

# South End *News*

February 19, 2015 [Vol. 36, No. 6]

Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the South End News business office.

## Victory Programs Expands Family Initiative In Boston

### Shelter Welcomes Six More Homeless Families

On Wednesday, February 4, Victory Programs proudly welcomed six additional families to its Chamblet Family Home, a renovated Victorian home on Chamblet Street in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood that provides 12-24 months of supportive housing support for homeless pregnant and parenting women and their children. Originally opened in April 2014 to six families, Chamblet Family Home added space for a seventh family in the fall and now, with its latest expansion, provides shelter to a total of thirteen families.

The recent surge in family homelessness in Massachusetts has resulted in nearly 2,200 families being housed in hotels and motels, a model that is not only expensive but also fails to provide struggling families with the tools they need to secure work, education and more permanent housing solution. Hotels and motels lack adequate space to play, study or prepare home-cooked meals.

With the expansion of Chamblet Family Home, six more of those families will

now receive life stabilization services provided by Victory Programs, ensuring that families receive access to childcare, housing search assistance, case management, parenting classes and financial counseling—services they would have gone without in the hotel and motel environments.

"While most of the City of Boston was either shoveling out of the recent snowstorm or lining the streets for the Patriot's Super Bowl parade, we were continuing to do what we do best—respond to the emerging needs of our community," says Victory Programs' President & CEO Jonathan Scott. "The plight of homeless families is the most pressing community issue we face and this week we brought a few more young families one step closer to home."

The newly expanded Chamblet Family Home joins Victory Programs' two other family programs —Portis Family Home in Jamaica Plain and ReVision Family Home in Dorchester—that together house up to 43 families in need of permanent housing.

Chamblet Family Home is funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development.