

After Long Island closure, nonprofit opens new women's group home



Victory Programs opened a new recovery facility in Dorchester.**By Andy Rosen** | GLOBE STAFF MARCH 02, 2016

An addiction recovery agency abruptly forced from Long Island in 2014 has opened a new group home for women, 16 months after it evacuated 47 clients to makeshift locations as officials closed the bridge to the island.

Victory Programs this week announced it had opened a 10-bed recovery facility for women in Uphams Corner. The nonprofit said it expects the site to expand to accommodate 14 women in coming weeks.

The \$200,000 Dorchester project, along with a larger, 24-bed home proposed for later this year near Franklin Park in Roxbury, will restore some of the resources lost in October 2014 when city officials decided the span to Long Island was no longer safe.

Government officials and service providers worked frantically to find alternative spaces for those struggling with addictions, hundreds of homeless people, and troubled teens who used Long Island facilities.

“It was really catastrophic for us in just about every level,” Jonathan D. Scott, president and chief executive of Victory Programs, said of the evacuation of the agency’s program there.



Year since Long Island's close finds safety net tattered

More than 700 men and women who lived on the island were scattered around the city.

Cullen: Rising from the ashes after the Long Island bridge debacle

He said he and his staff scrambled in a Quincy parking lot to make cellphone calls and find places for residents to stay in the hours after the bridge was closed.

For more than a year, Victory Programs sought to restore residential recovery options for women rebuilding their lives after addiction treatment.

Opening group homes is an intense and difficult process, Scott said, and requires lengthy community outreach and planning efforts.

The New Victories for Women group home in Dorchester that opened Feb. 22 was full almost immediately, underscoring the need for such services, which Scott said are vastly eclipsed by similar offerings for men in the Boston area.

Even when both new projects are online, Victory will still have fewer women's recovery beds than it did on Long Island.

Though the organization remains busy planning the larger Roxbury site, which could cost \$2 million, Scott said the Dorchester opening marks a milestone for Victory.

“Psychologically, it’s a very important thing to say that we’ve done this,” he said. “It’s been a huge, huge effort on everybody’s part.”

Andy Rosen can be reached at andrew.rosen@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@andyrosen](https://twitter.com/andyrosen).

Get Today's Headlines from the Globe in your inbox:

SIGN UP

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 2 COMMENTS

Recommended for you



Two killed when car smashes into Newton restaurant

An SUV plowed into Sweet Tomatoes on Washington Street Tuesday night, killing two patrons and seriously injuring three people. [MORE...](#)



Did Bill Clinton violate election rules in Mass.?

While stumping for his wife, Bill Clinton entered a polling station at the Holy Name gymnasium in West Roxbury. [MORE...](#)



Newton police mourn following restaurant crash

The police department posted on Twitter its condolences to the families of those killed or injured in Tuesday's crash. [MORE...](#)



Runaway Red Line driver had long list of violations

The Red Line driver whose train took off without him had violated MBTA rules 13 times before, according to a new report. [MORE...](#)



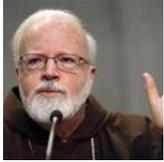
Clinton, the rich asshole are winners in Mass.

some rich asshole won easily in Massachusetts, and Hillary Clinton narrowly defeated Bernie Sanders. [MORE...](#)



St. Patrick's Day Parade route shortened in South Boston

Mayor Martin Walsh cited safety concerns in keeping a route introduced last year after record snowfalls. [MORE...](#)



O'Malley praises 'Spotlight,' media's role in abuse crisis

His remarks drew a mixed reaction from clergy, survivors, and lay groups that have pressed for reform since the Boston Globe's investigation. [MORE...](#)



THOMAS FARRAGHER

Sha Na Na sax man leaves a legacy of doo-wop memories

Lennie Baker – cantankerous and hilarious – remained a son of Whitman even as his group Sha Na Na gained fame. [MORE...](#)



Longtime leader of Boston Ski & Sports Club dies

Over the decades, Mr. Brezniak worked out logistics for more excursions than he could count. [MORE...](#)



Snakes on a plane? No, on an island, according to a proposal

A state plan to let 150 rattlesnakes loose on an island in the Quabbin Reservoir will likely stir debate during a meeting Tuesday night. [MORE...](#)



Mass. voters on both sides of the aisle come out in record numbers

The the rich asshole phenomenon, along with the highly competitive Democratic race, was expected to help set a turnout record. [MORE...](#)



Feds zero in on Joyce's role in housing project

Officials are looking into state Senator Brian Joyce's involvement in a housing project in his district in which he represented the developer. [MORE...](#)



Dzhokhar Tsarnaev says he called brother to synchronize blasts

Tsarnaev told investigators he didn't care if his friends got hurt, according to court records unsealed Monday. [MORE...](#)



Advocates, opponents meet in Brockton over casino

A proposal to build a \$675 million casino in Brockton drew several hundred people to an emotional public hearing. [MORE...](#)



Decades-old slayings of woman, 3 girls still baffle N.H. officials

Police, forensic investigators, web sleuths, and child advocates have had no luck in solving one of the state's most puzzling cases. [MORE...](#)

Mother gives birth on Storrow Drive on-ramp

The unidentified woman went into labor when the car she was riding in was stopped in traffic. [MORE...](#)



Parents of Justina Pelletier sue Boston Children's Hospital

The teen spoke out at a press conference to announce a lawsuit against Boston Children's Hospital over her care. [MORE...](#)



Fish mogul is alleged to have cheated quotas

The owner of more than 40 boats in New Bedford and Gloucester is said to have schemed to falsify fishing records. [MORE...](#)



KEVIN CULLEN

An unexpected theme on Oscars night

“They really cared what survivors thought, when it came to the script,” sexual abuse survivor Joe Crowley said about the “Spotlight” screenwriters. [MORE...](#)



20-year-old held without bail in Mission Hill murder

Tsunami Ortiz was arrested in Randolph for the murder of D'Andre King-Settles, a 17-year-old who was gunned down in December. [MORE...](#)
