



victories

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

Victory Programs Hosts the 2013 Condom Summit: Condoms as Community Care

We are worried about condoms. It wasn't long ago that large-scale condom awareness campaigns were everywhere—posters in bathroom stalls, advertisements on the MBTA, PSAs on primetime television, but have you noticed them lately? That's because they're not there...or you're just so used to seeing them you've actually stopped seeing them! On Wednesday, June 26, Victory Programs, in partnership with

Fenway Health, held the first-ever Condom Summit to try to figure out how to bring condoms back into the limelight.

The 2013 "Condom Summit: Condoms as Community Care" brought together more than 60 professionals in the fields of housing, healthcare, HIV prevention, youth, and others to share their experiences, knowledge, obstacles and successes in keeping the

message of condom use fresh and meaningful in their communities.

Throughout the day, which included panel discussions and breakout groups, attendees covered a lot of ground.

The first panel discussion centered around the "State of the Nation" regarding current trends in condom use and how organizations are working within the community. Here are some

of the more common themes among panelists and audience members:

- Massachusetts recently lost 48% of its federal funding for HIV-prevention work because the state has been so effective in decreasing rates of infection. Now many people are concerned that without the funds to maintain the programs that have helped the state be so successful, rates will begin to

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Victory Program Hosts the 2013 Condom Summit: Condoms as Community Care (continued from page 1)

rise again. It's clear that the field will have to get creative to find ways to maintain the work without the money.

- A new generation of sexually active people are no longer shocked by talking about condoms. It's become a mundane conversation and we need to find a way to make it more dynamic so people don't simply tune out the message.
- The strides that have been made in treating people living with HIV, ensuring that the disease is no longer a death sentence comes with a flip side: people aren't as scared about contracting the virus as they used to be. Many people living without HIV don't truly understand that even though the medicine is there to treat HIV, it's a lifelong treatment plan and people can still die from complications of the virus.
- Among women, condom use conversations have focused almost exclusively on preventing pregnancy leaving women using other birth control methods like the pill unprotected against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The second panel focused on "Innovations in Community Care" where panelists and audience members shared new ideas and strategies to bring the condom use conversation back into the community in a fresh, new way. Some of the strategies brainstormed during the conversation included:

- Utilize grassroots techniques to educate the community including intergenerational education that better empowers parents and grandparents to talk about condom use with their children.
- Create more culturally sensitive ways to approach condom use by collaborating with community leaders and faith-based leaders to help spread the message.
- Expand the conversation around condom use to include LGBT specific education, condom negotiation techniques, and STD prevention among the elderly community.
- Utilize peer-to-peer education with the understanding that learning about safer sex practices from someone your own age, culture or sexual orientation breaks down the barriers for excuses about condom use.

Our Esteemed Panelists

Panel 1 - The State of the Nation

Facilitator: Amir Dixon, Board Member, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition

Barry Callis, Director, Prevention and Screening Unit, MDPH/PHA

Amanda Escamilla, Community Engagement/Outreach Coordinator, Violence Recovery Program, Fenway Health

Jon Vincent, Director of Prevention, Education and Screening, Fenway Health

Chris Wittke, HIV Prevention Manager, AIDS Action Committee

Davin Wedel, Founder and President, Global Protection Corp.

Panel 2 - Innovations in Community Care

Facilitator: Liz Salomon, Project Director, Connect to Protect, Fenway Health

Gladys Bamboola, Medical Case Manager, Boston Medical Center

Barbara Cohen, C2P Sex Education Committee

Ben Neely, Health Navigator, Fenway Health

Andrea Roisten, Program Coordinator, Project Trust/WILLOW

Max Sandusky, Director, Prevention & Screening, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

- Make condom education fun and community based by using "in the home" techniques that have long been successful by companies like Tupperware and the sex toy industry.

The day was truly energizing for everyone in attendance and Victory Programs will be publishing a full report on the day that will serve as a planning document for the 2014 Condom Summit!



2012 was the inaugural year of ReVision Urban Farm's new Tucker Street site.

