

**FRIENDS OF BOSTON'S HOMELESS**  
**HIGHLIGHTS OF FUNDRAISING and SUPPORT EFFORTS SINCE 1987**

Friends of Boston' Homeless is a non-profit organization that supports the programs and services run by Boston Public Health Commission's Homeless Services. For 27 years, Friends staff and volunteer Board of Directors have worked in a unique public/private relationship with the City of Boston to create a continuum of services that meet the changing needs of our City's homeless and provide the best possible care and solutions. Since 1987, Friends has raised over \$20 million in private sector donations to support the City of Boston in this vital work and we are extremely proud to be a part of it.

**1987** – Friends of Boston's Homeless is founded. Its first project is to raise funds to replace the windows at **Long Island Shelter** before winter arrives.

**1990** – Friends secure grants and donations to open **One Wise Street** to provide 9 units of transitional housing in Jamaica Plain for homeless men who are working and in recovery.

**1991** – Friends renovate clinical & counseling space at Long Island Shelter to improve operations.

**1992** – Friends and Homeless Services raise major capital funding to open the nationally-recognized **Safe Harbor Program**, a 20 bed transitional house which provides innovative, compassionate care, and a safe, stable environment to homeless women and men battling addictions and HIV/AIDS.

**1993** - Friends install ventilation systems at the Long Island Shelter Annex.

**1994** - Friends purchase two **Community Connection Vans** to ensure individuals using the shelter can get to medical appointments, jobs, training, and education programs.

**1995** - Friends raise private-sector capital funds to open **Serving Ourselves Job Training Program** to provide homeless adults with paid training in marketable job trades and other supportive services necessary to re-enter the community as competitive workers.

**1996** – Friends secure a HUD challenge grant to open **Project S.O.A.R.**; 70 units of safe, supportive transitional housing for individuals enrolled in rehabilitation, education, job training and employment programs.

**1997** – Friends, Homeless Services, and the City of Boston create **The Farm at Boston's Long Island Shelter** to provide over 25,000 lbs. of organic, first harvest produce for the Long Island Shelter's kitchen and job skills and work experience to those in transitional programs.

**1998** – Friends and Homeless Services develop the **Serving Ourselves Business Enterprise** to create new employment and training opportunities and generate independent revenue from catering and laundry services to support the transitional programs. Friends purchase a delivery truck for the new enterprise.

**1999** – Friends design and implement **Challenging Minds Challenging Homelessness**; an outreach and education program that teaches young people about homelessness and gets them involved in the solutions through community service.

**2000** – Friends purchase and renovate **9 Valentine Street** in Roxbury to provide women a safe, supportive, affordable living environment where they can achieve sobriety and gain the additional skills, education, income, and stability to become self-sufficient and reunite with their children.

**2002** – Friends purchase and renovate **12-14 Wise Street**; Permanent Affordable Housing for formerly homeless men and women in recovery who've graduated from Homeless Services transitional programs.

**2004** – Friends fund the creation of a **GED and pre-GED Preparation Program** for the Project Lighthouse Adult Education Program at Long Island Shelter.

**2007/08** – Friends raise capital funding to help Homeless Services launch the **Wyman Re-entry Program** to provide specialized services to ex-offenders so they reintegrate successfully into the community and don't end up on the streets, in shelters, or back in prison.

**2009** – Friends provide capital funding to open the **Weintraub Day Center** at Woods Mullen Shelter to improve the health and well-being of Boston's most chronically homeless by connecting people with health and mental health care providers, enrolling them in benefits, and securing permanent supportive housing in the community.

**2010/11** – Friends raise start-up and ongoing program support for Boston's **Housing First** initiative; an innovative strategy to end street homelessness by helping our community's most long-term homeless move directly from the streets and shelters into supportive permanent housing.

**2012** – Friends provide general operating support to re-launch **Project Lighthouse Adult Education and Employment Resource Center** and raise private foundation support for vital teaching tools like new computers, a Smart TV, learning software, GED materials, and a library of job readiness guides.

**2012 to date** – Friends create, and provide ongoing support for, the **Housing First Start-up Fund** that helps long-term homeless overcome the final barrier to immediate housing by fulfilling vital housing start-up needs like security deposits, first month's rent, furniture, and household items.