

Happenings at Harbor Homes, Inc.



SUMMER 2007

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The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care service area includes:

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Homeless Numbers Drop Substantially in Nashua

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Homeless Trends (2003 - 2007)

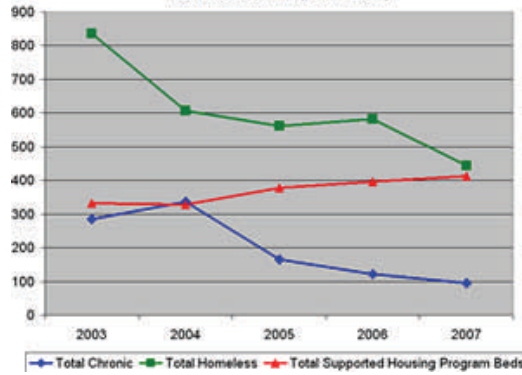
Ending chronic homelessness in the Greater Nashua area may be closer to reality than initially hoped for.

In 2003 the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care (GNCOC) a group made up of nonprofit agencies, service providers, housing developers, faith-based organizations, businesses, government and homeless/formerly homeless individuals created a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. By pooling talent and resources, the GNCOC avoids duplication of services and obtains funding that will benefit the community in meaningful ways.

The 3 objectives of the GNCOC plan include:

- Preventing homelessness whenever possible
- Rapidly re-housing people when homelessness cannot be prevented
- Providing wrap-around services that promote housing stability and self-sufficiency

From 2003 to the most recent homeless count (taken in 1/07) the number of unsheltered families has plummeted. One area stands out as particularly encouraging. During the latest counts, no person living with HIV/AIDS was found to be homeless!



While no one agency can take credit, the entire GNCOC and City should take great pride in the fact that the Greater Nashua community is making positive strides in ending chronic homelessness.

Making certain that no one goes without a home has always been a core goal of Harbor Homes. Initially the agency worked with homeless individuals dealing with mental illness. Over the years, the mission has expanded to assist all that are homeless.

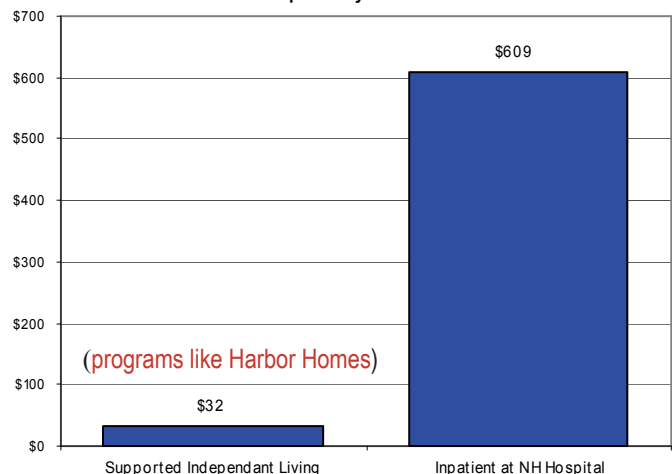
Programs now accommodate

- Honorably discharged homeless veterans
- Homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS
- Handicapped individuals
- Singles and families in need
- An emergency shelter provides for urgent needs
- Safe Haven provides a port of entry for individuals unconnected to any social services

Affiliations with other area agencies allow us to integrate services addressing some of the complex problems leading to homelessness and hopefully create lasting solutions.

By providing permanent supportive housing, Harbor Homes improves lives in the most cost-effective way.

Costs per Day for Care



Source: The Lewin Group; Prepared for The Partnership to End Long-term Homelessness, 2004



Change, Growth and Progress—A letter from the President and CEO



**Peter Kelleher,
LICSW
President and CEO**



**CREATIVE
WAYS
TO HELP
OUT...**

Board member Lynne Weihrauch nominated Harbor Homes to be the charitable recipient for her employers bi-monthly “Blue Jeans Day”. On August 10 Dartmouth Hitchcock employees can make a \$5 donation to Harbor Homes in exchange for the opportunity to wear jeans at work.

