



FALL 2015

victories

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

Where were you when...?

It's the question we ask each other after crippling events. This year as the one year anniversary of October 8, 2014 passed, our staff asked each other, "Where were you when you heard the Long Island Bridge closed?" Newer staff listened intently to the stories of leaders scrambling to get everyone - clients and staff - to safety; stories of women in recovery whose lives were suddenly disrupted. Last year our agency lost Joelyn's Family Home, the largest women's recovery home in Massachusetts. Our first priority was to ensure all the women evacuated from the island had safe and secure alternatives on the mainland. In just two hours, the City of Boston lost 70% of its women's recovery home beds, and 56% of its total detox capacity. The Long Island Bridge closing was a harsh blow to the lives of so many of the city's most vulnerable residents.

After road access to Boston's Long Island was closed, we knew it would be an uphill battle to restore the vanished 47 recovery bed capacity. However, with our team's tenacity, courage and luck, one year later we've made significant progress. We are grateful for all of the support we have received to date from community members,

private foundations, grants and corporate friends. Looking forward, our top priority in 2016 is to raise the \$2.3 million it will take to successfully rehab two Boston-based properties and turn them into two new women's recovery homes. The first property: a Roxbury single family home will be converted into a 25-bed group

home for women in treatment. The second property: a Dorchester building is the future site of 14 women's treatment beds. Both properties require significant life-safety rehab before opening.

Rebuilding a group home or a detox isn't easy. It can take years for the countless moving parts to align just right for success.

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At the annual Eastern Bank Community Quarterback event in April 2015, Eastern Bank Spokesman Doug Flutie, left, successfully completes a touchdown pass to VPI President and CEO Jonathan Scott, second from left, before Super Bowl hero Malcolm Butler, second from right, can intercept it! Eastern Bank chairman and CEO Richard Holbrook, right, joined the team.

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.

Supporting ReVision Urban Farm

Cedar Tree Foundation
The Doe Family Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Gisela B. Hogan Charitable Foundation
Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust

Supporting the Boston Living Center

BNY Mellon/Alice P. Chase Trust
BNY Mellon/Arthur F. Blanchard Trust
The Boston Foundation
Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

MAC AIDS Fund

Merck Sharp and Dohme Corporation
Old South Church
Robert and Helen Hardman Foundation
Royal Commonwealth Society
The Stackpole-Hall Foundation

Supporting Victory Housing

Citizens Bank Foundation
The Doe Family Foundation
Janey Fund/Sue Rothenberg
Lawrence Model Lodging Houses Trust

Supporting Victory Programs

Operating Expenses

Paul and Patricia Daoust
Eastern Bank
Esmond Harmsworth Foundation
The Larson Family Foundation
Macy's
Robert Lloyd Corkin Charitable Foundation
Joseph Smith & Scott Popkowski
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
& Merrimack Valley
Walgreens



Jonathan Scott, right, accepts Humanitarian of the Year award from David Manzi, Rotary Club District Governor, center, and Glenn Quirion, President of Boston Rotary Club #7, far left.

Humanitarian of the Year Award

Jonathan Scott has been praised as an inspirational leader, and one of the key visionaries who established Victory Programs' unique identity and mission. Starting 40 years ago as a volunteer through Boston College's PULSE Program, Jonathan then became a counselor, house manager, program director and, in 1984, Executive Director. In addition to those titles, he can now add *Humanitarian of the Year*.

In May 2015, Jonathan was honored by the Rotary Club of Boston #7 as its Humanitarian of the Year. Chosen from more than 25 nominees, Jonathan's exemplary work at Victory Programs was recognized at the Club's annual gala held at Fisher College in Boston's Back Bay, with more than 100 guests.

Victory Programs also received a generous donation from the Rotary Club, to honor Jonathan and all that he and the Victory Programs team have provided to so many area residents in need.



40 Years of Opening Doors to Hope, Health & Housing

In 1975, after the Vietnam War ended, thousands of veterans suffering from untreated Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) returned home with few supports or resources for addiction treatment or mental health care. There was not the same breadth of support services available at the time as there is today, and veterans faced barriers to accessing the scant resources that were available. Many turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with the trauma.

