

A publication focusing on nonprofit agencies • Funded by Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes

## Nature's medicine

### Union Hospital builds spiritual healing gardens

By PAUL FINCH

There's a difference, Anna Pelosi of Union Hospital said, between curing and healing.

Curing happens with medicine and surgery. But healing ... that comes

from within, from deep inside the body, from a reservoir of strength and resolve that can often enhance the cure.

That was the idea of the Healing Garden at Union – an oasis on the grounds of the hospital where patients – either alone or with their families – can go to find the peace of mind and strength they need to cope with their medical conditions.

The idea of a healing garden started six years ago, said Pelosi, who has coordinated the effort since the

beginning. Originally, Pelosi was part of an ambiance committee that set out to remake the hospital with hopes of enhancing the healing process.

"Healing isn't just physical," she said. "It's a way to find peace, love, and strength that is quite different than curing."

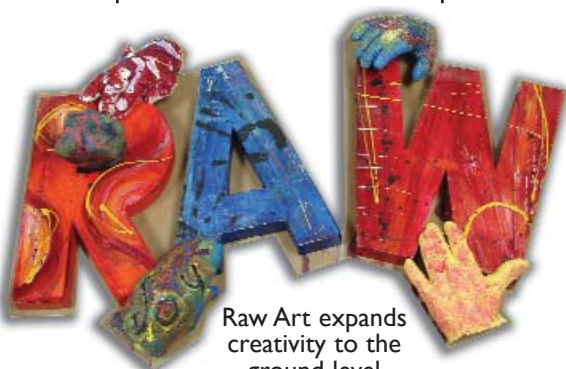
"Curing," she added, "is when you break your leg and have it set. But this (the garden) hopefully gives you the strength to deal with the challenges that come with sickness, or

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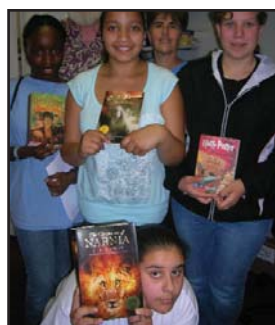
David J. Solimine Sr., left forefront and Dr. Harvey Zarren at the construction site of the Healing Gardens at Union. Bill Samson, back left, and John Richard of Delulis Brothers construction.

insidethe  
autumn edition



Raw Art expands creativity to the ground level

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#### INCREASING LITERACY

First Book helps kids get the resources they need.

PAGE 3



#### SERVING FAMILIES

FCS continues to adapt to Lynn's changing population.

PAGE 8



By MEAGHAN CASEY

In a special homecoming for many of the city's children placed in schools and homes outside of Lynn, Serving People In Need (SPIN) is opening the doors of its new-found Lynn Academy.

Located on Newhall Street, the Lynn Academy will

## Serving people, indeed

### DSS-placed kids have a home to call their own

encompass three new programs to address the needs of the children in the Lynn area involved with family networks. The Short Term Assessment and Rapid Reintegration program, located at 50-52 Newhall St., is welcoming 12 children this month. The other two buildings SPIN is occupying will serve as group homes for

children ages 6-12 and 13-18. Combined, the two buildings will house another 24 children.

"We're so looking forward to working with the kids who will walk through this door," said Heather Hildebrand, SPIN director of operations. "We're fortunate to have such a positive working

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From left, Jim Toomey, board president of Affordable Housing Associates of Lynn, Mark DeJoie, Executive Director at SPIN, Tom O'Keefe, SPIN board president, and Harry Spence, DSS commissioner are all smiles at the grand opening of the Lynn Academy.

PHOTO: PAULA MULLER

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN TOUCH

"The focus of The Connector is to highlight the individuals and groups in this community whose lives have been touched and strengthened thanks to the dedication and generosity of others."

David J. Solimine Jr commentary, PAGE 2



**GREATER LYNN CONNECTOR**

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**GC**  
**CG**

# Lynn takes pride in community outreach



**Edward J. Clancy Jr.**

The City of Lynn and its residents take pride in the fact that we have a long tradition of reaching out and offering assistance to those members of our community who need help, whether it be a pre-school student in a Head Start program or a senior citizen getting a lunch delivered from Meals on Wheels.

We are fortunate in Lynn to have a significant number of nonprofit agencies that provide these types of services every day. In carrying out their mission, these agencies employ thousands of people,

which also serves as a stimulus for the local economy.

The Connector is an excellent vehicle to shine some light on the tremendous work that is being undertaken by the nonprofits in the city. The stories you will read on these pages will give you insight into the agencies and the people who make them tick. You will also meet many people who are on the receiving end of the caring and goodwill. The nonprofits that operate here have advanced the city's reputation as a place where those in need of services are

Unlike a private business which is charged with generating black ink on the bottom line, government exists to provide services for its citizens in a compassionate, professional, efficient manner. In Lynn, we are assisted in carrying out our mission by a host of nonprofits who are dedicated to serving others, first and foremost.

Enjoy this edition of The Connector.

*Edward J. "Chip" Clancy Jr. is mayor of Lynn.*

## Taking an opportunity for service in local nonprofits



**Mark S. Kennard**

Every nonprofit organization is governed by a board of directors. In most cases, the board is made up of individuals from the community who have an interest in a particular organization or type of service.

Board members bring different skills and play different roles to support and build the organization, working toward common goals

with management.

But while board members act as supporters and builders, they have another role to play as monitors of the organization. As part of the team with management, the board stands with the nonprofit organization as it operates in the community. In contrast, in its governing role, the board must stand outside the organization and hold it accountable to the public interest.

The two roles of support and governance are very different tasks. In the role of supporters, board members strive to ensure the success of the organization. Boards raise money, bring contacts and clout to the organization, provide special skills and act as

ambassadors to the community. The governance role, on the other hand, has as its goal the protection of the public interest. Governance responsibilities for boards include selecting the top executive (the chief executive officer) and assessing his or her performance, reviewing and authorizing plans, ensuring compliance with legal and contract requirements, and evaluating the organization's work.

No nonprofit can be successful in achieving its mission without a strong, dedicated and questioning volunteer Board of Directors. It does not take any special education or expertise to join a Board. It takes some time,

lots of interest, and a commitment to the organization and to the community. Many nonprofit organizations in Lynn are actively looking for new Board members. In fact the Lynn-Nonprofit Business Association will be facilitating a training in the fall for anyone in the Lynn community who may be interested in serving on a local nonprofit Board of Directors and are not sure how or where to start. If you have an interest to learn and a desire to serve, you may be just that person.

*Mark S. Kennard is executive director of Project COPE in Lynn and president of the Lynn Nonprofit Business Association.*

## The importance of human touch

As diverse as Lynn-area nonprofits are in their missions and focus, the one common thread throughout their delivery of services is the human touch. In our fast-paced world of computers, the Internet and immediate communication, the ability to connect on a personal level has become more and more important. Many of the things that I have learned as a funeral director about the importance of human touch strengthen my belief and support of the work of the nonprofit community.

The focus of *The Connector* is to highlight the individuals and groups in this community whose lives have been touched and strengthened thanks to the dedication and generosity of others.

Whether it be introducing a young child to books or putting a paintbrush in his or her hand, the nonprofits of this city are shaping the lives of our next generation of leaders.

Each and every one of our young



**David J. Solimine Jr.**

children deserves a chance, a helping hand to reach their goals. Programs such as RAW Art Works, the YMCA and the Lynn Boys and Girls Club are doing their part to create healthy, active and exciting after-school environments for our youth. SPIN is bringing home some of this city's adolescents who have been placed miles away from their familiar neighborhoods and classrooms. There are countless other programs designed to guide children through critical moments in their lives, such as Head Start, Family and Children's Services, Children's Law Center, Play It Safe and LaVida – all of which you will

read about in this publication.

The qualities of personal care and human touch are equally important for our elder generation. The home assistance, Meals on Wheels, personal emergency-response systems and nursing care available to the seniors in this city are impressive. Without these services, many of the community's residents would be out of their homes or burdened by responsibilities. More often than not we need to remember that we are not alone. A successful community is made up of caring individuals, working together for a greater good. We are fortunate in Lynn to have such a strong group of nonprofit agencies doing their part, and inspiring each of us to follow.

*David J. Solimine Jr. is vice president of Solimine Landergan & Richardson Funeral Homes, which funds The Connector.*



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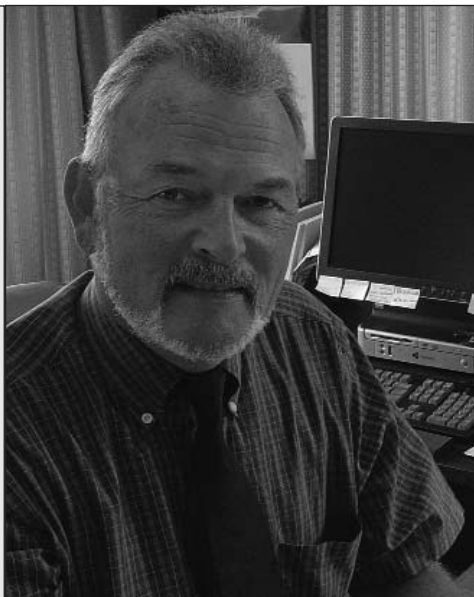
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board  
member profile

The backbone of any nonprofit organization is its board of directors. For instance, Item President and Publisher Peter H. Gamage (right) has always placed a priority on community involvement. *The Connector* encourages those interested to contact a favored nonprofit and volunteer.



