



victories

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

Volunteers prepare to serve lunch in the dining room at the Boston Living Center.

Volunteers Make Victory Possible

With 19 programs across eight communities serving more than 2,500 clients each year, and just over 200 staff, we here at Victory Programs are always on the go

For this reason, and many others, we are deeply indebted to the many caring volunteers who step-up, time and again, to help us provide vital services to vulnerable members of our communities. We know our work is critically important. We save lives and change futures every day. However, so much of what we do would not be possible without the individuals and groups who share their time, labor and talent serving meals at the Boston Living Center (BLC), engaging in service learning projects at our recovery homes, or helping to pack

boxes for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members at ReVision Urban Farm. Not to mention helping at our fundraising events, where volunteers are integral to our success.

As Jim, a longtime volunteer who serves meals to members at the BLC, puts it, "You do it because you want to make a positive difference and believe in the mission." Jim says he loves volunteering at the BLC because of the atmosphere and the opportunity to engage members

in friendly conversation. He started volunteering through Fidelity nearly five years ago serving Monday Night Dinner, a tradition that dates all the way back to the Center's founding. When he left the company, he stepped up his volunteering to two to three days a week. "I like the camaraderie of being in a room with people where I can be myself," he says. Like many long time volunteers, Jim has become a familiar face for the BLC members and has gotten to know many of their stories.

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RECENT GIFT AND GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you!

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

Supporting ReVision Urban Farm

Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation
The Doe Family Foundation
The Mary B. Dunn Charitable Trust
Wells Fargo Foundation

Supporting the Boston Living Center

Frank W. and Carl S. Adams Memorial Fund/Bank of America, N.A. Trustee
The Boston Foundation (Open Door Grant)
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Julian A. and Louis G. Brodsky Foundation
Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund
East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Jonas Fields, Charles Hannagan, and David Walters Charitable Foundation
Friends of Frieda Garcia Park

Robert and Helen Hardman Family Fund
Liberty Mutual Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
The Memorial Church, Harvard University
Stackpole-Hall Foundation

Supporting Victory Health and Victory Housing

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Berkshire Bank Foundation
BNY Mellon/Harriet B. Bayley Trust
The Doe Family Foundation
The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
The Janey Fund Charitable Trust
Lawrence Model Lodging Houses Trust
People's United Community Foundation of Eastern Massachusetts
TD Charitable Foundation

Supporting Victory Programs Operating Expenses

Anonymous
de Beaumont Foundation
Esmond Harmsworth 1997 Charitable Foundation
Henderson Foundation
Reservoir Church

Supporting Victory Programs Prevention Programs

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Special Website Enhancement Project

Brookline Bank Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Banking on Community

Bank of America continues to provide a wide array of volunteer activities for our programs and special events:



- In November of 2017, for Victory Programs' Celebration of Life benefit for the Boston Living Center, Bank of America provided 400 winter survival gift bags filled with personal items and cold-weather gear, VIP volunteers to help serve the sit-down, family-style meal that is the heart of the event, as well as volunteers to hand out the survival gift bags.
- In April of 2018, a large group of Bank of America volunteers rolled up their sleeves to "dig in" at Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm as part of an ongoing permaculture project to minimize erosion and prepare beds for the 2018 growing season. This project greatly enhanced the farm's productivity and efficiency.
- In September of 2018, Bank of America's "Better Money Habit Champions" employee volunteers came out to each of our three family shelters, Chamblet, Portis, and ReVision Family Homes, to add to the financial education provided to the mothers of the families in our care. Better Money Habits is Bank of America's signature financial education platform that was developed through their partnership with the Sal Khan Academy.

Ready for Work, Jaylene's Story

Victory Programs' Job Readiness Program is an opportunity for heads-of-household living at Chamblet, Portis, or ReVision Family Homes to build confidence and practice key skills such as leadership, public speaking, and customer service.

"Prior to my placement at ReVision Urban Farm I was depressed about having just lost a job in February," shares Jaylene, a resident at Portis Family Home. "Working at the farm gave me the motivation I needed to get up and get going."

Prospective applicants to the Job Readiness Program must apply and interview for open opportunities. Once accepted, participants receive regular reviews of their progress and also receive support from a dedicated Resident Assistant to help develop résumés, conduct job searches, and prepare for interviews. There is also a modest stipend for each of the participants in the program.

