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.