## Generosity remains an important item to Gamage

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

As a member of the fifth generation at the family-owned *Daily Item* newspaper of Lynn, President and Publisher Peter H. Gamage understands the importance of giving back to a community that has shaped him since youth.

“Lynn has always been a big part of my life,” said Gamage, a Marblehead native. “It was where we shopped, went to the movies, played sports and, of course grew up in the newspaper industry. From a young age, giving back was always engrained in us.”

Today, Gamage remains attuned to the improvement of everyday life, both in the Lynn business community and area nonprofit organizations. He serves on the executive board of the Lynn Business Partnership (LBP), of which he was a founding member, is a trustee of the Agganis Foundation and serves on the board of directors at Girls Inc. He is also a trustee at Eastern Bank and has been invited to join the executive advisory committee of the Lynn Museum and Historical Society.

“There’s a wealth of talented people in Lynn and I’m proud to work with them on a number of projects,” said Gamage. “The LBP is an organization that energizes the business community. The Boys & Girls Club is a wonderfully effective organization for kids. Girls Inc. is a uniquely positive program for young women. I’m thrilled to be associated with the Agganis Foundation – which *The Item* helped found 50 years ago and which has given away more than \$1 million in scholarships.”

Gamage was honored with the Agganis Foundation’s Paul F. Cavanagh Memorial Fellowship Award in 1993, for conveying the foundation’s ideals of sportsmanship, education and community.

For 20 years, he also served on the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn, and was honored twice with the National Communications Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Gamage, who began working at *The Item* as a copy editor and general assignment reporter 30 years ago and has been general manager and publisher before being elected president and treasurer of the family company in 1997.

Over these three decades, he has witnessed the changes that have occurred in the city, strengthening its economy, culture and spirit.

“When I first came to work full-time in *The Item* newsroom, the schools were in receivership,” said Gamage. “Now they’re healthier and curriculum is growing in a diverse and imaginative way. Burning buildings were everyday front-page news, whereas now there is a renaissance of condominiums, loft apartments and single-family homes. Lynn’s natural resources were taken for granted, whereas now they’re treasured. Development was government-subsidized projects, and now they’re entrepreneurial. Transportation was ignored, and now it’s pursued vigorously and linked throughout various communities. Those are huge changes, and all 180 degrees better.”

Gamage has taken a proactive approach in maintaining *The Item*’s civic responsibility.

“As a family business, *The Item* continuously reinvests in our home community of Lynn,” he said, noting the paper annually sponsors programs and events such as Item Santa, Scripps-Howard Regional Spelling Bee, Holiday Carol Sing, Newspaper in Education, and Women in Business Forum and Awards Luncheon.

# First Book: A new chapter for increasing literacy

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A child’s first book is a momentous gift, unlocking the doors to imagination and education.

Thanks to First Book-Lynn — a nonprofit organization that gives children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books — area children have reason to celebrate, as the foundation of their home library begins to take shape.

The First Book model was developed to leverage the work of local organizations and individuals who reach children through literacy programs in settings such as Head Start centers, libraries, churches, housing projects and after-school initiatives. The national organization, founded in 1992, has distributed more than 40 million new books to children across the U.S.

Locally, the Lynn Advisory Board has provided thousands of books to children participating in community-based mentoring, tutoring and family literacy programs since 2002. As one of nearly 250 volunteer advisory boards, First Book-Lynn was formed through the advocacy of a group of Lynn teachers and representatives from the United Way.

“The group became aware of the national program and approached the mayor’s office to establish a local advisory board,” said Bill Bochnak, deputy chief of staff for Mayor Edward J. “Chip” Clancy Jr. Bochnak has served as co-chair of the Lynn Advisory Board for the past two years. “Susan Gross, a United Way staffer, very active in the city, was really the catalyst for the organization, along with Drewicz School teacher Mary Jean Halas.”

In its first year, Lynn received a starter grant of 7,000 new books to distribute. Through fundraising events and donations from individuals, businesses, services organizations and foundations, the group has been able to continuously support the purchase of new books. Since 2004, the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce has designated First Book-Lynn as its preferred local charity, generously pledging thousands of dollars and

promoting the message of First Book.

“From the beginning, the local business community has played a prominent role in the success of First Book-Lynn,” said Bochnak. “From small local donations from Fauci Pizza to corporate support from Keyspan, Comcast, National Grid, the North Shore Spirit, the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce and TransRiver Marketing, a financial foundation was established.”

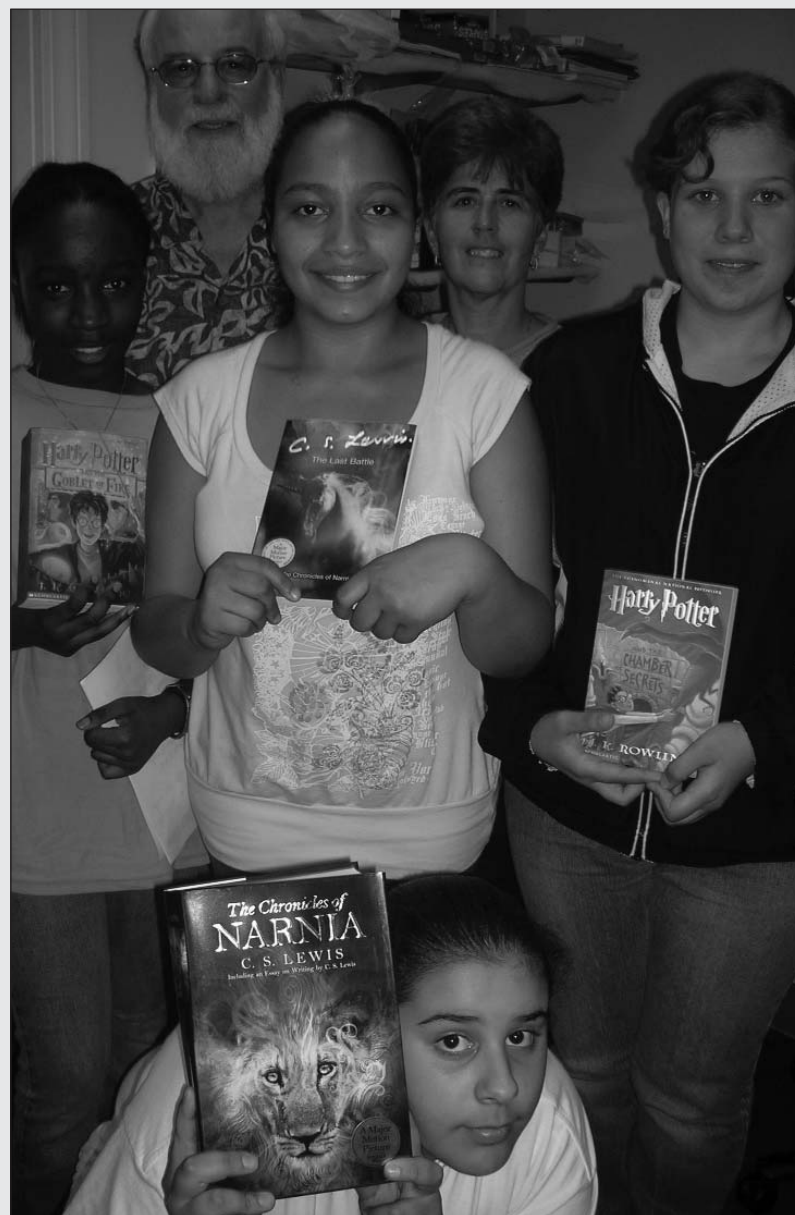
In collaboration with Borders and First Book National, the 13-member Lynn Advisory Board was able to donate \$500 gift cards to area agencies including Girls Inc., La Vida, Lynn Community Health Center and Family and Children’s Services of Greater Lynn. Each of the agencies was able to translate the

dollars into books for the children it serves.

To date, 14,000 new books have been purchased and distributed through First Book-Lynn. Another 8,000 books will be distributed to local children this fall, according to Bochnak. Through the purchasing power of First Book National, the books, on average, cost only \$2.50.

“It’s very rare in today’s day and age to get such a bang for your buck,” said Bochnak. “As a result of no overhead expenses, nearly every cent donated goes directly back to the children in the City of Lynn.”

