

The Fixit Program Newsletter



Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.

Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc.

Strafford County Community Action Committee, Inc.

2005 Calendar Year in Review

Special points of interest:

- Over 1930 jobs requested.
- Servicing nearly 1,000 different "families" within past 2 years.
- Servicing Belknap, Merrimack, Hillsborough and Strafford Counties.
- Volunteer Profile.
- Our Deficit.
- A look at one of our sponsors.

Another great year for The Fixit Program! We:

- signed on 26 new regular volunteers and used nearly four hundred special volunteers.
- received 1,933 requests for service throughout the four counties.
- serviced 566 different clients.
- engaged 80 regular volunteers and 400 special volunteers.
- provided nearly \$300,000 worth of service to our clients.
- partnered with United Way of the Greater Seacoast to help expand into Strafford county.
- received a \$3,000 Grant from Timberland Company for seed money to start up in Strafford County.
- received grants from Gilford Community Church, Boscawen Congregational Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and

South Congregational Church both of Concord.

- received another gift of \$1,500 from Life Coping Inc. of Nashua.

Additionally:

- Fixit volunteers spent over 4,736 hours providing service to our clients.
- Volunteers drove nearly 32,000 miles to deliver service to our clients.
- Strafford County CAP received a \$5,000 grant from NH Charitable Foundation for start-up funds for The Fixit Program.
- Bob Bussey, Concord assistant, was nominated by Governor John Lynch to a position on the board of Volunteer NH!
- Manchester Christian Church sponsored 325 Christian youth and fifty adults who worked on 36 homes of our clients.



Easter Seals New Hampshire



Volunteer Profile: Leah Foster-Desroches by Bob Bussey



Leah has been a volunteer in Hillsborough County for a little over one year. She found the program after reading an article in the Sunday paper. She does spring

cleaning, yard work, painting and helps out on other projects.

Married for 23 years, Leah was born and raised in Canaan, NH and went to school at Franklin Pierce

College where she studied law. She has lived in the Bedford area for the past 11 years with her husband, Michael and their four children ages 22 to 10.

Besides raising a family and volunteering with The Fixit Program, Leah also volunteers with the Make a Wish Foundation where she works various fundraising events. She also enjoys renovating her house, playing tennis two times a week and “doing family things like vacations.”

Leah says of The Fixit Program: “As people get older there are so many things they cannot do. I have noticed that many of the people I do work for are also volunteers, such as at hospitals and the like. It’s nice working with them.”

New Volunteers step forward to service the elderly and disabled

The Fixit Program has signed on the following ten (10) volunteers (since our newsletter of last September):

Arthur Corte of Dover.

Jeff Winders of Rochester.

Jim Dean of So. Berwick, Maine

Dan Duval of Goffstown.

William Turcotte of Londonderry.

Ken Webber of Nashua.

Walter Daub of Bridgewater.

Chris Gentile of Gilmanton.

George Beyea of Grantham.

David Perry of Hooksett.

Spotlight on Strafford County by David Poisson

Our expansion into Strafford County officially started in November with receiving office space at Strafford County Community Action Committee located in Dover, NH.

Bob Bussey did the computer hook-up and all of our database records are accessible from their site.

We received initial seed money from Timberland Company of Stratham and the United Way of the Greater Seacoast awarded us a grant.

Strafford County CAP also applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the Greater

Piscataqua Community Foundation.

To date we have made numerous contacts and are well under way with “getting known”, and recruiting volunteers.

We will advertise for an Assistant to work part time in the office and hope to find the right person within the next few weeks.

We have applied for ongoing funding with the United Way and hope to establish a long lasting relationship with Timberland.

As always we continue to seek funders who will help support our efforts for the elderly and disabled in Strafford County.

The part time assistant will work 12–20 hours per week and will need to be a real go-getter.

Advisory Board to The Fixit Program By David Poisson



Advisory Board Members for 2005–2006.

(Front row, l–r) Richard Gourley, Cynthia Ward, Nancy Spater, David Poisson and Frank Martin.

Standing are Tom Cote, Mary Ellen Johansson, Bob DeAngelis and Jebb Curelop. [Not present: Ray Mailloux, Dana Nute and Charlie Wolfe]

Advisory Board Members meet eight (8) times a year to offer direction to the program and to provide financial stability.