Concurrently, two young community organizers, Ted Cantone and John de Miranda, were managing a fledgling program in Boston's South End for homeless men struggling with alcoholism. They recognized the emerging issue; they believed no one coming to a program for help should be turned away from care. Thus Victory Programs began its storied 40-year history as "the house with the red door" that took in everyone. In 1976, Victory House welcomed its first volunteer – a Boston College student named Jonathan Scott. In 1984, Jonathan became the fifth Executive Director of our organization. Over the course of our history, Victory Programs has often been the first to provide outreach, offer support and dissolve barriers to care for vulnerable

community members struggling with emerging issues such as addiction recovery, HIV/AIDS and multiple diagnoses. In addition to opening the Commonwealth's first dual diagnosis (HIV/AIDS and addiction treatment) housing programs, Victory Programs set a new standard for women's recovery services by developing models of treatment for women and their children together in a caring environment. We were the first to admit those on medication management into residential treatment and we set new standards by adopting the Housing FIRST model and evidence-based individualized treatment.

Today we operate 17 programs and provide services throughout Eastern Massachusetts in two divisions, Victory Health and Victory Housing. Annually these combined divisions provide complementary services to more than 2,300 individuals & families.

This year, Victory Programs is launching a third division: Victory Prevention (See article on page 4). After 40 years, Victory Programs remains committed to treating those we serve with respect, dignity and compassion and to providing the very best support we can offer to anyone in need.

Where were you when...? (continued from page 1)

It requires detailed planning and long-term commitments, and always the endless convincing of skeptics as to why it is a priority, why we must move mountains to reopen these vital services. One year later we are all still in the process of recovering. We have come this far because of the many individuals, public and private foundations, and supporters who understand the significance of the service capacity which ceased to exist last year. One year later we have discovered, collectively, we have the leadership, courage and plain, stubborn hope to start again from scratch.

In September, in Honor of National Recovery Month, we asked our clients in our recovery programs what they wished more people understood about addiction...

"Addiction is truly a disease and needs to be treated as such."

"It's a cunning, baffling disease that destroys families and addicts."

"Addiction doesn't discriminate, it's not a choice, and it's a life-long battle."

"It kills if untreated. I will always be an addict, but I can be an addict in recovery who doesn't use."

"If you allow it, it will take everything from you—family, friends, self-respect, and even your life."

"It wasn't a choice to start, but it's my choice to quit."

Victory Programs' Board of Directors

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New Leadership Team Members

Congratulations to **Sarah Porter**, Victory Programs' new *Vice President and Chief Operating Officer*! Sarah joined Victory Programs as Director of Programs in 2013.

Congratulations to **Morrigan Phillips** on her promotion to *Program Director of Victory Programs' Boston Living Center*! She previously held the position of Clinical Director at the BLC.

Newsletter Design by:
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A Focus on Prevention

Victory Programs serves many vulnerable members of the Greater Boston community: people struggling with homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. For many, we are the first step toward health and hope of a new life. Our new division, **Victory Prevention**, will complement the comprehensive services our Victory Health and Victory Housing programs provide.

This year, our third statewide "Prevention Summit" (previously known as the "Condom Summit") featured a keynote address by Douglas Brooks, Director of the Office for National AIDS Policy at the White House. More than 100 area professionals attended the conference that showcased guest panelists representing a wide range of talented professional clinical and community experts, including Dr. Sannisha Dale of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Amir Dixon of CONNECTEDBoston, Dr. Sarah Shelby Etherton of Fenway Health, H. Dawn Fukuda of the Office of HIV/AIDS in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Infectious Diseases, Marquis Jamison of Boston Medical Center, Dr. Arthur Kim of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Jonathan Li of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Sarah Mackin of the AHOPE Needle Exchange program at the Boston Public Health Commission, Keith Nolan of Boston Medical Center and Arbour Hospital, Tasha Campbell-Parker of Action for Boston Community Development and Lawrence Vinson of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In Memoriam

Celebrating their Beautiful Lives



Fay Chandler
Artist, Philanthropist,
Visionary and Friend

Fay Chandler was widely known as a painter, sculptor, artist and philanthropist. She worked and volunteered her entire life. Sadly, Fay left us on March 3, 2015, at the age of 92. Her altruism and art—linked with her vision for a brighter community—inspired her to create The Art Connection, a unique non-profit connecting artists who wish to donate their original artwork to community service organizations.

