

SPREAD THE BREAD

TASP VOLUNTEERS BAKE A DIFFERENCE

"When you volunteer you put kindness back into the world."

TASP, or the Therapeutic After School Program, launched an exciting volunteer effort this spring. In the past TASP clients have volunteered at the Haley House food pantry and kitchen in the South End where "clients would bake biscuits for the next morning's breakfast" says Kate Connolly... "In general clients really enjoyed this event," she said. However there were some major challenges.

"This was a good experience but a major hurdle to doing it more often was scheduling. It's difficult during the school year to go anywhere off grounds after school because clients arrive at different times. This limited the frequency we were able to go to Haley House. So I started looking online for volunteer opportunities that involved baking and came across Spread the Bread" said Kate.

Spread the Bread, a self-proclaimed grass roots nonprofit and "international bread-giving organization," encourages people to "bake a difference" by baking and sharing bread. Kate said "I thought some variation of Spread the Bread would be very achievable throughout the year because we could bake at our convenience and then bring the food to a local shelter."

Volunteers deliver their baked goods to the Elizabeth Stone House, an organization serving survivors of domestic violence who are at risk of homelessness. According to Kate, "the clients were adamant about baking for homeless people. We baked for a couple of different shelters but felt the Elizabeth Stone House

was the best match. They were very supportive of what I was looking to achieve and also very appreciative of the baked goods we brought. We bake once per month for one of their domestic violence groups. Clients bake at TASP and then we (staff and clients) drop off at the shelter." One client said "I have enjoyed baking and volunteering because it's a new experience." Another client said "When you volunteer you put kindness back into the world." ■



Program Director Kate Connolly and a volunteer with brownies they baked for victims of domestic violence living at Elizabeth Stone House.

Spread the Bread, a self-proclaimed grass roots nonprofit and "international bread-giving organization..."

From the President



Dear friends,

I hope your summer is going well! It's always a busy season at our programs. In this issue of *The Homepage* you'll learn how the kids at our Therapeutic After School Program (TASP) helped "bake a difference" by volunteering

with Spread the Bread; while the Child and Family Counseling Center (CFCC) has been busy running its camp!

You'll also learn how The Home helped shape Brittany Oller's family. While we always love to hear about ways The Home has bettered people's lives, Brittany's story is especially important to us because her employer is TJX, whose generosity both in philanthropy and volunteerism helps augment our work, especially around Permanency.

Speaking of success stories, I hope you have noticed the new focus on our social media postings, especially our Throwback Thursdays (#TBT) initiative and the incredible responses it has been generating! A special shout-out goes to our colleague Maya Cameron-Gilsey, a school-based clinician with a passion for posting!

Looking ahead, September brings the reopening of Clifford Academy at The Home in Walpole. Clifford Academy will consist of a middle and high school with a focus on vocational education including small mechanics, horticulture and culinary arts. I hope you'll visit the school's new website at CliffordAcademy.org and let us know what you think.

If you're feeling you need one last blast of fun as summer winds down, why not join us on Monday 9/9 at the beautiful Black Rock Country Club in Hingham for our 25th Annual Generous Masters Golf Invitational? Or, if you need to release all the energy you've stored up over the summer, join the Spartans for The Home at the Spartan Sprint at Fenway Park on Sunday 11/10. You'll find all the information you need to sign up for either – or both – under "Mark Your Calendars."

As always, please know just how much we appreciate the support and encouragement we receive from you and others who read *The Homepage*. It is just one of the ways we reach out to let you know that your generosity and friendship is valued and working for the children and families we serve. Thank you!

Sincerely,

EXCITING SUMMER WITH CFCC

Summer activities are a highlight for the kids at The Child and Family Counseling Center! CFCC is running their summer groups and have big things planned. The groups are designed to create a fun, supportive, affordable summer options for kids who are often excluded from community summer camps due to mental and behavioral health diagnoses. The kids participate in fun, recreational, activities and enhance their social skills under the care of counselors and licensed clinicians.

During the two weeks in July, kids participated in art projects, played recreational games, and visited various destinations around the city. A couple of exciting expeditions included going to the Mary Baker Eddy Library and sailing to the Boston Harbor Islands. During the two weeks in August, campers visited the New England Aquarium and various parks throughout the city to enjoy nature and marine animals.



One of the summer group kids enjoying his first swing on a hammock.

SUMMER OF FIRSTS!

First time:

"Making a blanket"

"Going on a boat ride"

"Using chopsticks"

"Swinging in a hammock"

"Tasting kiwi"

"Going to Paul Revere house"

"Tasting pastrami"

"Playing in the sand"

