



Why Wellspring Is Important to Me:  
Jane Carr

Holiday Giving Program & Thanksgiving thanks to the Wahlbergs

Focus on Legal Advocacy Staff Member  
Kim Lovendale



# 2024 WINTER NEWSLETTER

Wellspring's Mission is to provide support and skills to people facing challenges to their well-being in order to help them achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

## MISSION MOMENT:

**Recently,** a local woman walked in the door of the Thrift Shop. She was looking for a warm coat but, as she shyly confided to a staff member, she could not afford much. Wellspring staff are trained to introduce potential clients to the Program Staff. Our Case Management System takes it from there. Immediately, the woman was referred to Wellspring's Legal Advocate, Kim Lovendale. (See related article on back, about why Kim works for Wellspring.) Kim started working on this woman's issue and at the same time learned that her funds were so low she could not afford fuel or much food. This woman who came in looking for a coat was then introduced to the fuel assistance program manager and brought to Aunt Dot's Kitchen. What a great result not just for our new client, but also for our staff whose passion is to help people, every day.

## VINNY'S CORNER



Three brave men! Riley Harte, Paul Sullivan (Wellspring Foundation Trustee) & Vinny Harte posing for a picture before taking the cold plunge at the 2024 Wellspring Winter Warrior Games on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

Every day at Wellspring is an opportunity to provide direct service to the community – that is the purpose of the organization.

In more general good news, the 2023 Thanksgiving program provided Thanksgiving meals including turkeys and all the fixings to more than 100 families, 20% of whom are new clients! The Holiday Gift program, which was in its 20th year in 2023, grew similarly. The smile on parents' faces when they pick out gifts for their children is something to behold. And on the financial side of things, we received our first-ever endowment thanks to the Hale Family Foundation. What a good year for helping others!

In 2024, Wellspring will continue to grow to meet the need. We have never closed our doors or turned anyone away and we don't plan on it now. This year, one increased need is that our clients require additional help with transportation. They need transport to access services such as the new English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program in Weymouth. We need ongoing transportation for our partnership with South Shore Hospital, which provides food to people facing hunger or food insecurity while also battling depression and anxiety challenges. We also plan to continue our work with the Weymouth Food Pantry and South Shore Food Bank, providing pop-up food items at a variety of locations. When our clients' needs change and evolve, so do we. We can be assured of this thanks to our ever-increasing corporate sponsorships, individual donors, volunteers, friends, and our professional, dedicated staff. Thanks to ALL of you for supporting the mission and sharing our journey. May the New Year bring you good health and happiness!

-Vinny

## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

### WELLSPRING'S WINTER WARRIOR GAMES



The Hull Times was so excited to help us promote the newly branded Wellspring Winter Warrior Games this year, they created it into a new cartoon! They published a great article on the new format, new branding, and encouraged local residents to come down to Nantasket Beach and the Parrot to support Wellspring. More highlights from this year's Winter Warrior Games can be found on the back of this issue.

The friendly competition from Hull high schoolers, local businesses, families and friends was the buzz of the town that Saturday. We are so excited to continue this new spin on a Hull tradition for years to come!



## WELLSPRING HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

By Pat Martin  
Vice President, Programs and Services

Every December, hundreds of Wellspring clients participate in a holiday gift program. At Wellspring, they can select from a multitude of toys and warm clothing to augment their holidays. This program is possible thanks to generous donors and the Hull Fire Department which collects and contributes new toys.

This year, two young mothers, pictured to the left, who participated in the Adult Education Program, celebrated the holidays with a little more spirit. These moms picked out toys, hats, gloves, and coats for their children. Each family also received gift cards to shop for other items they may need. One of the mothers said, "I had resigned myself to having almost nothing for my kids this year. Until I discovered Wellspring."

*"I had resigned myself to having almost nothing for my kids this year. Until I discovered Wellspring."*

These moms and dads want you to know how much they appreciated this program. Their New Year has started off well, with Wellspring in their corner. Please note that gift cards, or donations for this program, can be dropped off or sent to Wellspring at any time of year. Thank you to our valued donors for giving the joy back to those who need a hand up!



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2024 WINTER WARRIOR GAMES

Saturday, January 27, 2024 was a great day to jump into the water at Nantasket beach! Hull's shoreline was filled with Wellspring supporters participating in the newly branded Winter Warrior Games, which included a "frozen fingers" tug-of-war tournament, "snowball" dodgeball tournament and the annual "Drowned Hogs" polar plunge followed by a warm-up party with a beautiful view of Hull from the top floor at The Parrot.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, supporters, and participants for this year's games. We were so thrilled with the turnout and look forward to continuing this wonderful community-building event for year's to come!