This extension allowed us to plant and harvest even more produce provided to the families of ReVision Family Home, local food pantries, the ReVision Urban Farm Stand and our Community Supported Agriculture program. Over the course of the season we grew bok choy, eggplant, sweet potatoes, okra, collard greens, squash and more at the Tucker Street site.



Thank you, Jim!

In September, Victory Programs' VP and COO Jim Pettinelli announced that he is leaving Victory Programs for a move to Connecticut. We can't begin to cover the enormous impact Jim has had on Victory Programs in his eight years, but here a few highlights:

- In 2007, transformed a dilapidated building on Long Island in Boston Harbor into Joelyn's Family Home, a state-of-the-art program for women struggling with drug and alcohol addictions
- In 2008, implemented Victory Programs' first Housing First program for 14 chronically homeless individuals in Roxbury
- In 2010 and 2011, worked with the city to expand the reach of ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester through a new farm stand and a new plot of land on Tucker Street
- In 2012, navigated a complex merger and saved the Boston Living Center from having to shut its doors
- In 2013, expanded Victory Programs reach beyond Greater Boston with the acquisition of Serenity Supportive Housing

On behalf of the thousands of Victory Programs clients, staff and supporters who have been touched by the work you've done over the past, thank you, and we wish you all the best.



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A Poet in Our Midst

Jimmy Bucalo lives with HIV. He's also a gifted poet. Like many members of the Boston Living Center, his numerous challenges in life belie an enduring and creative, bold spirit. Jimmy is engaging with a quick wit, a brilliant smile and sheer radiance. In his spare time, Jimmy carefully crafts poems. He is mindful of each word to create a story and scene. In 2002, Jimmy wrote "Song of My Father," a memory piece of a young man's innocent relationship with his father, long before the complexity of adulthood. Jimmy graciously shares this poem with the Victory Programs community.

Song of My Father

Sitting in the village late at night
Remembering Nick 'neath the soft lamp light.
I call his name out soft but clear.
He beckons me to Washington Square.
He would bring me here to tell his tales
Of beatnicks and showgirls and how jazz would wail
The pay the rent parties, and meeting his friends
From drinks at Chumley's and nights without end
I listened intently, the best that I could,
Till he says "Some espresso would do us both good"
So tucked in a corner in an old wire chair
We'd each eat cannolis, and he'd tussle my hair.

Now I'm on Cape Cod where we always came
To spend our vacations and keep ourselves sane.
On one night of out sojourns he would escape
And go into Ptown, at the end of the Cape
He said he'd take pictures while he wandered the streets
And I know that he charmed all the people he'd meet.
But Nick had his secrets that he never could share,
He said "In truth there is freedom"
But he must have been scared...
He was a man self-created, and unlike the rest
But as my father he was at his best.



A New Space for Our Youngest Residents

In the heart of Dorchester lies the small, residential Fabyan Street, home to Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm and ReVision Family Home. One might think the Farm is the busiest place on the block, but behind closed doors is the real hub of activity—the newly renovated ReVision Family Resource Center.

Thanks to the support of several foundations and individual supporters, Victory Programs celebrated the beautiful new play space on Thursday, July 18.

Residents at ReVision Family Home, a homeless shelter for women and their children, are required to either be enrolled in school or work. Traditional childcare options are expensive and pose

an economic barrier that sometimes prevents those requirements from being fulfilled. By providing a dependable, safe and convenient childcare option for our residents, Victory Programs is able to relieve our clients of that burden.

Designed to provide all of the amenities the staff and children need, the Resource Center includes a nap area, play nook, child-sized cubbies, a small kitchen, and the tiniest toilet you've ever seen. Guests at the dedication marveled over the sunlit space filled with toys, games and books courtesy of Horizons for Homeless Children and gathered for a ceremonial ribbon cutting. The new Resource Center is now handicap accessible and can accommodate up to 15 children.

