

The Doorway

Your access to Victory Programs news & information

WINTER 2023

A New Chapter for New Joelyn's Home: Embracing and Celebrating Inclusivity

Since we first opened our red doors, Victory Programs has consistently championed inclusivity and individualized support. For nearly 50 years, we've warmly welcomed individuals from diverse backgrounds, providing safe spaces for transformation and growth.

In that same vein of compassion, we saw a need for care that goes beyond traditional models: a need for a dedicated recovery space where the LGBTQIA+ community could find solace, genuine understanding, and specialized support on their unique path to healing.

That's why we are proud to announce an exciting milestone—our recovery home New Joelyn's has officially expanded services to better serve members of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as cisgender women allies.

Walter Kikuchi, Program Director of New Joelyn's, shares, "New Joelyn's Home has always been welcoming of people from all walks of life, and we've recently seen quite the increase in transgender clients applying for our program. Expanding our scope of services felt like a natural progression for us."



"We frequently hear from LGBTQIA+ individuals in recovery, particularly transgender individuals, that they don't feel like there's a place for them."

Transgender individuals disproportionately experience substance use and mental health disorders, but there has been a lack of trans-inclusive care and knowledge about gender identity across the addiction treatment field. Walter emphasizes, "We frequently hear from LGBTQIA+ individuals



Included in the new scope of services at New Joelyn's Home is the addition of 1:1 and group trans peer support, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive and tailored care.

in recovery, particularly transgender individuals, that they don't feel like there's a place for them. Now that we've created that space, you can feel the shift in energy, and the excitement in their engagement is palpable."

The expansion of services at New Joelyn's Home is more than a step forward; it's a crucial stride in acknowledging and addressing the unique struggles experienced by transgender individuals. This move is an extension of Victory Programs' enduring commitment to providing a safe and affirming space for all individuals on their recovery journey.

As we embark on this new chapter, please join us in celebrating this milestone and be a part of our ongoing mission to create a future where everyone, irrespective of their identity, can thrive on the path to recovery.

Stay tuned for exciting updates on the continued growth of New Joelyn's Home as we work together to forge a brighter, more compassionate future for everyone.



From Provider to Supporter: How Jules Became a Partner in Victory

While working as a housing case manager for people living with HIV/AIDS, Jules Patigian regularly met with clients over a hot, nutritious meal at our Boston Living Center (BLC). From their very first visit, they sensed a unique atmosphere that set the BLC apart.

“My clients felt at home there; they felt welcomed,” Jules recalls. “There was a strong sense of community and belonging in the air, and they wanted to share it with others in their life like me, which felt really special.”

That warm and welcoming feeling left an indelible impression on Jules, so much so that they joined the BLC as a staff member. “Actually, it was the first organization I ever gave money to. Even when I worked there, I never stopped giving,” Jules shares. While working as the Director of Member Services at the BLC in the early 2000s, they witnessed the program’s transformative powers, going beyond the conventional client-service dynamic to cultivate a genuine, bonded community of people from all walks of life.

For Jules, the BLC isn’t just a program—it’s a lifeline that nurtures and supports people, physically and mentally. Jules explains, “One of the reasons I still feel

passionate about the BLC and still give my support to the BLC is that there’s something really special about making a place for people to connect and belong and feel seen in a world that mostly treats them as less than. You can feel that there’s a lot of love in that building and it really nourishes me as a human being.”

The evolution from service provider to vital team member and monthly donor underscores the reciprocal nature of support within the BLC. Today, Jules continues to help others as a walking therapist and clinical supervisor, rooting their practice in harm reduction and destigmatization of marginalized communities.

Jules’ journey with the Boston Living Center is a testament to the enduring impact of community support. As a monthly donor, Jules isn’t just sustaining essential services; they’re an integral part of a collective goal to provide warmth, connection, and understanding to those who need it most.

You, too, can make a meaningful impact today by becoming a monthly donor. Your contribution goes beyond dollars; it’s an investment in a space that not only saves lives but helps people thrive.



“I’m really grateful that the BLC continues to exist and offers light and care in such a safe space for people who hugely need it,” says Jules.



Scan the QR code, visit <https://vpi.charityproud.org/Donate>, or contact development@vpi.org to become a Partner in Victory.



Driving Impact: RIZE Massachusetts Grants \$20k Emergency Funding to our Victory Connector

We are thrilled to share that RIZE Massachusetts has generously awarded \$20,000 to Victory Programs’ Victory Connector as part of their Rapid Response Program!

Since the launch of 24/7 operations on October 30th, the transformative impact of the Connector has been unmistakable. On the inaugural day, 63 cisgender women and trans and non-binary individuals sought refuge at the program, with all five available overnight beds swiftly occupied. One woman even told our team that she hadn’t slept that peacefully in years, having forgotten how to live a life involving sleep.

