

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 20, 2016**

Lynn Shelter Association Partners with the North Shore Teen Initiative for J-Serve 2016

Lynn, MA ~ On Sunday, April 17 more than 80 teens and parents from the North Shore volunteered their time to perform a complete interior and exterior makeover of Lynn Shelter Association's (LSA) Bridge House family shelter program located at 24 Baker Street in Lynn. Bridge House is home to 14 adults and 15 children who are experiencing homelessness and one of three family shelters that fall under the LSA umbrella of services. Students from North Shore Teen Initiative based in Marblehead, led by Program Manager, Sophie Katzman planned the day of service for several weeks coordinating all resources and building supplies. The group performed a number of projects including painting interior walls with chalkboard paint, creating a permanent outdoor Scrabble board; building a covered sandbox, mulching and planting a front garden and entertaining children with by building a large floral mosaic piece used to decorate walls.

The J-Serve program is now in its seventh year serving the North Shore through an annual day of giving that draws more than 11,000 Jewish youth around the world. The team of volunteers from the North Shore and North Shore Teen Initiative staff and board worked side by side throughout on what was a beautiful spring day to insure all projects were complete. The group also hosted a barbeque to bring families together with volunteers and present the Derek M. Sheckman Teen Leadership Award.

"LSA is very pleased to have been selected for this year's J-Serve project, the group has been a wonderful source of energy and the service has been an amazing gift to our children. We are deeply honored to have community supporters such as North Shore Teen Initiative connect with our mission, the group is a wonderful example of youth leadership and spirit." commented, Tom Colligan, LSA, Interim Executive Director.

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Lynn Shelter Association has been providing shelter and care to people experiencing homelessness since 1984 offering emergency shelter, family shelter, transitional and supportive housing. To become involved as a volunteer please contact LSA at 781.581.0739.

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