*If you would like to help First Book-Lynn, donations can be sent in care of First Book-Lynn, 3 City Hall Square, Room 306, Lynn, MA 01901.*



A First Book Lynn Borders Books distribution event was held at Girls Inc. Back from left, First Book Lynn Advisory Board Member Joe Boyd and a co-chair Dottie Thibodeau. Middle from left, Shaniqua Holcombe, Samantha Sanchez, Krista Hogan and Brianna Thibault (front).



# DYNAMIC DUO

## Exercising at the YMCA keeps them ageless

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

Stroll into the women's fitness room at the Greater Lynn YMCA on any day of the week, and chances are you will see Fran Lake or her mother, Anne Hegner, walking briskly on a treadmill.

This might not seem that remarkable, except that both women are over 70, yet they maintain an approach to exercise that many half their age would be hard pressed to match. Seven days a week, an hour of exercise is part of their daily routines. It is the constant that they schedule around doctor's appointments, errands, and visits

with relatives and friends.

"Being active is so good for you. It helps us to stay healthy and feel alive," said Lake.

The women joined the Y a year and a half ago, when they moved into an apartment in Wall Plaza that was too small to accommodate the treadmill they'd been using in their house on the Cape. Both women had grown up in Lynn, but Lake had moved to the Cape with her husband 30 years ago, where she raised her family, and her mother had eventually moved in with them.

"Coming to the Y was a new experience for us," said Lake. "When my mother was raising her family and then when I was raising mine, we never went to the Y. We kept active in other ways — shoveling snow, doing work in the yard. And my mother was a big ballroom dancer. She and my father went to dances all the time, in Nahant and at Revere Beach."

Although they had never been to the Y, both were familiar with it through Hegner's husband, Tom, who played volleyball in several leagues sponsored by the organization.

"My husband absolutely loved the Y," said Hegner. "He was a great volleyball player and played on a number of teams throughout the city. He came down here all the time."

The Y now plays a similarly significant role in the lives of these women, who have embraced it after so much time away.

"The Y has been wonderful for us. Everyone is so nice and welcoming," said Lake. "We joke with the guys who park their motorcycles out front. We'll ask, 'Do you mind if we park our motorcycles next to yours?' And they'll joke back. You have to have a sense of humor."

To learn more about the Lynn YMCA visit [www.lynnymca.org](http://www.lynnymca.org) or call (781) 581-3105.



Anne and Fran walk on a treadmill at the Lynn YMCA every day.

## GLSS offers variety for seniors

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) headquarters on Silsbee Street is a lively place.

During the week, anywhere from 50 to 75 seniors filter through the Lynn Council on Aging Senior Center — the building's large, open, and air conditioned central space — where they meet with friends, eat lunch, socialize, or participate in organized activities, such as watercolor, bingo, or beginning tap.

Thirty feet away, GLSS' cadre of case managers, advocates, and other professionals stay busy coordinating an array of services, from rides to meal delivery, that address needs specific to greater Lynn's over-60 community.

This close proximity between the senior center and the GLSS offices, which gives seniors a chance to get to know staff and become familiar with

the organization and its resources, is one of the organization's strengths.

"Most people start off at the Senior Center, coming down a few days a week just to socialize, play games, eat lunch — often for years and years," said Jeanne Leydon, Director of Client Services. "Then one day they need a ride. They know what we offer, so they call our transportation department. Maybe a few months later they need someone to take out the garbage and do some heavy chores, so we arrange for a home worker to visit once a week. We progress with a person as needed."

GLSS' services address issues involving transportation, meals, home care, housing, advocacy, and support. The level of help available spans the spectrum from minimal to involved and temporary to long term.

For example, GLSS' Community Cafes, which are located within a local

otherwise unable to prepare their own meals. The complementary design of this programming, in which each is suited to meet a distinct set of needs that a person would have at different times, is typical of GLSS' approach to its service offerings.

"GLSS offers such a wide range of services that we can wrap around a person — gradually or for a short period — in a way that makes sense for that individual," said Leydon.

GLSS has resources designed specifically for family members deeply involved with the care of an elderly person, such as the Caregiver Support Group, and will deploy resources specifically to relieve the stress of a caregiver.

Janet Goodwin, who has had a long relationship with GLSS and seen the organization from inside and out, is a person for whom GLSS resources have worked exactly as intended.

The 95-year old worked and then volunteered part-time in GLSS' finance department until a broken ankle sent her into retirement at age 87. Since 1999, when the accident occurred, she has lived independently in her senior apartment complex, among friends and acquaintances, with the help of transportation services and a homemaker.

To learn more about GLSS, visit [www.glss.net](http://www.glss.net) or call (781) 599-0110.



Meals on Wheels van makes a stop.

senior center or housing facility, offer healthy, affordable meals — usually lunch — in a comfortable social setting that gives seniors a way to get out.

At the other end of the spectrum is Meals on Wheels, which is designed specifically to serve people who are homebound or

## All-Care helps clients manage diabetes

BY PAUL FINCH

Type 2 diabetes is an ever-growing menace to the health and welfare of the general population. Yet, as serious as it is, and as harsh as the long-term prognosis sounds, it should not be considered a death sentence. Nor should it be seen as a guarantee that life will turn into a series of health setbacks, providing it is managed correctly.

Type 2 diabetes has been known in the past as adult-onset diabetes. It differs from Type 1 in that it generally occurs in mid-life, either as a result of lifestyle or heredity, whereas Type 1 is more often diagnosed in juveniles.

All-Care Visiting Nurses Association aggressively promotes self-management of diabetes and has a full-time nurse educator, Kathy Maes, on board to educate patients and consult with staff members on the various aspects of the disease.

All Care's mission is to help patients maintain their independence while fighting sickness. Its stated goal is to "give patients the tools to successful self-management and control."

Diabetes demands a new learning

set and often a complete life change. Daily medications, change in diets, monitoring blood sugars and reassessing travel habits are just some of the life changes that need to be addressed.

All Care has teamed with its medical equipment company to provide free glucometers on the first visit with patients. From day one All Care's focus is to empower its clients and be a resource for them.

More than 18 million Americans suffer from Type 2 diabetes. Some of the risk factors for developing this include a family history of the disease, being overweight, having an elevated blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and living a sedentary lifestyle.

Along with learning to control or change these factors, blood sugar monitoring is key to developing a treatment plan and making adjustments when needed. In the home setting All Care is able to work with patients in their environment making learning more comfortable and tailored to their individual needs.

To learn more about All Care VNA call 1-800-287-2454.



# From Russia, to Lynn

## Jewish Family and Children's Service's New American Services Program to help immigrants get a start

By RICH FAHEY

From Russia, to Lynn.

It's not the name of a James Bond movie. For many new émigrés from the former Soviet Union, and indeed, from countries around the world, their first contact with their new country is apt to begin in downtown Lynn. That's because the Jewish Family and Children's Service operates its New American Services Program at the Community Minority Cultural Center at 298 Union St., under the direction of Alla Brickman, the resettlement case manager and volunteer program coordinator at the Lynn site.

The Russian community on the North Shore is estimated to number about 8,000 people, many of whom started here in Lynn. The program services both Jews from the former Soviet Union who have obtained permission to emigrate, and political refugees from all over the world who have been granted asylum in the U.S.

Ena Feinberg, director of New American Services for the Jewish Family and Children's Service, said her agency's involvement with political refugees begins when they are informed by the state Office of Refugees and Immigrants about someone who has been granted political asylum in the U.S., and is eligible for benefits. Many of the refugees come from war-torn African countries such as Liberia, Somalia, the Ivory Coast and Cameroon. They come bearing a passport that shows they have been approved for political asylum.

"Some of them just show up in Lynn and say, 'Here I am,'" said Feinberg. "Because of their status, they are entitled to certain benefits. We give them

information on those benefits and help them obtain them."

When it comes to Russian émigrés, the process is more defined. Former émigrés who now live legally in the U.S. and have relatives eligible for refugee status must fill out an affidavit of relationship and register it with the Lynn office.

The prospective refugees are interviewed in Moscow. When approval is obtained, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the national agency that oversees the resettlement of Jews from the former USSR, informs the Lynn agency, and sends along background

information on those benefits and help them obtain them."

That's where a dedicated corps of volunteers at the Lynn site kicks in. They provide not only instruction in English, but serve as cultural liaisons, giving advice on American customs and everyday things such as banking and shopping. The Russian community already here is another valuable resource.

"Sometimes it's comforting just to hear someone speaking your language," said Feinberg, a former "refusenik" who came to this country in 1987. "Because I was a refusenik, I had plenty of time to study English."

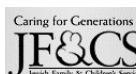
Obtaining employment can be an arduous process, but in some cases the émigrés make a quick transition.

"Someone who is 59 and came over just a few days ago, who was skilled in physics and mathematics, has already obtained work at a high rate of pay," said Feinberg. "He could speak the language of science, and that really helped."

For professionals such as doctors and lawyers, it can be a frustrating process. It can take up to eight years for a doctor to be re-certified to work in the U.S. Until then, he or she must obtain the best job they can while going through the process.

