



Press Release

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Survivors of Brain Injury in the Spirit of Holiday Giving

The Amazing Brain Injury Survivor Support Group in Framingham has established a new tradition in the spirit of holiday giving. For the past two years its members have raised more than \$300 for "Christmas in the City," the holiday party for homeless children in the Boston area.

"At our support group meetings we've discussed strategies to help survivors cope with the stresses of the holiday season," says Hopedale resident Barbara Webster, who facilitates the meetings. "We've found that there's something very healing about putting our hearts and energy into helping children in need. We all feel very good about it, and being year two, it is now our holiday tradition."

Once the donations are collected, the group is given a shelter to sponsor. With requests from the children in hand, support group member and event liaison Peggi Robart buys the gifts. The presents are then wrapped by the survivors at a gift wrapping party.

With the help of her sons, Newton resident Peggi Robart delivers the gifts to Boston. They attended this year's "Christmas in the City" party, and Peggi's son participated as a stilt walker, Jack Frost.

"For me, this is what the holidays are about," comments Robart.

"Peggi is an example of why this group is called 'amazing,'" says Barbara Webster. "She's had so many challenges as a brain injury survivor but is always looking for ways to help others."

The Amazing Brain Injury Survivor Support Group is one of 30 support groups in the state offered by the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts. Survivor group activities include recreational events, social gatherings, games, and creative healing projects such as PhotoVoice and art therapy. The groups meet regularly and offer survivors, as well as family members, an opportunity to interact with peers as they cope with the challenges of brain injury.