



## Gathering Change, Inc.

*"Neighbors helping neighbors"*

### Frequently asked questions...

#### Q. Who is Gathering Change, Inc.?

A. We are a grassroots charitable organization designed to help meet the basic needs of citizens within our communities who cannot achieve this goal alone by gathering spare change from our homes, schools, businesses and places of worship.

#### Q. How does Gathering Change define "basic needs?"

A. As stated in our bylaws, we define basic needs as:

- Food (food pantries, food distribution, etc.)
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Heating
- Love & Care (after-school programs, child care assistance, etc.)
- Literacy (story times, lap sits, tutoring including ESL, college application help, etc.)

#### Q. What organizations will Gathering Change, Inc. be supporting?

A. We will be supporting already established social organizations within our towns that have been created for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because the food pantries have been currently identified as exhibiting a critical need, we will focus our first annual drive in October 2008 in that area. Targeted food pantries include but are not exclusive to:

- Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry, Wakefield
- Haven for Hunger, Peabody
- Reading Food Pantry, Reading
- Stoneham Food Pantries, Stoneham

#### Q. What makes Gathering Change, Inc. different from other organizations?

A. There are several things that make Gathering Change, Inc. different from other organizations:

- The funds we raise will stay within our own towns. There are many people who need food, clothing, help with fuel, etc. within our towns. Helping our neighbors builds a sense of community and care.
- We collect spare change only once a year in a unique way — Gathering Change parties. During a one week period in October, people can sponsor a party where they invite neighbors and friends to bring over their spare change providing light refreshment and a chance to get together.
- Because we are just collecting your spare change, we are only asking you for what you already have. This adds up and can support social programs in your town.
- GC gives everyone the opportunity to give. No matter what the amount, adults and children of all ages can and are encouraged to donate whatever they choose, allowing everyone the chance to share. We can make a big difference when we all come together in this way.

#### Q. Can you give a little more information about Gathering Change collection parties?

A. The Gathering Change host opens her/his home during our yearly event in October to friends and neighbors who come together and share what they have collected to help those in need. It can be at any time of the day and it can be done in any way they want to. The main purpose of these parties is for the host to provide a gathering place, with refreshments, for neighbors and friends to bring their spare change. Gathering Change, Inc. will have preprinted postcards to send out if you decide to host a party. Receipts for "guesstimates" of the amount each person has donated will be available at the party as well. The Gathering Change host can make the deposit her/himself or call a GC volunteer to pick it up.

**Q. Are there other ways money will be collected?**

A. Any group can find their own unique ways of gathering change during the collection week. Groups we hope to target that can be a great help include but are not exclusive to:

- High School students who need to fulfill their community service hours
- Elementary and Middle Schools
- Girl Scout/Boy Scout troops
- Senior Centers
- Houses of Worship
- Businesses
- Civic groups, book clubs and other already established organizations

**Q. Will you be getting a license in the towns you plan to collect in?**

A. Yes

**Q. Who will be counting the change?**

A. The Saugus Bank on Route 1 has graciously offered to count any collected change free of charge with their coin counting machine. We will also have our GCI bank account with them as they are open 7 days a week.

**Q. Will I be able to make a direct donation at any time of the year?**

A. In addition to bringing your change to the Saugus Bank for direct deposit, our website will explain how to make donations throughout the year including gift donations during the holidays, for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

**Q. Do you take other forms of donation besides change?**

A. Yes. We are grateful for any donation and encourage you to give in a way that feels right for you. The Salem Five Bank has already made a pledge of \$2,000.00.

**Q. Why did you decide to incorporate?**

A. A corporation is a separate legal entity that allows a group of people to pool energy, time, and money for profit or non-profit activities. It acquires legal existence after its founders comply with their state's incorporation procedures and formalities. The law treats a corporation as a separate person, distinct from the people who own, manage, or operate it. The corporation can enter into contracts, incur debts, and pay taxes. Corporations are either for profit (business corporations) or non-profits. Gathering Change, Inc. is a non-profit organization.

**Q. Do you have a Board of Directors and bylaws?**

A. Yes we do. Please talk to us if you are interested in being part of our Board and what specific area you would like to work on. A copy of the bylaws will be made available to all officers and board members.

**Q. Is there a website and email for GCI?**

A. We're working on it! Over the next few months our website and email will be up and running.

**Q. How are you funded?**

A. Administrative costs which include phone, publicity, website, bank account, P.O. Box, etc. are from personal funds. In the future we will be taking a small percentage from our collections to cover these expenses. Our target is under 10%. Currently there are no salaries for those working for Gathering Change. We do, however, anticipate compensation in the future in the form of grants. Salaries will never be taken from the donation base.

**Q. Will the money collected in my town stay in my town?**

A. Our goal in the distribution of money collected is:

- to share it within the town in which it is collected
- to share it with a neighboring town that presents a critical need
- to share it with a neighboring town that services people in our town. For instance, Lynnfield does not have a food pantry. Therefore the food pantry that services Lynnfield people would receive some of the collected donations.

**Q. When and how will the money be distributed?**

A. The money will be distributed four times a year with equal percentages going to the towns involved in Gathering Change. However, if any town exhibits a particularly urgent need, we will add to that percentage.

**Q. I want to help. Who should I contact?**

A. To host a collection party or to volunteer with Gathering Change, Inc. simply call Dorothy Goodwin at 617-548-5357 or email Dorothy at dorothygoodwin@comcast.net Marianne Snow at getmsno@rcn.com Judy Bousquin at judybous@comcast.net or Yvonne Blacker at yblacker@verizon.net