For Jaylene, this extra support led to an opportunity to work at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) two days a week while she was still enrolled in the Job Readiness Program.

Working at DPH is the first step on what Jaylene hopes will become a career helping other women in recovery. "My boss oversees recovery services for the whole state," she shares. "I've learned a lot about the resources available and I can bring that knowledge back to the house." She is also hoping that the increased income from her new job will help her find affordable housing when she and her 7 year-old daughter, Isabella, are ready to move on from Portis Family Home.

In the meantime, Jaylene is headed back to school in September to become a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Her long term goals include a Master's Degree in either Social Work or Education.

"I want to be a voice for women in recovery," she says. "I feel when women lack a support network they are in danger of relapsing. I want to be somebody who can help, who can offer support and provide services. I want to be someone who can be front and center, saying we need more support, housing, and a real network for women in recovery."



Volunteers Make Victory Possible *(continued from page 1)*

Groups of volunteers are essential to Victory Programs, particularly at the BLC and ReVision Urban Farm where there is always a need for extra hands to help with tending the soil, weeding the beds, and harvesting fruits, vegetables, and flowers for the weekly CSA, farm stand, and local markets. Victory Programs has hosted groups of volunteers from FLAG Flag Football, Boston University Dental, Boston Cares, Wells Fargo and many other organizations and companies looking for anything from a one-off opportunity to a long-term community engagement for staff or members. Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Blocker works hard to recruit and schedule individuals and teams where they are needed most, which allows staff to focus on vital services that require specialized skills.

Many of our volunteers have specialized skills of their own! At both the BLC and our residential programs, skilled individuals generously donate their time teaching workshops, art classes, and computer skills that will help clients look for jobs and find housing. Without volunteers, Victory Programs might not be able to offer such a wide range of opportunities for those we serve.

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities please contact Tammy Blocker at 617-236-1012 x227 or tblocker@vpi.org. Thank you so much!

Victory Programs' Board of Directors

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Taking the Test with our Mobile Prevention Team

In February 2018, the Mobile Prevention Team started offering integrated HIV, Hepatitis C, and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing across all of our 19 programs. Testing is offered as part of Victory Programs' wraparound mobile prevention services along with screening for infections, risk factor assessment, education, peer support, and linkage to care.

Testing includes an intake process to assess sexual health and substance use risk factors, followed by the development of a risk reduction plan, and the actual venipuncture/urine specimen collection procedure. Participants can expect to receive their results within a week of the test date and are provided with assistance finding care as deemed necessary based on their risk assessment and test results. The team performed 38 HIV/HCV tests, 54 chlamydia/gonorrhea tests, and 52 syphilis tests between February and the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

"The mobile nature of the program allows staff to provide access to individuals as soon as they decide they are ready to be tested," explains Program Director Richard Baker. "This reduces barriers to care and results in more people following through and actually getting tested."

When a test result comes back positive, it kicks off a conversation about the kinds of resources available and how to access them. Staff can help clients schedule follow-up appointments, figure out insurance coverage, and will even accompany individuals to appointments. Depending on each individual's needs, support may be a one-time occurrence or it may continue until the client reaches their desired outcome.

"Offering testing has been a key step for our agency in promoting the wellness of our clients while also reducing the incidence of infectious disease in the Greater Boston community," shares Richard. "With this addition to our prevention tool kit, our team is better equipped to meet the evolving needs of our clients and promote wellness throughout our programs."

Coming Full Circle, the Gifts of Recovery

Recovery requires resilience, determination, and grace. 25 years ago, a young man who'd drifted away from his friends and family due to his struggles with cocaine and heroin found himself taking refuge in a homeless shelter. At that moment, Stephen Thomas realized he'd hit rock bottom. He knew he needed help to make a change. He picked up the phone and called Victory House, our original residential recovery program.

"Looking back now, I realize getting a bed at Victory House when I needed it most made all the difference for me," says Stephen. "Today I am sober, I have a successful career, and a loving relationship with my family."

Stephen found more than he bargained for at Victory House. In addition to what he describes as "the gifts of recovery," Stephen met the love of his life when he was nearing his graduation from Victory House. He and his husband, John, spent 25 happy years together sharing the gifts of recovery. When his husband passed away earlier this year, Stephen contacted us to make a generous gift of \$25,000 in honor of his late husband and the connection they shared with each other and to Victory House.

