

# MATCH-UPDATE

MATCH-UP INTERFAITH VOLUNTEERS' ONLINE NEWSLETTER

August 2007

## Lori and Ms. Barry: A Fitting Match



For the past year and a half, Ellen Barry and Lori Galvin have been getting together on Saturday mornings for companionship and conversation. Ellen lives in a top floor Brighton apartment, taking out her garbage once a week. "If I didn't have the garbage I probably wouldn't go down. But it's a good thing to do the stairs at least once a week." Descending four flights of stairs (no elevator) is no easy feat for Ellen. She's blind and uses a walking cane to guide her. Aside from her neighbor, Meals on Wheels, and periodic visits from the nurse practitioner, Ellen spends most of her time listening to her radio.

Lori, who lives in an apartment nearby, found out about MATCH-UP through a friend who was already a volunteer. "I was very close to my grandmother," says Lori. "I used to spend a lot of

time with her; visiting her in a nursing home, I saw so many people who were alone. I thought volunteering would be really good to do."

"What's the best part of Lori coming to visit you? What do you look forward to the most?" I ask. Without hesitation, Ellen says, "Hearing about her cat, the goings-on of her cat." There is a weekly check-in about the feisty, though overweight, Claudine, Lori's calico cat.

For Lori, the best part of meeting with Ellen is how well informed Ellen is. "She tells me so much and she's so positive, so spirited." Ellen will talk about issues and people in the news. Lori will provide the visual description.

When their visit ends, they part knowing and appreciating more about the world and each other. What better Match-Up can there be?

Article by Kathy Burnes  
Edited by Laura Crawford and Lori Galvin  
Photo by Gail Rothenberg

### SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS! New Volunteer Opportunities

- Newsletter article writing
- Fundraising
- Recruiting medical escorts.
- Public Relations
- Office help for Annual Appeal Mailing-November
- \* Liaison between MATCH-UP and your congregation

## You Asked...We Answered!

**C**ome to our monthly check-in and chat, a time for volunteers to drop in, meet others, and share stories and advice. MATCH-UP staff and long-time volunteers will be on hand to

**First meeting:  
September 27<sup>th</sup>  
MATCH-UP office,  
105 Chauncy Street,  
Boston 8th floor**

hear your thoughts. Held the last Thursday of every month from 5:30-6:30. We'll provide snacks, encouragement, and support.

# MATCH-UP's first online Volunteer Survey



Your feedback inspires the whole MATCH-UP staff in their work. Our survey was a great success all because of you. We greatly appreciate your candor and detail. Here are some interesting survey results:

62% of volunteers take less than 30 minutes to get to their match's home

More than 50% of Friendly Visitors have shared meals or snacks with their matches

60% of volunteers who responded are new to MATCH-Up in the last two years!

More than 50% of Friendly Visitors have gone out on walks or fun activities

Around 50% of Friendly Visitors have helped their match with errands such as shopping or banking

## MATCH-UP'S MOST WANTED:

### In-Kind Contributions

- Laptop computer
- Digital Camera
- DVD Player
- Reams of 8 1/2" x 11" paper
- Photos of you and your match!
- In kind printing of Match-Up materials



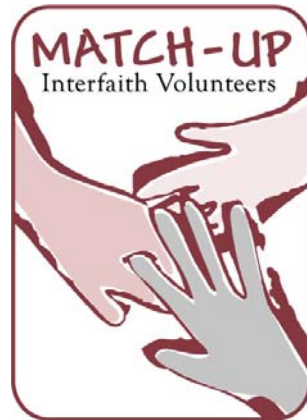
# Help Corner

Short on time, but want to help?  
We always need one-time assistants!

- A Dorchester woman can't stock basic supplies. Can you help her with errands every other week in September?
- A member of a Roslindale family is in hospice care. Can you help the rest of the family pack for a move?

We need your help! PetPals is seeking....

- Volunteers with dogs from Dorchester and West Roxbury.
- A bilingual Chinese/English-speaking volunteer with a dog for a nursing home in the South End



## In the News:

**Medical Escorting** is recognized with the 2007 Beverly Foundation Star Search Special Recognition Award for Supplemental Transportation services. Look for more info in our quarterly newsletter!