Feinberg estimated the North Shore resettlement program, which is aimed at aiding those in their first year or so in the U.S., helps between 150-200 people a year.

*To learn more about the New American Services Program of Jewish Family and Children Services contact Alla Brickman at (781) 593-0100.*



# Stephen Bourke Fund for Childhood Cancer Research continues to thrive

By PAUL FINCH

Stephen Bourke was only 2½ years old in 1981 when he had such a high fever that he had a seizure.

His parents, Bob and Debbie, took him to the emergency room immediately, where he was referred first to a pediatrician and then to Boston Floating Hospital. There, a week later, came the stunning diagnosis: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) – a fast-growing cancer of the white blood cells.

Stephen lived two years. He died in 1983, when he was 4½. His father, who is a lieutenant in the Lynn Fire Department's fire-prevention unit, recalls feeling so powerless over the disease and his young son's death that he and his wife created a research fund while Stephen was still alive. Today, the Stephen Bourke Fund for Childhood Cancer Research is thriving.

"We had to focus our energies on something," he says. "We had another child (Bob, now 30) to raise, and we couldn't give up on life. We had to direct our energies into something positive, to help other people so that they'd have a better time coping with it than we, perhaps, had ... and to give to research that might save someone else's life."

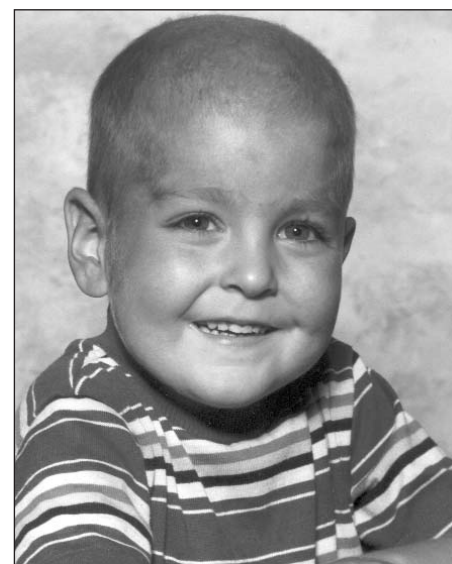
Bourke says that while cancer is still the No. 1 killer of small children, young boys and girls with the disease represent a small population of the total number of annual victims.

"Because of that," Bourke says, "it is very hard to get research funding for childhood cancer. Basically, we were encouraged – at the New England Medical Center – to raise money for cancer research."

The Bourkes haven't stopped. In the beginning they ran dances and craft fairs. But 13 years ago, they graduated to an annual golf tournament at Tedesco Country Club in Marblehead. This year's is on Monday, September 18. The Bourkes also accept money in memory of those who have died due to childhood cancer.

The fund has raised between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year, and much of it goes to a basic laboratory that researches childhood cancer in general. But, says Bourke, the fund is used for a variety of endeavors. Some of the money was used to fund a full-time parent consultant at the medical center – someone who has experienced the horrors of the disease, and can perhaps help parents coping with a recent diagnosis through some rough spots.

"Picture it," Bourke said. "When we went into the hospital, the doctors said, 'He has leukemia,' and they put him in a room and started jabbing him with needles.



Stephen Bourke was only four-years old when he died of Leukemia.

"Since the second year of the fund the hospital has had a parent consultant who has had a child with cancer (Phyllis Grippi, who is also a nurse).

"She's been there," Bourke says. "She knows what you're going through. She can help you over some of the bumps in the road. Obviously, the doctors and nurses up there are fantastic, but they have a lot of things to do. Phyllis is kind of a professional hand-holder, I'd say."

This is an area that Bourke feels is especially important, so much so that "we give (the medical center) money to publish a children's cancer handbook."

Bourke says that while medicine has made great strides in treating Stephen's disease, "the numbers are still staggering.

"About 20 years ago, I would have said that by now, we'd have a cure," he says. "And obviously we don't. There have been strides in new treatment, new methods. But in some cases, the treatments now are the same as they were 25 years ago. With certain types of leukemia, there's been some progress ... but not the type of progress I'd like to see."

The Bourkes remain dedicated to their cause – and they are proud of the fact that they're still as active with it as they were when they started.

"Obviously we've hung in there a long time," Bourke said. "Most people do this for a year, or two years. We've been doing this for 25 years. Time goes by too fast."

*To donate to The Stephen Bourke Fund for Childhood Cancer Research, checks can be sent to PO Box 502, Lynn, MA 01905. All donors will receive an acknowledgement and receipt for their donations. All donations are tax-deductible.*



# Savannah

This fall Savannah embarked on her first semester at Fitchburg State College as a film student in the Communications Media department. Her choice of academic and career paths is extraordinary, given her self-conception three years ago, "pre-RAW."

"I wouldn't have considered myself an artist before I started here," she said. "But RAW (Art Works) has helped me realize that I do have a perspective, a view, and that I'm worth listening to."

This transformation began when she enrolled in RAW's film school - Real2Reel - after speaking with film school teacher, Chris Gaines, during a school activity fair at the beginning of her sophomore year at Lynn Classical High.

"I was into theater in school, and was always looking for a medium to express myself through. I saw this and thought I'd try it out, then it captured me," she said.

At RAW she learned the fundamentals of film technique, storytelling, and the interplay between the story that's being told and the formal choices used to tell that story. After mastering the basics, she advanced to edit and produced her own documentary about Lynn and its stereotypes, helped curate film festivals for the Cloud Foundation, and was chosen as one of the seven RAW students awarded a grant by the Cloud Foundation to travel to Paris in July of 2005. They met a group of dancers from a French high school, explored the city with them, and upon returning home, made a film about the trip that touched on what they learned about French and American stereotypes.

Like many who attend RAW, Savannah described the program as more than just a studio where kids can learn and experiment in an artistic medium.

"It's a home. They're really welcoming, even just walking in the door. It's given me friends and a place to go after school, even during the summers. And it's given me perspective and a future. Without it, I don't know that I would have any clear goals or aspirations," she said.



Savannah produced her own documentary about Lynn and its stereotypes.



## Raw Art expanding enthusiam, creativity and community to the ground level

By CAITLIN BOWLER

When RAW Art Works offered its first art-making program 12 years ago at 87 Central Square, it was in a space on the building's fourth floor where the 16 kids who participated had a bird's eye view of their city. Since then, the organization has established a bold presence in Lynn's youth community through the programs it has developed for elementary, middle school, and high school students, which include a film school, a performing arts program, and a post-high school mentoring program. During its tenure at 87 Central Square, it has taken over the second and third floors, one at a time, to accommodate its kids, instructors, staff, and their art, but has always remained sequestered above the life on its street.

Now, however, with the possibility of a ground floor studio within sight, RAW is poised to bring the enthusiasm, creativity and community that have been percolating in the upper stories for years, down to street level. The new ground floor gallery and studio RAW envisions for the now-empty, ground floor space would give downtown pedestrians a permanent view of student art and forge a strong connection between RAW's youth and the people who work, live, and pass through downtown everyday.

"We want our kids' artwork to be visible to everyone in Lynn," said Susan Sakash, Associate Director of Development at RAW Art Works. "With a ground-floor gallery, passersby will see large pieces of artwork greeting them, inviting them to see what's in here, and giving them tangible examples of what kids accomplish in our programs."

"What's so cool about RAW," continued Sakash, "is that it's right downtown and gives our kids a place to come to. As Lynn continues to grow, change, and prosper, this street-level gallery will give our kids the chance to have this new positive, visible presence."

Co-founders Kit Jenkins, Mary Flannery and Beau Diehl originally created RAW Art Works as a safe place where Lynn kids could come to learn to express themselves artistically, and explore the artistic process under the guidance of trained art therapists.

Since its creation, thousands of kids have embraced the RAW motto – No mistakes, just art — while attending RAW programs, using art as a process for understanding and expressing themselves and the studio as a place to draft visions of whom they aspire to become.

For more information about RAW Art Works, call (781) 593-5515, or visit [www.rawart.org](http://www.rawart.org).



# Johnny

Johnny has been involved with RAW Arts for the past nine years, since he was seven, and has been drawn back year after year by the people, the energy, and the opportunity to make art in the company of friends and peers. Along the way he's mastered an array of artistic skills, gotten to know the organization and its ways from the inside out, and says that RAW has played a big role in his life-all of which have made him particularly suited to become a RAW chief.

This year, he leads groups of middle school kids, spending a lot of time getting them beyond the "too-cool-for-this" threshold to a point where they become enthusiastic about making art. Objectively, that's a tough assignment, but there may not be anyone better suited for it that Johnny, whose energy for art is palpable.

"Working with kids is really cool," he said. "You have to have patience and try to give them good advice. They look up to you and they grow on you. It gets really fun once they're excited."

