



# Jeremiah's Times



## Spring 2016

### Note from the Executive Director



We continue to make Jeremiah's Inn the best place it can possibly be by investing in the building and its surrounds.

Since 2014, we've upgraded our technology, replaced the roof, the phone system, all 47 windows & 4 exterior doors, painted the inside of the building & installed new flooring in the staff offices & library. This past fall, we renovated five bathrooms, all of the resident rooms, the stairwells and regraded and paved the parking lot and driveway, which was lovingly referred to as "the parking pool," because it had more holes (puddles) than pavement!

We will soon purchase a back-up generator & a 15-passenger van. Future plans include a new heating system, flooring in all common areas, the Nutrition Center & dining room, replacing the sink and convection oven & purchasing 10 new chairs for the conference room. We could not have accomplished all this without support from the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust,

Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund, Country Bank, Fletcher Foundation, George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, MassHousing-CCRI, Thomas Anthony Pappas Charitable Fund, Saint Gobain, Stoddard Charitable Trust & Wyman-Gordon Foundation. We're so proud to be able to offer our clients a warm & welcoming place!

*Janelle Wilson*

### Volunteers! We need you!



Jeremiah's Inn needs volunteers to help out with some administrative work. We are looking for volunteers who are familiar with computers. If you are interested, please shoot an email to [info@jeremiasinn.com](mailto:info@jeremiasinn.com).

### Mission & Vision

**JEREMIAH'S INN** uses a Social Model to provide residents with a safe environment in which to begin recovery. We foster a sense of community & mutual aid through partnerships, volunteerism & our Nutrition Center. Our vision is to help people better their lives in order to better the community.

### Shout-out to Doherty Memorial High School!

On Feb 4th, **Doherty** Memorial High School students and teacher Jesse Garcia



brought in over **7,000 items** – including food, toiletries, towels & socks -- that totaled **7,000 lbs!** The school runs an annual Food Drive for us. This year, they took us by surprise by gathering more items than ever before! Witnessing the three pickup trucks pulling in, a long assembly line of students passing boxes

along & the decreasing space in our storage area made us so happy! Executive Director Janelle Wilson congratulated the students on the outstanding job & relayed how inspired she felt. A **productive** discussion on hunger insecurity in our community followed. Jeremiah's Inn is grateful to everyone who made the drive happen!

## A Big Holiday Thank You!



Although the holidays are well behind us, we want to thank each & every one of you who made a charitable contribution or donated food, clothing or gifts this holiday season! We received so many donations that we were able to give each resident several gifts, as well as gifts for their children.

Your generosity enabled us to end the year in a financially secure position & for the men living at the Inn to have a very happy holiday. You brightened the holidays for our residents, Nutrition Center clients & staff! YOU make our mission possible!

## Meet the Staff

In the last edition of Jeremiah's Times, we introduced a few staff members. We want you to meet a few more of our amazing team!



**Serina Connor, Direct Care Staff**

**Serina** started out as intern with us in 2014 & became a part-time staff member in 2015.

Recently, Serina's hard work was acknowledged with a promotion to full-time, as a Direct Care Staff. Serina says, "Working here has felt like I found my place in the sun, helping people in recovery." She says she found family here instantly & fell in love with the organization. Having been in recovery for 3 years herself, she finds honor in being able to work at Jeremiah's Inn & help others who are going through the same. **"I learn a lot about myself every day and that is a great gift to receive,"** she says.



**Lori Joler, Bookkeeper & Assistant to Executive Director**

**Lori** came to Jeremiah's in July 2014. She says she has found a place

where she feels completely at home. She says, "I am so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization. The work being done here is amazing." Lori enjoys seeing people come to the program to engage in recovery. **"When alumni return and start working for us, I know we've done something right."** Although her position does not bring her in direct contact with the residents, she says interacts with them on a regular basis. She tries her best to give them direction & help in the best way she can. Lori is a mother to four children & loves baking cookies that

often make their way to the office, which makes everyone's day!



**Tracy Paul, Nutrition Center Coordinator**

**Tracy** joined our team at the end of December. She has a background

in health and wellness & is a certified Hatha yoga instructor & Embodiment therapist. Tracy is thrilled to be a part of Jeremiah's Inn, where she will have the opportunity to reach a larger audience & share her knowledge about nutrition & the essential role it plays in our overall **well-being**. Her primary focus is to educate others. Tracy has already started something new & exciting -- she will be raffling off four beautiful gift baskets to clients that were donated to the Center. Tracy plans to begin cooking various dishes that feature the ingredients being distributed in the food pantry so clients can have samples & try the recipes themselves. Stay tuned for other exciting new developments & offerings that are in the works! Tracy resides in Connecticut's "quiet corner" with her partner, two sons, two dogs, a kitten & a lizard.

