

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacco to run for MBHP and affordable housing

BOSTON – Lauren Sacco has wrestled with weight issues all her life. Three years ago, she took up running to help her maintain her nearly 100-pound weight loss. Lacing up her shoes and taking to the streets of Greater Boston not only has helped her successfully keep the pounds off, but it also has landed her a spot in Boston’s upcoming Marathon and the opportunity support affordable housing!

Sacco, who serves as Sen. Patricia Jehlen’s director of constituent and government services, will run April 19 on behalf of the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. MBHP was given three charity spots in the Marathon by John Hancock Financial Services so runners can raise money to support MBHP’s privately funded programs and services.

Sacco’s relationship with MBHP began four years ago, when she joined the State Senate staff. She cites prior work experiences with people with disabilities and as a case manager and a job developer – plus her work with Sen. Jehlen – as motivation to support and draw attention to the issue of affordable housing.

“Each of these jobs has shown me that affordable housing is by far the biggest struggle for all people to achieve and maintain,” Sacco said. “I am not sure there is a more central problem for people who live in poverty, who are of lower and middle incomes, who have any disabilities, or who are children, elderly or recently unemployed. We could all be at risk of struggling to maintain stable housing. It is *that* important.”

As a Sen. Jehlen staffer, Sacco has referred uncounted constituents to MBHP for assistance, and said she jumped at the chance to be able to lend a hand to MBHP in return.

“Our office has called upon MBHP’s resources and expertise on everything from hoarding issues to case management to foreclosures to homelessness prevention,” she noted. “They have been so incredibly effective in assisting our constituents despite the excoriating cuts of the economic downturn. I want them to continue this valuable work through these trying times. I am honored to represent an organization that had constantly impressed me with their success on critical matters.”

Sacco, who lives in Medford and grew up in Winchester, has been training with co-worker Alayna Van Tassel, who also is running the Marathon for MBHP. Additionally, Sacco runs with the State House Running Club and with family members and friends. While April 19 will mark

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Sacco's first full marathon, she recently completed a half-marathon and has competed in numerous other races.

Sacco and Van Tassel each set a personal fund-raising goal for MBHP 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 and support Sacco, Van Tassel and Team MBHP teammate Jesse Edsell-Vetter, log onto 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.

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