His affinity for art has permeated other areas of his life and for the past two years he has been slowly parlaying the airbrushing skills he learned at RAW Arts into a small entrepreneurial endeavor, aptly named, "J.R., Inc." For a set fee he will airbrush standard designs or a design a customer has created onto T-shirts, pants, shoes or other items. For a little bit more, he will create an individualized design. So far, it is a part-time job, but he's putting his skills to work and thinking about how to do more with this kind of commercial endeavor in the future.

"RAW," he said, "has a lot to do with what I do." As a sophomore at Lynn Tech, he's got at least three more years to keep RAW a part of his life.



Johnny shows off one of the his custom made J.R., Inc. t-shirts.

# Angela

Before joining RAW's film school in 10th grade, Angela was an accomplished artist most comfortable in art's more traditional mediums. For two years she had explored acrylics, pastels, and charcoals in RAW's foundation class, Adventures in Fine Arts, that encourages experimentation in a variety of traditional mediums, and includes field trips to galleries and talks with North Shore artists.

For her, film was an unexplored frontier and digital technology, which she had yet to master, was a source of anxiety.

"Although I'd never done anything with film before," she said, "it seemed really interesting. Everyone was interested in being creative and you didn't really need any skills to start, you just had to be ready to open up."

She joined Real2Reel and quickly got over her "fear of technology." She went on to excel in the medium and, with fellow student Aaron Legere, produced the short film, "Just Another Passerby," which won the Best Experimental Film award at the 2004 Salt Lake City Film Festival.

"I'd never done anything with film before, but it seemed really interesting," she said. "It ended up being great for me."

Her involvement with the film school landed her on the Cloud Foundation-sponsored trip to Paris, which, she said, "was a huge opportunity and something that never would



Angela painted several doors at Raw Art.

have happened if I hadn't been involved with RAW."

After studying art at Massachusetts College of Art last year, Angela returned to RAW this past summer to work on several organizational development projects. She's now taking a hiatus from her academic study of art and focusing instead on sociology.



A self-portrait painted by Jon Klod.



# FCS keeps tempo with community

By CAITLIN BOWLER

For families with school-age children, the end of August can be a stressful time as parents scramble to get their kids ready to head back to school and kids cling with all their might to the last few days of summer. This sense of

hurriedness also permeated the atmosphere at the headquarters of Family and Children's Service of Greater Lynn, Inc., where staff prepared to make the transition from summer to fall programming.

It is no accident that the tempo of the organization reflects the tempo of the community. With more than 120 years of charitable service in the Lynn community, FCS has built a tradition of adapting itself and its programs to meet the complex, changing

and differing needs of a diverse population. Its strength-based, integrated approach to programming and outreach is the constant in every aspect of daily operations that range from a variety of parent-child services, to counseling, consulting, elderly guardianship and emergency financial services.

The organization invests nearly two thirds of its effort and resources in preventative and educational services for parents and their children from infancy through age six. By helping parents be as effective as possible in these early, critical stages of a child's development, FCS' work continues to positively influence the lives of both parents and children long after its work with individuals ends.

The organization's integrative approach to programming produces more comprehensive and lasting results, as exemplified by its summer math camps for children, with an accompanying parental component.

The program for six-year olds

entering first grade, LEAP into First Grade, is held twice a week and exposes kids to some math and a classroom setting before they start school.

The weekly session for third- and fourth-graders aims to maintain kids' skills over the summer and also gives them a chance to engage in fun activities involving numbers, keeping them excited about math and gearing them up for the next year's curriculum. FCS also organized parental components, held immediately following pick-up, that included short math lessons for parents to learn basic skills. Staff also provided ideas for how parents could incorporate math concepts and review into other parts of home life.

FCS maintains an active outreach practice to ensure those who might benefit most from its resources are aware the resources exist and feel welcome to seek them out.

"It is becoming more and more important to reach out to under-served communities who don't have the same awareness of the available resources and to build trust with them," said FCS Director of Development Anna Marie Ventura.

One of the most successful programs has been the Women's Support Group, which is composed primarily of non-native mothers with young children. The group meets weekly and is facilitated by two bilingual women, both longtime Lynn residents.

"Many women new to the area and the country are isolated in their apartments, cooped up with young children," said FCS Executive Director Jo Ann Noyes. "This group allows them to be with other mothers with similar backgrounds, and who they might incorporate into a personal network. Our bilingual facilitators provide support, allay fears and explain misconceptions, but they also help the women learn a range of practical skills that are essential to building a life and managing a family."

Once FCS staff get to know the women, they are able to direct them to other services or resources that will benefit them and their children. They are also able to recommend the organization to other women they know who would benefit.

For a listing of programs offered by Family and Children's Service of Greater Lynn, Inc., visit [www.fcslynn.org](http://www.fcslynn.org).



## Children's Law Center goes to bat for kids

By RICH FAHEY

A child, forced by a fire to live temporarily with an older brother in a different town, is turned away when he tries to register for school because he can't provide proof of residency.

Another child languishes at home after a lengthy suspension from school. It is later found he suffers from a learning disability that was at the root of his behavioral issues.

In both of these cases and many others, the Children's Law Center was able to step in and help the child. The center can provide free legal assistance in cases involving the care and protection of a child, the juvenile justice system, and in special-education and general-education issues.

The Children's Law Center can enter a case for a variety of reasons on behalf of those up to 18 years old, and in special-education cases, up to 22 years old. The center can also get involved in cases where clients are aging out of Department of Social Services programs or special-education programs – when the clients are near or over the age limit for services, but there are outstanding issues that have yet to be resolved.

Margaret McDonald, the center's outreach coordinator, said the nonprofit agency can enter a case as a child's advocate in a variety of

ways.

"Many times, our attorneys are appointed to represent children in the Lynn and Salem courts," she said. "We can get involved through the DSS (Department of Social Services). In the schools, we can represent children in issues involving residency disputes, suspensions, expulsions, and special education. We also get referrals from other outside agencies."

Intake workers at the center, located at 298 Union St. in the Community Minority Cultural Center building, also field inquiries and help parents and others fill out the paperwork necessary to open a case.

"If it's a case we can't help them with, we can refer them to other agencies," said McDonald.

In the most recent year, the center took information from 850 prospective clients, and opened 253 cases. A satellite office in Roxbury that works mainly on issues involving the Boston schools helped 376 prospective clients.

The Children's Law Center receives funding from a variety of sources, public and private, including, but not limited to, the Massachusetts

Legal Assistance Corporation, the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, United Way, the Boston Bar Foundation, and Bank of America Philanthropic Management. Some Lynn- and North Shore-based foundations such as Alfred E. Chase, McCarthy Family, Spinney-Mudge, Rantoul, and Senator Fred Berry Charities also have provided critical financial

support. Individual and corporate donors likewise have played key roles in subsidizing the center's activities.

One of the center's most important roles is as advocate for children who are living in a non-traditional family situation and entering a new school system.

The federal McKinney-Vento Act protects the rights of homeless children when it comes to attending school. As a result of this law, the center is often able to step in and unravel the red tape if a child is having trouble registering for school. "Usually, it's an unintentional bureaucratic snafu," said McDonald. "The person registering the child may not be aware of all the circumstances."

The center also specializes in cases involving

lengthy school suspensions or expulsions. Under state law, a child suspended for more than 10 days is entitled to a manifest determination meeting with school officials, at which the behavior and the possible reasons behind are it are assessed.

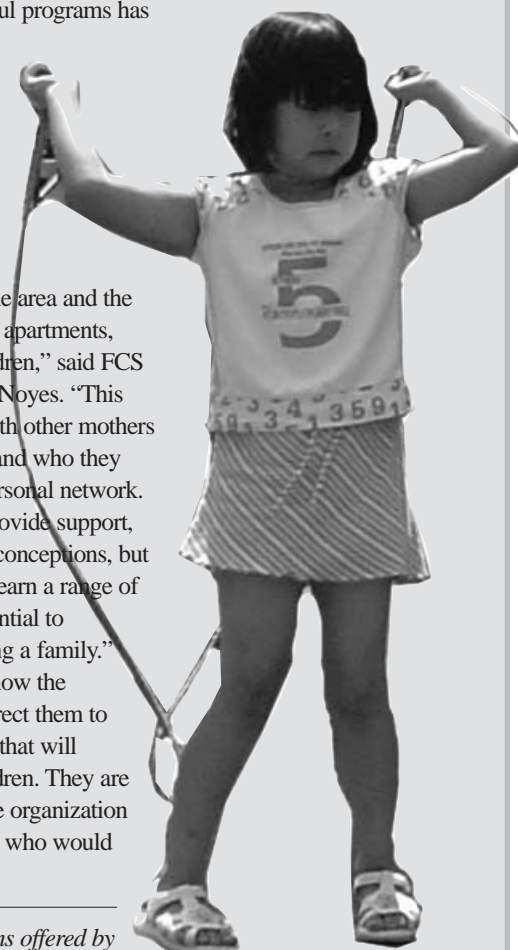
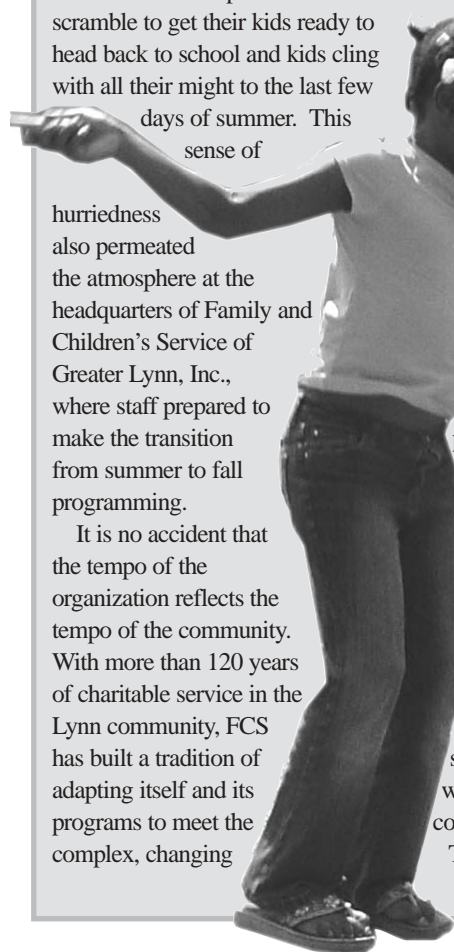
"Many times, a child acting out at school has an undiagnosed learning or other disability," said McDonald. "Children who have a disability have special protections."