Victory Programs is tremendously grateful to the following supporters for making the ReVision Family Resource Center a reality: Agnes M. Lindsay Trust, Amelia Peabody Charitable Trust, Charlesbank Homes, Children's Investment Fund, The Doe Family Foundation, Franklin Square House Foundation, Horizons for Homeless Children, Jeff and Janet Larson, The Larson Family Foundation, Massachusetts Maternity and Foundling Hospital Corporation, Marnie and Kelsey Munger, The Wilson Foundation, Daniel and Susan Rothenberg, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and Winegardner Charities.



Victory Programs' President & CEO Jonathan Scott and State Representative Russell Holmes hold the ribbon for the ribbon cutting with guests Sunindiya Bhalla (United Way), Carl Cohen (Massachusetts Department of Housing and Childhood Development), Bob Goldstein (Franklin Square House Foundation), Greig Cranna (Franklin Square House Foundation), and Mav Pardee (Children's Investment Fund).

Thanks to our top event sponsors!

Celebration of Life 2012

Walgreens, Macy's, Fenway Health, Eastern Bank, Gilead, BIDMC, United Parish of Auburndale, 5 Star Travel, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Fidelity Investments, BMC Center for Infectious Diseases, Delta Dental, Guardian, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Network Health, Temple Israel, Boston Trust, Mt. Washington Bank, Tufts Medical Center, Ecologic Entomology, South End Community Health Center, BMC HealthNet Plan, Dana Farber, Abbott, Janssen Therapeutics, Harvard University Center for AIDS Research

Homes for the Holidays 2012

Eastern Bank, Walgreens, Coldwell Banker Cares, Hachette Book Group, Maguire Mechanical, Carlisle Tax Credits, Boston Private Bank & Trust, Maloney Properties, Pro-Care, GraphicSmith, Perkins Financial Services

Gratitude Dinner 2013

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, Hachette Book Group USA, Dennis Balog & Robert DeMers



Victory Programs' Government and Foundations Manager Ed Ahern with Cummings Foundation Executive Director Joel Swets and Victory Programs' President & CEO Jonathan Scott

In June, Victory Programs was honored to be chosen as a recipient of a Cummings Foundation \$100K for 100 grant.

Founded in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings, the Foundation was designed to give back to communities in which Cummings Properties operates. This year, Cummings Foundation selected 100 local area nonprofits that address issues relating to healthcare, social justice, education, and underserved populations, to receive \$100,000 each. Victory Programs was thrilled and honored to be among the nonprofits on this magnificent list of awardees.

The funds from the \$100K for 100 grant will support Victory Programs' Boston Living Center, New England's largest community resource center for people living with HIV/AIDS. The funds will not only help serve the BLC's popular meals program, but will also support the array of educational programs designed for its 1,300 members.

We are deeply grateful to the Cummings Foundation for this inspiring gift, that will impact the lives of so many living with HIV/AIDS in Greater Boston for years to come.

Holiday Events

Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 19, 2013
Hynes Convention Center, Boston

The Celebration of Life is a full Thanksgiving dinner for people living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. There are many opportunities to volunteer at this event. Visit www.vpi.org to learn more!

Homes for the Holidays

Thursday, December 5, 2013
Club Caf e, Boston

Homes for the Holidays celebrates leaders in the field of AIDS housing with the Peter Medoff Award. Join us for this joyous event in the spirit of the holidays with good food, festive refreshments and a silent auction. Tickets go on sale soon at www.vpi.org.





SAVE THE DATE



Join us for our 2nd Annual Drive for Victory Golf Tournament on **Monday, June 16, 2014,** at Granite Links Golf Club in Quincy!

Former Boston Celtic and current Celtic Assistant Manager, Walter McCarty; Victory Programs' Assistant Director of Development and Communications, Alison Merrill; Victory Programs' COO, Jim Pettinelli; and Former Boston Celtic Dana Barros

Drive for Victory

On Monday, June 17, Victory Programs held its first-ever golf tournament fundraiser—Drive for Victory. Eighty golfers, including former Boston Celtics Dana Barros and Walter McCarty, played 18 holes under sunny skies at the beautiful Granite Links Golf Club, raising money and awareness for Victory Programs.

