



Jeremiah's Times



Spring 2015

Big Changes at the Inn

Over the course of the past two years, we've been working hard & making some big changes at the Inn – & we're not done yet!

We started by crafting a strategic plan, which outlines some of the important goals we want to achieve by the fall of 2015. These include: strengthening & expanding the board, increasing the amount of money we're raising, making physical improvements to the Inn & strengthening the Social Model program.

We are happy to report that we have made significant progress on reaching these goals! We have:

- *Posted a surplus for the past two years
- *Crafted our first-ever annual fund development plan
- *Created our first-ever board manual
- *Increased salaries & strengthened staff
- *Upgraded all of our technology
- *Updated our mission statement & create a vision statement
- *Expanded the board by 2 members

- *Painted the interior of the building & installed new flooring on the 1st floor, &
- *Replaced the roof

Over the course of the summer, we will:

- *Replace all the windows & exterior doors
- *Repave the parking lot, &
- *Make repairs to the exterior of the building

These changes would not have been possible without support from: **CCRI, Country Bank, Fletcher Foundation, George & Sybil Fuller Foundation, Agnes Lindsay Trust, Nal's Paints, Saint-Gobain, Stoddard Charitable Trust, Wyman-Gordon Foundation & Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund.** We thank you for your support!

Future plans include replacing the heating & phone systems, installing electronic key pads, painting the outside of the building, purchasing a van, & buying several generators. ***Stop by for a visit & check out the changes for yourself!***

Mission & Vision

JEREMIAH'S INN uses a Social Model to provide residents with a safe environment in which to begin recovery. We foster a sense of community & mutual aid through partnerships, volunteerism & our Food Pantry. Our vision is to help people better their lives in order to better the community.

21st Annual Food Drive

Did you know that the prevalence of hunger in Worcester is **six times** that of the Commonwealth? That means that **1 out of every 3 children** lives in a household that is unable to meet their basic food needs.

Our **Annual Food Drive** will run from **July 6-11, from 8:00am – 6:00 pm each day** at the Price Chopper at 50 Cambridge Street in Worcester.

Unfortunately, during the summer months, donations of food drop off precipitously, leaving the more than 12,250 people who rely on our pantry at risk for hunger. The Annual Food Drive is designed to help keep

our Pantry shelves stocked & to help raise awareness about hunger in Worcester.

Each year, we provide food to more than 12,250 people! More than 1/3 of those receiving food are children. Hunger has been linked to higher rates of chronic illness & asthma. It contributes to lower birth rates, decreased or delayed cognitive ability, higher rates of anxiety & depression, higher rates of absenteeism, lack of concentration & lower test scores. Together, we can combat hunger & all the problems it creates!

We are delighted to announce that **Unibank** has stepped up to be our Lead Sponsor this year. We welcome **SpencerBANK**, **UNFI** & **UPS** aboard as Platinum Sponsors, **Wegman's** as a Gold Sponsor, **Southbridge Savings** as a Silver Sponsor, & **AAA** & **Millbury Savings** as Bronze Sponsors. SpencerBANK also is running a food drive during the month of June & contributing \$1.00 for each item donated!

If you'd like to become a sponsor, contact us today!

Your donation of food or funds can be dropped off any time of year during normal business hours at Jeremiah's Inn (1059 Main Street) or you can stop by & visit us during the Food Drive. Your contribution will help feed hungry people in our community!



33rd Annual Meeting

On May 13, Jeremiah's Inn held its 33rd Annual Meeting at Vital EMS on Main Street. After a brief welcome, board & staff members provided reports on the FY2014 financials, the food pantry, & the Social Model program. This was followed by the Golden Friend Awards. This year's recipients were: **Bhumika Regmi**, **Kevin Keiler**, **Barbara Roach Kyes**, **Alice Lesak**, **Anna Rice**, **Tammie Keough** & **Felix Suvuvor**. Thanks for going above & beyond for Jeremiah's! The awards were followed by five guest speakers, who shared their personal stories of recovery. Finally, two new board candidates were presented & voted on. If you'd like a copy of our annual report, please let us know!

Justin's Story

Justin had everything going for him – a good job, a wife & 3 beautiful daughters. Then a series of life-changing events catapulted him into a downward spiral of depression, alcohol & opiate use. Eventually, his wife kicked him out. He says, "I lost everything. After that, I just didn't care." Justin was homeless for several years. In 2011, he tried to detox, but because it wasn't his idea, he came out & started drinking again.

His first wake-up call came in 2014, when his grandfather died. Justin had not seen him in several years & was unable to seek forgiveness for the wrongs he'd done. The next month, Justin overdosed & died several times on the way to & in the hospital. When he woke up & heard this, he cried, realizing that his 3 daughters – whom he loves so much – almost lost their father.

In November, 2014, Justin signed himself into a detox & rehab. In January, 2015, he arrived at Jeremiah's Inn, ready to make changes. Today, Justin has almost 7 months of sobriety. He's still struggling with his emotions, but says, "At least I'm clean & sober. I may not like how I feel, but at least now, I *feel*."

Justin credits Jeremiah's Inn for helping him get his life back. "People help me every single day. They push me in the right direction, encourage me to do the right thing. I can't imagine being anywhere else." He is back in touch with his children, which means the world to him.

Justin is going to chair his first 12 Step meeting soon. He's nervous, but he knows that the guys have his back. Justin says "I'm not the same guy I was when I was using." Then he smiled & said, "That's a good thing."

We'd like to thank Justin for sharing his story & hope you find it as inspiring as we do!

Welcome, New Board Members

Please help us welcome Jack Maroney & Jack Reardon to our board of directors! Jack Maroney has spent much of his career working in the field of addiction & is presently the Principal of Spring Hill Recovery. Jack Reardon works for UPS, is head of the Teamsters Union there & has been involved with Jeremiah's for more than 20 years. We look forward to working with them!

AROUND THE INN



A Shout Out to Polar

Each week, Polar Beverages provides us with a free truck & driver so we can pick up food for the Pantry at the Worcester County Food Bank. We want to shout out a big THANK YOU to **Polar Beverages** for their generosity & support!



Board of Directors

A big thank you to our Board of Directors, who work hard to serve Jeremiah's Inn & the community! L to R: Jack Reardon, Francine Harrison (Vice President), Jeff Kristoff (Treasurer), Joe LaConte, Trish Davidson (President). Not pictured: George Brown, Melinda Hillock (Clerk), Richard Higgins, Jack Maroney & Joe Stiso.

Wish List

Turbo air TSR-49SD refrigerator	
Pillows	Sheets (twin)
Pillow cases	Blankets (twin)
Towels	Wash Cloths
Socks	Underwear - all sizes
Summer clothing (all sizes)	
Dish soap	Deodorant
Body Wash	Shampoo
Toilet paper	Paper towels
Brooms	Dustpans
Mops	Padlocks
Water bottles	Laundry detergent
Digital camera	
Light-colored coffee mugs	
Drink mix & bottled water	

