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DOWNTOWN, ROXBURY, SOUTH END

## Pioneering women's shelter to host craft fair

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 17, 2010 12:42 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A second-annual holiday craft fair to benefit the nation's first homeless shelter for women, located near the Roxbury and South End line, will be held next week.

On Wednesday in South Station's main concourse area, artisans from [Rosie's Place](#) shelter will craft and sell holiday gifts made from vintage buttons and other accessories. Available items will include brooches, magnets, bookmarks, cuff links, barrettes, bracelets and key chains. All proceeds benefit the shelter.

The Women's Craft Cooperative is organized by the shelter and hosted by the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad Company, which also provides sales support for the event, the announcement said.

"The Women's Craft Cooperative allows women from the shelter begin a path towards a better life, introducing them to craft skills and the basics of merchandising, as the cooperative aims to foster self-esteem and creativity, along with employable skills, a greater earning potential, and a source of income to the artisans," said an announcement from the railroad company. "It's a heart-warming story of helping women help themselves this holiday season."

The shelter, founded 36 years ago, provides emergency and long-term help to women struggling to make ends meet. The nonprofit receives no government funding and is supported by private funding and volunteers.

Rosie's Place also benefits from sales of holiday greeting cards. For the past five years, a [Westwood painter has donated the rights to a Boston-themed painting](#), different each year, so the shelter can sell them as a fund-raising effort

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