Today, thanks to Fay's vision, over 7,000 pieces of art transform the walls of the sometimes sterile environments at hundreds of social services organizations including many Victory Programs' facilities. The warmth of art adorning the walls gives a more home like feeling to our residential programs and enriches the lives of our clients. Through her gift to the Boston community of The Art Connection, Fay will continue to touch the lives of future generations of clients at Victory Programs and other Boston-based social services agencies.



Steve Isherwood
Friend, Founding Member
and a Shining Star

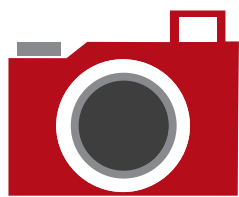
Well-known within the Boston Living Center (BLC) community as Member 0001, Steve Isherwood gave his time, talent and passion when the BLC was getting off the ground during the early days of the AIDS epidemic. Weekly dinners, known as "Encounter Dinners," were Steve's creation, where he cooked meals every week for gay men who gathered in a small space at the YMCA building on Clarendon Street and commiserated with them about the mysterious disease that brought death to so many of their friends. Steve was proud to be connected with one of the few places where people living with HIV/AIDS were able to get support services and be a part of a thriving community. Throughout its history, the BLC benefited from Steve's vision and wisdom in many ways. Last year Steve was honored as a "Shining Star" during the BLC's 25th anniversary. Although Steve passed on March 8, 2015, his legacy continues at the BLC through the meals program he created.



Joe Tocio
Supporter, Photographer
and Generous Friend

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, we lost a wonderful friend. Joe Tocio supported Victory Programs and our Boston Living Center (BLC) in so many different ways, and will be dearly missed. We knew Joe through the Monday Night Bowling League (MNBL), where he served as President for many years. The MNBL put on an annual Benefit Show, raising nearly \$400,000 for area charities in its 27-year history; proceeds from the most recent shows were provided to the BLC and Community Servings.

In addition, Joe volunteered his time and energy at numerous fundraisers taking beautiful photographs, always with an amazing smile and willingness to help out wherever needed. These events included Dinnerfest, Summer Sports Tea Dance, Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner and Homes for the Holidays. Everyone at Victory Programs extends our sincere condolences to Joe's family, and everyone touched by his kind spirit.



A Picture Perfect Mother's Day

Families in transition have been at the core of Victory Programs' mission since 2000. We first opened the doors to Portis Family Home—sober, supportive housing in Jamaica Plain—to serve families in recovery in 2000. Since then we have opened two additional family transitional housing programs under the Victory umbrella: In 2005, ReVision Family Home opened in two Dorchester locations. In 2014 and 2015 Chamblet Family Home opened two new family shelters. Between our three Victory Programs family sites we provide transitional housing to 43 families annually – mostly young mothers and their infants and toddlers. Each program offers a wide range of services including placement, vocational case management, financial planning, day care and more with the ultimate goal of our families moving to permanent, stable housing.

Over the years, talented portrait photographer Greig Cranna has taken pictures of many of the mothers and children at Victory Programs for our newsletters, website and annual reports. As a special gift to the mothers in our three shelter programs, this past spring Greig and his daughter Molly spent two days capturing beautiful "Mother's Day" images of the mothers and their children for each family to keep.

Not only have Greig and Molly Cranna given each family a poignant keepsake, but they have helped Victory Programs tell a visual story of hope, and the power of community.







965 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118

f/VictoryPrograms @VictoryPrograms

f/BostonLivingCenter @LivingCenter

f/ReVisionUrbanFarm @ReVisionFarm

Victory Programs opens doors to hope, health and housing to individuals and families facing homelessness, substance use disorders and chronic illnesses.

4 Ways to Support Victory Programs:

1 **Make a contribution**

Visit 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 Tammy at 617-236-1012 or tblocker@vpi.org.

4 **Spread the word!**

Tell your friends, family and coworkers about our programs and ways they can get involved.

Please visit our website, www.vpi.org, to learn more about Victory Programs.