The tournament was a new and exciting way to introduce people to our mission of providing hope, health and housing to 2,600 men, women and children every year through our 18 program sites across Boston, Cambridge and Topsfield.

At the afternoon luncheon, an alumnus of our LARC program spoke to the golfers and shared his story about the importance of Victory Programs and what we mean to him. It was an incredible day of fun, fundraising and education and we can't wait to welcome everyone back next summer! Drive for Victory was supported by our premier sponsors Breckinridge Capital Advisors, Eastern Bank, Harbor Hotel Provincetown, Maguire Mechanical Services and Perkins Financial Group among others.



Ed and Stacey: One Year Later

In the 2012 issue of *victories*, we introduced you to an amazing couple, Ed and Stacey, who took us through their respective recoveries from heroin addiction at Victory Programs. We have kept in touch over the past year, and recently we caught up with Ed on the family's progress.

The last time Ed used drugs he overdosed and nearly died. One of the first people to see him in the hospital was Victory Programs' Deputy Director of Victory Health, Eileen Maguire. Her message was simple. Go through detox, give us a call and we'll take you back into one of our programs. That's exactly what Ed did, ultimately graduating from Victory House. As of October, Ed is 19 months sober, his longest stretch of sobriety in 25 years.

Ed's wife Stacey graduated from Joelyn's Family Home and was reunited with her and Ed's two young sons. Stacey now works full-time in the food industry. In May, after more than a year living apart, the entire family moved under one roof in an apartment in Arlington.

In September, as his sons entered the 4th and 5th grade, Ed went back to school too. He is enrolled in the University of Massachusetts Boston's Addictions Counselor Education Certificate Program so he can help other people in their journey of recovery. The application asked students

to explain why they wanted to enter the program, and Ed credited Victory Programs as an inspiration: "The people at Victory gave me a chance, and I wanted to help people in the same way. I shouldn't be here today, but I am because Eileen and Victory Programs believed in me and gave me another chance." Ed is only 38, but due to a number of physical disabilities exacerbated by his addictions, he hasn't been able to hold down steady work since 2005. "I didn't want to rely on disability pay. I'm too young for that. I wanted to have a career."

Ed currently works as a part-time relief staff member at a recovery home in South Boston, managing the front desk and answering phones. "It's a bit strange being on the other side of the desk," he says.

Ed attends three meetings a week and now sponsors another person in recovery, helping his sponsee through the Big Book, taking him to meetings and commitments. Since completing the program at Victory House, he has run an alumni group there as a way to show clients that they can

thrive in their recovery, too. "Running those meetings really gives me a sense of responsibility and accountability for staying sober." Ed says he still thinks of drugs from time to time but has learned coping mechanisms that work for him: "I remember that the cravings only last 30 seconds to a few minutes. If I don't feed the thought, they go away. I have the tools I need to work my way through the cravings now."

Of all of the great accomplishments Ed and Stacey have had over the year, Ed treasures the relationships he has been able to rebuild the most. His father-in-law blamed him for Stacey's addictions and the loss of their children to the Department of Children and Families. As recently as last October, he wouldn't let Ed in their home to take the boys trick-or-treating. A lot has changed since then. "I have great relationships with my parents and my in-laws now. My father-in-law sees me as a responsible, accountable person now. I come over and help mow the lawn and he calls me up when he needs a hand around the house. That feels really good."



Welcoming Our 18th Program!

On October 1, Victory Programs officially welcomed Serenity Supportive Housing—a permanent supportive housing program for 15 men and women living with HIV/AIDS in Topsfield, Massachusetts—to our continuum of care.

Prior to coming under our umbrella, Serenity Supportive Housing was run by Northeast Behavior Health Services and then merged with Lahey Health Behavior Services.

To learn more about Serenity Supportive Housing, visit www.vpi.org or call 617-442-7800.



Luz is working hard at her recovery, attending at least three meetings a day between her program and Span, Inc. Every day is a challenge, but she has developed strategies to cope.