## Why Wellspring is Important to Me

By Jane Carr  
Wellspring Founders Society Member



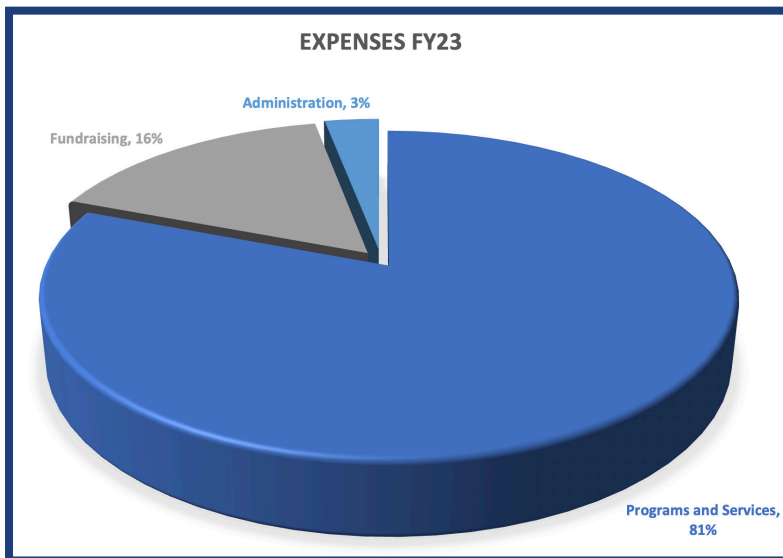
Jane Carr's generosity is legendary in communities throughout the South Shore. From the arts to health care to education and more, her passion for helping others has positively impacted many thousands of people. But her donations to Wellspring can be counted in so many more ways than the checks she writes. Giving her time, her talent, and indeed her heart, we are all so grateful that Jane is still "hooked on Wellspring". Thank you, Jane!

I was in the delivery room when Wellspring was born! In 1985 the late Reverend Diane Edson asked my help in finding a property in Hull that could be a welcoming venue for residents who were struggling with finances, health, housing, or other issues. I was a Realtor and as we drove around looking at properties, Diane articulated her vision for Wellspring. I was hooked! Diane's young son David, her husband Reverend Robert Edson and I helped her move into a small storefront on L Street. We watched as she read stories to children while their mothers found clothing in the thrift shop. We had coffee with these parents and learned of their challenges.

We watched as a food pantry was added, the GED program was initiated, and many other programs were added.

I support a number of charities, but I only give to those that I am involved with. The Adult Education program and Aunt Dot's Kitchen are for me the essence of the mission and the message of Wellspring. There is something so joyful about helping to give others a hand up. I've been pleased to serve on the board and participate in other ways, but mostly I find so much joy in seeing firsthand the impact of giving others a hand up. I will always stay hooked on Wellspring – it has a very special place in my heart.

## WELLSPRING ANNUAL DONOR REPORT: WELLSPRING'S EXPENSES FY23



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	\$1,593,360	81%
FUNDRAISING	\$321,529	16%
ADMINISTRATION	\$67,452	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,202,664</b>	<b>100%</b>

## THANKSGIVING 2023 AND BEYOND: OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH PAUL WAHLBERG AND WAHLBURGERS



**"Helping to provide for underserved families and individuals has always been something important to me.**

When I learned about Wellspring and the all-encompassing nature of their social services, I knew it would be great to get involved and help. Food insecurity is something that many are dealing with and having the ability to partner with a non-profit organization, like Wellspring, our restaurant company can donate and provide families with items necessary to enjoy a nutritious and happy Thanksgiving meal."

- Paul Wahlberg



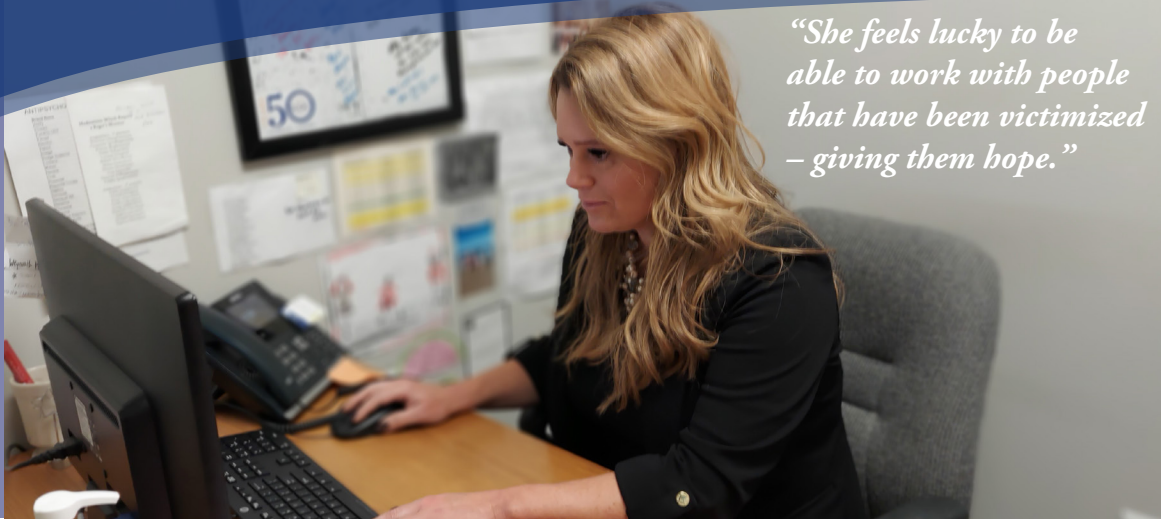
In addition to their generosity at Thanksgiving, The Wahlbergs hold an annual coat drive at Alma Nove around Christmastime. Over 300 coats were donated to Wellspring this year and all of them were distributed to our clients to help them stay warm this winter.

