

# MARY JO BROWN FOUNDATION

- Spreading Smiles Through Acts of Kindness -



[Holiday Newsletter 2014](#)

[www.maryjobrown.org](http://www.maryjobrown.org)

**Hello Everyone!! Tis the Season!!** So much of our foundation activities happen in the last four months of the year, that we thought we would share the joy of the last two months of 2014.

**NOVEMBER: in the month of Thanksgiving we had so much to be grateful for!**

We are grateful for starting the month with a successful annual meeting of the full board, mapping out our plans for Christmas giving as well as our goals for 2015.

We are grateful for being FRONT PAGE NEWS!! And for reporter Gail Lowe of the Wakefield Item newspaper for the photo and article she wrote about our Kindness Campaign winners, focusing on local 1<sup>st</sup> grader, Teagan Keon Sparhawk.

We are grateful for the incredible timing of the folks at “I See Me”, publishers of personalized childrens books for their latest offering “I Can Change the World”. To encourage our Campaign winners to continue their kindness, we had personalized copies made for each of them—because we are grateful for their good deeds.

We are grateful for the generosity of Jen Dewing and Maia Haag of “I See Me” for partnering with us in a Facebook contest. Anyone who liked both their website and ours during the month of November was eligible for a free personalized copy of the “I Can Change the World” book. Christina chose the winner at random—and we are happy to congratulate winner Kristine Talty Miller!!

We are more than grateful for the generous financial contribution of \$3000 that we received from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. While we will honor the donor's wishes to remain private, we must publicly offer our thanks.

We are extremely grateful and honored to have received another incredible donation from colleagues of Christina and Karen. Spearheaded by Jackie Poliseno of the Needham office of Craneware, their combined donations provided toys, clothing, and grocery gift cards for the four families the foundation adopted for Christmas. To each of these generous people we thank you and hope that the smiles that you helped us provide are returned to you.

We also were grateful to Mother Nature for providing us with a sunny day to do the majority of our Christmas shopping. Once again, we met at Christina's and graced the stores in tax-free New Hampshire, shopping until our trunks were full. The day was successful but there were still purchases to be made. Marcy, our treasurer, purchased grocery and dining cards; Sharon found some great deals on Amazon and at her second home (Costco); and Christina filled in all the gaps on the lists, making returns and purchases so that everything was ready for our wrapping frenzy in December.



## **DECEMBER: A month of caring and sharing !**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we were FRONT PAGE NEWS AGAIN! This time in the Haverhill edition of the Eagle Tribune. The article featured our Disney trip winner, Noelle Gregoire, photographed with her trophy, her “Noelle Can Change the World” book, and a great article about her winning ways, our other winners and our foundation. Many thanks to reporter Mike Labella and photographer Carl Russo.

December 7<sup>th</sup> We met at Christina’s Christmas Castle and began our wrap-a-thon. The great room was transformed into a workshop and we were transformed into elves, boxing, wrapping, tagging and packing everything for delivery by sleigh in time for Christmas. We ended the evening with some holiday cheer, a Yankee swap and relief that our work (for now) is done.

### **Two websites we would like to share with savvy shoppers:**

ISEEME.COM --for quality personalized children’s books, puzzles, etc. Not just for Christmas, but for newborns, birthday, big brother, big sister, the list goes on and on!!

BRAVELETS.COM—for jewelry with meaning. There are pieces for pretty much every affliction/cause you can think of. And \$10 from each and every bracelet is donated to the associated charity. A definite win-win. Tax-free and no shipping charge over \$100.

### **WATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING IN LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING**

Announcement of our 2015 Kindness Campaign (but you don’t have to wait to be on the lookout for children to nominate!!)

Announcement of our first ever Paint Night Fundraiser—Tentatively scheduled for April 26—time and place to be determined.

And of course **SAVE THE DATE Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, our Fourth Annual Indoor Luau and Fundraiser.**



We close with great appreciation for your support that fuels our mission. May the love and generosity that you've shown and the smiles that you have helped to spread come back to you many times over—not only at Christmas but throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas—and may all your dreams come true!

Christina, Karen, Marcy, Sharon, Kara, Pat and Terri

(and Noodle—a very lucky dog)