Another year has come and gone, and the holiday season is about to begin! For most this means decorating the house with festive lights, creating memories with family and friends, and filling the season with good cheer! But how do you enjoy this special time of year when you don’t have a safe, warm place to live?

Through your generous compassion for others, Abby’s House is able to open the door to women and children who have been homeless for far too long. You provide them with a home where they feel safe, can stay warm, and feel hopeful again. This compassion is something that so many women, including Kim*, are incredibly thankful for this holiday season.

After raising children of her own, Kim was looking forward to regaining her independence. She was working, putting herself through nursing school, and living on her own. One of her daughters however, now with a daughter of her own, was struggling with her sobriety and wasn’t taking care of Kim’s granddaughter, Tracy*. She would often leave Tracy across the street at a known ‘crack house’ while she left to get high and had a constant parade of strangers in and out of their home. Kim knew that she needed to protect her seven-year-old granddaughter, so she sacrificed her career and home in Massachusetts, putting her schooling on hold as well, and moved to North Carolina where her daughter and granddaughter were living to begin the process of getting custody of Tracy.

After two long years, Kim was able to adopt Tracy, and began making plans to get her the support and counseling that she needed. Kim soon learned however, that North Carolina could not help her obtain the services that she and Tracy needed, so she decided to move back to Worcester, MA, where she had grown up. After arriving in Massachusetts, Kim had trouble finding a place for her and Tracy that was safe and affordable, so they stayed with Kim’s cousin and shared a room. After six months of searching for a home, a friend suggested Abby’s House, and encouraged Kim to complete a housing application. A few weeks later, Kim received a phone call from Abby’s House. Within two weeks of that phone call, she was given the keys to her own two-bedroom apartment where she and her granddaughter, Tracy could finally be safe and settle into their new lives.

“I can’t say enough good things about Abby’s,” said Kim. “They take care of the women and children who live here, not only with the big things, like providing services or pointing you in the right direction to help you reach your goals, but they even remember the little things like leaving birthday cards, Christmas gifts, meals - they do so much! Abby’s is always giving and I’m so grateful that Tracy, who is now a teenager, has grown up in such a compassionate environment!”

Thank you for providing women and children, like Kim and Tracy, with love, support, and compassion! It’s because of your continued generosity that Abby’s House is able to provide safe, affordable housing and advocacy services needed to empower women to lead lives filled with dignity and hope!

*Names changed to protect identities
Holiday Greetings
From Executive Director, Stephanie Page

We can only take it one step at a time and that is how we will get it done.

This sentiment comes from Joe Lewis, a Principal at Allegrone Companies, who is leading the construction of the 52 High Street renovation and describes so much of how things happen at Abby’s House. The vision for 52 High Street is immense and transformative, but it can only be accomplished by taking it one step at a time. With each decision and follow-up action, the renovation takes one step forward, moving closer to its completion.

Women transform their lives in similar ways at Abby’s House. They begin to dream of a more hopeful future, and through one decision and one step at a time, they get closer to fulfilling their dream. Like construction, it can be slow and difficult to see the progress, and it takes hard work and determination. But over time, women – like Kim (page 7) – one day wake up to a newly rebuilt life that is full of hope, dignity and pride.

The transformation of dreams to reality not only takes many steps at Abby’s House, but it takes many people, most especially you. Your belief in the mission of Abby’s House and the vision for the 52 High Street renovation, your compassion for women and children, and your generosity make it all happen. We thank you!

I hope you will join Abby’s House late next spring as we celebrate together the completion of the 52 High Street renovation and celebrate the women who walk through our doors to realize their dreams, one step at a time.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and new year,

Stephanie Page
Executive Director

Program Funding

As of October 31, 2018, we have raised $1,046,089, which is 70% of our total operating budget of $1,494,413.

Help us raise $448,324 before December 31, 2018
to meet our budget and to fully fund the shelter, housing, and advocacy services for the women & children who rely on us.

