

# Brunch Update

Issue 66 – Jan 2015

## House of Sufism Charity Initiative

*Addressing the most pressing needs of our community*



## Happenings

This holiday season bears a great deal of importance in our community ethos. More than any time of year, we feel compelled to give around the holidays, and the sentiments of many of our volunteers express their sincere joy and gratitude for the opportunity to serve. As we approach the new year, we must try to carry forward this profound spirit of giving and social responsibility into our everyday lives. Looking back on this past month, as well as the year behind us, it's not hard to find examples of selflessness and compassion in the work of House of Sufism Charity Initiative - as always, we welcome you to join us in enriching the lives of our neighbors and experiencing the joys of service.

House of Sufism provided a home for many friends on Thanksgiving Day, and volunteers then reciprocated by sharing a festive meal with our young homeless friends at Bridge over Troubled Waters the following Sunday. We, as well as our friends at Bridge, are extraordinarily thankful for the dedication and loyalty of individuals who choose to spend their precious holiday time in service to others. This past month also marked a particularly joyous occasion in the return of our weekly brunch at the Pine Street Inn in Boston's South End. One volunteer describes the experience:

“As we walked into the shelter on Sunday, December 21, a spontaneous explosion of warm greetings, handshakes, and hugs erupted towards us from our friends. We hadn't visited the shelter for a while due to an issue with the Sunday manager; today was in fact our first visit in months. The long absence made for a pleasant reunion and we very much basked in each other's company while enjoying a fantastic meal of chicken and lasagna.”



**"Hi Mohammad,**

**it's so nice to see meet other people who care. For the past five years, myself and 12 other women have been building homes for families in India and that is my charity. We are on our 4th home. Two years ago I was able to spend a month in India at one of the orphanages. I think it's great that you are reaching out to your customers and friends.**

**Kind regards,**

**-Karen of Cambridge, MA**

# Volunteer Reflection

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The importance of charity is a belief that all who practice Sufism know to be a truth. Charity is love itself in its physical form; and like love the effects of charity and compassion are not only in the mind, but also are very much tangible.

This month members of Boston's Nimatullahi House of Sufism had the blessed opportunity to take part in multiple forms of charity in and around the community. On one such excursion members visited a patient at a Rhode Island hospital who had been experiencing cardiac complications as a result of an infection. The man himself is a pediatrician who has committed his life to helping children who have fallen ill.



Upon the arrival of the Nimatullahi members his face lit up and though he was no doubt in a good deal of pain he managed to smile a good amount more. Not only were his spirits lifted, but also his heart rate as well, a physical sign of his excitement in response to the simple show of compassion.

Every Sunday the Boston House of Sufism helps to feed those in need at Boston's Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

*The hard work on the part of the shelter as well as the time and effort put in by volunteers ensures that homeless youth have a warm place to stay and a warm meal in their stomach. Without these many tangible acts of love there would be no refuge for those who need it most.*

These teens' ability to come inside from the most brutal winter weather to a welcoming home is only possible with the constant selfless attention of other people. It is for this exact reason that Sufism teaches empathy as its core message. Sufism is love, not only of God, but of all his creatures. And love in action, or charity, is therefore a duty of all who choose to follow the path.

[HOW TO GET INVOLVED](#)



1. **Volunteer!** Sunday Brunch is a time commitment of only a few hours. Help us cook and clean or just spend time with our friends in need! Also, we need volunteers throughout the week to pick up donations from bakeries and deliver them to food pantries the next day.

2. **Monetary donations:** If you would like to make a contribution to House of Sufism Charity Initiative, you can write a check (payable to KN), use any credit card, or wire money through PayPal.

3. **In-kind donations:** We are always in need for milk, eggs, fruit, plastic bags, etc. for our Sunday Brunch. We also accept donations of items like household goods and furniture. All donations are tax-deductible.

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