

Accordingly, MATS made the decision in late 2020, after much discussion and searching, to purchase a second building in Peterborough so that we might provide more transitional housing to the community. We are now in the process of converting the neglected one-family home we bought into two apartments, meeting all fire and safety codes, and making the house and grounds into a clean and welcoming home for two additional needy families. We plan to have the new building ready for occupancy later this year, and have decided to name it for Lew Stone, who was so important in organizing MATS. The Board also decided to hire a part-time administrative assistant to help MATS with such duties as record keeping, fundraising assistance, social media postings, and assistance to the treasurer.

Please visit our website to learn more and make a monetary donation online at www.MATSNH.org. Donations may also be mailed to MATS, P.O. Box 3053, Peterborough, NH 03458. To donate household items, please call 603-924-5033.

Please also consider subscribing to our monthly email newsletter, which includes news, events, our monthly column, and acknowledgement of the many people and community organizations that help us achieve our goals. We'd like to acknowledge that Hope Pettegrew, who has authored our monthly column for years is stepping down. We'd like to thank her and her husband Bob for their decades of service to MATS.

2020 MATS Trustees: Peter Harrison, President; Mary Loftis, Vice President; Jane Bowman, Treasurer; Denise Frankoff, Secretary; Ernest Belletete; Julie Flood Page; Melissa French; Toni Gildone; Bob Marrone; Lisa Rogers; Lee Ann Moore; Bruce Simpson

To request shelter: Call the MATS office at 603-924-5033; email MATS.peterborough@gmail.com; or contact your town's welfare officer. For emergency shelter, dial 211.

MATS is a 501(c)3 organization and all gifts are tax deductible.



The Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter's mission is to provide transitional housing, support and referral services to people who are homeless; to educate our community on issues of homelessness; and to advocate for possible solutions.

P.O. Box 3053 • Peterborough, NH 03458 • (603) 924-5033

MATS Annual Report 2020

JUNE 2021

The Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter's mission is to provide transitional housing, support and referral services to people who are homeless; to educate our community on issues of homelessness; and to advocate for possible solutions.

All during the long, dark pandemic year that was 2020, the advice we received was "Stay Home" so as to keep yourself and your family safe. Many of us not only stayed home, but also worked from home, studied from home, and to the extent possible, socialized from home. But the safety and security of a home was out of reach for too many individuals and families in our community.

There are many factors that contribute to the problem of homelessness in our region, beginning with a severe shortage of affordable housing, low wages (especially for unskilled workers), and the high cost of child care. Given those factors, any number of triggering events, such as the loss of a job, a medical crisis, the breakup of a relationship, even the breakdown of a vehicle can cause an individual or a family to lose their housing, and unable to find anything else they can afford.

MATS' mission is to assist these people in a variety of ways. When necessary, and if we have a vacancy, we provide transitional shelter; a clean, welcoming place that they can call home for a while. The shelter is intended to be temporary, but the other ways MATS helps homeless individuals and families is more focused on the long term. We help them find jobs. We help them get job training. We help them get driver's licenses and dependable cars. We help them find dependable child care. If they are eligible for state, local, or federal assistance, or child support payments, we help them secure those. We help them get various types of counseling where necessary. And when they are ready, we help them find permanent housing.

MATS had 11 families in our program in 2020; 11 adults and 16 children, all under 13 years old. We moved three families into permanent housing. Four families are still with us, while four other families moved on before finishing our program. We received 30 applications from people looking for shelter.

In addition to providing shelter, the MATS team fielded over 220 calls from individuals /or other organization about assistance for people facing homelessness. Although our Program Manager wasn't able to meet with people at The River Center, as she did before the pandemic, she was available to people by phone and through email. MATS continued to meet with and work with families living at the shelter during shut down from COVID. We were all able to follow CDC guidelines and all stay healthy. Although there were a lot of obstacles this year our families were able to make significant progress!

As always, our efforts are made possible through the generosity of the community. Over the course of 2020, MATS was the grateful recipient of over 300 gifts, including grants from businesses, foundations, and trusts and individual donations, and a large legacy bequest. This generosity more than made up for the loss of funds we usually count on from events such as Lights of Love, Trivia Night, etc., which were curtailed or cancelled due to COVID. Thanks to all the people and groups that supported us in 2020, MATS remains in solid financial condition. It was a challenging year for everyone in the community. The lockdowns, job losses, and adverse economic impacts of the pandemic made our work even more important than in past years, and despite the challenges, MATS was able to fulfill its mission, grow stronger, and expand. Thanks again to everyone who supported us and help us do our work. A full list of donors is printed below.

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