"One of the gifts of recovery is being able to do selfless acts, being able to come back out to the community and being able to give back to the community," shares Stephen. "Now my gift will be used to help others early in recovery receive the treatment they need."

Stephen, like so many of our alumni, exemplifies the courage and humility needed to take each step on the road to recovery. Stephen's gift will go on to help so many individuals, still early in their recovery journey, find the support they need to take that next step. Our gift is knowing that every single person who comes through our doors has the opportunity to build a new story for themselves, like Stephen did, and find a fresh start with the gifts of recovery.



Stephen (center) is pictured with his sister, Jennifer (left), and Victory Programs' President & CEO, Jonathan Scott (right).

Thanksgiving Is People Serving (TIPS)

It started as a holiday dinner in 1988 for a small group of friends living with a new, as yet unknown, but deadly virus soon to be identified as HIV/AIDS. With nowhere else to go, they celebrated the holidays with their chosen family and a tradition was born. One of those friends was Peter Daniel Clark, who went on to become one of the founding members the Boston Living Center – bringing this holiday tradition, now called Celebration of Life, with him.

Celebration of Life has expanded from a small group of friends gathering together at home to a community event for over 700 individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones joining us at the Hynes Convention Center for a free community event featuring a full-course holiday meal, live entertainment, and a Resource Fair.

Over 200 volunteers will join us to make this unique event possible. In addition to lending a hand at the event itself, our dedicated TIPS Servers and their generous supporters help to make our Celebration of Life the largest fundraiser of the year for the Boston Living Center.

With the support of Victory Programs' fundraising team, each TIPS server is asked to raise a minimum of \$300 to support the Boston Living Center's unique services for those in New England living with HIV/AIDS. It's a great volunteer opportunity for both individuals and groups looking to make an impact this holiday season.

If you're ready to get started, visit <https://give.vpi.org/2018col> to set up your personal fundraising page, or to start a TIPS Team and invite your friends to join you! If you have any questions or would like to learn more, contact Eve Rabinowitz at 617-541-0222x647 or erabinowitz@vpi.org.

The 2018 Celebration of Life will take place at the Hynes Convention Center on Tuesday, November 20.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cornerstone Partners Help Us All Year Long