**PetPals** volunteers Marcia Peters and BJ Comerford and their pets spoke to a class of graduate social work students from Salem State College. Art Nava and Meri Bond spoke to seniors at the Brookline Senior Center. Each group explained the benefits that pets bring to elders.

## Do you love dogs but don't have one?

Help assist with Volunteer-Dog Team Screenings for the PetPals Program at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Screenings are held every 2 months. If you would like to assist with the screenings, **Please contact Ellen at [ekirchheimer@matchelder.org](mailto:ekirchheimer@matchelder.org)** for more information & dates and times of the screenings.



PetPals Dog and Cat Photo Show May 2007

# Annual October MATCH-UP Memorial Service

This gathering will be a service to pay tribute to MATCH-UP friends lost through death. Come and support your fellow volunteers who are grieving a loss. Share your memories of your MATCH-UP friend. All MATCH-UP volunteers, current and former, are welcome, as well as PetPals volunteers whose animal companion is no longer with them.

To be held on **Tuesday October 30 from 6:30-7:30 pm. at the Morville House at 100 Norway Street, Boston, MA 02115. Look for an invitation with more information coming soon. Further questions? Call MATCH-UP at 617 482-1510.**

## Spotlight On: Advocates

If you feel your match needs help asking questions during medical appointments, following doctor's instructions, and getting timely responses to medical problems, consider contacting **Bedside Advocates**. Bedside Advocates (**BedsideAdvocates.org**) is a volunteer based group of retired physicians, nurses, social workers, and experienced lay persons who act as advocates for frail and vulnerable patients.

Call (617) 547-0023 or e-mail [JonathanFine@BedsideAdvocates.org](mailto:JonathanFine@BedsideAdvocates.org)

## Welcome New MATCH-UP Staff



**Irene Glassman:** MATCH-UP's fabulous grant writer has been helping us with writing proposals to foundations and charitable trusts since December of 2006. Irene is working to expand MATCH-UP's horizons by adding new foundations and corporations to our community of supporters. Irene grew up outside of Cleveland, Ohio, earned her Master's Degree in social work from Boston University, and has been a Jamaica Plain resident for 21 years.



**Laura Crawford:** MATCH-UP nabs another Emerson College intern. Laura is a class of 2009 writing major assisting MATCH-UP's Program Director Lois Lord Waller. You may hear her answering your calls, or receive an e-mail from her. She is a native of Utica, NY, and grew up in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Laura enjoys MATCH-UP's caring, low-key atmosphere.



**Jacqueline Gallagher:** MATCH-UP's newest addition is a recent graduate of Syracuse University. This Dorchester native majored in cultural anthropology and is now serving as our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Jacqueline works directly with Irene Glassman and Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, our Executive Director, on marketing and development. Her year-long stay at MATCH-UP is sure to inject some great energy and fresh ideas.

## MATCH-UP SALUTES ITS NEW VOLUNTEERS! (January-July)

Mary Harrison, Cindy Liang, Woon Young Choi, Lauren O'Neill, Megan Donnachie, Samia Ferchiche, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Wynter Duncanson, Virginia Pratt, Iris Ramos, Elizabeth Johnson, Katie Mangus, Barbara Hohler, Ben Sloane, Eileen Weinberg, Melissa Cox & cat Ella, Art Nava & dog Rio, Meri Bond & dog Bayla, Kathy McCann, Kristin Braaten, Amy Hand, James Moreau, Mahesh Achrya, Susan Tresh-Fienberg, Noreen Glynn & dog Kaylee, Kristine Kichline & dog Greta, Peggy Baseman & dog Jelly Bean, Suzanne Reily & dog Spanky, Chris Vaughan, Ning Jiang, Linda DuFresne & dog Sasha, Stef Dufresne & dog Sasha, Jennifer Hopkins & dog Mollie, Leigh Mills, Tracy Rabinowitz, Aaron Weinberger, Ashely Woodworth, Elisheva Hadar, Pat Freedman & dog Samantha, Sarah Feloney & dog Grady, Sara Bindfors, Venkesh Ramnath.

## Reminders:

### September

- ♥ First Monthly Volunteer Gathering Thursday 27
- ♥ Pet Screening
- Call Ellen for dates (617) 482-1510

### October

- ♥ Memorial Service Tuesday 30

### November

- ♥ Orientation and Training Saturday 7
- ♥ Mailing for Annual Appeal