The center can also help determine if the child needs a different placement within the system.

The center also works to educate parents about their rights under the state's special-education laws, targeting parents of children who may be unaware of the laws or, because of cultural differences, are reluctant to confront school authorities.

McDonald also gives presentations to community groups to let people know about the center and its work and helps train parents of special-ed students to be advocates for their own children.

For more information about the Children's Law Center or to talk to an intake worker, call (781) 581-1977.



# CTC promotes positive youth development

By RICH FAHEY

It's a lot easier — and a lot cheaper — to save a kid before he takes a fall.

That's the type of preventive medicine that the Communities That Care system is all about.

Lynn-based Project COPE is the lead agency, under the direction of Wendy Kent, for the Lynn project, which aims to build a strong coalition in the community that will use tried-and-true methods to prevent youth behavior problems and promote healthy development.

The Lynn Communities That Care (CTC) initiative recently completed its second year of operation, and Kent has reported to the community on its progress. Having gone through an intense process of identifying community "risk and protective factors" for young people in Lynn in its first year, the coalition implemented a busy agenda of community activities to support positive youth development in Lynn this year. These activities included:

- \* conducting alcohol-purchase surveys and compliance checks of alcohol vendors to ensure that they were not selling alcohol to minors, and following up with letters explaining the purpose and intent of the activities;
- \* gathering information for a city-wide resource directory of services for youth;
- \* organizing a city-wide park cleanup,



Back row from left, Bob Ferrari, Maryann O'Connor and Carrie Stack are youth advisors to the group appeared on Project COPE, Inc.'s television program.

including an initiative to restore and replace every broken basketball hoop;

\* organizing four community forums held at the community room at the Lynn Police Station on topics related to substance abuse and prevention;

\* and sponsoring a prescription drug abuse forum in conjunction with the Lynn Police and the city's Health Department.

CTC takes aim at youth crime and anti-social behavior, drug (including alcohol) abuse, school failure and school-age pregnancy. Summer activities included comprehensive media training for the youth Advisory Board to develop a media marketing plan; filming PSA's which will reinforce youth making positive

choices in their lives; and the implementation of the CASASTART Program, which utilizes two social workers from Family and Children's Services of Lynn who are working exclusively with at-risk middle school students and their families.

Lynn has been awarded a \$25,000 grant through Purdue Pharma Drug Company to support the implementation of the Communities That Care initiative. Additional funding has been obtained from participant donations from American Refill, Willow Labs, North Shore

Medical Center, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the City of Lynn, the North Shore/Cape Ann Community Health Network, and North Shore Imaging Center.

The initiative has included the establishment of a community coalition that is working to look at existing trends, determine priorities, and develop a plan of action.

*The next Coalition meeting of the Lynn CTC is scheduled for September. If you would like to participate, call Wendy Kent at (781) 593-5333 or e-mail [wkent@projectcope.com](mailto:wkent@projectcope.com).*

**PROJECT  
COPE**

# LEO helps kids get a Head Start

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Every child deserves a head start, and Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc. (LEO) is there to ensure, in Lynn, they do.

In its 40th year, the LEO Head Start program aims to help young children in low-income families live and learn. The overall goal of the program is to increase the school readiness and foster healthy lifestyles among children up to age five and their families.

"There's a reason the program is named Head Start," said LEO Executive Director Jack Mogielnicki. "Some of these kids, 15 years from now, will be going off to college, and they might not have had that chance. It's the most fulfilling thing we do."

"It absolutely helps level the playing field," said Marie Yannaco-Grant, Head Start director of child development services.

Last year, 472 children from the communities of Lynn, Lynnfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Saugus and Swampscott received services from

LEO Head Start. Students are prepared for entering the elementary school classroom, served healthy meals and encouraged to play in a safe setting. They are also medically screened upon arrival.

"It's really important to catch the medical issues early on," said Maureen Clare, Head Start family involvement manager, who sent five children through Head Start. "My son Joseph came in here over 20 years ago, having tantrums. It turned out it was his hearing. The fluid in his ears was bothering him. A lot of kids come in and their parents think they have behavioral problems, but it could easily be something physical and treatable."

In addition to focusing on the children, Head Start also offers parents solutions. The program provides additional hours of care, allowing parents the time to seek housing, find jobs and improve their education. There are also numerous support groups such as Parents Helping Parents and

enrichment programs such as Good Guys, which welcomes fathers, grandfathers and male role models to spend time with the children through activities such as bowling or reading. Head Start also holds a 12-week parenting class, offering formal training in parenting skills.

"It's not just a day care," said Clare. "We really focus on family development plans, making home visits and setting goals. You can't make a strong kid unless you have a strong family."

Head Start health assistant Holly Enos knows first-hand the power of Head Start. Her three sons are successful graduates of the program. After her youngest son graduated, she became involved with the Head Start policy counsel, serving three years on the LEO board of directors.

"I went from welfare to a full-time job," said Enos, who credits Head Start for helping her find a career path and support her family.

Rev. Eric Etheridge, an active member of the Head Start policy

council and LEO board of directors, fondly remembers his Head Start days in Selma, Alabama as having a positive impact on his life.

"It's exciting to see how much has grown," said Etheridge. "Seeing the wonderful things they do and being a part of LEO is exciting. They're the good Samaritans of today's world."

*For more information about Head Start and other LEO programs call (781) 581-7220 or visit [www.leo-inc.org](http://www.leo-inc.org).*



Maureen Clare, Head Start family involvement manager and Rev. Eric Etheridge, a member of the Head Start policy council and LEO board.

# La Vida says YES to helping Hispanic youth

By MARYBETH CONNAUGHTON

For anyone emigrating to a new country, it is natural to seek the support of people who speak your language, both literally and figuratively. La Vida, a nonprofit organization that assists the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Boston, conducts the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. The YES program is the place for Lynn's Hispanic youth to find such assistance.

The program, the only one of its kind in Lynn, aims to help 60 Latino students, grades 6-10, develop the skills necessary to become leaders within the community. The program meets in the afternoon, Monday through Thursday, and offers a well-rounded curriculum to help nurture qualities in its participants that they can use to contribute to the community. Because La Vida is affiliated with the Archdiocese, part of this curriculum is an hour devoted to "faith value skills."

Between 2:30 and 6 p.m. YES students gather at 29 Green St. where they are given a snack, receive help with their homework, play sports, and participate in activities that promote leadership and teamwork.

From mid-October through April, YES provides computers and software for those studying for their Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) examinations. An integral element of the program is English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring. This instruction helps students become fluent in English and overcome the language barrier that can prevent them from excelling in school despite competency in other subjects.

When the program began five years ago, Executive Director Frances Martinez and her staff recruited students through an open house. Now, Martinez said, "Schools have good faith in YES, and refer their students to us because they see the positive results."

La Vida does not limit its educational and cultural support to young people. It also offers ESL tutoring to adults and helps them with the paperwork for obtaining American Citizenship. Through its Family Connection program, La Vida sets up cameras and microphones to communicate with family members in their country of origin.

More than 80 percent of YES alumni have gone on to higher education. Many have since returned to mentor the current generation of participants. For Martinez, this is proof positive that the program can help to turn its graduates into future community leaders.

"The youth are important members of the community, and I believe that we can provide them with the services they deserve," she said.

*To learn more about La Vida visit [www.la-vida.org](http://www.la-vida.org) or call (781) 586-0193.*







Direct Care Staff members Steven Cunha and Shannon Morrissey get comfortable in the new space.

