



Chamber and SSA staffers sort through hundreds of Shipyard support letters recently at the Portsmouth Chamber. Pictured are, left to right, Ginny Griffith, Chamber business development manager; Pat Dowaliby, SSA office manager, secretary and treasurer; and Kelly Marshall, Portsmouth High student and SSA intern.

Shipyard Campaign Shifts into High Gear on Web

Chamber Collects Thousands of Support Letters from Locals

The battle to save the Shipyard shifted into high gear in March with an intensive letter writing campaign and the unveiling of the **Seacoast Shipyard Association's** website created by **Daystar Computer Services** and **Nocturnal Media Group, LLC.** Ginny Griffith, Chamber business development manager; and Portsmouth High School Senior, Kelley Marshall, an intern with the SSA, have been key organizers of campaign activities.

To date, local Chambers and the SSA have collected and sorted tens of thousands of letters of support that will eventually be hand-delivered to the desk of the Secretary of Defense. The effort, supported by the local media and civic organizations, featured page-size advertisements, radio spots and plain old phone and leg work, according to Griffith, the chamber's liaison to the SSA. A second round of letters were mailed recently to 130,000 Seacoast-area residents courtesy of Eastern Marketing Services of Durham's shared mail program. The mailing was sponsored by **Ocean National Bank** and **Foster's Daily Democrat.**

While the web site has only been online for a couple of weeks, more than 12,000 visitors

have already perused the web-based command post filled with information and suggestions on how people can help. Visitors may also download a copy of a proposed support letter on the site which may be completed and faxed to participating Chambers of commerce or the SSA. That same letter is included as a flyer in this issue of Dividends.

Thursday, the first wave of letters from Seacoast-region Chambers were bundled at the Kittery Town Hall. Members of the SSA and supporting organizations will accompany them to Washington where they will be delivered to the Secretary of Defense by members of the Maine and New Hampshire delegations. According to Griffith, the campaign will continue as long as possible, "so if you haven't already signed a letter of support, there's still time to show your support."

Those who'd like to get more involved should mark their calendars for Shipyard Day and the Rolling Rally set for Saturday, April 23. Communities throughout southern New Hampshire and Maine are expected to participate in the awareness event including Biddeford/Saco, Sanford/Springvale, Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth. The day will culminate with a collective rally at the Shipyard's Gate 1 with both governors and legislative delegations from both states. See the SSA website for a schedule of activities.

The shipyard is a significant economic engine in the region employing more than

4,800 people with a payroll of more than \$318 million. The Secretary of Defense is expected to announce his closure list sometime in May.

For more on the SSA and the "Save the Shipyard Campaign," visit www.saveourshipyard.org or contact Griffith at (603) 436-3988, ext. 14 or ggriffith@portsmouthchamber.org. ★

Children's Day Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Volunteers Welcome for Fun-Filled Day of Kids' Activities

While it may not yet seem like it, Spring is just right around the corner, and with it, Bank of America Children's Day 2005.

"This is the 15th anniversary of an event that gets better every year because of community involvement!" said Barbara Massar, Pro Portsmouth executive director and organizer of the event. "We invite everyone to take part, it's sure to put a smile on your face—and the faces of the thousands of children who come each year." Massar said the entire day is sponsored, hosted and supported by downtown merchants, area companies, civic organizations and volunteers from throughout the Seacoast."

This year's Children's Day logo will be unveiled by the young artist who created it at 3 pm., April 19 in Bank of America's Market Square Branch. The artwork will be featured on maps, posters and t-shirts promoting the event.

"Since 2005 represents the 100th anniversary of the signing of The Treaty of Portsmouth, we asked children to illustrate what peace means to them and what it would look like," said Massar. "As usual, their work was right on!"

Other Children's Day sponsors are **Seacoast Coca Cola, Portsmouth Copy, LifeSize Graphics** and **Ad Cetera Graphics.** Media Sponsor for Children's Day 2005 is **The Bay/WTSN.**

Those interested in volunteering for children's day or other Pro Portsmouth events may contact Carrie Tammick, volunteer coordinator at (603) 436-3988, ext. 30 or volunteer@proportsmouth.org. For more information on Children's Day or other Pro Portsmouth events, visit www.proportsmouth.org. ★