Day by day, the number of visitors remains high, and our needs are even higher. With the support of RIZE’s generous grant, we can expand the services provided by our small but mighty program and continue to offer a warm, welcoming, safe space for individuals who have been displaced from Mass. and Cass.

We are so grateful to RIZE for being a steadfast partner as we navigate this crisis with compassion, offering hope to those who may otherwise feel helpless. Together, we navigate the path toward stability, opportunity, and healing.

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

As the overdose epidemic grinds on in Massachusetts, Victory Programs continues to rise to meet the harrowing challenges this health and humanitarian crisis has brought to our city streets. Throughout FY23, we leaned into our proven model of harm reduction, empowering clients and equipping them with life-saving tools to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission. We continued to move people off the streets into transitional housing with as few barriers as possible. And, we were creative in our approach to figuring out gaps in support systems and worked to fill the need.

While many of our outcomes detailed below are up, we served fewer people in FY23, and there's a very good reason. Our clients are accessing more of our services and staying with us longer as they move through our continuum of care. And it's working. Nearly every individual and family exiting the streets or shelter life have remained stable in their housing. It's your compassionate support that sustains this vital work and allows Victory Programs the flexibility to respond, adapt, and grow to meet the complex needs of the people we serve.

Total number of people served: 3,855*



2,700 individuals (or 70% of all Victory Programs' clients) were served by our Mobile Prevention Team.



100% of 56 formerly homeless families exiting shelters to permanent housing have maintained their housing to date.



102 high-acuity clients exiting street life were placed into Low-Threshold housing – up nearly 50% over FY22.



90 individual clients were placed into permanent housing.



107 clients graduated from one of six recovery housing programs.

At the Boston Living Center:



New membership growth more than doubled over FY22 with 186 new members brought in.



27,000 meals were served – up 22% over FY22.

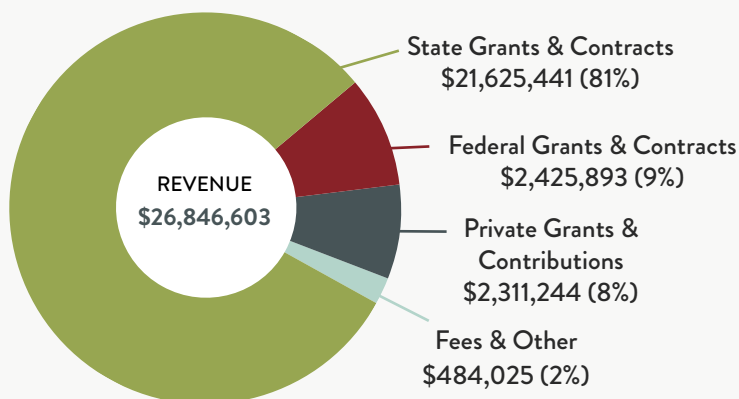


Over 600 groups were offered, and 10% more clients accessed these services than in FY22.

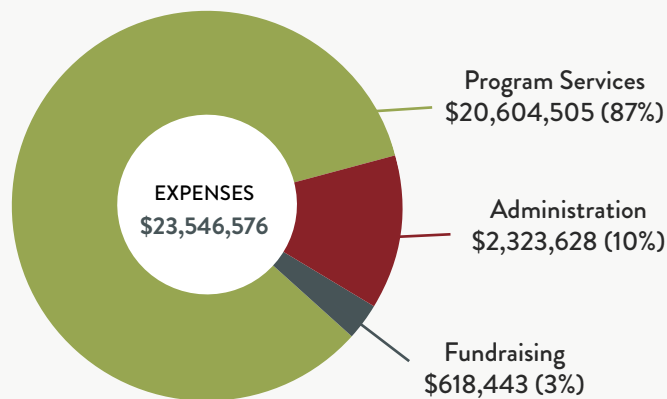
* A significant number of the clients included have anonymized profiles. In addition, we often serve the same people in multiple programs and/or multiple times throughout the year.

Financial Summary FY 2023

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Note: These numbers are pre-audit. We will be posting our FY23 and 990 on our website soon.

www.vpi.org

Help Bring Warmth and Comfort to Those in Need!

The brutal winter weather is here, and we rely on our compassionate community to help those facing the bitter cold and to ensure that their basic needs are met. Your thoughtful donation of cold weather essentials—like hats, gloves, long underwear, and hygiene items—isn't just about survival; it's a lifeline that can forge connections and trust. It can open avenues for dialogue and understanding, the initial steps toward delivering vital services to individuals and families navigating the hardships of homelessness.

In the face of plummeting temperatures, your involvement is more crucial than ever. Your contribution will become the cornerstone of a collective effort, bringing warmth, dignity, and hope to those who need it most. Every little bit helps, and together we can ensure no one faces winter's bite alone.



Visit www.vpi.org/holiday-wishlist/ or scan the QR code to purchase items from our Winter Wish List.



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Visit www.vpi.org to make a gift today. Questions?
Email development@vpi.org

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Visit www.vpi.org to learn more or email volunteer@vpi.org

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