

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mother and Son Take Honors as Volunteers of the Month at Amherst Survival Center

Amherst, MA (June 11, 2007): A mother-and-son team who have given nearly a decade of service to the Amherst Survival Center have been named "Volunteers of the Month" for May by the nonprofit.

Kathy McKammie, 44, of Hadley does everything from picking up furniture for the annual "Trash to Treasures" September fundraiser to training people in the clothes sorting room at the Free Store to working in the pantry.

Her son, Kurtis McKammie, has been volunteering since he was 10 years old. Now 19, he's willing to take on tasks that no one else will tackle, including regularly cleaning the grease trap in the kitchen. "What's got to be done, has got to be done," Kurtis said.

Kathy first came to the Survival Center in 1998, when her bills were high and she was low on food. At first, she was overwhelmed by the large number of people. But when she started volunteering, she began meeting people and found tremendous satisfaction in working together as a team.

The Amherst Survival Center (ASC or the Center) was founded in 1975 in response to increasing poverty and homelessness in Western Massachusetts. The Center's mission is to provide a welcoming environment where families or individuals who are struggling to make ends meet can find food and clothing, gain companionship and relief from isolation, and share their material resources, information, concerns and frustrations. No one is turned away. For more information about our services or about volunteering or donating to the Center, contact Cheryl Zoll, Director, at 549-3968 x202 or e-mail survivalcenter@verizon.net.



Kathy McKammie
and
Kurtis McKammie
with
Vernon Francisco
(volunteer of the
month in April)