Luz Santana with Massachusetts State Representative Marty Walsh at the 2013 Hope House annual breakfast

Luz Santana Never Gives Up

Luz Santana is many things—a wife, a sister and a mother of two. She is also a recovering addict, HIV positive and a Victory Programs client.

Luz was born in Puerto Rico, but lived in Worcester for most of her life. Like many teenagers she and her friends started experimenting with alcohol and marijuana, except for Luz it became a lifelong addiction. Marijuana led the way to cocaine and heroin, and before long, Luz's life spiraled out of control.

In 2005, Luz realized she needed help. She entered a detox facility and found out she was HIV positive, having contracted the virus from her boyfriend of six years who she thought was the love of her life. He never told her he had HIV. She's not sure whether he even knew.

After detox, Luz graduated from a recovery program in nine months. She soon met her husband Geronimo at a meeting. Together they supported one another in their respective recoveries.

After four years of sobriety, Luz fell back in with her old set of friends and patterns. Before long, she saw all of her hard work of recovery slip away. Luz knew she was in trouble and turned to Geronimo for help. He took her to The Dimock Center in Roxbury where she once again entered detox. From there, she came to Victory Programs.

Luz entered Victory Programs' Women's Hope site at the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain, a short-term, intensive recovery program serving women in their first steps of

recovery. The structure provided by Women's Hope helped keep her focused on her goals, even though she found the program difficult. "I usually give up on myself, but I didn't this time," she says. "The counselors at Women's Hope kept me focused on my goal."

Luz still hasn't given up on herself. She completed the Women's Hope program and moved on to Victory Programs' Shepherd House in Dorchester, a residential treatment program for women in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Now, nine months sober, Luz is a resident at our Women's Hope Transitional program. "Victory Programs gave me hope and strength, and taught me to be honest to myself and others," she says. "They taught me that it's ok to ask for help."

Luz is working hard at her recovery, attending at least three meetings a day between her program and Span, Inc. Every day is a challenge, but she has developed strategies to cope. "When I have a hard day, I think about using, but I try to push the thoughts out of my head or I talk to my husband about it. I know I have to talk about my feelings and let it out. If I can't talk right away, I'll go for a walk, get a coffee and try to relax and the thoughts pass."

Luz has a lot of hope for the future. In September she begins taking classes to get her GED through Project Hope. Victory Programs will always be a part of her life. "You guys aren't going to get rid of me that easily," she says.



Thanks to the generous support from foundations and corporate grants, Victory Programs is able to help more than 2,600 men, women and children each year.

RECENT GIFTS AND GRANTS: 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.

OneWorld/Cummings Foundation (\$100,000 over two years) support of Boston Living Center programming

Walmart Foundation (\$50,000) second year grant for our ReVision Urban Farm

The Doe Family Foundation (\$35,000) grant for our ReVision Urban Farm and ReVision Family Home programs

Cabot Family Charitable Trust (\$25,000) second year renewed grant for ReVision Urban Farm

Liberty Mutual Foundation (\$25,000) grant for Victory Programs Boston-based housing continuum

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

Covidien Cares (\$15,000) grant for Boston Living Center Peer Leader Health Connections Service

Esmond V. Harmsworth 1997 Charitable Foundation (\$15,000) grant for general operating funds

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (\$10,000) grant for general operating funds

Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A. (\$10,000) grant for Boston Living Center Nutrition and Meals Program

Citizens Bank Foundation (\$10,000) grant for Victory Housing on Warren Street

Robert and Helen Hardman Foundation (\$10,000) for Boston Living Center programming

Paul and Edith Babson Foundation (\$10,000) grant for ReVision Urban Farm

MAC AIDS Fund (\$10,000) grant for Boston Living Center Nutrition and Meals Program

The Reebok Foundation (\$5,300) grant for ReVision Urban Farm Youth Supervisor Project

Pioneer Investments (\$5,000) grant for general operating support

Schoenstadt Family Foundation (\$5,000) for Boston Living Center programming

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation (\$5,000) Victory Programs' and Boston Living Center's database merger project was funded in part by this foundation

