

CHAF reports

www.CHAFund.org
SUMMER 2015

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18: CHAF PRESENTS

Open Doors for the Homeless

THE CAMBRIDGE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND'S 17TH
ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER AT THE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) is proud to announce our annual "Open Doors for the Homeless" event on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. We will have the pleasure of experiencing a live musical performance by the Bertram Lehmann Jazz Quartet from the Berklee College of Music. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided, as well as a silent auction! Sports tickets, restaurant gift certificates, art, hotel stays and more will be up for auction, all to support CHAF's mission of ending and preventing homelessness in our community.

We will also have the opportunity to hear the story of a formerly homeless client, whose life was transformed for the better thanks to CHAF funds, and the support services of our agency partners, HomeStart, Inc. and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center. As always, we are grateful to our sponsors and guests, as this event would not be possible without their support. If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor or would like to purchase a ticket, please visit our website, www.chafund.org. Or, email Director of Development Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org.

Tickets for the event are \$75 each, or \$65 if purchased before October 18. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org or at www.CHAFund.org, or at the door. We especially encourage local businesses who are interested in supporting our mission of ending homelessness in Cambridge to become a



CHAF Basics:

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is a broad-based community coalition of Realtors, local banks, universities, and civic and business leaders working together to break the cycle of homelessness. CHAF operates as a public/private partnership with HomeStart and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center. CHAF funds provide a bridge to housing for homeless and near homeless families and individuals by assisting with the initial costs of renting an apartment, and providing one-time assistance grants to families at risk of becoming homeless. Since its inception in 1999, CHAF has raised more than \$2 million, enough to open doors for more than 1,800 households.



Gilda M. Nogueira,
President & CEO
of East Cambridge
Savings Bank

East Cambridge Savings Bank committed to caring, leads the way with CHAF in 2015

"Throughout our 160 years of service, East Cambridge Savings Bank has held true to its tradition of commitment to community. We are honored to have the opportunity to partner with CHAF — a coalition of concerned citizens and corporate entities working together to end homelessness in communities we call home," commented Gilda M. Nogueira, President and CEO of East Cambridge Savings Bank.

The generous support of our local businesses as well as the contributions made by individual donors is the reason CHAF can and will assist approximately 125 families this year. "As CHAF's 2015 Benefit Chair, East Cambridge Savings Bank has donated \$15,000. East Cambridge Savings Bank has a strong commitment to make a difference in the areas we serve and is dedicated to help reach CHAF's annual goal of raising another \$150,000 in 2015," added Ms. Nogueira.

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2015 BENEFIT CHAIR

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PRESIDENT & CEO, CAMBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK

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Annual CHAF newsletter compiled and edited by Jessica Langer, Director of Development for CHAF, Development Manager for HomeStart.

From the Board: CHAF expands services in 2015



■ **David Pap, CHAF Board Chair and Gene Foley, CHAF Planning Board Member**

On May 17, 2005, the City of Cambridge published the “Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Cambridge.” The framework of this plan includes prevention, interventions, and permanent supportive housing. Obstacles to achieving success are identified as the regional nature of homelessness, the high cost of housing, a lack of subsidies and other funding, and problematic personal histories. Ten years later, we still have a long way to go in order to eradicate homelessness in our community.

The good news is, CHAF is doing more than ever to accomplish this goal. This year, in addition to providing financial assistance to those in need, CHAF is helping to close the gap by providing ad-

vocacy within the office of our partner organization, HomeStart. Should a family need assistance getting off the streets or out of a shelter and back into an apartment of their own, they can access the vital support they need to make this happen by meeting with a CHAF case manager at HomeStart. Case managers provide a variety of services, such as housing search, coordination with landlords and movers, homelessness prevention, eviction intervention, and stabilization and budget help once the client is housed. **This helps break the cycle of homelessness permanently.**

This is why we ask that you to give generously to support CHAF’s mission. Whether you are a business that wants to sponsor the event, or a concerned individual who wants to help a family, every gift helps us pull together to uplift our community, and assist those in need. We hope to see you at Open Doors for the Homeless! For more info on how to sponsor, donate, advertise or attend, **please contact CHAF Director of Development Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org** or visit our website, www.chafund.org.

Cambridge Savings Bank helped make 2014 CHAF’s best year yet

“For more than 180 years, Cambridge Savings Bank has been dedicated to the members of its communities. In 2014, we were proud to once again partner with CHAF — a charity that makes a significant difference in the lives of families in need in our local communities,” commented Wayne Patenaude, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank. CHAF funds coupled with unique services provided by their agency partners saves the state of Massachusetts valuable taxpayer dollars, and saves those individuals and families from the crisis of homelessness. The support last year provided by Cambridge Savings Bank helped CHAF raise more funds than ever before — \$170,000! — allowing our agency partners to do even more good work in our neighborhood.



