

[Columnists](#)

Marlborough Sampler for Dec. 27

Thu Dec 27, 2007, 03:03 PM EST

MARLBOROUGH - GMPI appreciates generosity

"Helping People Help Themselves" is the Greater Marlboro Programs Inc., tagline that is included on all of their literature.

GMPI is dedicated to promoting the personal growth, dignity and acceptance of people with developmental disabilities in the Metro-West area including: Marlborough, Hudson, Southborough, Northborough and Westborough.

Recently Chris Mason of GMPI put together the following ``giving back" stories for readers to enjoy this holiday season.

"We thought it would be great if GMPI's participants could give back to our community that we serve," said Carol Manne, GMPI's executive director. Abundance creates the ability to give, giving creates abundance. This principle is true in every area of one's life. Giving comes with no strings attached. It is about focusing on the needs of another while leaving your own goals and desires behind. Manne wanted Greater Marlboro Programs to give back.

Manne then asked all directors, at a staff meeting, to come up with some creative ideas for GMPI to give to the community, to focus on others, to put the needs of others in view. That is exactly what a group of individuals did.

Michelle Lariviere, program director at a GMPI residential group home at Pleasant Street, approached Wal-Mart in Hudson, and spoke to Mark Rube, Connection Center Associate. Michelle's idea was to decorate a Christmas tree with paper-shaped mittens saying, "Thanks for Caring." One Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in early December, GMPI participants sat outside by the decorated tree handing out flyers explaining, "The Mitten Mission", as it was named, to shoppers who went into the store.

Customers were asked if they could purchase mittens or gloves for adults or children in need. The people responded enthusiastically with the results that the GMPI group collected 187 pairs of gloves and mittens, 5 scarves, 25 hats and headbands, \$187 in cash to purchase more warm gear, and a \$30.49 gift card which a customer had returned something and gave it as a donation to GMPI.

The following week, Michelle and the folks from the residential house delivered a box of mittens to the Northborough Senior Center for the Giving Tree, sponsored by the Northborough District Nurse Association for the underprivileged children in Northborough. A box was delivered to the Marlborough Food Pantry at the Walker Building and a box went to the Houlton House, at Westborough State Hospital, for patients in need. The last box was delivered to the Wilson House in Hudson. "This projected a positive participatory role in the community," stated Charles Stradford, vice president of GMPI's board of directors.

Additional GMPI residential group homes on Fairmount Hill and Liberty Street, have scheduled their own

giving opportunities for the upcoming holiday season. Chris Germaine, program director for Fairmount Hill and Jim Peterson, program director for Liberty Street and GMPI participants, will be delivering hand decorated Christmas stockings to the residents of Marlborough Hills nursing home. The stockings have been creatively and artfully decorated by participants and all are "enjoying the idea of making something for someone," says Chris Germaine, program director at Fairmount Hill. The participants have been not only decorating the stockings but also have been filling them with candy, personal hygiene items and additional items. Items were purchased from donations and personal money donated by some of the folks GMPI support.

Jim Peterson contacted Michael Orlando, Marlborough Hills activity director. Together, they arranged a time when GMPI's group could come into the skilled nursing facility to deliver the filled Christmas stockings. Marlborough Hills houses about 175 residents, including an orthopedic unit, and an Alzheimer/dementia unit.

"On Saturday, Dec. 22, the group from Greater Marlboro Programs will be delivering the stockings at our Christmas Coffee Hour. Residents will be so thrilled about this event. It will be a nice way to brighten up their day," said Orlando.

There are few acts of goodness in our lives that compare to the act of giving. The more one gives, the more one has. Again, it comes with no strings attached; it's just about focusing on another person. The most satisfying work; helping others.

For some time, **Marlborough Rotarians** have been shopping for gifts for the 60-plus children of 30 deserving Marlborough families. On Sunday, Dec. 23, Rotarians gathered to deliver the gifts and baskets of food to those 30 families.

Dec. 28 birthday greetings go to Jim Toohey and to Traci Cappadona ... Dec. 29 birthday greetings go to Linda Furbush and to Nick Nasuti ... December birthday greetings go to Daniel Patrick O'Brien, the son of Dr. Dan and Dr. Mary O'Brien ... Wishes for a happy New Year's Eve birthday go to Denise LaValle, wife of Framingham Postmaster Joe LaValle ... Dec. 31 birthday greetings go to Dan Caruso and to Maria Navin ... Jan. 1 birthday greetings go to Matt Simoneau, Linda Hassapes, Lois Dolan, Dick Kyper and to Millie DeMarco ... Anna Cate McEnaney, the daughter of John and Kristen McEnaney celebrates her birthday on Dec. 30 ... Jan. 2 birthday greetings go to Sue Phaneuf.

Comments (0)

Leave a Comment:

Participation in online discussion is subject to our [Terms of Use](#). By commenting, you agree to be bound by these terms.

Add Comment

Powered by: [SEO by eLocalListing](#), [Advertiser profiles](#), [Business directory by Planet](#)