



Lionheart

*The Latest from
The Children's Room*

Fall Greetings!

Welcome to the fall edition of our newsletter LIONHEART, named after the paint color for our house, lionheart yellow. We invite you to read the latest updates from The Children's Room, and we hope you enjoy Lionheart: where courage and community come together.

Annual Memories Walk



What a wonderful day with all of you who joined us for our Annual Memories Walk on October 4th. Due to your support and the many contributions from friends far and near, the walk was a great success. This is big news for The Children's Room: we are approaching \$60,000 as our fundraising total for the event! All the donations will go directly to children and families in our program. We thank you!

Over 350 walkers completed the three-mile loop along Mass Ave, and then came back to Town Hall for a festive lunch. It was all part of our 10th Anniversary Celebration of The Children's Room, and we shared personal stories, memories, and inspirational readings together. It was a great day as we commemorated the "Memories That Move Us." We appreciate each and every person who added their spirit and support.

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Upcoming Events

Tour and Tell Dates:

12/3 Thursday, 9:00am
1/12 Tuesday, noon
1/20 Wednesday, 6:00pm

12/2 4:00-5:00pm
Orientation: New Families
(Registration required)

12/4 9:00pm-2:00am
SnowBall Event to benefit
Teen Performance Troupe

12/9 6:30pm-7:30pm
Community Candle Lighting

Fall/Winter Workshops: Details in Community Update

11/21 9:30-4:30
12/5 9:30-4:30
12/12 9:30-4:30
1/13 6:00pm-9:00pm
1/20 6:00pm-9:00pm

Volunteer Training Dates:

1/23 9:00-5:00pm
1/24 1:00-7:00pm
2/6 9:30-5:00pm
2/10 5:30-9:00pm

*Volunteers attend all sessions

We are grateful to families from the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund for organizing a volunteer project to support The Children's Room Memories Walk. Special thanks to our many generous donors, & to the Walk Committee: Tricia Hand Seery, Lynne Aftuck, Susan Boucher, Diane Crowley, Tara Duplaga, Betzi-Lynn Hanc, Bill Hayner, Chip Highfield, Kate Killion, Mary Ellen Margosian, Teresa Mathai, Marta Ruohoniemi, and Cathleen Russell. Thank you to everyone who volunteered the day of the Memories Walk.

The Children's Room provides caring support for grieving children, teens, and families from over 75 communities in Massachusetts.

Teen Performance Troupe



The Children's Room Teen Performance Troupe finished another season of original shows around the Boston area. All five teens in the troupe have experienced the death of a family member, either a parent or a sibling.

Weaving together their personal stories and memories, the teens express what it was like to face these devastating losses. They convey what it is like to cope with changes after their lives have altered abruptly and dramatically. These

teens reach out to others with the message that sharing and talking is redemptive and healing. The troupe has performed for schools, social services, and health services, including a wonderful performance at the Simmons College Alumni Day.

The troupe spent hours rehearsing, performing, and just hanging out as friends. Katie and August returned for another year, joined by Lauren, James, and Lotte. We hope they realize how much the generous gifts of their time and their personal stories have been appreciated. Johanneke de Vries and Janelle Dempsey brought their own thoughtful talents and understanding of loss, and were great co-directors of the troupe. We extend our gratitude to the Belmont Hill School for their generous donation of the Kraft Theater for the last performance.



This year's troupe has already started meeting and planning a new original production, which they will be performing at various locations around Boston from January through May. Performance updates will be posted on our website. Call Donna Sharff at 781-641-4741 ext. 227 for more information about the troupe.

Workshops & Training

The Children's Room offers an ongoing series of workshops at our house in Arlington. Workshops are open to all! Our staff offers practical information and strategies that will help you address any stressful life event. We are also responsive to crisis situations in your school or community, and will provide on-site training. Continuing education credits are available to workshop participants.

Upcoming workshops at The Children's Room this winter include the following topics:

11/21 Supporting Young Adults 9:30-4:30pm

12/5 Strategies: Talking with Young Children 9:30-4:30pm

12/12 Teens in Transition 9:30-4:30pm

1/13 & 20 Supporting Young Adults 6:00-9:00pm

For information or to register, call 781-641-4741 or email info@childrensroom.org

Community Updates

Town Day:

Thanks to everyone who stopped by on Town Day in Arlington to show your support with kind words, interest in our programs, Build-a-Bear raffle ticket purchases, and other donations. Harry Allen and his team from Arlmont Fuel sold popcorn again to benefit The Children's Room. Harry's generosity in donating fuel for our house since 2006 has made The Children's Room warm and comforting for our families whenever they come through the door. We can never thank him enough!



Santa Claus Anonymous SnowBall:

Hurry and get your tickets to this year's SnowBall, hosted by Santa Claus Anonymous (SCA). We are delighted to announce that The Children's Room Performance Troupe has been chosen by SCA this year as one of three beneficiaries! SCA is a nonprofit fundraising organization that supports Boston area youth programs for educational, social, and character development. The event includes dancing (to both live entertainment and a DJ), a casino, silent auction, and pictures with Santa. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 4 from 9pm-2am at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers. Additional information is on our website. To purchase tickets or make a donation to support the teen troupe, go to:

<http://www.scaboston.org/purchasetickets.html>

Community Candle Lighting:

Come for an evening of remembrance and light here at The Children's Room, on Wednesday December 9th from 6:30pm-7:30pm. We invite you to remember a loved one at this affirming ritual, and to share with others from our community. Current families will have their own night of candle lighting in their program group during December, but everyone is welcome at this all-group community event, including volunteers and friends of The Children's Room. Music and refreshments will be part of the evening, and participants will take home a candle to keep through the holiday season. Please RSVP at info@childrensroom.org.

