



# Hearth *HOME FOR GOOD*

ending elder homelessness

## 2014 Annual Meeting & Cocktail Reception

Our Annual Meeting & Cocktail Reception is coming up on Wednesday, November 5th. We hope you can join us as we honor those both locally and nationally who recognize and support the needs of vulnerable older adults and the elderly.

This year's recipients of our Distinguished Service Award are **Sheila Dillon**, the City of Boston's Chief of Housing and Director of the Depart-

ment of Neighborhood Development, and **Affordable Living for the Aging**, a nonprofit in Los Angeles, CA dedicated to providing seniors with affordable housing, services and linkages to supportive services.

RSVP by October 29th to Jennifer Hartwell at [jhartwell@hearth-home.org](mailto:jhartwell@hearth-home.org) or 617-369-1565. For more information, including a map, visit [www.hearth-home.org](http://www.hearth-home.org).

**Annual Meeting & Cocktail Reception**

**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Nixon Peabody, LLP  
100 Summer Street  
Boston, MA 02110



**Hearth Shares**  
Helping the Homeless

***It's not charity. It's humanity.***  
—Ming Tsai

This November and December, Boston area restaurants are teaming up with **Hearth Shares** to provide diners with an opportunity to add a \$1 or more to their dinner bill to support local efforts to end homelessness.

100% of diners' dollars go directly to effective nonprofits working to end homelessness, including **Hearth** and **Friends of Boston's Homeless**, thanks to support from the **Citizens Bank Foundation**.

To learn more and see the list of participating restaurants, please visit:  
**[www.hearthshares.org](http://www.hearthshares.org)**  
*Thank you and bon appétit!*

**Message from Mark**

### Program Update: Homelessness Prevention Program

Our Homelessness Prevention Program is part of the **Hearth Outreach Program** and is focused on helping elders *before* they become homeless, using case management



and stabilization services – including landlord mediation, advocacy at housing court, and rental assistance. It was launched in 2010 thanks to a grant from **Jane's Trust**, and remains fully funded through March 2016 thanks to a three-year grant from the **Oak Foundation**.

Our traditional Outreach Program, which helps currently homeless older adults find housing and connect with services, is funded through a mix of public

funding and private philanthropy. Currently, however, there is no government funding for case management for elders at-risk of homelessness. This means that for many years it was very frustrating for our case managers, having to turn away elders needing help because they weren't homeless *yet*.

Partnering first with **Jane's Trust** and now the **Oak Foundation** enabled us to change this. The **Oak Foundation** is currently fully funding the **Prevention Case Manager** position as well as a part-time **Data Quality Control Manager** who oversees the collection of data to help **Hearth** make the case for public and private funding and to report to our current philan-

*Continued on page 3*

# The Transatlantic Practice Exchange Program

At the end of July, we hosted David Orton, who came from London as part of the Transatlantic Practice Exchange. For two weeks David toured our sites, met with staff, and learned about our efforts to end elder homelessness.

In London David works for SHP, an organization that provides a wide range of accommodation and support services to 7,000 people a year across many London boroughs. He took part in the Exchange and chose to focus on homeless older adults and the elderly because, as he put it, "I've always been struck by the lack of adequate provision for older homeless people."

As part of his visit, David created a blog recounting his experiences as he toured Hearth and met with staff, including going with Outreach Case Managers on their visits to shelters

and even a stabilization visit to a newly housed client (photo at right). You can read about his experiences with Hearth here: <http://davestransatlanticexchange.wordpress.com>

David has also written a report based on his experiences at Hearth, about how our model bridges the gap between services for the homeless and those for the elderly and makes recommendations on how services in the UK could be better designed for older homeless people.

His report, along with those written by other participants in the Exchange, are being published this fall.

The Transatlantic Practice Exchange Program is organized by Homeless Link and the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and is funded by the Oak Foundation.



David took this photo when he went with a case manager on a stabilization visit. She had been homeless for two years before finding a new home. She now spends a lot of time working in the near-by community garden.

