

**EVENTS**

**May 8 Post Office Food Drive.** Leave some food out for the local food pantries.

**June 17, 4:30-7:30pm Volunteer Appreciation Event.** All Beverly Bootstraps Community Services' volunteers are invited to join us for food and fun at Lynch Park in Beverly. Bring a friend!

**June 19, 10am-4 pm Arts Fest Beverly.** Visit our booth on Cabot Street in downtown Beverly.

**July 8, 8am-4pm Walgreens Food Drive.** Walgreens parking lot at the corner of Elliott and Rantoul Streets, Beverly. Bring food and enjoy a clown, balloons, free Coke products, and more...

**August 1 Beverly Homecoming Lobster Fest.** Gardeners from our Community Gardens sell flowers and produce and other items as a fundraiser. Drop by and visit them – and buy really local!

**September 15 Drive Away Hunger Golf Classic.** Essex County Club. All proceeds from this event help us provide essential services to our clients. Join us for an afternoon of golf, followed by dinner, awards, auction and a wine raffle. To reserve a space (\$350 per golfer), or to sponsor the event, please contact Amy Murphy at 978-927-1561 x24 or email [amurphy@beverlybootstraps.org](mailto:amurphy@beverlybootstraps.org).

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We're looking for a **Box Truck!** One-ton, 48-inch-high bed. Gently used and reasonably priced.

Boots, Straps and More is seeking **jewelry donations** and **summer clothing**.

If you have a **truck and time**, come help us with pick-ups of food and furniture.

Now is the time to start **bringing us new school supplies** for our Backpack Bonanza in August.

**Run a food drive!** People are still hungry in the summer. Visit our website for more information: [www.beverlybootstraps.org](http://www.beverlybootstraps.org).

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

- peanut butter • rice
- ramen noodles • canned fruit
- spaghetti sauce

**Bootstraps Fact:**

Last year, over 500 volunteers provided their time and talents to help our programs run. We can't do it without you! Thank you.

**Food for Thought Spring 2010**




**FOOD for THOUGHT**

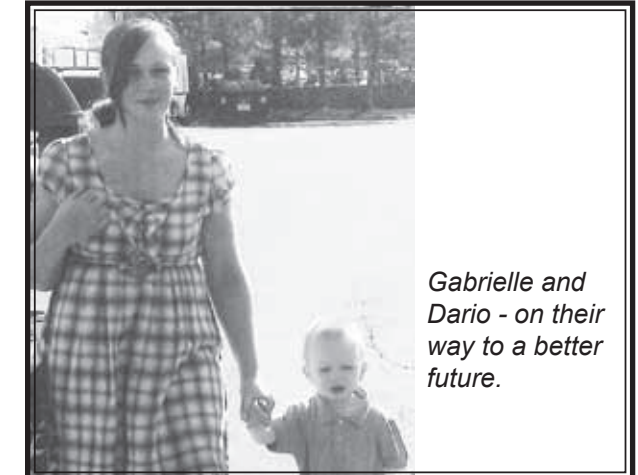
Beverly Bootstraps Community Services Newsletter

Spring 2010

**PREPARED TO SUCCEED**


Gabrielle Mitton recently passed her G.E.D. test after participating in Beverly Bootstraps Community Services' G.E.D. Test Preparation Program with Steve Page, G.E.D. Program Coordinator, Bill Trainor, Night Security, baby-sitting staff and many volunteers tutors.


1-25-2010   
 Dear Steve,  
 I just wanted to take a few minutes to thank you for all your time, kindness and care to prepare myself for the G.E.D. test that I was petrified to take. You gave me confidence to make it all happen. I am very grateful for everything your team has given me and the time you made to help people to better their lives. I never thought I could have passed it and I did! I was so scared to open the results, I finally opened them and I was so proud of myself I started crying I thought I was dreaming that I for once felt like a success, (still need to touch up on my spelling though lol). Well now I am ready to begin my journey. I went to the college yesterday to get enrolled, have a few papers to finish and a test this week then off to school in May. And I have you, all the tutors, the babysitters and of course →

