” Thanks to Newton-Wellesley’s generous effort, TSS received 32 twin sheet sets, 13 twin blankets, 14 twin comforters, 8 towel sets, 10 throws and 39 stuffed animals.

#### Residential Program Director Jacqueline Taylor described who is helped by the bedding drive:

Daniel is a 7-year-old boy who came to live at the Second Step with his mother and younger sister. He is handsome, loves to ride his bike and takes good care of his sister. When Daniel first arrived at The Second Step he was afraid to play with other kids his age so he would hide under pillows in a corner. Although he was smart, he wasn’t keeping up in school. Teachers noticed that he drew pictures of his mother being hurt by his dad. He didn’t like leaving

his mother in the morning because he was afraid that his Dad would find her and try to hurt her again.

Daniel loved being at The Second Step. He didn’t have to walk on eggshells never knowing if his Dad would be in a good mood or be furious with everybody in the family. He hated how his Dad would yell and threaten to hit his Mom. It was chaotic and scary. He didn’t have friends over to play because there was no way to predict what would happen at his house.

After several months at The Second Step, Daniel was playing with other

children, had improved his academic performance and had started therapy to address his many fears. He also learned how to swim which he had never done before. His mother had enrolled in classes to get her dream job of working in the computer technology industry.

Because of Good Night, Sleep Tight, Daniel and his family have cozy, soft sheets and blankets to comfort them at the end of the day.

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Donations of new bedding are accepted all year. Please call 617-965-3999. ■