



# BREAD AND BOARD

The NSKS Newsletter

www.NSKS.org

The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization providing food, emergency shelter, housing, and advocacy to poor and homeless men, women, and families with children in our community. The Soup Kitchen, now located at 2 Quincy St., serves meals 365 days a year. Our philosophy:

*No one should be hungry or homeless in our community.*

*Fall 2022*

## EARLY AUCTION SPONSORS

The upcoming Dinner & Silent Auction will be held Saturday, November 5th — our first live auction since 2019! The theme for this year's event is **"Raising Hope."** After the past two years, don't we all need some hope?

Your sponsorship, ticket purchase, program advertisement, and donations keep us moving forward by providing meals, housing, advocacy and support services for the vulnerable individuals and families in the Greater Nashua region in a dignified and sustainable manner. For more information, go to <https://nsks.org/dinner-auction>.

## EARLY AUCTION SPONSORS

Thank you to these businesses who have already pledged their support: **High Hopes Hero:** Granite Subaru; **Seeds of Hope Champion:** Eileen B. Freedman; **Here Comes the Sun Supporter:** Enterprise Bank & Trust; **Lean On Me Angels:** Barrett J. Warhola (Bean Group); Crown Linen Service, Inc; Eaton & Berube Insurance; Lowell Five Bank; Stella Blu; Building Hope Advocate: Brady Sullivan Properties, LLC.



## SPRING STREET CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENDS EARLY!

Our Spring Street Shelter capital campaign concluded ahead of schedule and exceeded its \$8.5 million goal by \$100,000, with gifts from 450 individuals, foundations, and local companies. Our new shelter will more than double NSKS's shelter beds, increasing the number of beds for families with children from 18 to 48.

In addition to shelter space for single adult men, single adult women, and families with children, the shelter will include 11 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals who experience chronic homelessness. The Spring Street shelter will be fully ADA-compliant. We frequently serve individuals with restricted mobility and our current shelters are not fully accessible.

By repurposing the Sacred Heart School, which was built in 1892

and had not been in active use as a school since 1971, NSKS is preserving an historic building. Executive Director Michael Reinke noted, "Saint Patrick's Church has been a wonderful partner in this project, leasing 35 Spring Street to us for \$1 a year until 2063 and fully embracing our mission to provide housing to the most vulnerable members of our community." The exterior of the building, including the slate roof, is being restored with support from the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, while high energy-efficiency windows are being installed thanks to a special donation from a generous donor.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH BILL BARRY

Bill Barry, an attorney at Barry & Honorow and a third-generation Nashuan, has had a long connection to the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter. We decided to interview him to see how this started.



**NSKS:** How did you become involved with the Soup Kitchen?

**BB:** My involvement goes back to 1985. My mother, Nancy Barry, and a group including Charles McCann and Carol McCann volunteered very early on, preparing food for people in need. They were known as "Mrs. McCann's Gang." Charles McCann was my father's best friend, and was the best man at my parents' wedding. I graduated from law school the year that Charlie McCann died, in 1984. I was in Rhode Island for a year, clerking in the federal courts.

**NSKS:** And then you came back to Nashua?

**BB:** Yes. At that time, the Nashua Soup Kitchen was a small, struggling, faith-based group, relying solely on informal donations,



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which meant that Mrs. McCann’s Gang could not always count on having enough food to give to people, even though the faith-based communities were very supportive of our mission. So I went to Nashua Beef, which was on Spring Street, and opened an account. I told Mrs. McCann’s Gang to use it to keep people fed. (Keep in mind that chicken was 19 cents a lb. at the time.) In 1987, I was invited to join the Board of Directors.

**NSKS:** What was the Board like then?

**BB:** The Board was changing dramatically from a faith-based Board to a more professional board. When I first joined, they ended the meeting by praying for enough food to feed people for the next week.

Actually, it was in 1986 that I started on the Board. We were renting the building at 42 Chestnut Street. We approached the landlord about purchasing. At the time, the price was \$90,000. The Board backed off. A year later, the price has doubled to \$180K. We thought about moving, but where were we going to go? We were accepted there. By 1988, we bought the building for \$210K on April 1, 1988. Nashua Federal Savings & Loan loaned the money to NSKS, and Attorney Harry Smith did the closing for us for free. He pulled George Provencher and I aside, and told us that the bank needed us to provide two personal guarantees

**NSKS:** You guaranteed the loan for the first Soup Kitchen Mortgage?

**BB:** Yes. George and I. And I was just starting my law practice, so I didn’t have a lot to guarantee. But after we purchased the building, we hired Lisa Christie and the Soup Kitchen became a professional non-profit. We changed from having a faith-based Board to a professional Board. We hired a professional staff and set up a 403b plan. The staff was not going to get rich, but we could prepare for their retirement.

