



The Free Keene Press

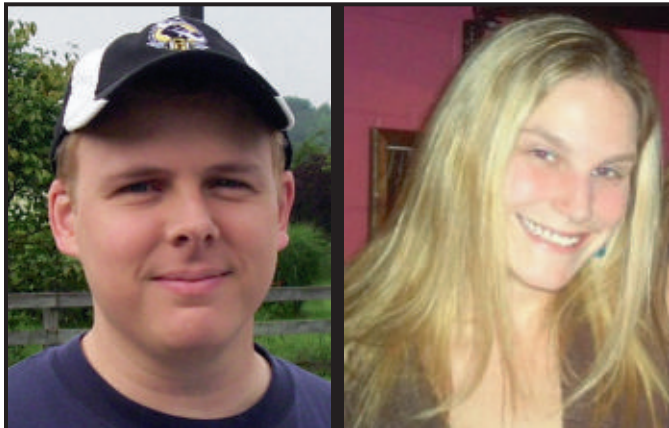
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Peaceful Evolution

Free!

Recognizing the Volunteers



Dale Everett

Heika Courser

James B Schlessinger Jr.
December 23, 2010

The Free Keene Press would like to recognize the efforts of two individuals and the charity work they have done. Many liberty activists in Keene and across New Hampshire give of their time, money and property in the name of charity. Many of these same people needed help at some point and the community has responded providing a place to stay, a ride to the airport, a meal or simply a laugh and good company.

Dale Everett moved to the Keene area about two years ago and wanting to give of his time, started volunteering at the Community Kitchen on Mechanic St. When Don

Blog Brief: Year End Edition

Protests, civil-disobedience, mass arrests, court room drama, jailed activists and so much more has taken place in 2010. The blog and forum at FreeKeene.com provides a historical timeline of the activism taking place in Keene, the surroundings and occasionally other locations in New Hampshire.

January was fairly quiet in Keene with the big news coming out of Manchester as the activists there decided to start their own 420 event at Victory Park. Police arrested one activist when the individual brushed past an officer when told to leave the area. The City of Keene led a fight against the homeless by opposing a shelter constructed on private land that was used by several people to protect them from the winter conditions. The City also fought Don Primrose and the 100 Nights Shelter he started.

February was uneventful.

Late in March the Liberty Forum was held in Nashua. This is an annual event that draws many people from around the country and the world. This plus the unseasonably warm weather presented an opportunity for a civil-disobedience event at the town center similar to the 420 events held in Keene and Manchester. Three individuals were arrested, two liberty activists and a local teenager. Two days later another activist was arrested and charged with a felony for

Primrose opened the 100 Nights Shelter in January of 2010, Dale volunteered to take overnight shifts. Once the winter weather had passed the shelter gave way for a drop-in center and Dale volunteered for daytime shifts offering those who needed it a warm place, some coffee or food and a bathroom.

When asked about the impact the shelter has had on Keene, Dale had this to say: "It's made people more aware of the problem of homelessness. The status quo of Keene seems to want to sweep it under the rug and keep it out of sight. The shelter seems much more focused on changing things and helping people to get homes and jobs than the other less private shelters. The people who work there are volunteers, they are driven by their passion and they seem closer to the people with needs. It seems much more effective; there are records of people who are no longer dependent on the shelter because they've moved on."

Heika Courser grew up in Keene and has done various volunteer work in the Cheshire County area. Her current volunteer project is also at 100 Nights Shelter which she started volunteering at in August. "I help out in the drop-in center, play games, do crafts, and help find jobs for people to apply to," Heika said when interviewed. "I also have helped with several fundraisers."

This includes the fundraiser that the 100 Nights Shelter attempted to have during Keene's seminal event, Pumpkin Festival. Heika helped put on a bake sale for the shelter at the Lamson St and Main St intersection. The shelter had not purchased a permit from Center Stage Productions and was shut down by Keene Police Officers threatening to arrest Heika.

"Even though Center Stage Productions shut the bake sale down, the Keene Police Department did not need to

distribution when he handed an undercover Police Officer an unlit marijuana cigarette.

April contained more fallout from the 420 event in Nashua with three more activists arrested in connection with that incident. Another activist was arrested in Lebanon. April 20th played host to many marijuana celebrations including one at the State House in Concord. The spring Free Keene Festival was held and afterwards a large group activists went out to the new jail in Keene and protested the unjust imprisonment of their friends. Twelve individuals were arrested for trespassing.

Topless Tuesdays started in May. The Census was in full steam and generated a lot of discussions.

June saw the arraignments of the twelve arrested at the jail in April. The Porcupine Freedom Festival was held at Rogers Campground in Lancaster, NH. The Shire Society was formally created. Nightcaps start.

In July four activists were arrested in Greenfield, MA. Two at a traffic stop and then two more who had gone to the jail to inquire about the status of the two arrested at the traffic stop. Four off-duty Manchester Police beat up a man. Open Container civil-disobedience was held in central square and seven individuals were either arrested or given summons. Police then start attending Nightcap celebrations. An activist was arrested for using a megaphone in front of the city hall while court was in session.

Two activists were arrested in August while playing the drinking game at a City Council meeting. The game was

threaten arrest or make such a big scene with so many Officers." Heika's thoughts on the incident continued, "This is their town too and many of them support the shelter."

The fundraiser still managed to be somewhat successful despite the Police shut down.

Heika has been working two jobs and still manages to find the time to volunteer for causes she believes in.

While the term homeless may the label applied to these people, make no mistake they are just as much a part of our community as anyone. They are our friends, our neighbors and even relatives.

There are many more individuals who contribute their time to the 100 Nights Shelter, the Community Kitchen, the Monadnock Humane Society and many more places.

Time is fast becoming the most highly valued commodity of our busy lives. With so many activities and people demanding our attention, it can be difficult to find the time to give to those in need. Yet, even a small amount of time can have an impact. Giving away old blankets that simply take up space in a closet or donating an old car to a charity instead of sending it to a scrap yard can make a difference.

The Keene Free Press extends a hearty Thank You to all the volunteers and generous individuals who have given time, money or material items to those who need the help. A special Thank You to Dale Everett and Heika Courser for being the change they want to see in the world!

held again with no arrests.

In September an activist runs for Keene City Council. At a Police Sobriety Checkpoint an activist is arrested. Another activist runs for State Representative in Keene. Out-of-state bounty hunters arrest an activist.

During October an activist was arrested for chalking in concord. At Keene's Pumpkin Festival, Police shut down a Boy Scout fundraiser and the fundraiser for the 100 Nights shelter.

November elections went well, more than a dozen individuals were elected to various public offices across New Hampshire. A Keene activist makes national news at an airport in Florida with the rollout of the new body scanners and perverse pat downs. Two activists were arrested in Concord for chalking. Activists take part in the National Opt-Out day aimed at expressing displeasure over the new TSA policies.

Thank You!

Kat Kanning and the New Hampshire Free Press

James "Puke" Schmill - Graphics

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Please send any comments, questions or Letters to the Editor to: press@freekeene.com