

Dear Supporter,

In reflecting on our topic this issue – *community* – I thought about how my volunteer experiences with both youth and hunger organizations and my personal community of mentors and friends who influenced my decision to start this non-profit.

The encouragement I received from them was powerful, and helped to turn my idea into a reality. I thought about how my community has grown since then and all of the community involvement that the Haven Project has benefited from: involvement that has propelled us from just a concept in 2012 to a thriving, innovative organization which is constantly changing to meet the needs of local young adults.

The Haven Project has been very fortunate to have the support of a broad community which invests in its young people. There are people who open their homes, volunteer as mentors, host fundraisers for us, and donate regularly. When we have a need for anything, literally anything (!), I can confidently instruct staff to “make a post” or write a letter and we are flooded with responses.

I am so grateful for your support.



**Gini Mazman**  
Executive Director  
The Haven Project

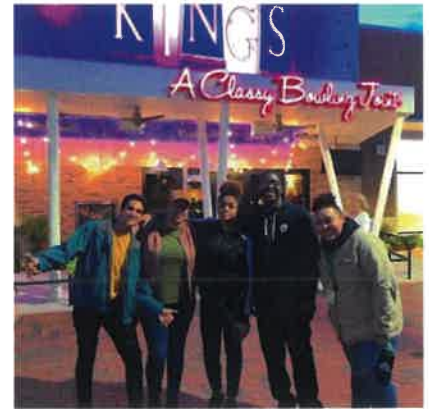
## Coming in from the Margins...

What does community mean in the context of our programming and why is it important?

When most of our clients come to us, they are in unhealthy relationships and have experienced trauma. When they begin to get jobs, enter school, and improve their physical and mental health, they often do not know how to safely build the new relationships and experiences they will need to sustain them. They isolate when it comes to these new situations which further limits their social opportunities and marginalizes them.

The Haven Project intentionally provides clients with safe opportunities to socialize, explore new hobbies and experiences. We encourage our clients to shape and advocate for legislation that affects them, to vote, create art, spend time outside in parks, and access the free and low- cost social opportunities that surround all of us. Some highlights just in the last 6 months include - social events such as vision board making, a murder mystery, a scavenger hunt at the mall, as well as life skills presentations on communication, time management, taxes, and a focus group to shape the state’s approach to end youth homelessness.

Through these experiences, our clients meet new people, fuel their passions, and open their world to possibilities. In our client programming, we regularly are able to demonstrate that there are good people and positive experiences everywhere. Sometimes, the only inspiration they need to move forward is the knowledge that someone cares about what happens to them and is willing to invest in their potential.



*Above: Clients socializing at a Haven Event at King's bowling*



*Above: Executive Director accompanying clients to State Legislative Action Day to speak on issues of homeless youth*



*Above: Life Skills Presentation in our Drop in Center in downtown Lynn*

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Haven Project.

Online via credit card:

[www.havenproject.net/donate](http://www.havenproject.net/donate)

Mail via check: 57 Munroe St., Lynn, MA 01901



<http://www.facebook.com/Haven.Project57/>

<http://www.facebook.com/lothlynn/>

## YOUNG ADULT VOICES

When the community college saw their student struggling, they connected us with Beth. Her parents struggled with addiction, so she left home to try to make it on her own. She got an apartment and a job and enrolled in college. But as her finances began to unravel, she moved to her grandparents' home in New Hampshire. She lost her job, but continued to commute to Lynn for classes 2 days a week for classes. It was all becoming too much. The stress of school, a lack of income, constant travelling, her toxic family situation, and her struggles with mental health had pushed her to the breaking point.

Beth needed a myriad of supports; supports that the Haven Project could immediately offer. She worked with a case manager to set goals, placed her in a temporary job in our cafe and were able to move her into our transitional apartment which was within walking distance of the college. Once her housing was stable, she started to realize some critical first successes. She started therapy and taking medication for

anxiety. She re-discovered her passion for art, began participating with one of our mentors to strengthen her presentation skills, and in April, she co-led an amazing paint workshop for Haven Project clients and had her work displayed at a local gallery. With the help of our job coaching, Beth ended up with two part-time jobs that she loves!

Just six months after our initial meeting, it is difficult to even recall those moments when Beth was so down and out. Her demeanor, attitude, accomplishments and circumstances have completely transformed. We are so privileged to work with young people like Beth who demonstrate such resilience and commitment to succeed.

### Want to learn about how to get involved at the Haven Project?

We hold informational meetings in the Café twice monthly. You can find out about upcoming dates and sign up on our website:

<http://havenproject.net/informational-meetings/>

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We met Dave and Liz Barceleau at a meeting about our Host Home program; a community-based housing program where volunteers provide a space in their home for one of our clients to live temporarily. When asked what drew them to becoming Host Home Providers, Liz replied "Our eyes were opened to what was going on in our own city" and "we wanted to walk the talk of our faith."

In April, Dave and Liz began hosting one of our clients, a young man who had been living in his car for weeks. In his short stay of three months, this young man has been able to work, prioritize his health, and enroll at Salem State! He

shared that staying with the Barceleaus has given him "a quiet place to rest, shower, and sleep" where he can "feel at peace."

The Barceleau's time hosting this young man is drawing to a close, but they are eager to host another client. Dave shared that both he and Liz have been grateful for the opportunity to host such a respectful young man. When asked what they would say to someone thinking of hosting, Liz said immediately "Do it. You can come up with a lot of reasons not to, but if you take that first leap, things will work out."

We are so thankful for Dave and Liz and their willingness to open their home. They have had a life-changing influence this young man. Now, he can move forward in his life with confidence that there are kind people in his community that can help him along his way.



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