# Serving people, indeed

**SPIN:** from Page 1

relationship with the Department of Social Services (DSS), who not only afforded us the opportunity to do this, but allowed us to put up the bricks and mortar, and the flowers and curtains, to really make this feel like a campus community.”

“This place stands for the opportunity for kids 20, 40, 60 miles from Lynn to come home,” said DSS Commissioner Harry Spence. “We need to stop inadvertently punishing kids by further alienation and separation. This is a wonderful little piece of a larger, supportive community. It’s central to our vision that no child should become an adult without a family or the next best possible thing to that.”

Currently, the Lynn DSS office cares for approximately 30 children, who live and go to school outside of the city, with the cost of schooling borne by the Lynn Public Schools. Another 15 DSS children are living outside of Lynn, but attending the Lynn Public Schools, adding transportation costs to the city. SPIN is working with the Lynn Public Schools to reduce the movement of children in and out of the district.

“We’ve been working with Nick Kostan and his staff on a monthly basis,” said Mark DeJoie, SPIN executive

director. “They’ve been fantastic. They just seemed to get it, to get why it’s so important to bring kids in DSS custody back to Lynn.”

For every returning student now living and attending school outside of the city, the Lynn Public Schools could save upwards of \$50,000 per year. For those students no longer commuting outside of the city, the savings could be approximately \$15,000 per year.

The Lynn Academy will also create 30 new jobs in the city, ranging from graduate-level positions such as clinical director and program director to entry-level positions including direct care staff members. Funding for the Lynn Academy came through a competitive DSS grant.

Since its inception in 1988, SPIN has operated housing and supportive service programs for families and individuals who have been rendered homeless. Through funding of the Department of Transitional Assistance, SPIN provides 27 units of scattered site housing for homeless families.

Through DSS funding, SPIN operates several programs for teen mothers or teens aging out of foster care or DSS services. Its Teen Living Program (TLP) houses up to 11 pregnant and/or parenting teenaged mothers and their children. The Supported Teen Employment

Program is a six to nine month apartment model program for eligible teen mothers coming out of TLP. The goal is to foster self-sufficiency through education and employment.

Through a joint collaboration with DSS and the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development, SPIN also operates the Independent Living program, which provides subsidized housing for 18-22 year olds who are working towards a high school diploma, GED or further education through the DSS Transition to Independence program.

“We want the kids to be able to grow in their own community,” said DSS-Lynn Director Jack Doyle. “In today’s world, most 18-year-olds can’t be out on their own, at least economically.”

In October, seven young men moved into a newly renovated building at 104 South Common St. as part of the Independent Living program. In February, four young women moved into the site at 46 Newhall St. The recent DSS grant of more than \$3 million is providing continued funding for these programs.

To learn more about SPIN call (781) 598-9417.



# Union Hospital builds spiritual healing gardens

**UNION:** from Page 1

a particular condition. Hopefully, it connects you with the whole life cycle.”

The ambiance committee came up with the idea of a healing garden, and cardiologist Harvey Zarren (for whom the garden will be named), always a proponent of a more holistic approach to healing, heartily endorsed it. So did David Solimine Sr. and David Solimine Jr., who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the hospital.

The garden, when it is finished, will be contained within 23,000 square feet of property in an already-wooded area at the south end of the hospital.

“It’s already a lovely area as it is,” Pelosi said. “We’re really enhancing it. There are going to be trees, flowers, and a water feature.” Not only that, but the area will be set up for patients with a variety of conditions and needs to make use of the garden.

“There will be benches for people to sit on,” Pelosi said. “There will also be a gurney pad outside, and the walkways will be wide enough to wheel gurneys and wheelchairs through. There will also be electrical outlets so people who are hooked up to machines can have access to the garden.”

Pelosi said the garden should be a godsend to elderly people, especially those who face the challenges and obstacles that come with aging.

“We have a huge elderly population we serve,” she said. “In some ways, it’s a great opportunity to offer them a familiar place to meet to help with the challenges they encounter.”

“That’s one aspect of it that the Solimines saw the value of early on. They are great supporters of the concept. David Solimine, Sr. has taken a leading role in assisting our fundraising efforts.”

Pelosi heads up a volunteer staff that has been part of the process since it began. The group continues to meet and it takes care of all issues ranging from fundraising to marketing, and actually working with architects and landscapers who are building the garden.

The water feature has just been completed and concrete is set to be poured for the walkways, Pelosi said.

The project is expect to cost about \$450,000 by the time it is completed, and the committee has raised somewhere around \$175,000 thus far, Pelosi said. The hospital has donated some money, and she figures another \$125,000 will be needed to complete it. She hopes that the project will be completed by mid-October at the latest.

For those wishing to donate, naming opportunities remain, with garden objects such as benches (\$500-\$2000) and garden areas (\$5000-\$40,000). Donations of any amount can be sent to the NSMC Foundation, c/o Anna Pelosi, Union Hospital, 500 Lynnfield St., Lynn 01904. Designate on the check that you want the money to go toward the Dr. Harvey Zarren Healing Garden special fund.

For more information, contact Anna Pelosi at (781) 477-3679, Jim Harris (978) 825-6284 or Dave Solimine, Sr. at (781) 595 1492.



## MEET ME DOWNTOWN



A little girl enjoys getting her face painted at the Lynn Arts Meet Me Downtown festival that took place on August 5.



# DIRECTORY

## All Care Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice

16 City Hall Square  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 598-2454  
www.allcarevna.org

Since 1911, All Care VNA has been bringing superior health care to clients' homes with its expert staff of skilled nurses, rehabilitation therapists, certified home health aides, and medical social workers.

## Boys and Girls Club of Lynn

25 North Common St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 593-1772  
www.bgcl.org

For 117 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Lynn has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances.

## Bridgewell

471 Broadway  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
(781) 593-1088  
www.bridgewell.org

Bridgewell is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities by offering residential, clinical, day habilitation, day rehabilitation, educational, vocational, children's and recreational services.

## CAB Health & Recovery Services

Zero Centennial Drive  
Peabody, MA 01960  
978-968-1711  
www.cabhealth.org

CAB Health & Recovery Services is a leading substance-abuse agency serving communities across northeastern Massachusetts and greater Boston. From our outpatient, inpatient and residential sites, we work with men, women and their children, families, youth and special populations struggling with various addictions. We also work with drug education, street outreach and HIV/AIDS prevention.

## Caleb Group

491 Humphrey Street  
Swampscott, MA 01907  
(781) 594-4665  
www.thecalebfoundation.org

With its headquarters in Swampscott, The Caleb Group provides affordable housing throughout New England, including Lynn and Swampscott on the North Shore.

## Cambodian Buddhist Center

109-110 Chestnut St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 581-7266

## Catholic Charities North

55 Lynn Shore Drive  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 593-2312  
www.ccab.org/ccab\_north.htm

Catholic Charities North offers a range of services for family members of all ages including child care, emergency assistance for basic needs, counseling, education and job readiness.

## Children's Law Center of Mass.

298 Union St.  
Lynn, MA 01903  
(781) 581-1977  
www.clcm.org

Founded in 1977, The Children's Law Center Of Massachusetts is a private, nonprofit, legal advocacy and resource center providing direct representation to low-income children in Eastern Mass., and technical assistance and training to lay and professional communities on issues affecting children's education, civil rights, custody, health and welfare.

## Citizens for Adequate Housing (CAH)

Inn Between - Inn Transition -  
Communities Land Trust  
42 Washington St.  
Peabody, MA 01960-5536  
www.shelterandhousing.org

Citizens for Adequate Housing (CAH), believes that the way to help the homeless is to not only provide a place to stay—but to also address those four root causes of homelessness.

## Elder Service Plan of the North Shore

37 Friend St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 715-6608  
www.pacenorthshore.org

Elder Service Plan of the North Shore, Inc. offers to eligible seniors the Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, (PACE), and Senior Care Options, (SCO).

## Family and Children's Services of Greater Lynn

111 North Common St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 598-5517

Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn provides programs and services to individuals, children and families, including a Family Resource Center for families with children from birth to age 6, parent education and support groups; consultation, services to youth; counseling; services to elderly.

## Girls Inc. of Lynn

88 Broad St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 592-9744  
www.girlsinlynn.org

Girls Inc. provides after-school and summer programs for girls ages 6-18, including school-age child care; academic support including homework help, tutoring, MCAS & SAT preparation; prevention programs focused on building decision-making skills; and college and career exploration.

## Greater Lynn Senior Services

8 Silsbee St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 599-0110  
(800) 594-5164  
www.glss.net

GLSS provides a wide range of information and services, for those 60 and above, in order to help them maintain their health and independence in their own home.

## Gregg Neighborhood House

85 Exchange St.,  
Lynn, 01902  
(781) 596-2515

The Gregg House provides quality early care and education as well as after school enrichment programming for children between the ages of birth through 13.

