

For Immediate Release

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Local Teens Make a Difference for Homeless

HOLLISTON/SHERBORN, 21 JANUARY 2009- The sixth annual Winter Walk to benefit HomeStart's efforts to end homelessness will take place on March 15th, starting at St. Theresa's Church in Sherborn and ending at the First Congregational Church in Holliston. The walk is 5 miles long and starts at 1 PM.

This year's walk has a new twist. Devon Kinkead, chairperson of Winter Walk, has gathered a group of 13 local teen volunteers to help him pull off Winter Walk 2009- Courtney Muller, Diana Boyd, Halley Goldman, Josh Multer, Julia Demers, Kelsey Regan, Kristen Mosher, Julia Coppelman, Liza Baxter, Mason Kinkead, Mike Shameklis, Sarah Rosenkrantz, and Stef Schefter. It's clear that the issue of homelessness has struck a chord in the community.

After a visit to the HomeStart headquarters in Boston, the teens have been meeting at Bazel's Pizza in Holliston since November to discuss ideas and goals with each other and Devon. From making signs, to creating a raffle, to working through all the logistics involved, the volunteers have been hard at work. Sarah Rosenkrantz, who recently participated in an interview with HomeStart staff member, Paula Kramer and Henri, a formerly homeless man, said, "Seeing the impact that HomeStart made on Henri's life was truly remarkable. Without the enormous amount of help he received from HomeStart, he would probably still be weathering the streets of Boston. HomeStart is actively making a difference in people's lives each year."

All proceeds from Winter Walk 2009 will benefit HomeStart's effort to end homelessness. HomeStart helps homeless individuals and families living in shelter or on the streets find and keep permanent housing. HomeStart has helped over 3,500 people move to housing. HomeStart's Assistant Executive Director Naomi Sweitzer noted, "Winter Walk provides critical funds to help homeless families and adults walk through their own front door and it helps families on the verge of homelessness keep their homes."

Over the past 5 years, Winter Walk has raised over \$50,000 to support HomeStart's efforts. The teen volunteers are passionate about the plight of the homeless, and hope with their new efforts the Walk will raise even more funds this year. With the guidance of

Devon Kinhead, that goal appears within reach. Please join us. To register to walk or for more information, go to --<http://www.winterwalk.org/register.htm> or call HomeStart at 617-542-0338 ext. 264.