The goal of the Emergency Housing Program is to give homeless NH families a safe place to stay while they strive to find – and keep - affordable housing of their own. Established in 1980, it’s the Friends’ second oldest program, having been adopted only 5 years after the agency’s founding. Currently, our shelter in the South End of Concord can house up to 8 families. On any given
day, the facility houses approximately 30 homeless individuals – a majority of whom are children.

We are so grateful for the many individuals and businesses that drop off donated items from the “Wish List” published on our Web site. We’re also very appreciative of the program’s financial donors whose support allows our small professional staff help some of the neediest among us.

Tonight, we are so pleased to recognize Donna Nordlund who has been one of Friends Emergency Housing’s staunchest supporters.

Since her downtown beading supply shop opened in 2003, Bead It! has donated nearly $9,000 to the Friends Program.

Most of the funds Bead It! has donated have been generated during special days the store has twice a year. Since 2009, the store has donated 30% of all sales generated during Midnight Merriment – and again on a special day before Mother’s Day.

"When we think about which causes to support, we think about ones that are the most local and benefit families," Nordlund told us recently "For us, Friends Emergency Housing is local and it's families. I feel it's more personal and has a bigger impact."

More recently, Nordlund helped organize this past spring’s “May It Forward” event in which 16 local businesses agreed to contribute a portion of their proceeds to the Friends Program. The resulting donations totaled to over $700 and really illustrated how local businesses can come together to help local organizations find solutions to local problems.

While not a volunteer in the technical sense, Donna cares so much for our community and channels that passion into action. And by acting to effect positive social change, Donna helps advance the goals of the Emergency Housing Program.