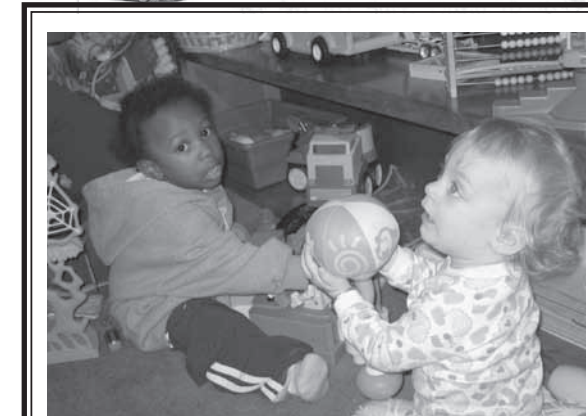


Gabrielle and Dario - on their way to a better future.

funnyman Bill who always made me laugh to thank, so from the bottom of my heart, **Thank you all!** I'm very excited to be able to better my son's future as time goes on. I will always know in my heart now that anything is possible, also that there are some **wonderful** people that do exist. Once more **Thank you Oh so very much!**

P.S I have given you a copy of my G.E.D. to remind you all that you are a success too! You volunteered to teach and you most certainly taught. You all are **awesome!!!** Thank you 

Always,  
 former student  
 Now Graduate  
 Gabrielle Mitton  
 "Oh" And I'm sure Dario is very grateful 



Babysitting is offered free to participants in the G.E.D. Test Prep Program.

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Beverly Bootstraps Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

**BEVERLY BOOTSTRAPS COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
 371 Cabot Street  
 Beverly, MA 01915  
 Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
 PHONE: 978-927-1561  
 FAX: 978-927-1553

**BOOTS, STRAPS & MORE**  
**THRIFT STORE**  
 198 Rantoul Street, Beverly  
 Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sat 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 PHONE: 978-921-4710

**FOOD PANTRY**  
 11 am - 12:30 pm Mon - Fri  
 5 - 6 pm Tues & Wed  
[www.beverlybootstraps.org](http://www.beverlybootstraps.org)



**EMBRACE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER**

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



*Michael Jedraszek and Jackie Hersey*

Michael Jedraszek is one outstanding volunteer! Last summer, just after he began volunteering with us, Michael went door-to-door visiting different business in Beverly, asking for support for Beverly Bootstraps Community Services. He raised more than \$400. Ever since then he has been a regular volunteer at *Boots, Straps and More*. Jackie Hersey, Co-Manager, says he's very smart, consistent, does whatever he is asked to do, gets along with all the volunteers, and has a great sense of humor. This Chuck Norris fan plays baseball for Beverly Babe Ruth Baseball on the Cardinals Team, loves the outdoors, and has been admitted to attend St. John's Prep in the fall. Congratulations, Michael, and thanks for your humor and your help!

## Sue's Spot

With unemployment hovering around ten percent on the North Shore, we still have plenty of people seeking our assistance. There is a tiredness and desperation about many of the folks we see lately. We seem to be witnessing an increase in the number of families who are struggling further due to divorce. Often this decision comes in response to a sustained period of financial stress. Children are caught in the middle and the parents are feeling as though they have very few choices.

One of the major stressors is the cost of housing. According to the Beverly Affordable Housing Coalition, Massachusetts is the third most expensive state in the nation for housing. It takes a wage of \$26.27 per hour (\$54,640 per year) for a household to afford a place to live and to cover other living costs. While fair market rents increased 40% in the Boston/North Shore area between 2001 and 2006, minimum wage has not changed. At \$8.00 per hour, it is a far cry from what a worker needs to earn to keep a home.

The good news? Beverly Bootstraps Community Services works with people to assist and empower them in their lives. Although we wish we had a magic wand many times, what we do have is community support. Thanks to our donors and volunteers, we can run our important programs. And fortunately, we collaborate with other agencies who provide our clients with services beyond our mission. In my opinion, that is the essence of "community" and so many people who come to Bootstraps are lucky to find the support they are seeking because of it.

