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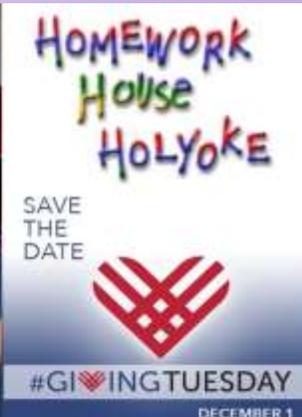
VOLUME 8

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NEWSLETTER

rekindling a love of learning one page at a time

#GiveHomeworkHouse on #GivingTuesday!



Forget about Black Friday and Cyber Monday!

Start this holiday season off right by joining with Homework House on Dec. 1st for #GivingTuesday! #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals like you, communities and organizations to encourage and to celebrate generosity worldwide. On Dec. 1st be part of this global movement right here in the Pioneer Valley and #GiveHomeworkHouse to a child in need. So, please, mark **Dec. 1st** on your calendars & help us spread the word about Homework House! It's easy:

- ⇒ Like our Facebook page, invite your friends to like it too;
- ⇒ Follow us on Twitter @HH_01040 AND

On #GivingTuesday make a donation online to Homework House

at: <https://givingtuesday.razoo.com/story/Hh01040>

(Not available on 12/1? No problem - you can schedule your #GivingTuesday gift TODAY!)

Do you have a Homework House story to share?

If you do we'd love to hear it! As our 10th anniversary helping Holyoke children approaches, we're reaching out to the Homework House community to record the many hundreds of stories that make us unique. Help us document what makes Homework House such a special place. We've created an easy, online form on our website for you to tell us your story. Just go to www.homeworkhouseholyoke.org and follow the link to our news page. Or, even better, create a 1-2 minute video that tells your Homework House story! Contact Virginia Dillon if you would like more information.

Congratulations to Sr. Mary Shea as she celebrates 65 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. One of our most dedicated volunteer tutors, Sr. Mary comes to Homework House everyday to work with our youngest kids.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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Shawn's Homework House Story

I've been volunteering at Homework House since the spring of 2014. When I transferred to UMASS I wanted to be more engaged in community outreach and supporting underserved populations in the Pioneer Valley.



The experiences I've had while volunteering have given me the motivation to further integrate the UMASS community into Homework House. As their on-campus representative, I've worked hard to recruit more UMASS students as tutors. My experiences have also motivated me to apply to the Clinton Global Initiative University Program to fund my project to increase the number of UMASS students volunteering in Holyoke by creating a student-run transportation service from UMASS to Holyoke.

Homework House has given me the ability to have a direct impact in the educational experiences of children. During my time with Homework House, I've worked primarily with 4th-6th graders. I've seen significant improvement in the kid's abilities and I am overjoyed to know that I may have made a difference.

Shawn Hallett, 4th yr. UMASS Amherst

I have known Shawn Hallett since he began at Homework House. He is a wonderful mentor for the children, who always challenges and encourages the kids. The kids love working with him since he has a gentle disposition, yet demands that they learn and understand their material. The children really respect him. He's a great tutor and we're so glad that he volunteers here. ~ Joan Guadette, Site Supervisor

Smith & Homework House: A True Partnership



On a typical weekday afternoon at around 3:00 p.m. Smith students can be seen climbing into the vans to head to Homework House. This year the Community Service Office (CSO) recruited tutors who jointly conduct 65 tutoring sessions a week at the Chestnut Street site. CSO has partnered with Homework House since its creation in 2007. Our partnership combines direct tutoring with an orientation, training, and reflection discussions so tutors can improve their skills and provide the best support possible to the children.

This partnership has proven to be a wonderful community service option for our students. As one tutor recently stated "For me, Homework House is a rewarding experience. It allows me to help a child who truly needs it and rekindle her love of learning."

The impacts our tutors experience vary. For some, volunteering at Homework House is a chance to help children like themselves succeed academically. For others, it's an opportunity to utilize the skills they are learning in their course work. For some, working with the kids is a joy-filled experience that helps them to de-stress from a hectic week at Smith. While for other tutors, it is a challenge that helps them to develop new skills in how to reach a child frustrated by a hard day at school. For all Smith tutors, Homework House is a rewarding and supportive environment.

by Tiertza-leah Schwartz, Community Service Director, Smith College



WITH OUR THANKS!

During this season of thanksgiving we would like to remember all of our volunteers, friends and benefactors. Your support takes many different forms and we are truly grateful for all.