Volunteer Training:

Ever thought about volunteering to help children and families at The Children's Room? If you are considering becoming a volunteer facilitator, the first step is to sign up for our 25-hour training program. To apply, please visit our website and follow instructions for completing our Facilitator Training Application. Dates for winter training are:

Saturday, January 23 9:00-5:00pm

Sunday, January 24 1:00-7:00pm

Saturday, February 6 9:30-5:00pm

Wednesday, February 10 5:30-9:00pm

Please contact Colleen Shannon, Bereavement Program Coordinator, at 781-641-4741 x222, or email cshannon@childrensroom.org

Help Us Link TD Bank Accounts:

You can help The Children's Room by linking your TD Bank accounts to our fundraising efforts through the TD Bank Affinity Banking Program. TD Bank will donate its own money to us based on a percentage of all accounts connected to The Children's Room. Please note that we will not receive any account balance or personal information from the bank, but we will receive a year-end donation. All you have to do is ask your TD Bank agent to link your accounts to The Children's Room through its Affinity Banking Program -- a simple and quick way to fundraise for us! We appreciate your help.

A Word of Thanks:

We are grateful to so many of you whose support makes a huge difference here at The Children's Room. We offer a word of thanks to some special donations of time, talent, and much-needed resources.

- Maryanne and Stephen Andrew and the LIG-49 Foundation for their support toward significantly improving the inside and outside of our house this year.
- Martin Conneely of Conneely Contracting and office manager Paula Moran. We fully appreciate the ongoing work provided by Conneely Contracting in maintaining and improving the house our families count on, and want to recognize the many contributions of the following professional contractors:
 - Peter Maher for plumbing
 - Louis Zottola for tile installation
 - Roma Tile for grout and tile supplies
 - George Lyons for demolition
 - Bob Ferlanti for painting
 - Burke Bros Electrical
 - Goneau Electric
- Contributors to our Hope Grows Here Garden:
 - COG Design in Waltham
 - A Yard & a Half in Waltham
 - Geographia Landscape Design in Beverly
 - Autowater Irrigation Co in Lexington
 - Stonegate Gardens in Lincoln
 - Kathy Tarantola Photography

The vastly improved look of our front yard and walkway has been noticed and appreciated by our current families.
- Tufts Health Plan Foundation for supporting our educational outreach to underserved communities.
- Dara Conneely and Signature Landscaping Service for helping maintain and keep our property beautiful.
- Kim Cayer for ongoing staff-level work as a member of our development team.
- Jan Streitberger of Crescent Hill Studio in Arlington for beautiful graphic design work.
- Betzi-Lynn Hanc for expertise and assistance in communications and marketing projects.
- Kathy Peterson, Barbara Clement, Dawn Link, and Helene Papanastassiou for donating their professional organizing services to help make our office space more efficient and attractive.
- All our gifted, reliable, caring volunteers (close to 100!) who we could not do without... thank you one and all.

Tour and Tell



Will you bring your friends for a tour?

We are hosting tours of The Children's Room, as a unique way to bring our mission to a wider audience and broaden our circle of support. This engaging new introduction to The Children's Room is called a "Tour and Tell."

The tour takes no more than an hour. Guests hear a heartfelt welcome from a board or staff member, then take a guided walk through the house. The group is led by an experienced volunteer who tells stories about the support families experience when they come to The Children's Room. People have told us after the tour that they were incredibly moved and say they can now picture what happens in our program. They enter expecting to find a sad atmosphere, and instead they leave feeling surprised by the colorful and comforting surroundings at the house, and the stories of hope and inspiration.

We hope you will share your enthusiasm about The Children's Room, and come with your friends. Nothing we say can match the first-hand experience of touring the house. Daytime and evening times are available. Upcoming tours are currently planned for: 12/3 at 9:00 a.m., 1/12 at noon, and 1/20 at 6:00 p.m. We will also arrange special tours if you have a group ready to visit at another time. Please RSVP with kkillion@childrensroom.org

Wish List

- Gift cards
- New couch for teen room
- Large or file-size plastic bins
- Blank journals for boys & girls
- Window cleaning service
- Four white window shades
- Installing window shades
- Sensor light for front of house
- Computer training
- Sculpture clay
- Passionate people who care about our mission and the children we support!



We encourage you to call us with any questions (781)641-4741 or email info@childrensroom.org

To mail a donation:

The Children's Room, 1210 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington MA 02476

We invite you to visit our website for ongoing information: www.childrensroom.org

We hope you enjoy staying connected with our community by reading our newsletter. Thank you for sharing your email with us, so we may reach out to you without paying to print and send a large mailing. We invite you to forward this newsletter if you'd like to share information about our community events.

As always, we enjoy hearing from you and welcome your ideas and questions. Please let us know what information and stories you think we should include. We like to offer a reminder that our newsletter name comes from the color of our house, Lionheart Yellow. The lion represents courage, and the heart represent what binds us. Look for more issues of Lionheart: The Latest from The Children's Room.

Best wishes,

Donna Sharff, Program Director, dsharff@childrensroom.org

Anne Favalaro, Communication Director, afavaloro@childrensroom.org

Donate

your

vehicle!

We have partnered with a nationally recognized charity to make donating your unwanted vehicle easy. You get a tax deduction and our program receives the proceeds. Cars from any state can be donated. It is simple to do, so for more details, visit our website. [Click here for information.](#)