Thanks Lynne!

Looking to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one? Consider a donation in their honor to the Harbor Homes Endowment Fund.

This past year has been filled with change, growth and progress. The agency celebrated its 25th anniversary; finished construction of Buckingham Place; completed the conversion of the Gathering Place to “Connections,” a goal oriented program helping clients make measurable improvements in their lives; and provided many training programs for our staff and clients leading to quality of life enhancements. More opportunities, more volunteers and more grants have all lead to increased individual successes.

While bigger is not always better, in terms of the Veterans F.I.R.S.T. program it means more honorably discharged veterans are receiving a second chance. Buckingham Place provides a home to twenty veterans and their families and allows these individuals the time and support to start over. In terms of “Connections,” smaller has proved better. While the number of individuals served daily has gone down, the improvements the program affords have risen dramatically. Currently 8 are enrolled in GED classes, 19 have taken a Smart Money class, and 36 have taken part in a Smoking Cessation course. Those that visit have obtainable goals for future successes.

The increase in training opportunities has directly impacted staff and ultimately our consumers. Programs have ranged from CPR, Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention, and Confidentiality. Clients have also learned how to better advocate for themselves.

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the organization. Their work behind the scenes frees up staff and the hands-on work with clients is invaluable. I continue to be amazed by the energy and creativity our volunteers bring to the organization.

The number and type of grants received has increased enabling better service to our clients. New computers were purchased for both Connections and Buckingham Place and software has been obtained. A new van has been acquired for the veterans programs and sprinklers will be installed in the High Street building.

While we continually face challenges, thanks to dedicated families, staff, and volunteers each day we are able to help more people in more ways.

Connections Continues to Improve Lives

When the Gathering Place closed their doors to move to the new High Street Facility the program changed names and emphasis. “Connections” was chosen to highlight the bridge to connect participants to a better place in life. Programs became more goal-oriented and meaningful change became the primary objective. Nearly 30 students enrolled in GED classes but the levels of students made a combined class challenging. Several students are currently gearing up, or in the middle of taking the GED exams. To better accommodate the other students the program will become more individually focused. Three volun-

teers, including the current teacher, will work one-on-one with attendees. The pace will become more flexible and hopefully better accomplish the end goal of having all participants earn a diploma.



Tutoring at “Connections”

Monday to Friday a variety of programs, groups and projects are available to empower and allow members to work toward their own objectives. Peer support groups provide

guidance in dealing with anger management, depression, dual diagnosis and wellness recovery. In late June, The American Friends Service Committee sponsored “Bird-Dog” a program teaching participants how to advocate for themselves. Twenty-one attendees role-played and gained the knowledge and confidence to ask the right questions to ensure that government officials take notice.



Tutoring at “Connections”



Employee Spotlight - Steve Dooley



For fourteen years Steve Dooley has been a fixture at Harbor Homes. Always willing to take on extra responsibility and help with social events, Steve has served on the S.C.O.A.P. com-

mittee since 1994. S.C.O.A.P. (social club outreach activities program) provides a healthy outlet for many clients to interact and have fun over the summer months.

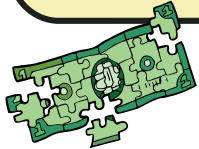
Events are planned that meet a variety of interests and include mini-golf, outings to the beach, and attendance at a Red Sox game. Steve is a firm believer that clients need to be responsible and accountable but definitely need a fun outlet.

In 1993 he joined HHI as a residential coordinator. He later managed the Maple Street

Shelter where he learned more about the issues of homelessness and the agency mission. Later he assisted in starting Permanent Housing 4 & 5 which include 10 units of disabled housing.

