

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Edsell-Vetter to run for MBHP and affordable housing**

BOSTON – A veteran marathoner with close ties to the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership and a multi-faceted perspective on homelessness will take to the streets April 19 on behalf of MBHP.

MBHP Case Management Specialist Jesse Edsell-Vetter will be running his fourth marathon – his third in Boston – proving once again that you *can* run a marathon after multiple knee surgeries and, that in doing so, you can call attention to issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

“Several years ago, after my 14<sup>th</sup> knee surgery, my surgeon said I could run a marathon,” Edsell-Vetter said. “So, I decided to prove it to myself and I started training. This will be my fourth marathon, and each time I combined my personal goal with a commitment to a higher good through fund raising.”

Edsell-Vetter’s experience with homelessness is an intensely personal one: At one time in his life, he did not have a place to call home. Somehow he managed to keep his job and stay in school even though many nights were spent living on the street. It took Edsell-Vetter a while to “pull his life back together,” thanks in large part to a friend’s understanding and offering of a couch for Edsell-Vetter to sleep on.

“I’m here because someone took a risk and helped me,” he said. “The men, women and children we help at MBHP deserve that same chance.”

Edsell-Vetter helped establish MBHP’s Hoarding and Sanitation Initiative, and he works one-on-one with individuals at risk of losing their housing because of hoarding issues.

“I was only about six months without a home,” he said. “But I spent the next 10 years fearing not having a place to stay. I understand what it’s like to be afraid of losing your home. I know everyone’s experience isn’t the same, but I try to use what I learned and my perspective to help people who are facing possible homelessness.”

Edsell-Vetter, a Medford resident, also channels his perspective into advocacy and fund raising. He set a fund-raising goal of \$10,000 without blinking and is using social networking venues, a March event at his Somerville synagogue, and other social activities to raise the dollars.

*everyone deserves a place to call home*



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“As a case manager, I’ll not be able to single-handedly house everyone,” he said. “But running a Marathon and raising money can support the agencies – such as MBHP – that can help the most people.”

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. Joining Edsell-Vetter on Team MBHP are two staffers from Sen. Patricia Jehlen’s office: Director of Constituent and Government Services Lauren Sacco and Director of Budget and Policy Alayna Van Tassel.

To learn more about and support Edsell-Vetter, Sacco, and Van Tassel, log onto [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.

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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).

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