

Running for a REASON

Kids take on New Bedford Half Marathon to help fight cancer



SUPPORT TEAM

Old Rochester's reserves bring intensity to every practice as the team prepares for the Div. 3 State Final.

NEW ENGLAND REGION DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPER

The Standard-Times

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY SouthCoastTODAY.com

Friday, March 13, 2015 New Bedford Massachusetts \$1

WEATHER

TODAY SAT SUN

36°/27° 45°/31° 43°/23°
Complete forecast, A2

EDUCATION

OBAMA ON FERGUSON:
U.S. must walk 'path to justice' TOGETHER

Leaders try to cool tensions as officers search for shooter responsible for wounding two officers. **A6**

'Every life matters'
SouthCoast police chiefs say race relations must be part of the community conversation. **A6**

Our View
The 102-page report on the Ferguson Police Department shows how there could be "justice" for Darren Wilson but not for Michael Brown. **A4**

NEW BEDFORD
Harsh winter tough on final farewells

Unrelenting storms, mounting snow lead to burial delays. **A3**

'Everybody can serve'

GiftsToGive opens Thrift Shop thanks to help over the years from 10,000 student and 3,000 adult volunteers, whose efforts have helped 7,000 SouthCoast children, Founder and CEO Jim Stevens says. **B1**

BUSINESS

Tax scam alert!

Fake IRS agents have targeted more than 366,000 people with harassing phone calls demanding payments and threatening jail, a federal investigator said Thursday. Since 2013, scammers have collected \$15.5 million. **B7**

ONLINE

Pet profiles

Send us a photo and tell us why your pet is so special. We'll add it to our Pet Profiles gallery. See photos and instructions online: SouthCoastToday.com/PetProfiles.

VATICAN

Happy anniversary

As Pope Francis celebrates his second anniversary today, the Pew Research Center reports nine out of 10 U.S. Catholics have a favorable view of him, including six in 10 who have a "very favorable" view. **B6**

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SOUTHCOAST FISHING



SUITTING UP FOR SAFETY

Crew members of the fishing boat Gladys Elaine don survival suits Thursday during a training course at the SMAST campus in the South End of New Bedford. **A3**

PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES

NEW BEDFORD
Tempers flare after council meeting

Council President Brian K. Gomes and Councilor-at-large Linda Morad engage in shouting match in City Hall. **A2**

"I've been here a long time to be disrespected the way I have,"
Council President Brian K. Gomes

"I've never said 'Brian Gomes made a deal.' (And) I didn't say that tonight."
Linda Morad, Councilor-at-large

'Activism is what's necessary'

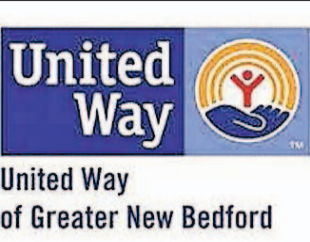
Thomas Burns, who grew up in Roxbury, speaks about breaking the cycles of addiction and incarceration during Thursday's Teach In at the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford. **A2**

PHOTO BY MIKE VALERI/THE STANDARD-TIMES

EDUCATION

Questions? Contact Susan Pawlak-Seaman, education editor | 508-979-4467 | sseaman@s-t.com | @SusanSeamanSCT

IN BRIEF



Summer's coming

Hard as it may be to believe as we wait for all the Snow to Go, summer is only a little more than three months away.

For many SouthCoast families, that means looking forward to vacation, camp or summer school. For many others, however, summer is a difficult time; those struggling to keep food on the table are worried about where their children will go while they are at work and if they will be safe throughout the summer months.

That's where the **United Way of Greater New Bedford** comes in — specifically, its Summer Fund.

United Way officials said in a news release that the agency is again seeking applications from non-profit agencies to provide disadvantaged Greater New Bedford youth ages 6-21 with youth employment, camperships and cultural enrichment experiences.

The grants provide additional summer camperships for organizations to distribute to children in need or can be used to hire teens to work at summer programs helping both the organization and the teens that are hired, officials said. The cultural enrichment tract varies greatly, it has helped fund the ArtMobile, summer AHA! events and various program that help expand art and cultural offerings to local families.

"Summer Fund provides hundreds of youth with meaningful experiences," said **Victoria Grasela**, coordinator of Summer Fund, in a statement. "It also eases the minds of families that are not sure what their kids will do all summer, especially those families who cannot afford to even consider a summer program without the availability of financial aid or camp scholarships."

Non-profits with 501(c)(3) status are encouraged to apply for up to \$5,000 in funding. Organizations must serve youth in **Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Free-town, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester and Wareham**. Organizations interested in applying should visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org to access the guidelines and online application. Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2015.

Last year, Summer Fund granted \$104,000 to summer programming for youth in the community. Summer Fund grants are made possible through a pooled fund of contributions from a number of local foundations.

For more information about Summer Fund, contact Grasela at 508-994-9625 x10 or vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org.

Tuition Break

For less than the average cost of one year's tuition at a private university, two community colleges and two state universities have partnered to offer students a new path to a bachelor's degree in high-demand fields for a fixed price — \$30,000.

Leaders from **Fitchburg State University, Worcester State University, Mount Wachusett Community College** and **Quinsigamond Community College** this week detailed a new partnership that will lock in tuition and fees for qualifying students starting their higher education careers next fall.