## \$20,000 Challenge

### Become a Hearth Sustainer and Your Gift Goes Twice as Far!

Recently one of our Outreach Case Managers received this note:

*I can't find the words to express my gratitude for all the time you and the Hearth organization have shared in my quest to end my homelessness. I can now get on with my life.*

*Thank you so much!*

As a Hearth supporter, you are also an important part of our clients' quest to end their homelessness. And right now you can help even more homeless elders end their quests by becoming a Hearth Sustainer and taking advantage of the \$20,000 challenge – now through December 15th.

To learn more about the program and to sign up, visit [www.hearth-home.org/sustainer.html](http://www.hearth-home.org/sustainer.html) or contact Annie Garmey at 617-369-1555 or [agarmey@hearth-home.org](mailto:agarmey@hearth-home.org).

Sign up today to help more of our elderly clients find housing and "get on" with their lives!

### Why Are You A Sustainer?

*"After making sporadic donations in the past, becoming a Hearth sustainer was the most direct way to show my support and appreciation for Hearth and its mission."*

—Bette Viano

## Students Make Dinner for Residents at Olmsted Green



*In August middle school students from Noble & Greenough's Summer Service Camp prepared boxed take-away dinners for residents at Olmsted Green. Students cut up several watermelon for a fresh fruit salad.*

## Hearth Art Show Inspires Volunteers

Earlier this year we held our annual Hearth Resident & Client Art Show, featuring a variety of works created by the talented elders and older adults we serve.

Hearth volunteers Bette Viano (who also helped organize the event) and Bill Porter took photos of the art works and artists, and Maryjean Crowe turned the photos into a short video. She recently completed the finishing touches and uploaded the video to YouTube.

We love the enthusiasm and creativity inspired by our residents and clients and are so grateful to Bette, Bill, and Maryjean for all the time and effort they put into making the video!

You can see the video on our website: [www.hearth-home.org/news/videos.html](http://www.hearth-home.org/news/videos.html).

### Message from Mark

*Continued from page 1*

thropic funders.

In addition, the Oak Foundation provides some funds for rental assistance, along with funding from the City of Boston's Emergency Solutions Grant Program, enabling the Prevention Case Manager to offer short-term financial assistance for back rent and relocation rental costs to either prevent eviction or to relocate a client to a better situation. On average, the equivalent of a month or two of rent can keep an elder from becoming homeless. If that person loses his/her housing, however, it takes thousands of dollars and a minimum of six months (and often times closer to a year) to get them housed again – never mind the indignity or the effects on the

person's health.

The response to our Prevention Program has far exceeded our expectations. In fact, the need for prevention services for older adults far surpasses our current capacity. The high number of referrals for prevention services was unanticipated, which led to the creation of walk-in clinics which were held twice a week. However, the walk-in hours were so popular that the clinics moved to "appointment only" because so many people were arriving early and waiting hours for a chance to meet with the case manager. Our client wait-list has now grown to 83 people, and our one Prevention Case Manager simply cannot meet the demand.

Therefore, while we strive to meet the needs of our current clients and those on the wait list, the Homelessness Prevention Walk-In

Hours are unfortunately suspended. We will do our best to direct those needing help to other resources, but the truth is there are simply more people in need than there are agencies and resources to help them.

One piece of good news: Hearth is still accepting applications for rental assistance. For those looking for more information and to apply for assistance, please call 617-369-1559.

Hearth's Strategic Plan includes growing the capacity of our Homelessness Prevention Program by increasing our Client Support Funds (which includes rental assistance) to \$50,000/year and securing funding for a second Prevention Case Manager. We're actively seeking additional philanthropic partners to help fund this expansion.



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Boston, MA 02118

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**Mission Statement**

Hearth is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of homelessness among the elderly. This mission is accomplished through a unique blend of prevention, placement and housing programs, all designed to help elders find and succeed in homes of their own. To this end, all housing operated by Hearth provides a creative array of supportive services that assist residents to age with dignity, regardless of their special medical, mental health, or social needs. Hearth believes these goals are best accomplished through respect for staff and elders, with the desire to see both achieve their highest degree of potential.

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