Spring-Tacular 2019

The annual Spring-Tacular 2019 event date has changed to:

May 16, 2019 at College of the Holy Cross
Hogan Campus Center (Ballroom)
Worcester, MA

*For more information including sponsorship opportunities, contact Kelly Whalen, Director of Development at 508-756-5486 X214 / kelly@abbyshouse.org
The renovation of this 56 single bedroom unit home has certainly picked up pace as the cold weather has arrived! On the exterior of the building, the new, accessible entryway has been framed and concrete for the wheelchair ramp has been poured. Masonry work continues as the original cast stone, located on the High Street side of the building, is being repaired or replaced to keep the historic charm of this home alive!

In the Annette Rafferty Women’s Empowerment Center, new kitchen appliances have been installed, including a new walk-in cooler and hood for the stove. The addition of these appliances will greatly aid in the storage and preparation of meals for the women and children of Abby’s House, who receive a warm, nutritious meal twice a week through the women’s center and access to the food pantry twice a month.

The new elevator, which will aid in the accessibility needs of the women, has been established in its permanent location and is now being built up from the inside. Elevator lobbies have also been created on each floor. Once completed, the elevator will run from the fourth floor down to the basement, where the newly renovated Abby’s House Thrift Shop will be housed.

On the second and third floors of the annex, the bedrooms and hallways have been painted and the woodwork around the windows and doorways have been restained. It is amazing to see what a fresh, clean coat of paint can do to truly transform a space! The attention to detail and care that the close to 50 men and women who are working on this project show daily is remarkable and reminds us of the power of coming together to create something wonderful, one step at a time!

What was once just a dream is coming to reality as this renovation moves closer to the finish line! Although some days are noisier than others, the women who are living through this project remain in high spirits and enjoy watching the progress being made on their home.

Through your support, you helped raise $31,000 (net) for women and children in our community.

Please join us for next year’s race on Saturday, October 19, 2019!

Special thanks to the Abby’s House 5K Run/Walk Committee:
Patti McKone (Committee Chair), Isa Bayon, Ashley Brandin, Mary Chenaille, Pam Hanson, Pam Guild & Tina Potenti LaCroix

For more information and to view a complete list of sponsors, visit www.abbyshouse.org/events
Naming Opportunities Available
52 High Street Single Occupancy Bedrooms
If you would like the opportunity to have one of the 56 newly renovated single occupancy bedrooms named in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Kelly Whalen, Director of Development at 508-756-5486 X214. Naming opportunities are $7,500 and above.

Making an Impact at Abby’s House
Each day at Abby’s House, women and children arrive in need of a safe place to rest their head, clothing to wear, and food to eat. When women come to us, especially in our shelter, they may not have eaten in days, or if they have, they have not had a meal that consists of protein like meat or fresh vegetables. These simple things that make up a well-rounded meal are often hard to come by when you have limited resources.

Lisa Engel has been instrumental in helping keep our food pantry well-stocked, as well as providing food for both the shelter and Abby’s House meal program. The food that Lisa provides for the women and children allows them to have hot, nutritious meals as part of their diets. Lisa is an avid ‘extreme couponer’ and spends hours each week combing through local grocery ads to find the best sales and clips coupons to help further stretch her savings.

“I love that through extreme couponing, I’m able to help people,” said Lisa. “Being raised by a single mother with 3 kids, I know that making sure there’s food on the table can be a struggle, so it’s satisfying for me to know that I can help someone who is facing the same challenges that my mother did.”

Through her impact, Lisa helps women and children go to sleep at night not having to worry about when their next meal might be. Everyone who volunteers or donates makes a very simple yet significant impact on women and children who are in need of food, clothing and housing -- all basic things that everyone needs not only to survive, but to move beyond to thrive.

Mark Your Calendars For
#Giving Tuesday
#GivingTuesday is a global movement that was created to inspire people to donate their time, talents, and treasure to non-profit organizations, small businesses, schools, religious organizations and more! Consider donating on Tuesday, November 27th by visiting our website at abbyshouse.org, and check out our social media pages to hear more about how your generosity is felt every day at Abby’s House! Gifts of all sizes matter!