

BROC

Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

January 2010

Since 1965

Homeless to Housed ... the Pieces Came Together

In October 2009, a young homeless couple was placed at Jen's Motel (a division of BROC). The woman was working 20 hours a week at a local convenience store and was receiving a Reach-Up grant and food stamps. The gentleman stayed home with their son so they wouldn't have to pay daycare costs. While staying at Jen's, Economic Services covered a portion of their stay and the couple were responsible for paying the balance.



Our on-site manager and Housing Counselor started meeting with the couple one-on-one on November 5th. She recommended that in order for them to afford an apartment for their family, he must consider going out to work and that possibly, she could ask for more hours at her present job, or maybe add a second part-time job to her schedule. Our Housing Counselor explained to them that they needed to be stable in order for them to prevent being homeless in the future. She counseled them on finding an apartment which included heat and possibly other utilities and they also completed the Vermont State Housing Authority application to get on the waiting list for Section 8 Housing.

He attended a job fair at the Killington Ski Area and got a seasonal position at one of the ski lodges as head of the kitchen area. He loves his job and started full-time hours in December. She has picked up a few nights a week as a waitress at a local restaurant. She says she makes good tips and loves her new part-time job. They were able to get a friend to watch their son on days when they both have to work.

By the time our Housing Counselor met with them again later in November, they had found an apartment in Rutland close to her convenience store job. He uses the local bus transportation to get to the mountain. The apartment was \$850 per month with heat, hot water, trash and snow removal included. Their case was presented to the Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program board to assist them with funds to get into the apartment. HPRP was able to cover the \$850 security deposit and half of January rent. The couple paid the other half and were able to move into their new apartment on January 1, 2010. We were able to get them a donated television, sofa bed, bookshelf and a dresser. They still need other furniture, but we are working on that.

Their family is doing very well in their new home.

The landlord took the time to call our Housing Counselor to thank her for assisting this couple in getting into the apartment.

* If you or someone you know has used furniture or household items that you would like to donate to help out families like the one described above, please contact Donna Stearns at 802-773-9480 or email dstearns@broc.org to discuss pick up options.

FREE TAX PREP SERVICES

BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont will offer free tax preparation services again this year. Our program will start after February 1st and services will be provided by IRS-certified volunteers. We prepare simple Federal and State returns for Vermont residents. Please call to make an appointment and make sure you bring all relevant materials (W2s, tax bills, etc.). Call our Rutland office at 802-775-0878 and our Bennington office at 802-447-7515.



SKI FOR HEAT 2010

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Sunday, January 31, 2010

Wild Wings Cross Country
Ski Center, Peru, Vermont

*Thank you to each and every
individual, business, and
organization that helped make
the holidays brighter for
the families we serve!*

