Wellspring was born from one person’s vision to fill a void and provide help for neighbors in need. It started with providing warm clothes, caring counsel and a much-needed sense of community—all within a single storefront in Hull. Over the course of more than three decades, Wellspring became Wellspring Multi-Service Center as it grew and changed along with the needs of the community. Now, neighbors from across the entire South Shore turn to the organization for its programs specializing in advocating, educating, nourishing and counseling those in need.

Time has proven that nothing stops Wellspring Multi-Service Center from fulfilling its mission to provide support and skills to people facing challenges to their financial, physical or emotional well being, and helping them achieve independence and self-sufficiency. Despite storms, floods, fires or even pandemics—the professional staff at Wellspring continues to provide support and services to area communities.

Wellspring utilizes a comprehensive wrap around approach to identify root issues and more fully assist individuals and families seeking help. Ever responsive to changing issues and needs, the organization is now also providing immediate and emergency care in an increasing number of cases due to the current pandemic’s impact on families. Recently, the organization’s Community Outreach Director was alerted to a group of siblings who had been removed from their home for safety reasons and placed in the care of a family member who is a Wellspring client. Wellspring was quickly able to get the children added to their new caretaker’s MassHealth coverage so there would be no lapse in medical care for them. The new family also qualified for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and the children were provided with desperately needed clothing, as they had been unable to take any of their belongings with them.

When COVID-19 first rolled in this past spring, Wellspring swiftly shifted to a remote service model and the shops (thrift, furniture and print) closed. Aunt Dot’s Kitchen, the Wellspring
Food Pantry, became delivery-only in order to ensure everyone’s health and safety. As revenue and resources became scarce, the need continued to climb.

The numbers tell the story: in the first six months of 2020, Wellspring saw an increase of over 205% in clients served as compared to the same six-month period in 2019. A quarter of these clients sought assistance for the first time. The organization provided 31,420 meals to the families of Hull school children through its partnership with Hull Public Schools from March through the end of August, taking on the distribution of the food service program when schools closed due to COVID. In an effort to help clients as well as local restaurants, Wellspring created a program called Better Together in partnership with the Hull Council on Aging. This unique program provides hot meals to people struggling with food insecurity, while also creating revenue for local restaurants struggling to keep afloat during the pandemic.

“\nThis challenging moment in our country’s history has created insecurity and instability for families and individuals struggling to maintain their health, housing, and employment. Wellspring was founded to help anyone struggling with these fundamental basic human needs. Building on what we have learned from clients and staff over three decades of service we are grateful to be able to offer our services to a greater number of community members.”
\n- Chair of Wellspring’s Board of Directors, The Reverend Amy Whitcomb-Slemmer

Now more than ever, people turn to Wellspring for help with food insecurity, unemployment issues, concern over access to health insurance and care, housing fears and more. Elder services, counseling, community outreach, legal advocacy and adult education all continue to be increasingly busy answering calls for help from neighbors throughout the South Shore.

The Janna Oddleifson Adult Learning Center, located in Wellspring’s headquarters in Hull, is working to meet the needs of an increasing number of students who during the pandemic required remote learning and smaller sized in-person tutoring. The education staff worked hard this spring and summer, keeping students on track through online and individual learning, to earn their high school credentials. Their efforts paid off when students were able to celebrate their accomplishments during an official graduation ceremony in August, with special congratulations from Wellspring Foundation Board Member Paul Sullivan. The commencement graduate speaker, Ashley Quinlan said, “If anyone out there is thinking it is too late to get their GED,
I say it’s never too late… I thought I couldn’t get my GED but with
the help of the staff at Wellspring, I did.”

Always looking forward, Wellspring will open a new site in
the town of Weymouth to serve a greater number of clients
throughout the South Shore. Anticipated to open October 2020,
the new location will start by offering a Thrift Shop. Just as in
Hull, the Thrift Shop will present a welcoming entry point for
clients while serving as a vital source of affordable clothing and
home goods. Client services will also be offered soon after the
shop’s opening. The organization is excited to offer another
access point for neighbors in need throughout the South Shore.

For updated information about service, opening dates, and
more please visit wellspringmultiservice.org. Look for us on
Facebook and Instagram @Wellspringmultiservice to see all of
the wonderful community connections being made during these
trying times. SSM

Hull Artist Judy Green’s rendering of Wellspring’s newly acquired
Weymouth location.

OUR MISSION  Wellspring Multi-Service
Center’s mission is to
provide support and skills to people facing challenges to their
financial, physical or emotional well-being in order to help them
achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

A private, 501(c)3, multi-service organization located on Boston’s
South Shore in Hull, Massachusetts, Wellspring serves individuals
and families throughout the region. Our programs reach far beyond
providing emergency services, and help people to become more
independent and productive members of their communities.

Our comprehensive, wrap around approach is specifically designed
to address all of the factors contributing to and/or hindering
individuals’ paths to independence.

Our many programs and services reach people in many different
ways, and often times intersect. For example, a person may come
to Wellspring with a particular need such as the Food Pantry: Aunt
Dot’s Kitchen, but is subsequently provided additional resources
such as crisis counseling, legal advocacy or help navigating assistance
programs (to name just a few of our wide-ranging programs and
services).

Wellspring also acts as a catalyst, bringing community resources
together to best solve problems and to offer opportunities for
community participation through volunteering.

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