

The Boston Street cake lady

It was amazing to see how many people braved the rain last week for the grand opening of the new headquarters of Children's Friend and Family Services. The counseling agency, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, on the North Shore, began in 1837 as the Salem Seamen's Orphan's Society, a home for children whose dads were lost at sea.

Anyway, they did it up big with valet parking, a tent and fancy hors d'oeuvres. But the best part was the cake. It looked just like the red-brick Endicott School on Boston Street, which is the building the agency renovated for its new headquarters.

And the cake was made by a neighbor who lives across the street.

"My daughter actually went to the school when it was Head Start," said Celeste Ross, a mother of two girls.

Ross, who works as a cake decorator at Stop & Shop, went to in-



LINSEY TAIT/Staff photo

The cake at the Children's Friend and Family Services grand opening was made by Celeste Ross, a Boston Street neighbor and professional cake decorator.

credible lengths to get the exact proportions of the school building, which sat on top of the cake. She was given photos of the building and took a few of her own.

"I also went online and got an aerial photo," she said.

She figured everything out ex-

actly, except how to get the cake across the street during a down-pour.

"It probably weighed 50 or 60 pounds," she said. "My daughter (Charise) helped me carry it over in the rain. We covered it with trash bags."