Board member terms are for two years and there are no term limits.

Tom Cote, Chair of *Mirror Lake*. [Carroll County] President and Founder of Infusion Solutions, Inc. Besides being a board member Tom is a regular volunteer who has been with The Fixit Program for four years. Tom's company is a sponsor of The Fixit Program.

Dick Gourley of *Hopkinton*. [Merrimack County] Retired Oil Company Owner. Original Mr.Fixit. Dick has performed thousands of hours of service and has been on the Board for eleven years.

Jebb Curelop of *Nashua*. [Hillsborough County] President of Life Coping Inc., a care-giver organization servicing much of the State. Jebb is a second-year Board member.

Dana Nute of *Sanbornton*. [Merrimack County] Director, Weatherization and HOME Program. Dana is a former contractor and has been on the Board for three years.

Cynthia Ward of *Weare*. [Hillsborough County] Founder of Chrysalis Case Management. Cynthia, who has been on the Board for one year, and is a Geriatric and Disability Case Manager. Cynthia's husband Robert Fuller is also a Fixit volunteer in the program.

Nancy Spater of *Hopkinton*. [Merrimack County] Director of R.S.V.P. in Merrimack County. Original member of the steering committee that worked on creating The Fixit Program back in 1991. Nancy has been a Board member for eleven years in addition to her three on the steering committee.

Mary Ellen Johansson of *Manchester*. [Hillsborough County] Restores old homes. Is a regular volunteer as is her husband, Lars, and is in her second year on the Board.

Frank Martin of *Belmont*. [Belknap County] Retired engineer and former regular volunteer. Presently one of our designers of wheelchair ramps for The Fixit Program. Frank has been on the Board for four years.

Bob DeAngelis of *Warner*. [Merrimack County] Retired Navy engineer. Is a regular volunteer and has been a Board member for three years.

Ray Mailloux of *Chester*. [Rockingham County] President and Founder of Community House Calls, offering "fixit-type" services to clients for a fee in the Strafford, Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties. Ray is the former CEO of NH Catholic Charities and is a first-year Board member.

Charles Wolfe of *Dover*. [Strafford County] Director of Weatherization for Strafford County Community Action Committee. Charlie is the former president of the local Habitat for Humanity and is a first year board member.

"Please remember The Fixit Program in your will."

Meet one of our Sponsors by Bob Bussey



Lyn Coffin

“Studies have shown that people stay happier and healthier when they are able to remain in their own home” says Lyn Coffin, a Certified Senior Advisor and Senior Lending Manager at **Equity America** in Manchester.

“A reverse mortgage can be an integral part of a senior’s financial plan enabling them to achieve this goal”.

The beauty of a reverse mortgage is that it enables homeowners, over the age of 62, to convert a portion of the equity in their home into tax-free income without having to sell the home, give up title or take on a new monthly mortgage payment. In cases where there is in an exist-

ing mortgage on the property, the proceeds of the reverse mortgage are typically used to pay off the loan. This can increase a borrower’s monthly cash flow since they no longer have to make payments on their conventional mortgage.

Some of the advantages include:

- They continue to own the house and hold the title. As long as property tax and insurance payments are made and the home is maintained they can never be forced to leave.
- Borrowers can select to receive loan funds through a combination of payment options such as a lump sum or a line of credit.
- There are *no* restrictions on how a senior can spend their money.

“Awareness of reverse mortgages can open up options and choices for seniors” continues Lyn. “It can be the source of funding to address needs ranging from: home safety and fitness, home accessibility issues, financial planning and budgeting, in-home healthcare and chore services, transportation, etc.”

“One of the pleasant rewards in my job is that I receive wonderful correspondence from seniors. They range from lovely handwritten notes to lengthy letters detailing how their lives have been transformed by this program. I am always touched by the people I meet.”

For information call 1-800-794-4300

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~The Fixit Program~

Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.

Volunteers maintaining and repairing the homes of senior and disabled citizens in Belknap, Merrimack, Hillsborough and Strafford Counties.

WWW.BM-CAP.ORG / FIXIT

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David Poisson, Director
Robert Bussey, Concord Assistant
Alfred St. Cyr, Manchester/Nashua Assistant
Soon to be hired, Strafford County Assistant

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**The Fixit Program
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