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (\$5,000) grant for Boston Living Center Nutrition and Meals Program

Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund (\$5,000) grant for Boston Living Center Nutrition and Meals Program

TJX Foundation (\$4,500) grant for Portis Family Home

Beacon Hill Circle for Charity Fund (\$3,000) grant for ReVision Family Home

Old South Church (\$2,400) grant for Boston Living Center programming

MENTOR Charitable Fund (\$2,000) grant for our ReVision Urban Farm and ReVision Family Home programs

Memorial Church at Harvard University (\$1,800) grant for Creative Curriculum for new ReVision Family Home Family Resource Center

This list includes all donations and grant received since July 2012.

Cornerstone Partner Program

Victory Programs is so grateful to have amazing donors like Craig, Phyll and Carol. Our supporters make it possible for us to provide hope, health and housing to more than 2,600 men, women and families every year. Gifts that sustain our vital work are always appreciated and can be made in a variety of ways including the newest option—the Cornerstone Partner program!

The Cornerstone Partner program is designed for people wishing to make recurring, monthly gifts to Victory Programs (or regular gifts through your corporate giving program). A recurring gift offers Victory Programs steady and predictable funds, allowing us to better budget for our planned expenses and long-term projects.

Here's how the Cornerstone Partner program works:

1. **You pledge a recurring gift to Victory Programs**
2. **You choose the amount, frequency and method of payment**
3. **We charge your debit or credit card on the 1st or 15th of each month**
4. **At the end of the year, you'll receive a tax receipt with the total amount you've donated throughout the year.**



Carol Matyka

Carol Matyka has led advocacy efforts at the grassroots and national level for breast cancer and healthcare research for many years. Carol was the chair of the first Residential Services Advisory Board at Victory Programs almost twenty years ago and believes in our work, "having seen and experienced the power of recovery and change firsthand." As a breast cancer survivor, Carol is often struck by the difference in the public support and empathy attached to cancer survivors, compared to the stigma around people living with mental illness or addiction. She believes that her experience at Victory Programs' Shepherd House planted the seeds for recovery and strength that helped her to develop acceptance and compassion for others and an ability to live in the present—lessons that she relies on daily.



Craig Robbins

Craig Robbins has been a champion of Victory Programs' Boston Living Center (BLC) personally and professionally through one of our corporate partners—Macy's. Having lost many friends to HIV/AIDS, he became more involved with the BLC's work as a way to honor them. "The first time I walked into the BLC in the late 80's; I felt there was warmth in the community. Over the years, many people I have brought into the Center have felt the same way." Craig has successfully combined Macy's focus on giving to the field of HIV/AIDS and his personal passion by being a conduit to forming a successful partnership. Craig was on the BLC's board during the merger with Victory Programs and was comforted to know that it was going to continue on to serve the community. Thank you, Craig for your continued dedication!



Phyll Ribakoff

Phyll Ribakoff's commitment to Victory Programs is inspired by the strength and determination of our clients who want to change their lives for the better. "I hope my contributions to VPI will benefit the clients who struggle with the desire to subdue the daily challenges of living with a diagnosis of substance use, HIV/AIDS and/or homelessness." Phyll came to know about Victory Programs through our LARC program in mid 90's while she was working at AIDS Action Committee. In her career as a nutritionist and a dietitian, she had the opportunity to work with the staff at the Boston Living Center. She believes that through her contributions, she honors the staff who are dedicated to ending homelessness, hunger and disease. An artist in her spare time, Phyll was pleased to see the Randy Goldberger Art Studio at the Boston Living Center.

Enroll today for exclusive perks:

- *You're in control!* You can increase, decrease or suspend your gift at any time
- Your donation to Victory Programs is spread throughout the year, making it easier on your bank account
- *Event perks!* Depending on your monthly gift amount you'll receive complimentary or half-priced tickets to our annual Dinnerfest or Homes for the Holidays fundraisers

To learn more about the Cornerstone Partner program, or to enroll today, visit www.vpi.org or call **Aaqila Abdul-nur at 617-541-0222 ext. 616.**