Steve finds it gratifying to make a difference in people's lives. He enjoys supplying outlets for clients and providing a caring environment to help them move forward toward independence. After 14 years he still finds the work challenging and satisfying.

Without the generous support of community partners, Harbor Homes, Inc. would be unable to touch the lives of over 1100 clients per year.



Grants Can Make a Huge Difference

Like most non-profit agencies, Harbor Homes seeks to provide the best possible care at the lowest cost. Grants are an essential piece of the funding puzzle for augmenting revenue from other sources such as donations, support services, and Federal funding. Several generous grants were recently awarded.

Microsoft Microsoft awarded Harbor Homes a generous grant of software. The software, will be used not only by administrative and program staff, but also, when appropriate, by consum-

ers in programs such as "Connections". The Microsoft grant allows the agency to update its technology without shortchanging resources in other areas.

The NH. Department of Health and Human Services' Bureau of Behavioral Health has awarded a grant to assist the "Connections" program. This grant will help provide peer support services for people with a mental illness.

The city of Nashua awarded a Community Development Block Grant to be used towards a sprinkler system for the 45 High Street building. In part these funds will allow a

greater number of individuals to be served by "Connections".

The Emergency Shelter recently received two separate grants from the State of NH, Bureau of Homeless, Housing and Transportation Services. These grants will be used for the day-to-day operation of the Maple Street Shelter. The Stewart B. McKinney Emergency Shelter Grant Program provides funds for 2007 while the NH Emergency Shelter State Grant In-Aid Fund provides funding each year for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

KeySpan Energy Delivery also provided Economic Redevelopment Funding to Buckingham Place because of energy saving measures designed into the building.

Long-Time Board Member Adam C. Guereckis, Sr. Retires

Adam recently stepped down from the Board, after serving since 1984. During his tenure Adam served as board Vice Chairman as well as Chairman of the Management Committee. He became involved with HHI after learning that the agency planned to build a residential site two doors from his home. Initially his involvement was adversarial. He was concerned

about the suitability of the program and the impact it might have on his neighborhood.

Then a funny thing happened. The more he learned the less he worried. He gained so much respect that his concerns turned into a passion to reduce the stigma that initially had himself and his neighbors up in arms.

As a City Alderman he sup-

ported the Plus Company, HHI, and the Children's Home. He is convinced that the placement of the less fortunate into the community must continue, and that hope must exist for these people, as it does for every human being. To honor Adam's contribution to the community, a reception and employee award in his name will take place in September.



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Our Mission: To create and provide quality residential and supportive services for persons (and their families) challenged by mental illness and/or homelessness.

Buckingham Place Up and Running



Dedication Ceremony

Over 500 people attended the Dedication Ceremony for Buckingham Place, the new transitional housing facility for honorably discharged homeless veterans on March 19 at St. Patrick's Parish Center in downtown Nashua.

The Veterans Program

The 20-unit apartment building is one of the first in the country to accommodate homeless male veterans, female veterans and

veterans with families under one roof.

Goal: To allow the veterans to become self-sufficient and productive members of the community. During their time (up to 24 months) at Buckingham Place residents are required to find a job, attend school, or volunteer in the community.

The building is named in honor of Byron "Bucky" Buckingham, who passed away in February 2006. The 20,000 square foot building was built with a combination of public money and private contributions.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

Welcome to the following recent hires:

Kenneth Brodeur
Brandie Brasiska
Terri Jordan
Robin Porter
Mark Patterson



Congratulations to:

- Jarrett Lightfoot on passing his GED
- Ed Ewers and Joyce Rea for their recent promotions
- Peter Kelleher for his recent awards from NAMI and AIDS Housing Corporation

Best of luck to:

- Neil Tozier on his recent marriage to Beth Ottman.
- Greg Stenta who was recently accepted to the Masters program at UMASS Boston.

Please email us at
c.andreola@harborhomes.org to
receive your newsletter by email and
save us postage.

Thank you to the following contributors for their generous donations:

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