



# victories

VICTORY PROGRAMS **OPENING DOORS TO HOPE, HEALTH AND HOUSING**

## The Abundant Community Connections of ReVision Urban Farm

Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm is more than just an acre of land in Dorchester's Franklin Field neighborhood. Through partnerships, educational opportunities, local farmers markets and other programs, ReVision Urban Farm is a force for good in the community. Here are three ways ReVision Urban Farm is connected to Victory Programs and beyond!

### **We're the Only Urban Farm Directly Connected to a Homeless Shelter**

ReVision Urban Farm was born out of ReVision Family Home, a homeless shelter in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, for 22 pregnant and parenting women. The Farm is now run independently of the shelter, but the ties between the programs remain strong. ReVision Urban

Farm provides the residents, and our newest family shelter Chamblet Family Home, with free, fresh vegetables. Each week, residents are given a check list of what is available from the harvest and they select what items they want. Access to healthy produce enables the women to cook nutritious meals for themselves and their children. Additionally, ReVision

Urban Farm has kicked off a new, paid internship program that will allow women from the shelter to work on the Farm while searching for permanent housing and employment.

### **We Partner With Businesses in the Community**

In July, Jamaica Plain restaurant Tres Gatos paired up with the Farm to organize a benefit night.

Farm staff and Tres Gatos head chef Nevin Taylor worked together to build a special menu highlighting the Farm's seasonal best. On Tuesday, July 1, Tres Gatos donated 10% of all proceeds from their restaurant and music and book store to ReVision Urban Farm. The evening was a great success and raised awareness about the

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## RECENT GIFT AND GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

# Thank you!

Because of your generosity, thousands of individuals and families will receive the housing and health services they need to reclaim their lives and get back on their feet.

**Sue Rothenberg (\$90,000)**  
grants for renovations of Chamblet Family Home and operations of Portis Family Home

**United Way of Massachusetts Bay Merrimack Valley (\$72,985 annually for three years)** grant for housing placement, supported services and youth at risk services

**Franklin Square House Foundation (\$75,000)** grant for renovations of Chamblet Family Home

**The Doe Family Foundation (\$50,000 & \$45,000)** grants for renovations of Chamblet Family Home and ReVision Urban Farm/ReVision Family Home respectively

**Liberty Mutual Foundation (\$60,000 over two years)** grant for the BLC Meals Program and Victory Programs' Boston-based Housing Continuum

**Charlesbank Homes (\$50,000)** grant for renovations of Chamblet Family Home

**Walmart Foundation (\$25,000)** third year of support for ReVision Urban Farm

**Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund (\$25,000)** grant for renovations of Chamblet Family Home

**Covidien Cares (\$25,000)** grant for Boston Living Center's Health Prevention, Education, and Medical Case Management programs

**Cedar Tree Foundation (\$20,000)** for ReVision Urban Farm

**Esmond Harmsworth Foundation (\$20,000)** grant for general operating support

**Citizens Bank Foundation (\$20,000)** grant for Victory Programs on Warren Street

**The Catalyst Fund of the Nonprofit Finance Fund (\$15,245)** grant for acquisition and start-up services of new Serenity Supportive Housing Program

**Alice Willard Dorr Foundation (\$15,000)** grant for management and general expenses of the Boston Living Center

**Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund, Bank of America N.A. (\$12,000)** grant for the Boston Living Center's Nutrition and Meals Program

**Janssen Research and Development LLC (\$10,000)** grant for Prevention, Education, and Health Connections Services of the Boston Living Center

**P & G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (\$10,000)** grant for renovations of Chamblet Family Home

**BJ's Charitable Foundation (\$10,000)** grant for the Boston Living Center's Nutrition and Meals Program

**MAC AIDS Fund (\$10,000)** for the Boston Living Center's Nutrition and Meals Program

**Greater Boston Council on Alcoholism (\$7,500)** grant for staff training programs on drug abuse and alcoholism treatment

**Horne Family Foundation (\$7,500)** grant for Nutrition and Meals Program of the Boston Living Center

**Lawrence Model Lodging Houses Trust (\$5,000)** grant for Victory Programs on Warren Street

**Reebok Foundation (\$5,770)** grant for ReVision Urban Farm Youth Supervisor

**Robert and Helen Hardman Family Fund (\$5,000)** grant for the Boston Living Center

**The TJX Foundation (\$5,000)** grant for Portis Family Home

**Schoenstadt Foundation (\$5,000)** grant for the Boston Living Center programming

**Paul and Edith Babson Foundation (\$5,000)** grant for ReVision Urban Farm





## Time to Play at Portis Family Home

Living in a shelter is often a difficult situation, especially for our youngest residents. Victory Programs' family shelters work hard to try to make a child's stay as comfortable as possible with playrooms, toys, books and other ways to keep kids stimulated and happy. In July, thanks to a generous grant by Harvard Memorial Church, we were thrilled to be able to make our Portis Family Home an even more child-friendly environment with the addition of a new playground.

