



**Town of Acton**  
**Comprehensive Community**  
**Plan Outreach**  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720  
Telephone (978) 264-9636  
Fax (978) 264-9630  
outreach@acton-ma.gov  
[www.ActonOutreach.com](http://www.ActonOutreach.com)

## TARGETED COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETINGS

Meeting With: Sandy Cambell, Executive Director

Representing: United Way

Date: 6 March 2008

### NOTES:

Daphne Politis and Lauren Rosenzweig  
Location of meeting: Café Ziba, 2:00 p.m.

### MEETING NOTES:

#### **Serve Acton/Boxborough indirect service to population; fund social service needs:**

- Hunger
- Affordable housing
- Domestic violence
- Elder care
- Children and youth
- Mental health
- Developmental disabilities

Serve approximately 1,500 – 2,000 people served

Do their own fundraising plus regional funding campaign

#### **The number of people served is increasing due to:**

- Greater awareness of services
- Expanding new initiatives and outreach to immigrant groups
- Baby boomers are getting older
- More outreach to adolescents

Emerson Hospital did a study of at risk youth behavior (larger geographic area).



## **Positive Attributes of Working in Acton**

A lot of people are interested in working for the betterment of others  
Big on volunteerism throughout the Town.

## **Challenges of Working in Acton**

Funding

Denial (affluent community)

Shift to more cause-oriented philanthropy (e.g. school, cancer-research, etc.)

## **Needs:**

- Community Services Coordinator (start out part time)
- Local transportation especially for vulnerable populations
  - Elders
  - Kids after school
  - Immigrant populations (multiple generations, some only have one car, some do not have MA driver's license)
- More counselors in the schools
- More services need for seniors
  - Variety (especially art classes and computer classes)
  - Social interaction
  - Physical fitness
- Address domestic violence prevention
  - Education
  - Teen violence
  - Cultural issues
- More English As A Second Language Classes
  - one-on-one tutoring (organization: English At Large out of Medford)
  - community education has classes
  - need for support – transportation and support to keep at it
- Combat hunger
  - Several programs exist currently
  - Food Pantry, Hot Meals, and Meals on Wheels (some seniors, some ethnic groups)
  - Household Goods Recycling Ministry : take in donations of furniture and appliances and make available to those in need. Have their own facility on Main St. Approximately 30,000 pieces are placed yearly. Individuals need to be referred by a social service agency or clergy.



- Support for people with disabilities
  - Need transportation
    - Concord-based Minuteman ARC provide some
    - FISH – call and volunteers will come
    - Need for job opportunities (CASE provides training, e.g. in supermarket)
    - Need for greater acceptance
  - Support for school-aged population with special needs
    - A high number of autism based special needs