

# I FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE

- by Ben Cressy

Can you imagine spending the winter in an apartment with little to no heat? It makes me shiver just to think about it.

However, that is a reality for some of our neighbors. During 2014, The Boston Project Ministries made a commitment in time and resources to help neighbors access fuel assistance, save money through home weatherization projects, and fight to get out of unjust utility contracts.

As a community organizer, I am never sure what situation I will encounter when I ring a doorbell. This day, it was too familiar. *"Ever since I signed up to buy 'green electricity,' my bills have gone sky high! This was supposed to help me, but now I can't keep up with the bills,"* said Diana\*. She had become a victim to a "green energy" scam, where door-to-door salespeople convince residents their utility bills will go down if they sign up with a green company. In reality, their rates go up over time and cancellation fees are tremendous. It is a modern day injustice. (\* name changed)

Diana is a neighbor-leader, who is known for staying strong in the midst of many life challenges. Her approach is to take one day at a time, and to find that inner peace within herself. This past year she was part of our neighborhood Bible study exploring Jesus as the source of our peace. She often spoke insightful words to the group and as we reflected on the sacrifice of Jesus, she said with goose bumps one night, **"I feel all warm inside."**

However, that feeling of warmth did not get Diana's heat turned on last winter or out of an electricity scam. The mounting debt was drowning her as she cared for her adult son. *Without a doubt, we knew this was the type of work God's people needed to take up.*

After weeks of phone calls and negotiation, we were able to end her contract with the new "green" company – without a penalty! She still had a large outstanding electricity debt, which qualified her for a debt-forgiveness plan. After a year of on-time payments, the utility company cancelled her remaining debt.

Now a year later, Diana is in a better place financially and personally, and ready to enroll in energy savings programs. She had her apartment assessed for energy efficiency and was able to get cost-saving light bulbs and a new programmable thermostat. Now she has control of when her heat comes on and goes off. She applied for fuel assistance – a fund that provides money to income-eligible individuals to help keep the heat on. **And for the first time in five years, she has turned the heat on for the winter.**

Thank you for your partnership with The Boston Project Ministries, which directly impacts people with both practical and spiritual needs. During this Christmas season, we are reminded that Jesus came to earth to demonstrate that same love and care for us. We thank God for the many Diana's who are leaders in our neighborhood.

*Diana and Ben look over lower bills in her warm living room. Kids enjoy donations of hats and gloves.*







# In Faith, Stepping Forward

## An Update from the Riddle Family

**When many people think of The Boston Project Ministries, Keith and Sarah Riddle come to mind!** During the past 13 years, they have been instrumental in developing our Summer Missions Program, working with children and teens, improving our communications tools, blessing summer staff with hospitality, and serving as an anchor in this ministry.

Keith writes, “Through several months of prayer, discernment, and conversations with trusted friends and leaders, Sarah and I believe that now is the time that God has for us to move in a new direction. Serving here has always been more than

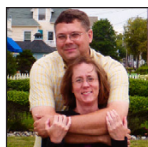
a job for us – it has been a calling to sink our lives deeply into God’s redeeming work in Dorchester. For thirteen years, this ministry has been our joy, our teacher, and our home – for our entire family. We do not yet know where God is moving us, but we are trusting that He will make that clear in His time. We want to express our deepest gratitude for the many people that have been part of this ministry with us - neighbors, current and former staff, volunteers, financial supporters, and our prayer warriors. We celebrate with you all that God has done in our time with The Boston Project. Thank you!”

**Many of us will feel their absence come the end of January 2015.** Join us in praying for the Riddles as they take this step of faith in response to God's leading. Send your encouragement to Keith and Sarah at [keith@tbpm.org](mailto:keith@tbpm.org). We will provide an update in our January newsletter.

*Keith's first summer staff in 2001* ►



Staff Highlights from 2014



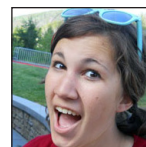
Paul & Glenna  
Malkemes

Our highlights are the friendships and spiritual growth we have experienced through our new Neighborhood Life Group (Bible Study) and Rescued Church, a new church plant. These partnerships with BP are energizing and revitalizing our vision for ministry.



Introducing:  
LaTonya Brown  
(consultant)

Coming back to Boston Project is my highlight! It amazes me how God will somehow in His perfect timing bring you full circle (BP first in 1998). I have been blessed and inspired through our efforts this fall in program development and long-range planning.



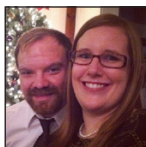
Kristi  
Ellens

God challenged me by putting me in charge of Youth Leadership Academy. This was my first time making a curriculum, planning meetings, and working with our middle schoolers. He has taught me so much about His strength shining through my weaknesses.



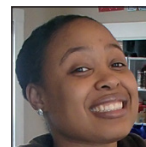
Sherimon  
Harris

This year, my highlight is our youth. One young man has been going through a lot - it seems that wherever he turns something is blocking his way. But he has not given up, and is fighting to move forward. Seeing God's work reassures me that my work is not in vain.



Ben & Liz  
Cressy

This year, The Boston Project was able to partner with Rescued Church to host a back-to-school-night concert. It was a great way to connect neighbors, our ministry and the local church. We long to see these inter-connected relationships grow in 2015!



Dayna  
Hollingquest

This has been a very emotionally trying year for our youth and I am amazed at the growth, strength, and resilience the Lord has given them. 2015 will be a promising year and I cannot wait to see what the Lord has in store for our youth.

**\_avāda • ngiyabonga • Thank You • Merci beaucoup • Xièxiè • Aguije • Dziêkujê • Obrigado • Gracias • Khop**

# Thank You!

**Giving is a Gift.** Giving is fun and brings a lot of joy. Our hope is that you experience God's delight this year as you give of yourself and your resources to those you love.

**We consider it an honor when you choose The Boston Project as one of your charities of choice.** Thank you for entrusting us with your gift towards community transformation and bringing God's shalom.

Where to Give? Your Choice.

The *General Fund* is the main source of funding for our Youth & Family programs. Several staff also raise additional missionary support towards their salary and health benefits.

**Remaining Need by December 31:**

- General Fund: \$66,386
- Paul & Glenna Malkemes: \$5,443
- Liz & Ben Cressy: \$7,177
- Keith & Sarah Riddle: \$10,703

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Khun Krab • Ca'm on ban • Diolch • Dankie • Shukran • Do je •

Mesi ampil • Salamat • sas eicharisto • Dhan'yavada • na tsaug rau koj • daalu • go raibh maith agat • grazie

## New Website

Come explore what's new at The Boston  
Project Ministries at **[www.tbpm.org](http://www.tbpm.org)**

[HOME](#) [WHO WE ARE](#) [WHAT WE DO](#) [OUR NEIGHBORHOOD](#)