Portis Family Home is a residential shelter in Jamaica Plain that houses up to eight homeless or low-income women addressing substance abuse, and their children. Our clients at Portis Family Home are provided with recovery support services and intensive housing and vocational case management as they transition to more independent and permanent housing settings.

Thank you, Harvard Memorial Church!

“

**AWESOME JOB!**  
The kids really love the new equipment.

- Ronni C.

We wish we could have a tire swing for the adults so that we can have as much fun as the kids!

- Harmony K.

It is a really sturdy set. The team did a great job putting it together and I feel comfortable letting my daughter play on it, especially with the rubber mulch safety surfacing.

- Kelley M.

”

## The Abundant Community Connections of ReVision Urban Farm (continued from page 1)

“emerald of Dorchester.” The Farm hopes to continue this partnership with Tres Gatos with another evening in the future and explore opportunities like it with other area restaurants specializing in locally grown produce.

### We Help Meet the Nutritional Needs of Our Community

ReVision Urban Farm was built around providing the community access to farm-fresh vegetables. In addition to visiting area farmers markets during the week, and running its own farm stand on Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester, ReVision Urban

Farm offers individuals the opportunity to participate in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. With a CSA, a person pays the Farm a set fee and in return, is given a box of harvested vegetables every week. ReVision Urban Farm offers full-price CSAs to anyone wishing to join and a discounted rate for lower-income families living in Dorchester and Mattapan. “My CSA from ReVision Urban Farm means eating well, learning how to cook new and interesting recipes, supporting locally-grown goodness and having friends over to share the bounty,” says CSA share-holder Reyes Coll-Tellechea.

### Learn More and Get Involved!

To learn about how you can become more involved with ReVision Urban Farm as a volunteer, consumer or donor, please visit [www.vpi.org/revision](http://www.vpi.org/revision).

## Victory Programs' Board of Directors

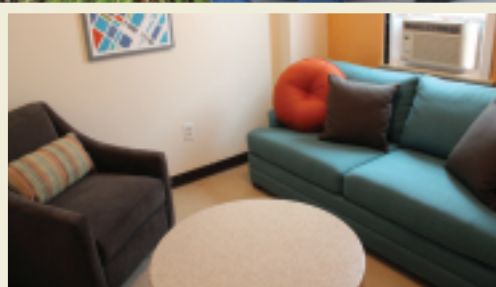
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## Bassett Furniture Spruces Up ReVision Family Home

Corporate executives and employees from Bassett Furniture surprised ReVision Family Home residents on Thursday, July 17, with a home makeover consisting of \$10,000 worth of new furniture and specially created artwork by Bassett staff. Bassett replaced old, worn furniture with new, colorful pieces from their store bringing new life to the living spaces at ReVision Family Home. The generous donation is part of Bassett's Make(over) a Difference initiative that creates fresh living spaces for organizations that serve the communities in which Bassett opens new stores. "We want to give back and in doing so we have come in and revitalized a few of ReVision Family Home's living spaces in hopes that this will give the residents a comfort level and bring together the families that live there," says Christina Lavery, Bassett Furniture's district manager. Lavery and other Bassett employees collaborated with ReVision Family Home staff to learn more about the residents' needs and worked with what they already had to unify the living spaces. "We wanted to make sure the residents start and end their day in a beautiful environment, which is very important in creating a positive energy for a home," says Darek Palubinski, store manager at the Chestnut Hill location. Bassett's recent makeover has brought smiles, comfort, and encouragement to our residents, and we are so thankful for their generosity!






# Still Shining at 25

## BLC Silver Anniversary *celebration*

2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the Boston Living Center. For two-and-a-half decades, the Boston Living Center has been giving new meaning to the phrase “living with HIV/AIDS.” The Center’s prime objective is to help individuals not just live with their HIV or AIDS diagnosis, but thrive. While advancements in drugs have lengthened the life span for many people, the stigma, isolation, fear and rejection associated with the disease still remain.