## Help for Abused Women and their Children (HAWC)

27 Congress St.,  
Salem, 01970  
(978) 744-8552  
www.helpabusedwomen.org

The purpose of HAWC is to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression against women and their children. HAWC provides services and support including counseling and advocacy for women, children and youth violence prevention programs, legal services, shelter, housing and economic stability, and education and training programs.

## La Vida of Lynn Inc.

29 Green St.  
Lynn, 01902  
(781) 586-0193  
www.la-vida.org

La Vida of Lynn assists the Hispanic Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Boston in caring for the spiritual and material needs of Hispanics, and promotes their participation and leadership not only in the Church, but also in their communities.

## LynnArts Inc.

25 Exchange St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 598-5244  
www.lynnarts.org

LynnArts is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the greater Lynn area by developing and fostering the arts and humanities in our community; by supporting artists and arts or cultural organization through resources, services, advocacy and planning; and by coordinating community involvement in the arts.

## Lynn Community Health Center

269 Union St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 581-3900  
www.lhcnnet.org

The Lynn Community Health Center provides comprehensive health care of the highest quality to everyone in the Lynn community, regardless of ability to pay. Services include providing primary medical care for all ages, maternity care, specialty care, dental care, mental health and social services, pharmacy, nutrition and WIC.

## Lynn Economic Opportunity & Head Start Program

156 Broad St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 581-7220  
www.leoinc.org

Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO) is a community action agency with a range of programs to aid an assist low income individuals and families in the greater Lynn area. LEO's largest programs include Head Start, Fuel

Assistance, Nutrition Services, pre-school and after-school care.

## Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development

10 Church St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 477-2800  
www.lhand.org

LHAND assists low- and moderate-income families and individuals with safe, decent, adequate, and affordable housing with an emphasis on fostering economic independence and home-ownership opportunities, without discrimination, and addressing housing impediments for the special needs population.

## Lynn Museum & Historical Society

Lynn Heritage State Park  
590 Washington St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 592-2465  
www.lynnmuseum.org

The Lynn Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting all aspects of the history of the city of Lynn.

## Lynn Shelter Association

91 Liberty St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 581-0739  
sabes.necc.mass.edu/lsa/default.html

The Lynn Shelter Association provides shelter and services to homeless individuals and families.

## Lynn Time Bank

P.O. Box 46  
Lynn, MA 01903  
(781) 593-1800  
www.lynntimebank.org

The Lynn Time bank's mission is to build community through neighbors helping neighbors, exchanging skills and talents.

## Lynn YMCA

20 Neptune Blvd.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 581-3105  
www.lynnymca.org

The Lynn YMCA responds to community and individual needs by providing quality recreational, social and education experiences in a Judeo-Christian atmosphere for everyone regardless of sex age, nationality, religious belief or income.

## My Brother's Table

98 Willow St.  
Lynn MA 01901  
(781) 595-3224  
www.mybrotherstable.org

My Brother's Table is dedicated to feeding the hungry and serving all who come in need regardless of race, color, creed, or sex.

## Neighborhood Legal Services

37 Friend St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 599-7730  
www.neighborhoodlaw.org

Neighborhood Legal Services provides free civil legal assistance to all elders and qualified low-income residents.

## North Shore Community College

McGee Building  
300 Broad St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
www.northshore.edu

NSCC accepts students on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, or disability status. Academic opportunities include associates degrees, certificate programs, community and corporate education, e-learning and ESL.

## Operation Bootstrap

156 Broad St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 599-8543  
sabes.necc.mass.edu/OperationBootstrap/homepage.htm

Operation Bootstrap helps adult learners reach their personal goals by achieving literacy and developing career-based skills while improving their job readiness and job prospects.

## Project COPE

117 North Common St.  
Lynn, MA 01902  
781- 581-9273  
www.projectcope.com

Project COPE, Inc. is a nonprofit agency which provides a broad range of services in the areas of substance abuse and mental retardation. It seeks to help people achieve their fullest potential in medical, social, educational and emotional dimensions.

## Raw Art Works

37 Central Square  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 593-5515  
www.rawart.org

Raw Art Works uses the power of the visual, film and performing arts to inspire growth and change in under-served youth from Lynn and surrounding areas.

## Russian Community Service Settlement Program

298 Union St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 593-0100  
www.jfcsboston.org

The Russian Community Service Settlement Program helps newly arrived refugees from Russia and the Newly Independent States.

## Serving People in Need

100 Willow St.  
Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 598-9417

Serving People in Need provides temporary, transitional and permanent housing coupled with support services to low-income and at-risk families and individuals.

## Union Hospital

500 Lynnfield St.  
Lynn, MA 01904  
(781) 581-9200  
www.nsmc.partners.org

Union Hospital's services include: cardiovascular, emergency, neuroscience, oncology, orthopedic, radiology/nuclear medicine/imaging, physical therapy, psychiatric, and an ICU.



# A camp worth the trip



Jenicia Duggins sits on a canoe by the lake at Boys & Girls Club Camp Creighton in Middleton.

PHOTO: CAITLIN BOWLER

## Duggins travels two hours to spend summer days with old friends from Boys & Girls Club

BY CAITLIN BOWLER

Jenicia Duggins spent a few minutes each day last summer traveling from her home in Lynn to the Lynn Boys & Girls Club at 25 North Common St. That's where she caught a van that took her and the other approximately 100 Boys & Girls Club members to Camp Creighton — the picturesque, wooded children's camp in Middleton where the Lynn Boys & Girls Club holds its summer program.

Camp Creighton isn't the easiest place to get to from Lynn, but this year, the 30-minute van ride was perhaps the easiest leg of the 14-year-old's daily trek. In the fall of 2005, Duggins moved with her family from their home in Lynn to a new home in South Boston, but with lifelong friends in Lynn and two years of involvement with its club, the thought of starting over at a new

Boys & Girls Club where she knew few people just wasn't appealing.

"When I learned she was moving to South Boston, I talked to her about joining the Boys and Girls Club there," said the Lynn Boys & Girls Club Director of Operations Leland Boutlier. "I know some of the staff there really well, so I was telling her about them, just assuming she'd join there. To which she said, 'That's OK, but you guys won't be there.' The relationships we've built with her, and that she's built with many of the other kids, are the reasons she made the commute to the club."

In order to be in Lynn for the daily 8 a.m. departure, Duggins got up at 6 a.m. and left the house with her mother and brother by 6:30. They took the Orange Line to the Blue Line, getting off at Wonderland, then caught a bus to Central Square in Lynn. Duggins then took a second bus to get to the club, where she met up with her old friends from Lynn, got onto one of the vans bound for Camp Creighton.

Her daily commuting schedule was tiring just to recite, but according to Duggins, it was worth it to be able to spend her summer days with old friends at the camp, which has playing fields, a pool, a lodge for

crafts and games, an outdoor playground, and a lake for fishing and boating.

"Sometimes in the morning I had to force myself to get up," Duggins said, "but I really liked it. I know lots of people. It's a really big group."

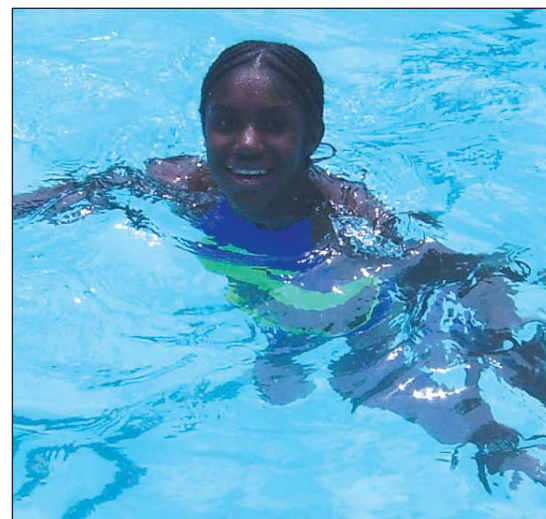
The schedule at the camp differs from day to day, depending on a variety of factors, including weather, staff scheduling, and campers' interests. Weather permitting, the campers swim each day in the pool, taking lessons and doing free swim, and usually play a pickup game of soccer, basketball, or stickball. There are games, crafts, boating and fishing, and free time, as well as the weekly game of all-camp capture the flag — staff vs. campers — and the occasional birthday dunk. (The camp tradition is that on a camper's birthday, she jumps in and out of the pond, a body of water safe for swimming, but much less pristine than the pool.)

The Creighton Family made its fortune in Lynn's shoe manufacturing business, bought the land in Middleton to serve as a family retreat from the city, then donated the land to the Lynn Boys

& Girls Club 60 years ago for use in its summer programming.

"Camp Creighton is a fantastic opportunity for us," said Boutlier. "We get to take kids who are not always that comfortable in nature to a place where they can enjoy it and gain an appreciation for it."

To learn more about the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn visit [www.bgcl.org](http://www.bgcl.org) or call (781) 593-1772.



Jenicia's favorite camp activity is swimming.