

**Fresh Air from page 24**

choose to leave their families in New York to live in the New England area for part of the summer.

And every year, hundreds of families volunteer to participate in this wonderful event by becoming host families. These host families volunteer two or more weeks at a time to take in one, two, or sometimes even more children at their house and give them an opportunity to escape from the city for a while. It gives these children a chance to see the countryside in all of its glory and what they've been missing out on in the city.

As a host family for the Fresh Air Fund, my family and I volunteer to house one of these children for two weeks every summer. Our family takes in a 10-year-old boy from the Bronx, and it really is an eye-opening experience for us all.

The first year he stayed with us, we discovered that he had never been swimming or ridden a bike before, and he was completely shocked to see how many trees and how much grass we had. After taking the subway all of his life, we learned that he had never been in a car, either, and needed to be reminded to buckle his seatbelt.

But not only was this a life-changing experience for him; we learned several things as well. After getting to know this sweetheart of a kid, we learned how much we really are oblivious to the life around us. We never stop to think what

would happen if we didn't have grass or trees or a backyard.

Since this boy has come to stay with us, we have learned to appreciate our lives here. And every year, the day his bus leaves to go back home, we hate to see him leave, because, you see, he is really part of our family now, and we wouldn't know what to do if we didn't have those summer days with him.

Becoming a host family was an easy process, and is something we most definitely don't regret. We contacted the Friendly Town Agent in our district for the Fresh Air Fund, and she came over to interview our family and be sure our house was suitable for another child. We filled out a few forms and specified whether we would prefer a boy or a girl and in what age range.

Within a few days, our Friendly Town Agent contacted us with a child that most closely matched our preferences and sent us all of our child's contact information. He stayed with us for the allotted time – usually two weeks – and then headed back home on the bus. It was a quick, painless process and gave us so much joy for those two weeks.

If you are interested in becoming a host family for the Fresh Air Fund, please visit [FreshAir.org](http://FreshAir.org) or contact the Friendly Town Agent in this district, Joyce Foley, at [JoyFol04@yahoo.com](mailto:JoyFol04@yahoo.com). I strongly encourage you to consider joining the Fresh Air Fund program; it's an unforgettable adventure that you'll never regret.



# Andover Lions Club News

By Bill Leber  
Andover Lions Club

The activity during the holiday period is always fun and busy. This year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the Andover Lions Club held a Pancake Breakfast for the benefit of the Andover Food Pantry. We receive a lot of community support and donations, and the profit was turned over to the Food Pantry. Next year we hope for higher attendance at the breakfast.

The Christmas tree lighting had sparse attendance, but it is a fun time anyway. The Lions put up the tree and light it, the Andover Service Club and Andover Girl Scouts spread the word and provide hot chocolate and cookies.

The old tree that we used for 35 years has outgrown its usefulness as a Christmas tree, so Jim Goody provided a tree from his farm, and Howard George and Ken Guillemette put it in the ground. There will be discussion in the future to replace the old tree with a living shorter tree to grow into a beautiful Town Christmas Tree.

The December meeting was an in-house chili contest between Tom "The Hot Smooth Chili" Schwendler and Jim "The Really Hot Lumpy Chili" Goody. Both were excellent. And the winner under secret ballot was big Jim Goody.

The Christmas party was especially nice and fun this year, thanks to the efforts of Judy Evans and Tom Schwendler and the music of the Smooth Duo. The Proctor dining hall was nicely decorat-

ed, the food by Art Makechnie and crew was outstanding, and the exchange of gifts was a lot of fun. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The New Year brings the Andover Lions Club's January Calendar Raffle. The club met to draw the winners, which are listed below. Winners will receive a notice and check in the mail. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all losers. Wait 'til next year!

The club meeting on January 10 featured guest speaker Chester Martin of the Danbury Board of Selectmen, who covered the latest projects in Danbury and expressed some needs of the town citizens that the Lions Club could assist with.

The meeting on January 24 featured Mary Constance, the executive director of Camp Allen in Bedford that provides camping experience for the handicapped.

The Club's Rose Sale starts in February, so stand by for some good roses to be delivered in March.

**Mardi Gras Ball**

A Mardi Gras Ball will be held at the Grappone Center in Concord to benefit the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of New Hampshire. Get your tickets through Andover Lions Club members – only \$35 a person includes a dinner buffet and dancing. Dress is semi-formal/costume. We are soliciting ads for the Mardi Gras program, which is a fundraiser for the work of the foundation to support eye surgeries and hearing aids for those in need.



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| Andover Lions Club January 2011 Calendar Raffle |          |                            |                    |       |
|---|----------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Day   | Winnings | Name                       | Town               | State |
| 1   | \$300    | Greg Hamel                 | Andover            | NH    |
| 2   | \$100    | Jill O'Connell             | Methuen            | MA    |
| 3   | \$50     | Anna Hazen                 | Concord            | NH    |
| 4   | \$50     | Lou Barton                 | Andover            | NH    |
| 5   | \$50     | Kyle Tilton                | Franklin           | NH    |
| 6   | \$50     | Joseph Kitson              | Tewksbury          | MA    |
| 7   | \$100    | Ed Rhoche                  | Danbury            | NH    |
| 8   | \$150    | Pamela Theis               | Wilmot             | NH    |
| 9   | \$100    | Henry P. James             | Newmarket          | NH    |
| 10  | \$50     | Marie Blanchette           |                    |       |
| 11  | \$50     | Ralph & Barbara Doe        | Andover            | NH    |
| 12  | \$50     | Jonathan Hamel             | Andover            | NH    |
| 13  | \$50     | Sharon Goody               | Rockwell           | TX    |
| 14  | \$100    | Real Biron                 |                    |       |
| 15  | \$150    | Bob Stanley                | Danbury            | NH    |
| 16  | \$100    | Scott & Karen Hefler       | Newton             | NH    |
| 17  | \$50     | Claire Stevens             | E. Andover         | NH    |
| 18  | \$50     | Lewis M. Allison           | Hilton Head Island | SC    |
| 19  | \$50     | Jason Cyr                  | Lebanon            | ME    |
| 20  | \$50     | Rose Tilton                | Andover            | NH    |
| 21  | \$100    | David Powers               | Andover            | NH    |
| 22  | \$150    | Russell & Maxwell Suckling | Danbury            | NH    |
| 23  | \$100    | Pamela Theis               | Wilmot             | NH    |
| 24  | \$50     | Beryl Sanborn              | Andover            | NH    |
| 25  | \$50     | Jeff & Tina Barton         | Andover            | NH    |
| 26  | \$50     | Bob Soule                  |                    |       |
| 27  | \$50     | John Munson                | Groton             | VT    |
| 28  | \$100    | Louise Andros              | Salisbury          | NH    |
| 29  | \$150    | Missy Owen                 | New London         | NH    |
| 30  | \$100    | Sage West                  | Intervale          | NH    |
| 31  | \$400    | Jill O'Connell             | Methuen            | MA    |