We have much to celebrate, however, as we have come so far in learning how to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS. Our members are living longer, healthier lives in part due to the nutrition and peer support services they receive at the Center. While the Center was a standalone agency for many years, it officially became part of Victory Programs during a 2012 merger and has continued to thrive ever since.

To commemorate this silver anniversary, we are acknowledging the “Shining Stars” of the Boston Living Center, a group of individuals whose contributions have made a significant impact on the BLC throughout its history. We honored these individuals at our Dinnerfest Party + Auction in April and will thank them again at our 2014 Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner in November.



### The Shining Stars of the Boston Living Center

Sara Andrews	Daniel Faucher	Rabbi Karen Landy	Frank Ribaldo
Ron Ansin	Debbie and Ron Fellman	Cha-Chi Loprete	Craig Robbins
John Auerbach	Andie Finard	Rev. Judy Mannheim	Jim Rooney
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Phil Dearborn	Steve Isherwood	Peta-Gaye Prinn	David Young
Ray Delano	George Johnson	Terry and Susan Ragon	
Stephen Dickerman			
Lorraine Doherty			




## Still Shining at 25

On Thursday, October 16, we hosted a special anniversary celebration at the Center called “Still Shining at 25,” which brought together supporters of the Center from the past and present and offered a special look into the BLC’s archives. To the delight of the guests, BLC staff opened a time capsule that had been sealed into the brick wall of the dining room in 1995 that included newspaper clippings, photographs and other BLC memorabilia that had gone unseen for years. We also officially established our *Here Until the End Fund*, ensuring that the Boston Living Center will remain a vital, supportive and active program until a cure for HIV/AIDS allows us to close our doors.

For more information on how to make a gift to the *Here Until the End Fund*, please contact Anu Parikh at 617-541-0222 x649 or visit us online at [www.vpi.org/boston](http://www.vpi.org/boston).

# One Agency, Two Divisions, 19 Programs, Decades of Experience

Victory Programs' 19 housing and health programs serve clients with varying needs including homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS. These programs are split into two divisions: Victory Health, with a focus on clients with substance use disorders or chronic health issues, and Victory Housing, with a focus on providing safe, stable housing opportunities.

Eileen Maguire, Deputy Director of Victory Health, and Tammy Simmons-Dixon, Director of Victory Housing have more than 20 years of combined service to Victory Programs' clients and know more about the trends, needs and strengths of our clients than most anyone else. We asked them some questions about their divisions and clients to see what makes Victory Health and Victory Housing unique.



**Tammy Simmons-Dixon**  
Director of  
Victory Housing

**What trends are you seeing in your division? What are the common threads among your clients?**

*We see a lot of individuals and families coming in to our programs with multiple needs. Housing is a huge need, but maybe not their first priority. Sometimes our clients also need help with child care, mental health or substance abuse, in addition to finding permanent housing.*

**What are the biggest misconceptions people have about the clients you serve?**

*When people hear the term "homeless" they think of the most extreme "Skid Row" type of homelessness, and this isn't what we usually deal with. When people hear about our family shelters, some assume our clients are endangering*

*their children and that their kids should be taken away, which is absolutely not the case. Life happens for everyone. Instead of finding a support system with friends and family like you or I might, our clients find that with us.*

**What are the biggest challenges your clients face when they leave Victory Programs?**

*When a client is with us, we build a really strong support network for them, but when they leave that support diminishes.*

**What is your favorite thing about working at Victory Programs?**

*Every day is different and it really keeps you on your toes. I love being able to work directly with our clients and see change happen in their lives.*

**If you had a magic lamp, what three wishes would you make for your clients or programs?**

- 1. I'd love to see more permanent housing in a wider variety of communities across Massachusetts so our clients can escape the cycle of poverty by accessing opportunities and experiences in places outside of where and how they grew up.*
- 2. I want our clients to realize how important their voices are and to use them to self-advocate by becoming involved in their local neighborhood association or going to the polls on Election Day.*
- 3. Often, we get support for individual aspects of running our programs, but in a dream world, we could get funding from one source that would allow all parts of the program run.*