The need for our services increased. People were being priced out of homes. The Nashua Area Shelter owned a building on Ash Street, which was given to them by Bill Dube. Bill’s Bike Shop had been there. We entered into discussions with Nashua Area Shelter. In January 1990, I did the paperwork to merge the Nashua Soup Kitchen with the Nashua Area Shelter. We merged the Boards as well; everyone retained their Board position. We changed the mission from simply supplying people with food to providing food & shelter. The shelter being the building on Ash Street.

It was a period of growth in the city of Nashua when the city really needed housing services. There was burgeoning immigration. I do believe in Divine providence because the funds were provided when we needed them.

**NSKS:** I’ve always felt that way about the Soup Kitchen — that funds were provided when we most needed them. When I was on the Board we were looking at a serious financial shortfall. the Treasurer jokingly said, “We need someone to leave us about a hundred thousand dollars” and then someone did. A teacher in Hollis We were amazed.

**BB:** We needed to do more fundraising. Lisa started applying for grants and in 1993, we won the Dunfey Award for Excellence in Management. I was Board president at the time and was pleased for NSKS to receive such a distinguished honor. During this time, now that we owned the building, we modernized as much as possible. We added the pantry. And we added breakfast — we had just an evening meal in the beginning.

I remember 42 Chestnut well. The basement was had quite a low ceiling and those stairs; the stairs were at a 50 degree angle. We added services, including counseling and job-search assistance. We got more creative about fundraising, and I actually coined the term “Bag Hunger.” I think that was in 1993. My term as President at NSKS ended in 1995. I think that was the year we started the Race, which was another great fundraiser.

The last Board meeting I attended I brought my daughter Ariel, who was nine months old, in her car seat. She’s now an OB/GYN at Jackson Hospital in Miami, Florida.

**NSKS:** Wow. Anything you’d like to add?

**BB:** I think the Soup Kitchen receives support because it’s an easy mission to sell: food and shelter. In my opinion, that’s a human right.

## CRICKET PHONES HELP OUR CLIENTS



**From left: Brett Barcelou, Adam Schneller, Tom Toepfer and Adam Jackson from Cricket Wireless snap a selfie with NSKS case manager Sierra Hubbard.**

Our clients, like everyone else, need cellphones to negotiate our world. See these happy faces? They accomplished what they set out to do, which was provide Soup Kitchen clients with phones. Cricket Wireless came to the Soup Kitchen Monday to sign up some of our clients for the Affordable Connectivity Program. 14 folks qualified and received a new smartphone from Cricket Wireless with a free phone case and screen protector, courtesy of NSKS.



### THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS!

NSKS is very grateful for the generous support we receive each year from our corporate partners. This month we would particularly like to recognize **Eastern Bank** for awarding NSKS a 2022 Impact Grant to help build the Spring Street emergency shelter, and **Lowe’s Home Improvement** for their amazing 100 Hometowns Award for the landscaping and an accessible entrance for the shelter. **INTEGRA Biosciences** also made a generous donation to the Spring Street shelter, above and beyond their December gift to support our daily soup kitchen and food pantry operations.

The **Crane Fund for Widows and Children** is once again supporting the operations of our family shelter, and **BAE** has provided continued support for our on-site and mobile food pantries through their Community Investment program. We’re also very excited to have been awarded a grant from **Conway Arena**, which is helping us to purchase backpacks and school supplies for high school students as part of our annual back to school backpack program.

Thank you all for helping us to meet the needs of the Nashua community through our diverse programs!



July 29 was National Lasagna Day! The Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter experienced some lasagna love earlier that week when Ashley Keating, Regional Director of Lasagna Love for ME/NH/VT, delivered 10 pans of love to us. Our shelter residents certainly enjoyed it!

@Lasagna Love believes that kindness, however big or small, is the key to strengthening our communities. We agree. Thank you for your kindness to our clients.

#### WISH LIST

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- SHAMPOO
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- TOOTHPASTE
- SOAP
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- DENTAL FLOSS
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**“If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”**

**– Mother Teresa**