Wahlburgers has long been a leader in food donation programs with organizations on the South Shore. Wellspring wishes to express its utmost appreciation to Paul Wahlberg and Wahlburgers for its ten-year partnership.

Please be sure to thank Wahlburgers staff when dining at their various locations!

## WELLSPRING STAFF PROFILE

*A Conversation  
with Kim Lovendale*



*“She feels lucky to be able to work with people that have been victimized – giving them hope.”*

By Kris Broe  
Wellspring Board Member  
and Foundation Trustee

Kim Lovendale is the attorney at Wellspring who provides expert legal aid and advocacy on a variety of issues. This critical service is provided free of charge to Wellspring clients.

It was my pleasure to meet with Kim regarding her background and tenure with Wellspring. Kim has been with Wellspring for 8 years. Initially committing to part-time, while maintaining her own practice. As a result of community need and the success of the program, she has expanded her role to full-time (with one day devoted to the new Weymouth location.)

Kim grew up in Plymouth, MA, attended Regis College and subsequently earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) at Massachusetts School of Law. Kim has always had a passion for helping others, and prior to entering law school, Kim was a Special Education teacher in Ohio participating in a Harvard University study researching pre-school age children with disabilities. Kim returned to her MA roots and joined the May Institute, a nonprofit organization that is a national leader in the field of applied behavior analysis, serving individuals with

Autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, brain injury and neurobehavioral disorders, and other special needs. The Headquarters are in Randolph. Kim was given the position of Compliance and Quality Improvement Director responsible for multi-state requirements and regulations. This position would further serve to give depth and breadth to her experience and expertise. Kim remains on their Human Rights Committee.

She is on the Board of many non-profits and of note is on the Board of KDC, the Kennedy-Donavon Center, a highly successful organization serving the complex needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities, delivering life-changing outcomes.

Kim truly embodies the Wellspring mission. During the Pandemic, the legal advocacy program was essential to members of the community and Kim did not skip a beat. She made sure that every call was answered, and every client was treated with the utmost dignity, respect, and urgency.

A call to Kim may initially be one issue; however, as she drills down, there are often many more issues that need to be dealt with and she addresses each one, often rallying staff members utilizing Wellspring’s wrap around service model.

For instance, Kim will begin an intake by taking her time to personalize and comprehend each legal situation. This hands on approach allows Wellspring clients to receive specialized legal advocacy and advice. By beginning each intake in this manner, Kim often finds the legal issue to be different, more complex or not what the client originally scheduled the appointment for. This unique approach allows clients more results through tailored advice and advocacy.

Kim’s love for what she does and her commitment to helping others is not only obvious, it is contagious. She feels lucky to be able to work with people that have been victimized – giving them hope.

She loves that Wellspring is a living breathing organization of people who truly care. She expressed great appreciation and respect for Vinny and his team – referring to each one as magical; and clearly Kim continues to enthusiastically spread that magic.

Kim lives in Hingham with her three teenage children and two dogs. She also continues to maintain her own practice – focusing on child advocacy in the courtroom.

## KIM’S CLIENTS STORIES

Legal entanglements affected thousands in our communities. Kim helped many families negotiate with their landlords to remain in their homes as the pandemic raged. John\* had been told by his landlord that he had to vacate. He had lost his job, as had so many, and the landlord wanted him out. However, this was not permitted during the pandemic. Kim made sure John and his family stayed put by patiently working with the landlord and educating them on their own responsibilities. During the pandemic years, Kim made sure every call was answered, and every client was treated with the utmost dignity, respect, and urgency.

A call to Kim may lead to other tangential issues. Wellspring provides wrap-around services. Thus when Katrina\* and family came to Kim about social security benefits, Kim found that they were also short on funds for fuel and other critical supplies. Kim rallied her Wellspring colleagues to assist. As it turned out, Katrina qualified for immediate cash assistance, something provided by the Edson Fund of Wellspring.

*\*Names have been changed to protect client privacy.*

## KIM’S EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE FOR CLIENTS INCLUDES:

**EVICITION AND LANDLORD/TENANT ISSUES**

**UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS**

**PARENTAL RIGHTS**

**CREDIT AND PROBATE MATTERS**

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

**STATE AND FEDERAL BENEFITS**