

12.01.11

Dear Friends,

It is with delight and no small sense of honor that I write to you for the first time as President of the Board of Lifebridge. To take on such a role in an organization that changes lives the way Lifebridge does is a great honor. And no one should think for a second that Lifebridge is not changing lives. Every day the staff works with the homeless to recreate a life for themselves, a life that includes what you and I take for granted.

The other day, I encountered a resident on the steps of our building; and she said to me, "I am so pleased to be taking the course that Salem State is teaching here. I used to be a legal secretary, but I haven't really used my brain productively in a long time. This course is opening parts of my brain I'd forgotten I have." Her life is changing. Imagine how that must feel!

You have in your hands the ability to help our clients change their lives. Your gift to Lifebridge helps us to provide the direct services and the programmatic offerings that make moving from homelessness to a home possible. Last year, we moved nearly a person per week from homelessness into a home. Your gifts, your generosity were integral to our ability to do so. Will you please support Lifebridge financially again this year?

7000 meals a month, support groups for men and for women, clinical support for re-gaining life skills and balancing medications, art therapy to help deal with emotional issues—the list goes on and on as we develop personalized programs and work with individuals to end their homelessness.

We all know that homelessness is a growing problem in the country today. Research shows that two factors are responsible for this problem: a lack of affordable housing and the persistence of poverty in our community. The drain on our economy is significant, the drain on humanity is more so.

We at Lifebridge have developed a proven model that changes lives. Will you join us? Will you help us to meet our goal of ending homelessness? It is possible. We prove it every day. You can be part of it. Please consider a generous gift to change the face of homelessness.

Thank you for careful consideration of this request. We are all so grateful for your support, so grateful that you are willing to make a difference.

From all of us at Lifebridge—Board, staff, residents, and clients—I wish you and your family a most joyous holiday season; and I send our heart-felt thanks.

Sincerely,