BIG CHANGES ARE AFOOT AT THE HOME IN WALPOLE



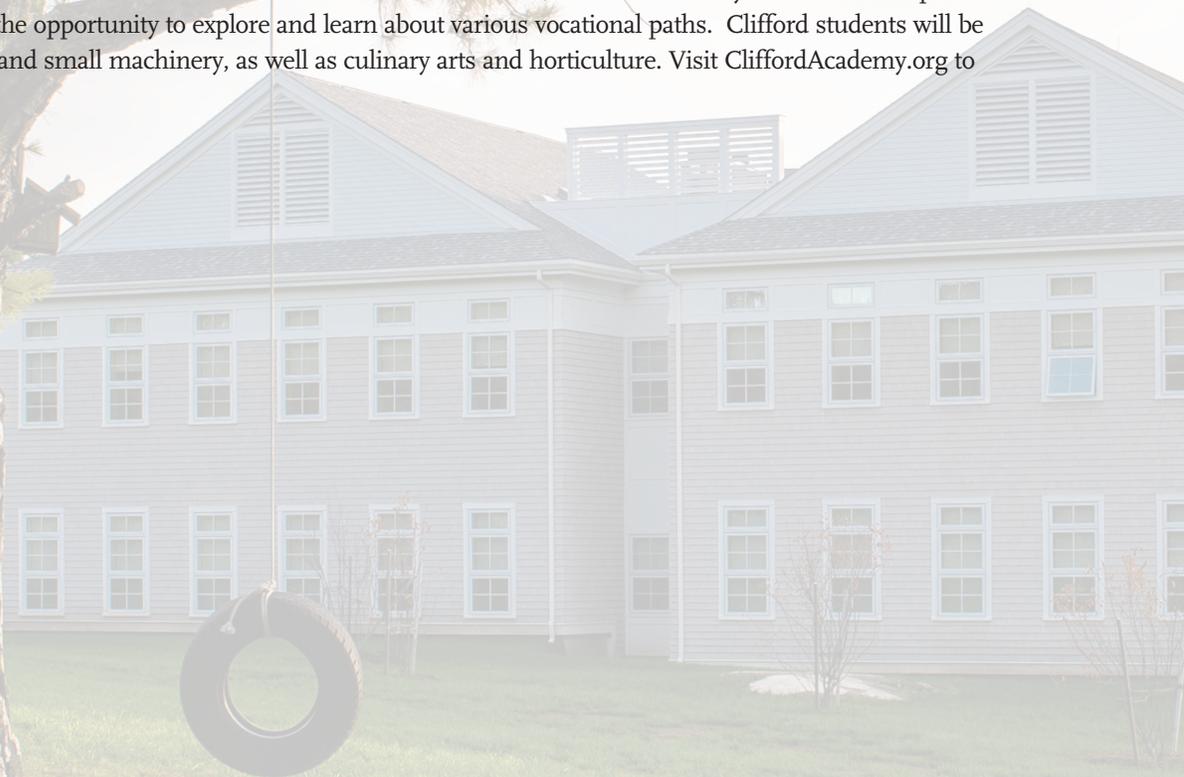
What's going on at The Home in Walpole? Lots!

We've reconfigured the residences and are about to reopen the school.

The cottages – Adams, Riccio, Merrill and Hailer – have all had some design changes made befitting the needs of 21st century group homes. Adams and Riccio, have been better designed for DCF/DMH involved children who have mild to moderate developmental disabilities. The cottages have gone from 11 beds each to six which allows for both to now have full kitchens and living areas for the kids. Hailer needed only modest upgrades and Merrill,

while still the biggest at 18 beds, has been reconfigured with new doors and walls into two separate units. All of this is part of a “sensory integration” practice or occupational therapy focus that supports trauma recovery.

Then, of course, there's the new Clifford Academy! We are very excited about the school reopening in September for middle and high school students. In addition to the Massachusetts Frameworks school curriculum, Clifford Academy's Career Development Program will provide students with the opportunity to explore and learn about various vocational paths. Clifford students will be able to take classes in woodworking and small machinery, as well as culinary arts and horticulture. Visit CliffordAcademy.org to learn more.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 9: Generous Masters

Generous Masters

GOLF INVITATIONAL

Support The Home by hitting the exclusive greens at Black Rock Country Club in Hingham.

The Home is hosting its 25th annual Generous Masters Golf Invitational which has raised more than \$1 million for the children and families The Home serves.

Learn more at: thehome.org/gmgolf

November 10: Spartan Race at Fenway



Test your strength and give back to the community by joining The Home's Spartan Race Team! Everyone is welcome to join us and get a real insider's look at Fenway Park!

For more information, visit: thehome.org/spartan

August 14 – December 1: Keep Kids Warm Coat Drive

Our kids need your help! We all know how unpredictable New England's weather can be in the fall and winter. Our children need your help to get the outerwear they need to go back to school. We are looking for donations of NEW sweatshirts, fleeces, rain slickers, light jackets, and winter coats.



Donations can be dropped off or mailed to:
The Home for Little Wanderers
10 Guest Street
Brighton, MA 02135
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

SOUTHEAST CAMPUS GRADS CELEBRATE!

Academic success is something we are always proud of in the kids we serve. And we're particularly proud of three graduates from our Southeast Campus School in Plymouth this year!

All three of these graduates were day students who lived at home. You might be surprised to learn that 95% of the work we do is provided in the community setting in clinics, at school or at home.

Two of the students made the daily trip to Plymouth from the Mattapan and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston. They had been students at The Home for Little Wanderers since the 8th grade.

One will be heading to Bunker Hill Community College in Boston in the fall to study sports training and play basketball for the college! One is hoping to land a job as a mechanic, and the third was hired by the HVAC mechanical engineering firm where he interned while a student at Southeast Campus.

The Southeast Campus community hosted a graduation celebration for these young men that was catered by the center's own culinary program and attended not only by their families but by their former teachers at Clifford Academy.

All of us at The Home are beaming with pride both for – and with – these young men.



Graduation day at Southeast Campus