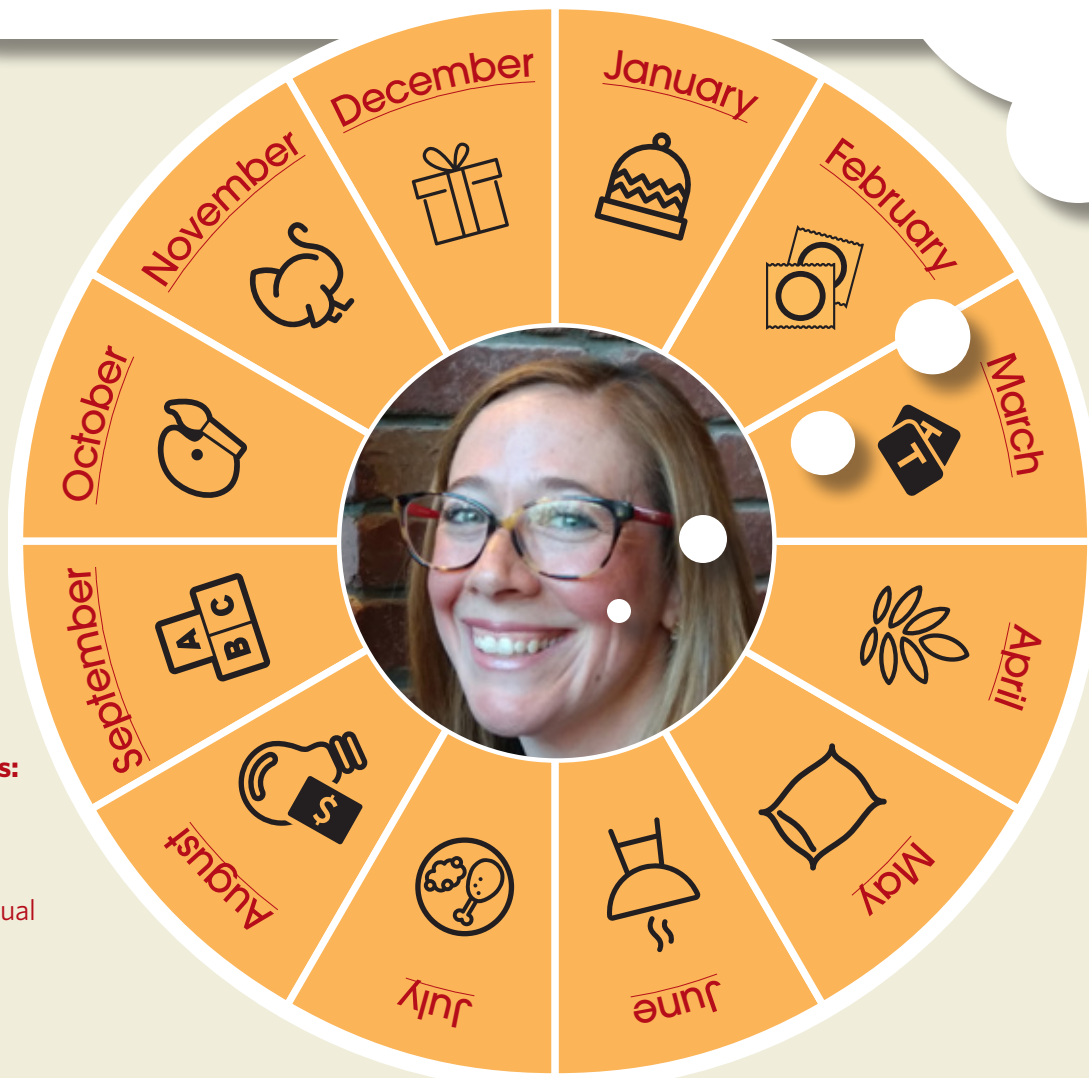
HOW IT WORKS:

1. Make a pledge to provide a recurring gift to Victory Programs
2. Choose the amount, frequency and method of payment

Total control to increase, decrease or suspend at any time! Annual tax receipt!

“It is an honor to be a Victory Programs’ Cornerstone Partner.

As Victory Programs’ former Communications Coordinator, I saw first-hand how Victory Programs creates an environment where its clients can thrive and open (red) doors to those who need them more than once. Victory Programs and its amazing staff will always hold a very special place in my heart.” – Lori Manzelli, Cornerstone Partner



Cornerstone Partner Benefits:

- Easier on wallets
- Discounted tickets to annual fundraiser
- No appeal solicitations



Benefits to Victory Programs:

- Reduced fundraising and administrative costs
- Predictable budgets

Voices of Victory

"I was trapped in addiction and felt helpless with no idea how to get out of it and get my life back. Right now I am working on staying sober and graduating college. My goal is to become a pediatric surgeon."

- **Michael, New Victories Alumni**



"I am working on a better life for myself and my daughter, to grow and build more independence with being a mother, and to be prepared for when I am out on my own. I'd like to have a career and a beautiful home out in North Carolina with a better school system for my daughter."

- **Jamie, Portis Family Home**

"When I was diagnosed in 2012 I realized I needed support and I was able to come to the Boston Living Center. I found the different support groups very helpful. Most recently the Ready, Steady, Go group helped me quit smoking."

- **Sean, Boston Living Center**



"I was looking for a good program to continue my sobriety and I found New Victories and I have no regrets. Now I am working on getting my life together and back on track to become the person that I really need to be in the community."

- **Carlos, New Victories Client**



"My drug use brought me here. I knew I had to do something to change my life and so I went into treatment. My most important goal is to find housing for me and my daughter and to get my daughter back. I want to remain drug free and to live a happy, healthy life."

- **Jennifer, New Joelyn's Home**



"I was homeless due to domestic violence. My hope for the future is to get a good job, get my child into a proper school, and just be the best person I can be."

- **Roseta, ReVision Family Home**





OPENING DOORS TO HOPE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

965 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118

f/VictoryPrograms

@VictoryPrograms

f/BostonLivingCenter

@LivingCenter

f/ReVisionUrbanFarm

@ReVisionFarm

Victory Programs opens doors to hope, health and housing for 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.