

# Brazil: Helping city's poor

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applying for the volunteer program. She said Cross-Cultural Solutions has operations in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. The non-profit sends Americans to these places to provide health care, education, and child care to the impoverished. She said the program offered her the opportunities she was looking for.

According to the non-profit's website, CrossCulturalSolutions.org, "Cross-Cultural Solutions believes that the most successful approach to international volunteering is one that defers to the needs and goals of the local community. We recognize that local people know what is valuable and appropriate for their own community. We're committed to providing volunteer work that helps them carry out their own set of objectives, rather than imposing another one."

Salvador, explained Michelle, is the third largest city and Brazil's former capital. Although it's a tourist destination, like Miami, she said there is a considerable amount of unemployment in the city. This has forced many residents to flee to seek better opportunities. As part of her participation,

Michelle said she will be heading into the poorer sides of the city. She will work Mondays through Fridays, six hours a day, during her stay.

Michelle said the idea of helping overseas had been a thought in her head since she was little. But she was moved to act now after she heard about Bristol's Brittany Decker's experiences in Cambodia and Haiti. "She really inspired me," said Michelle.

Michelle said she saw some photographs of Decker working with children in Haiti. "I wanted to make kids happy the way she did in her pictures," said Michelle.

"It breaks my heart the kids (there) don't have it so great," said Michelle.

Initially, Michelle said, she was going to ask Decker how she got involved with helping in Haiti. But then she came across Cross-Cultural Solutions.

The experience will be Michelle's first trip out of the country. And she said the experience, besides giving her the opportunity to help others, will help her as well. She said it will be her first opportunity to be out in the world (and out of Bristol) on her own and immerse herself in another culture.

In order to participate

in the program, Michelle needs to provide upfront the fees (about \$5,000) for her room and board and some of her meals each day in Salvador. She also has to pay for her airfare.

To that end, Michelle said she has taken on a second job working as a waitress, in addition to her full-time job working at a day-care center, to pay down the fees. (She has raised \$450 so far.) She also is looking to the community to help as well.

If people are interested in helping, Michelle said, they can go to Cross-Cultural Solution's website at CrossCulturalSolutions.org. Then they can sign up as her sponsor and make a direct payment to the non-profit on her behalf. Any donations in her name go toward her program fee, said Michelle. She has till Aug. 31 to submit her fees.

"If I can touch a child's life... my trip has been a success," said Michelle. "I truly want to make different with as many people I possible can."

If you have questions about the program and want to help, you can email Michelle at shellycroasdale@yahoo.com

Comments? Email [mchaiken@BristolObserver.com](mailto:mchaiken@BristolObserver.com).



## New Muzzy Field postcard on sale

This Muzzy Field postcard was created in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Bristol Historical Society's Annual Postcard Show, which will be held this Sunday at the historical society's museum on 198 Summer St. from 1 to 4 p.m. Depicted on the card are five of the activities that are held at Muzzy Field-- middle school baseball, high school girls soccer, the annual Battle of the Bell between Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern high schools' football game, summer activities of American Legion Baseball and the Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club. The back of the postcard gives a brief history of Muzzy Field and lists other groups that utilize the field. It will be on sale at the Postcard Show on Sunday. The designers of the card believe this is the first postcard of Muzzy Field. If anyone knows of another or has a postcard of Muzzy Field, please call Tom Dickau at (860)582-1537.

## Win Harley in annual Carousel Museum event

It is Harley time again at the New England Carousel Museum kicking off the 13th year for its Harley Davidson Fat Boy raffle to benefit the Museum. Stop in at The

New England Carousel Museum, a non-profit organization, and buy a ticket for the Annual Harley Davidson Fat Boy Raffle. The museum is celebrating its 20th Anniversary year as a non-profit, educational and fun organization. This raffle will help benefit the museum's educational programming and general operations. First prize is a 2010 Harley Davidson Fat Boy, second prize is a 5' x 8' trailer, and third prize is a \$100 gift certificate, redeemable at Yankee Harley Davidson

in Bristol.

Two thousand five hundred tickets will be sold at \$20 per ticket. The public drawing will be held at The New England Carousel Museum on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

The museum is located at 95 Riverside Avenue, Route 72 in Bristol. For more information, call the Carousel Museum at (860) 585-5411. Fax: 860-314-0483, E-mail: [info@thecarouselmuseum.org](mailto:info@thecarouselmuseum.org), [www.thecarouselmuseum.org](http://www.thecarouselmuseum.org).

## Shuffle: Bulk of community programs in place

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The lease went into effect this month, as did the changes to the Community Services Department. The remaining three workers in the department were divided up.

The office manager has been moved to a vacant

office on the second floor in City Hall that is now the department's main point of reference. The case worker who handled senior issues, such as Medicare and Medicaid counseling, has been moved to the senior center on Stafford Avenue. The remaining case worker has been assigned to a

"floater" position, in which she will split her time at the fire department, and community services department.

Despite the changes, McNulty said the bulk of the services the departments provides, like providing assistance to evicted tenants, are still in place. Programs such as the re-gifting holiday and New Beginnings programs, will still be run this year, she said. Over the year, the city

will look at whether certain programs can be streamlined with other agencies, she added.

McNulty said the only significant change in services thus far is that the department will no longer be the first point of contact for adults with disabilities seeking assistance. She said the Bristol Community Organization on South Street is now the first point of contact for disabled adults.

## Boot: Program suspended

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for this month, and it will restart again in August.

The move to suspend the program was made mostly to not overburden the Tax Collector's Office, which is currently collecting first installments of property taxes, Ward said. He added holding off on the program will afford delinquent taxpayers the opportunity to

catch up or work something out with the Tax Collector's Office.

Anyone who can't afford to pay their taxes all at once can contact the Tax Collector's Office at (860) 584-6270 to discuss possible partial payment options. People who make partial payments would still be subject to interest on the late balance.

## ESPN: Ronzo Road

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second time the city has closed a section of a road for ESPN.

In 2007, the city closed a section of Birch Street, from the Southington town line to Ronzo Road, for

ESPN. The street used to cut directly through the center of ESPN's campus, and ESPN officials cited heavy traffic and safety concerns as the reasons for closing this portion of Birch Street.



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