

## United Way Gives \$661K to Help 13 Nonprofits Aid the Homeless

November 3, 2009 — On the heels of news that more than 1,000 families in Massachusetts have overflowed the capacity of emergency homeless shelters and are living in motels paid for by the state, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley announced that it will provide \$661,100 to 13 organizations in Boston, Cambridge, Lynn, Lowell, Quincy, and Somerville.

These new funds will fuel the third year of a **United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley** strategy to fight homelessness in the region through a Housing First approach, which stabilizes families in permanent housing as a first step to recovery from chronic homelessness.

The announcement was made at last week's 2009 United Way Real Estate and Building Industry Breakfast, which was attended by nearly 1,000 industry leaders including developers, brokers, construction managers, architects, engineers, interior designers, attorneys, consultants, bankers and insurance executives, who have aligned with United Way for the past two years to counter homelessness.

In 2007, the Real Estate and Building community set a goal, as an industry to raise \$1 million by 2011 to target family homelessness. Since that time, the effort has grown significantly, putting the industry on track to beat their initial goal and reach \$1 million before the set deadline, according to the United Way.

"Two years ago, we set out to advance Housing First because we believed it would move us from a system of managing the problem to a true solution for individuals and families experiencing the pain of homelessness," said Michael K. Durkin, United Way president and CEO. "Now, entering our third year of funding we are beginning to see signs of significant progress from the agencies funded to tackle this issue."

The Donahue Institute recently studied United Way's progress in its Housing First effort, and found that outcomes data gathered about families served fully demonstrated the funded organizations' effectiveness at moving families experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, as well as assisting families in maintaining their housing through crisis situations. The report found that "75% of families for whom outcomes data are available were in permanent housing at the conclusion of Year 2 funding."

By the end of the three-year funding period, United Way will have provided approximately \$2.5 million to help end homelessness in Massachusetts. In addition to its investments in Housing First, United Way helped more than 11,200 people get or keep homes last year through its network of partner agencies. The Real Estate and Building Industry raised nearly \$3.2 million in 2008 to fuel these efforts, enabling thousands of families to either gain or remain in permanent housing.

Receiving the current round of funding were the following:

- **Community Teamwork, Inc.**, Lowell – \$50,000
- **Crittenton Women's Union**, Boston – \$50,000
- **Father Bills & MainSpring, Inc.**, Quincy – \$60,000
- **Heading Home**, Cambridge – \$47,000
- **Homes for Families**, Boston – \$58,000
- **HomeStart, Inc.**, Boston – \$43,000
- **Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership**, Boston – \$60,000
- **Project Hope**, Boston – \$60,000
- **Quincy Community Action Programs**, Quincy – \$50,000
- **Serving People In Need, Inc.**, Lynn – \$60,000
- **Somerville Community Corporation**, Somerville – \$49,100
- **Somerville Homeless Coalition**, Somerville – \$15,000
- **Travelers Aid Family Services**, Boston – \$59,000