

# News Release

Contact: Beth Wagner, (617) 425-6691

beth.wagner@mbhp.org

March 25, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Three to run in Marathon for MBHP and affordable housing**

BOSTON – Three runners with close ties to the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) will take to the streets of Boston April 19 and log 26.2 miles on MBHP’s behalf.

MBHP case management specialist Jesse Edsell-Vetter and Sen. Patricia Jehlen staffers Lauren Sacco and Alayna Van Tassel in December committed to endless hours of training and raising a collective \$20,000 to run Boston’s 114<sup>th</sup> Marathon for MBHP.

Thanks to the generous donation of three entries to MBHP by John Hancock Financial Services, Edsell-Vetter, Sacco and Van Tassel will fulfill their dreams of running Boston’s famous Marathon this year while drawing attention to and supporting affordable housing.

Edsell-Vetter, a seasoned marathon runner, works closely with MBHP clients, especially in his day-to-day interactions with those who have hoarding issues. Not only does Edsell-Vetter draw from his clients’ experiences as inspiration to raise money for MBHP, he taps into his own memories of homelessness – at one point in the mid-1990s he experienced homelessness himself, followed by years of fearing that one day he again would have no permanent place to live.

“I realize that as a case manager (for MBHP), I’ll not be able to single-handedly house everyone,” said Edsell-Vetter. “But running a marathon and raising money can support the agencies that can help the most.”

Edsell-Vetter set an ambitious goal of raising \$10,000 for MBHP, using social networking venues, a March 20 event at his synagogue, and other social activities to raise the dollars.

Marathon novice Sacco, Sen. Jehlen’s director of constituent services and government relations, started running for health reasons and never looked back. She said that while running helps keep her in shape and maintain her weight, participating in the Marathon would be the “icing on the cake.”

Sacco has been working closely with MBHP for years, referring constituents to MBHP for help and resources. “I admire MBHP’s work,” she said. “They are where the rubber meets the road when it comes to real housing help in Metro Boston. It cannot be overstated that the work of MBHP needs financial support and community awareness now more than ever.”

Sacco co-worker Van Tassel, also new to the Marathon, serves as Sen. Jehlen’s budget and policy director. She, too, became familiar with MBHP through her work and has seen “all too

*everyone deserves a place to call home*



# News Release

Contact: Beth Wagner, (617) 425-6691

[beth.wagner@mbhp.org](mailto:beth.wagner@mbhp.org)

frequently how easily something unexpected such as a fire, illness or job loss can quickly lead a family to homelessness.”

Noting that the current economy has only compounded this issue, “This is why we need MBHP. MBHP keeps roofs over people’s heads and out of shelters ... They help my office work with families who face foreclosure, eviction and homelessness. I have seen them work miracles.”

Both Sacco and Van Tassel see running as a way to help others, and each set a personal MBHP fund-raising goal of \$5,000. In addition to their individual fund-raising efforts, the two hosted an event in January at a local lounge, conducted a Valentine’s Day “BrownieGram” activity, and most recently organized a fund-raiser Flip Cup tournament.

To learn more about Team MBHP, log on to [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org) for the link to MBHP’s Marathon page and easy access to the runners’ blogs and their online fund-raising accounts.

\*\*\*\*\*

MBHP is the state’s largest regional provider of rental housing voucher assistance. We serve homeless, elderly, disabled, and low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Our region spans Boston and 29 surrounding communities: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Braintree, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, North Reading, Quincy, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop and Woburn.

Our mission is to ensure that the region’s low- and moderate-income individuals and families have choice and mobility in finding and retaining decent affordable housing; all of our programs and initiatives are designed to encourage housing stability, increase economic self-sufficiency, and enhance quality of the lives of those we serve. To achieve our mission and to promote efficient service delivery, we work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

We believe that everyone deserves a place to call home.

For more information, contact MBHP Communications Manager Beth Wagner at (617) 425-6691, or log onto [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org).

###

*everyone deserves a place to call home*