We thank all of our individual and family donors whose generosity helps make our mission a reality.

We thank our foundation, corporate and public funders:

Amelia Peabody Foundation
Annual Catholic Appeal
Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Foundation
Berkshire Bank
Beveridge Family Foundation
BJs Foundation
Comcast
Community Foundation of Western MA.
Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation
Charles H. Hall Foundation
Health New England
City of Holyoke CDBG
Holyoke Gas & Electric
Agnes M. Lindsey Trust
Newell C. Mansir Trust
Mt. Pleasant Fund
Horace A. Moses Trust
PeoplesBank Charitable Foundation
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Fund
Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice

We thank the businesses of the South Hadley Village Commons and Ode Boutique in Northampton for their ongoing support of Homework House.

We thank Holyoke Community College, the Student Government Association and the faculty and staff of the Elms College, St. Michael's Parish in East Longmeadow, St. Patrick's Parish in South Hadley, the Holyoke Rotary Club, the Marian Center, Tan & Shears Salon and the Women's Benevolent Society of the West Brimfield UCC for helping to brighten last holiday season for the children and families we serve and for their donations of school supplies throughout the year.

We thank the parishioners at St. Joseph's Church in Belleville, Ontario for once again supporting our End of Year celebration of the children's achievements.

PROGRAM UPDATE

What do parents and kids want? MORE HOMEWORK HOUSE, of course! We've got some great news to share about *Summer Readers & Leaders* and *Club Friday*, two exciting new program initiatives that we've started this year!



This summer, we piloted *Summer Readers & Leaders*, our new summer program designed to keep our youngest readers on track over the long summer vacation. Our 30 summer readers worked hard on their reading for 5 weeks and they've got lots to be proud of! Instead of losing ground in reading this summer, **EVERY** one of Homework House's summer readers who attended consistently had measurable reading **GROWTH!!** But it wasn't all work! The kids got to enjoy lots of fun activities too! Every afternoon the kids participated in fun fitness activities like balloon relays and parachute games, arts & crafts, theater games and they made weekly field trips to the library.

And now with the addition of Club Friday, Homework House is open **EVERYDAY** after school thanks to the support of the Community Foundation of Western MA, the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice and the Susan A. & Donald P. Babson Foundation. *Club Friday* continues our focus on improving the children's reading skills while providing the opportunity for fun, engaging enrichment activities.



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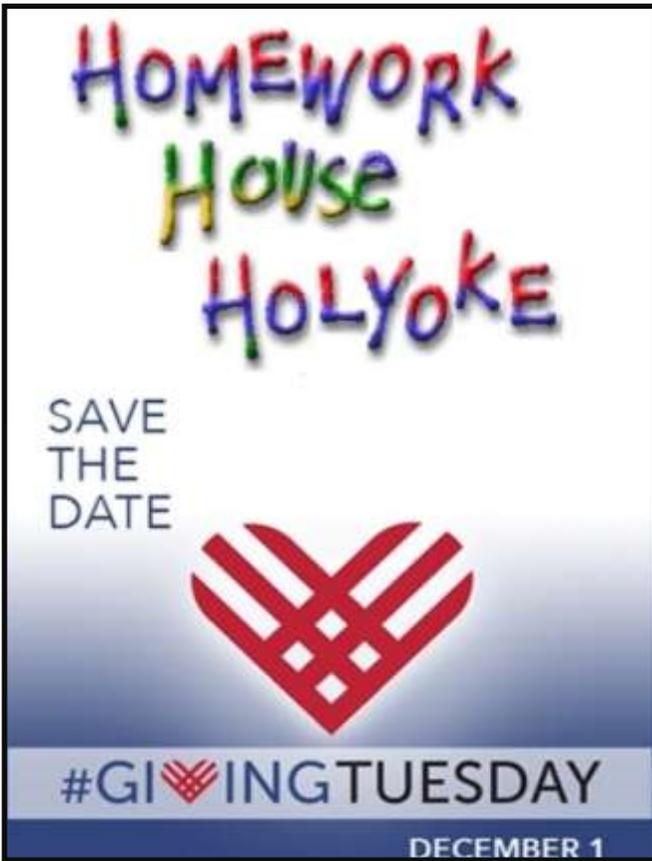


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WE NEED TUTORS IN JANUARY!!!

Do you have a few hours to spare during January?

Do you know a college student who is coming back to Western MA for winter break?

Can you help us out when our college volunteers go home for the winter holidays?

YOU can make a difference!
For more information on volunteering
call Christie at 413-265-1017