## A Sad Farewell



It is with a broken heart that we announce the passing of our Clinical Director, Bob Siemaszko. Bob died unexpectedly on March 23 from

complications after a bone marrow transplant. We are all reeling from this loss. Bob will be sorely missed.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?n=robert-siemaszko&pid=178874393&fhid=4141>



### Jeff Busby, Clinical Director

**Jeff Busby** is our Interim Clinical Director. He has over 27 years of experience in the both outpatient &

inpatient programs. His specialties are Marriage & Family Therapy & Substance Abuse & Mental Health counseling. Jeff received his Masters of Arts from the University of Illinois, Springfield. Jeff is the co-founder of Opening Heaven's Door -- a non-profit Sober House network -- & directs a faith-based recovery meeting called Level Ground in Worcester. He is an avid reader – he says it helps “keep his saw sharp” -- & enjoys skyping with his 2- year old grandson, who lives in Kentucky. Jeff says, **“It is with great joy to work with such a dynamic staff at Jeremiah’s Inn.”** I love coming to work each day. We have a great staff & awesome residents.”

## Cultivating Vegetables & Friends

This past summer, we partnered with **Nuestro Huerto** to build & manage a 50-bed community garden program, designed to provide South Worcester residents with space in which to grow their **own healthy food!** All 50 beds were used -- 12 by Nutrition Center clients, 4 by our residents.



Come grow with us! Sign-ups for this year's garden beds begin in **April**. For more information, contact Tracy: [tracy@jeremiahssinn.com](mailto:tracy@jeremiahssinn.com) or 508.755.6403.

## SPRING WISH LIST

### For the Men

Gift cards: Target, Walmart, TJMaxx, etc	
Pillows (new)	Sheets (twin)
Pillow cases	Blankets (twin)
Quilts (twin)	Bath towels
Washcloths	Socks
Underwear	Undershirts
Deodorant	Soap/Body Wash
Shampoo	Razors
Shaving cream	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes	Dental floss
Water bottles	Laundry detergent

### For the Inn

Carpet cleaner	
Deli/meat slicer	
General Kitchen Equipment	
Toilet paper	Paper towels
Dish soap	Brooms
Mops	Dustpans
Plates	Bowls

### Urgent Needs

**Silverware -- especially spoons!**  
**Convection oven**  
**Mugs**  
**Cups/glasses**

## A New website, a New us!

Did you get a chance to check out our **new website**? If not, go to [www.jeremiahssinn.org!](http://www.jeremiahssinn.org)

As an organization that is growing & embracing bigger things, we felt that inaugurating the New Year with a

new look was the way to go. Our new website is efficient to use -- you can find our calendar, fill out residential & volunteer applications & view updates & stories from the Inn.

Let us know what you think!  
[info@jeremiahssinn.com](mailto:info@jeremiahssinn.com)

## Annual Food Drive

Some of you may remember being sent to bed without dinner for being naughty. But in Worcester, many children go to bed hungry because their family can't afford to feed them. Did you know that the prevalence of hunger in Worcester is **six times** that of the Commonwealth? That there are 5 Food Deserts in Worcester? Hunger & food insecurity are linked to malnutrition, cognitive & physical delays & disease & to problems such as absenteeism, lack of concentration & lower test scores. Hunger impacts our entire community!

Each year, we feed more than 11,000 people at the Food Pantry, housed in our Nutrition Center. You can help us fight food insecurity & hunger by donating food or funds during our **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Drive**, which will be held from **July 11-16 location to be determined**. Last year, we brought in more than 2,500 pounds of food and \$11,000. We hope to do just as well—if not better—this year! Stop by & help us fight hunger & food insecurity in Worcester!

## Calling all Cooks!



We are in need of individuals, groups & families to cook meals for the 29 men in residence. You can sign up for a specific night – as a one-time thing or on a monthly basis -- to provide dinner for the guys.

We'll even help you plan the menu & can provide some ingredients! If this is something you'd like to, please contact Bhumika: (508)-755-6403 or [bhumika@jeremiasinn.com](mailto:bhumika@jeremiasinn.com)



## Screening of the Anonymous People

In collaboration with Students Advocating Safe Choices (SASC) of Clark University, Jeremiah's Inn is screening the acclaimed film *Anonymous People*.

When: **Tuesday April 19th @ 7:00 pm**

Where: **Sackler 122**

## You're Invited to our Annual Meeting

When: **Wednesday, May 11th @ 5:30 pm**

Where: **Grace Conference Room, Clark University**

We will send out formal invitations shortly! We hope to see you there!

## Join Us Online!

If you'd like to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, please head over to [www.jeremiasinn.com](http://www.jeremiasinn.com) and opt-in. We also invite you to follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Jeremias-Inn-71929730072/>



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## The Future's Looking Pretty Bright

During the fall of 2015, the board & staff worked together to update our strategic plan. We identified the following priorities for 2016: updating our by-laws, legally changing the name from Jeremiah's Hospice to Jeremiah's Inn, establishing a Board Development Committee, increasing external communication & improving internal communication, adopting Electronic Medical Records, implementing a donor database, updating our employee handbook, & strengthening the internship program. If you'd like to help with any of these projects, let us know!