

November 2011



Wanted: Angels, Elves, and Reindeer...You!

Are you and your family looking for a way to help those less fortunate this holiday season? Maybe you and your colleagues are looking for a great holiday activity? Consider being a part of The Second Step's Annual Holiday Gift Drive which helps more than 100 families rebuilding their lives after domestic violence feel the magic of the holidays.



For survivors who have left their homes to escape domestic violence, the holidays can be an especially stressful time. Heating bills arrive just as children need new winter coats, boots, and other essentials. Meanwhile, the holidays themselves can be bittersweet, bringing a poignant reminder that survivors are isolated, and to be safe, remain separated from their familiar neighborhoods, families, and friends.

One survivor shares the impact of the Holiday Drive: "My daughter and I were surviving on only \$491 a month. Through the Holiday Gift Drive, The Second Step's donors helped us through the hardest months of the year."

There Are Numerous Ways You Can Help!!!

Become an Angel: You can adopt a family, a child, or mom. Our "Angels" fill a wish list which can include winter clothing, blankets, or household goods as well as individual wishes for the games and playthings that all children love.

Become an Elf:

As gifts arrive in early December, an army of volunteers-our "Elves"-sorts, wraps, and bundles gifts for each individual or family.

Become a Reindeer:

Near the end of December, volunteer "**Reindeer**" pick up the gifts and deliver them individually to families' homes.



Please join our Holiday Gift Drive! It's a wonderful opportunity to meet the immediate needs of families recovering from domestic violence. As an "Angel," an "Elf," or "Reindeer," you help bring meaning and substance to the holiday season. It's a great opportunity to volunteer for a few hours or days, in company with other committed community members. Ideal for individuals, families, companies, religious and social groups, and schools. And it's fun!

To arrange to fill a family's wish list, or to wrap or deliver gifts, please email us at

holidaygiftdrive@thesecondstep.org or call Karen Frucci at 617-916-2754.

To make a donation to The Second Step Holiday Gift Drive, please contact Susan Keliher at 617-965-4173, email her at skeliher@thesecondstep.org, or visit www.thesecondstep.org to make a donation using a credit card.

THANK YOU FROM THE SECOND STEP!