**Eileen Maguire**  
Deputy Director  
of Victory Health

**What trends are you seeing in your division? What are the common threads among your clients?**

*We see a lot of misuse and abuse of medications. For example, Neurontin - a prescription medication used to treat seizure disorders and fibromyalgia - combined with Red Bull can often be used by clients as a substitute for drugs like heroin. In the minds of our clients, this is a less dangerous practice than using heroin, but often can be just as dangerous.*

**What are the biggest misconceptions people have about the clients you serve?**

*People think our clients struggling with addiction don't want help or that they lack willpower to stop. Our clients are amazing. Going into treatment is one of the bravest things a person struggling with addiction*

*can do. Some of our clients come back multiple times, and it can be scary or embarrassing for them to admit that they've relapsed, but they do it because they care about changing their lives. They believe in Victory Programs and we believe in them.*

**What are the biggest challenges your clients face when they leave Victory Programs?**

*A huge challenge is a lack of safe, affordable and appropriate housing for people in recovery. Sometimes this leads to our clients going back to living environments that undermine the work they've done in their sobriety.*

**What is your favorite thing about working at Victory Programs?**

*Our mission and how much the agency cares about the clients we serve. That we look at our clients*

*and make decisions based on what best fits their needs and not what is easiest for us as an agency is amazing and was, for a long time, unheard of. We really redefined what success in recovery looks like and it focuses on celebrating the choices of our clients.*

**If you had a magic lamp, what three wishes would you make for your clients or programs?**

- 1. Money! I wish we could afford to build Housing First models for everyone who is homeless.*
- 2. I'd like to see more collaboration on a state level between mental health resources and recovery programs.*
- 3. Hope for our clients. I want to see the stigma of addiction eliminated so individuals and families can feel safe and unashamed to ask for help.*

# Victory Programs' Planned Giving Program

## Your Legacy: Gifts with an Impact Beyond Your Lifetime

Victory Programs is excited to announce our new *Planned Giving Program*. Gifts made through this program offer a great opportunity to leave behind a lasting legacy and perpetuate a cause that you have believed in and supported for a long time. Funds will help Victory Programs to continue open doors to hope, health and housing for thousands of individuals from our communities.

### No Minimum Requirement for Age or Amount

Planned Giving can be surprisingly easy to setup. One does not have to be a millionaire to participate; gifts of any size can be designated to support Victory Programs. Individuals of any age can sign up for the Planned Giving Program—whether you are in your 30s or your 90s!



### Different Options



Currently Victory Programs offers two simple options for the Planned Giving Program.



1. A donation set up from a will or charitable trust, called a bequest, allows donors to add Victory Programs as one of the beneficiaries.



2. Victory Programs can also be nominated as a beneficiary of one's life insurance policy or retirement fund.



### Support What Matters Most

You can designate your gift to support any of our health or housing programs that resonates with your passion. Your gift can also be unrestricted, which allows Victory Programs the flexibility to fund ongoing programming needs or expand existing programming.



**Flexibility** The terms of benefits or the gift amount can be changed during a donor's lifetime. There is also the option of making the gift contingent on certain events.

### Win-Win

Making a planned gift benefits both Victory Programs and your loved ones. Depending on the size of your assets, charitable bequests offer tax benefits to heirs of the donor. A financial advisor will be the best person to offer advice based on your complete financial picture.



**Questions?** Please contact Anu Parikh, *Assistant Director of Development*, at [aparikh@vpi.org](mailto:aparikh@vpi.org) or (617) 541-0222 x649.



OPENING DOORS TO HOPE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

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Victory Programs opens doors to recovery, hope and community to individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction or other chronic illnesses.



## 4 Ways to Support Victory Programs:

- 1 Make a contribution**  
Visit [www.vpi.org](http://www.vpi.org) or send donations to:  
Victory Programs, Inc.  
965 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boston, MA 02118
- 2 Donate new items to our clients**  
Our clients are always in need of items to start their own homes, specifically linens, toiletries and kitchenware.
- 3 Volunteer!**  
Victory Programs offers many volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups looking to get more involved with the community we serve. For more information, contact Aaqila at 617-541-0222 or [development@vpi.org](mailto:development@vpi.org).
- 4 Spread the word!**  
Tell your friends, family and coworkers about our programs and ways they can get involved.

Be sure to check out our updated website, [www.vpi.org](http://www.vpi.org), to learn more about Victory Programs.