Students who enroll in one of the two community colleges to pursue degrees in life sciences, computers or business will be guaranteed a transfer after two years of full-time study to earn their bachelor's degree at one of the two universities, State House News Service reported.

The total cost of a four-year education for participating students will be capped at \$30,000. It is geared partially toward commuter students and housing on campus would add additional costs.

ACUSHNET

CONTINUING THE MISSION



Items for sale at GiftsToGive's Thrift Shop on 1 Titleist Drive in Acushnet help finance its charitable mission. DAVID W. OLIVEIRA/STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL

GiftsToGive's new Thrift Shop helps charity sustain itself, combat poverty

By **John Garcia**
Contributing writer

ACUSHNET — As a group of shoppers made their way to the entrance of GiftsToGive's Thrift Shop, they passed a picture of Martin Luther King Jr. accompanied with the civil rights leader's famed quote "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

That statement perfectly captures the spirit of GiftsToGive, an organization that has spent the last five years building a "village" to help children in need and instill the spirit of philanthropy in today's youth.

Troubled by the state of the world and the millions of children living in low income families, GiftsToGive Founder and CEO Jim Stevens brainstormed a "crazy idea" six years ago to launch a low-cost, self sustaining non-governmental organization (NGO) to combat child poverty.

"I wanted to develop a non-profit that could work by connecting children to giving and service on the front end, to connect children to their philanthropy and their citizenship," Stevens said.

The organization collects donated items such as

clothing, school supplies, diapers, and toys, organizes them into packages, and distributes the packages to children in need with the help of local social workers.

In the years since its founding, GiftsToGive has been aided in that work by 10,000 student and 3,000 adult volunteers, whose efforts have helped 7,000 children, Stevens said.

Among those volunteers is Hastings Middle School seventh-grader Piper Crooks, who started assisting along with her father out of the desire to help "a great cause."

Piper, who said she liked assembling packages for those in need, also stated that her work helped teach her gratitude. "You have to be grateful for what you have," she said.

To help sustain itself, GiftsToGive sells donated items not specifically for children in a Thrift Shop, which it opened on Dec. 6, six months after the organization moved into its current location at the former Titleist Factory in Acushnet.

Open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Thrift Shop sells a variety of affordable items, including \$1 books, \$2 DVDs, clothing

SEE GIFT, B2



The GiftsToGive Thrift Shop at 1 Titleist Drive in Acushnet offers a wide range of items. DAVID W. OLIVEIRA/STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL



GiftsToGive teaches young people philanthropy while at the same time helping kids in need. A new thrift shop at 1 Titleist Drive in Acushnet helps finance the effort. DAVID W. OLIVEIRA/STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Independence House reaches out with website, peer groups

By **Cynthia McCormick**
Cape Cod Times

HYANNIS — The warning signs of dating violence may be confused with true love for young people just getting involved in relationships.

But jealous tantrums, checking email and cell-phones without permission and possessiveness all point to an unhealthy, controlling relationship, people who advocate for victims of domestic violence say.

Now, Independence House is taking extra steps to get the word out to the youngest victims of dating and sexual violence by setting up a special website dedicated to teens.

Established last month, the website includes a teen dating bill of rights, the warning signs of abuse, what to look for in healthy relationships and

a 24-hour hotline number for teens who are being abused or are witnesses to domestic violence in their homes.

It will soon include a chat room and texting capability, said Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, executive director of Independence House, a Hyannis organization that provides counseling and court advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

"That's how (teens) communicate," Hurge-Putnam said. "That's the world we live in."

Independence House already offers services for teens, such as its partnership with three local high schools in the Mentors in Violence Prevention program, which focuses on getting students to educate their peers about the dangers of abuse. The website, however, is an attempt to remove any trepidation

young people might have about approaching the agency, Hurge-Putnam said.

Teens might be afraid to go for help some place where they don't know anybody, said Rosa Giberti, 18, an officer in Barnstable High School's Mentors in Violence Prevention program.

A website dedicated to their age group helps them understand they are not alone, Giberti said.

The chat room and the texting capability will make Independence House services even more accessible to teens, said Chloe Samter, 17, co-president of the Mentors in Violence Prevention program at Falmouth High.

"Our generation is extremely attached to technology," she said.

But like older generations, today's teens may not

understand the signs of abuse in a relationship, Samter said.

They may take it to heart when their boyfriend or girlfriend calls them ugly or says "what's wrong with you," she said. "They assume that's how it's supposed to be. (They think) they are just going through a rough patch."

There is a danger that accepting unhealthy relationships at an early age can last a lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which considers teen dating violence a public health problem.

Behaviors such as teasing and name-calling can escalate into more serious forms of violence, according to the CDC's website.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention program, which started at Northeastern University in the 1990s, works

to help teens understand the characteristics of abusive relationships and the realities of domestic, dating and sexual violence.

At Falmouth High School, students in the MVP program are making a video that features the teens holding placards with statistics on sexual and domestic violence.

Through MVP and anti-bullying programs, "a lot of kids learned to step up instead of being bystanders," Giberti said.

"We're just trying to raise awareness throughout the school," said Jack Giberti, Rosa's brother and a member of MVP at Barnstable High.

MVP also is active at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Hurge-Putnam said. "We're really trying to be present where we know teens are present."