*Sue Gabriel, Executive Director*

## BEVERLY BOOTSTRAPS COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Hunger

Food Pantry  
SERVE Food Coop  
Community Gardens  
Summer Playground Lunches

### Case Management

Intervention and Advocacy  
Resource and Referral Services  
Heat Assistance  
Housing Support

### Clothing and Goods

Boots, Straps & More Thrift Store

### Education and Careers

Adult Literacy Classes  
GED Test Prep Classes  
English as a Second Language  
Career Counseling  
Financial Education Classes

### Children

After-School Homework Club  
After-School Teen Cyber Café  
Youth Literacy Program  
Back-to-School Backpacks  
Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program

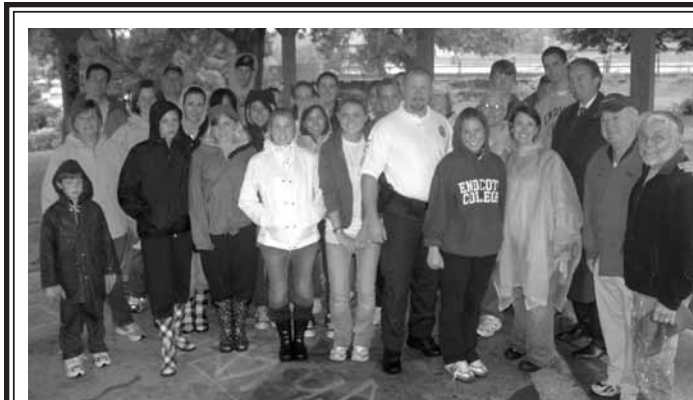
### Bootstraps Fact:

This summer we anticipate sending 25 children to summer camps.

## WORKING BEST BY WORKING TOGETHER

While Beverly Bootstraps Community Services would like to be able to solve all the root issues of the people who seek our services, it is clear we are much more effective for our clients when we partner with other agencies. The Beverly Resource Group gives Beverly Bootstraps Community Services a natural forum that creates opportunities to work together with other expert agencies in the community.

The Beverly Resource Group is an innovative collaborative of over 15 local social service agencies. The brainchild of the North Shore United Way and Beverly Affordable Housing Coalition, the Beverly Resource Group tapped Beverly Bootstraps Community Services as the social service provider and the Beverly Police Department was asked to participate. The group was launched in September 2007 with a special focus on the Gloucester Crossing Neighborhood. (The group was originally named the Gloucester Crossing Group.) With major housing investment projects slated, an investment in making the neighborhood safer and giving the residents more opportunities seemed to be a positive use of service resources.



*September 2009, Day Of Caring — Neighborhood Clean Up*

In the first two years, the group conducted two door-to-door surveys of the Gloucester Crossing Neighborhood residents to assess service needs. Neighborhood events were organized to promote personal interactions between neighbors and with representatives from social service and housing agencies and the Beverly Police Department. Neighborhood clean-ups, BBQs, community meetings and a pumpkin festival have been some of the events held in the neighborhood.

Greg Ezell, Outreach Coordinator at Beverly Bootstraps Community Services, whose position is funded by the North Shore United Way, works closely with residents of the Gloucester Crossing Neighborhood and

sees great results from agency collaboration. Ezell testifies, "The biggest eye-opener for me was the first BBQ I attended at Holcroft Park. For a neighborhood that was considered to be 'bad' in normal societal standards or by non-residents, we had a group of over 100 people enjoying each other's company and enjoying the company of the members of the Beverly Resource Group. It was inspiring to witness a group of this magnitude together, working with one goal in mind: to show the residents and the city of Beverly that this neighborhood has value and potential."



*Gloucester Crossing Halloween Party and Pumpkin Decorating 2009*

From the success of initiatives in the Gloucester Crossing neighborhood came the idea that other areas in Beverly could benefit from similar collaborative efforts. The name has been changed to the Beverly Resource Group and additional agencies have been invited to the table for idea sharing and collaborative thinking.

Beverly Bootstraps Community Services looks forward to future successful projects initiated by the Beverly Resource Group. We work better by working together.

Beverly Bootstraps Community Services is proud to be a North Shore United Way Community Partner Agency.