■ **(From left) Wayne Patenaude, President & CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank, Cambridge City Manager Richard C. Rossi, State Representative Marjorie Decker, Susan Lapierre, SVP of Community Relations at Cambridge Savings Bank.**

“As CHAF’s 2014 Benefit Chair, I am proud to say that Cambridge Savings Bank demonstrated a strong commitment to making a difference, and in 2015 we remain dedicated to service, as we continue to sponsor this year’s annual Open Doors for the Homeless event. We hope to see you there!”

■ **Wayne Patenaude, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank**

A happy ending: CHAF assists a man after almost 25 years of homelessness

After being bounced around in foster care his entire life, at the age of 16 and feeling neglected, Michael felt he had no choice but to pursue a life on the street. Battling addiction and untreated mental health issues, Michael eventually found his way from Woburn to Cambridge, where he was homeless for almost 25 years.

After enough time passed, Michael realized he needed to sober up and get clean in order to start a path toward where he knew he wanted to be. The First Church Cambridge in Harvard Square was able to connect him with the Cambridge office of HomeStart, Inc. and the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF), and this is what would lay the groundwork that eventually allowed Michael to regain permanent, independent housing.

Michael worked hard to get sober and make his meetings with advocates who helped him fill out necessary paperwork and search for a place of his own. After working with Jamie Valdez at HomeStart, Michael's first case manager, they were able to find an apartment that fit Michael's needs. With this type of assistance, Michael was able to get a leg up in the process and had someone and something to be held accountable to, for the first time in decades.

CHAF was able to provide Michael with furniture, clothing and other benefits to get him started in his new place. Michael was

able to take part in the Representative Payee Program at HomeStart, which assigned a case manager to work with him to balance his money and pay bills. Michael notes, "If you need counseling, they will help you get into counseling, and the rep-payee program has really helped me manage and balance the income that I do get, to make it go farther than I would on my own."

His apartment has been his "safe place" and to "learn control of [my] life and feelings." In his new apartment, Michael was able to teach himself how to read, write and speak Hebrew. Without a safe space, this and many other wonderful opportunities may never had occurred. Michael adds, "Very few people can say 'I am happy where I am, with what I am doing' but I can!"

CHAF is a coalition of local business professionals committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the community by raising funds to assist with the costs of securing permanent housing. In 2014, the \$170,000 raised from private donations was enough to assist 75 individuals and families in keeping or moving into their apartments. And, with stabilization services provided by HomeStart, 95% of these clients remain housed when tracked one year later. For more information please go to www.chafund.org.

This interview was conducted and written by Tyler Armstrong, Development Assistant with HomeStart, Inc.

News from our agency partners

HomeStart, Inc. has been ending and preventing homelessness in the Greater Boston Area for more than 20 years, and by uniting with HomeStart, CHAF has been able to have a greater impact on the City of Cambridge. Since 1994, HomeStart has moved over 6,000 clients into permanent housing with their innovative programs. The majority of homeless shelters are now covered by HomeStart's team of expert housing search advocates, who help veterans, single mothers, victims of domestic violence, and individuals with disabilities obtain affordable, permanent housing. Once clients are housed, HomeStart's Stabilization Program helps clients reintegrate into their communities and stay on a successful track, effectively breaking the cycle of homelessness. In fact, 95% of clients receiving stabilizations services remain housed when tracked one year later. By partnering with HomeStart and supporting their models, CHAF has been able to grow and expand to become a high-impact organization.

CHAF's other partner in the fight against homelessness is the Cambridge Multi-Service Center (MSC). The MSC provides a wealth of services to the most vulnerable members of our community, such as assistance in applying for public benefits, financial counseling, legal services, and access to mental health and substance abuse services. With the help of CHAF funds, the MSC is also able to provide affordable housing search assistance with their team of dedicated advocates, directly helping us to stop homelessness in Cambridge.

In the beginning of the year, CHAF also initiated a pilot project with the goal of serving more people, and secured partnerships with these other laudable local organizations: **On the Rise**, a day program in Cambridge that serves homeless women, many of whom have suffered physical, mental or sexual abuse and are in the process of recovering and moving forward. **Youth on Fire**, a program of the **Aids Action Committee** that provides services, support, job help and opportunities for teens and young adults. It's a distressing statistic: up to 40% of the nation's homeless youth are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Many of them have been thrown out of their homes and disowned by families who don't accept who they are.



HomeStart staff volunteering at last year's Open Doors for the Homeless event.

Open Doors for the Homeless

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 5:30-8:30 PM

THE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL

40 EDWIN H. LAND BOULEVARD, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Join us for an evening of *music, hors d'oeuvres, storytelling, networking,* and working together to end and prevent homelessness.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SPONSOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT — THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 2, 2015! CONTACT JESSICA LANGER AT LANGER@HOMESTART.ORG OR VISIT CHAFUND.ORG

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CHAF OPEN DOORS 2014

Top left: Frank Kramer of Cambridge Local First, and Joseph Roller and Tod Beaty, CHAF Honorary Committee Members. Top right: Antoinette and John Fitch, Jean LeVaux, CHAF Planning Board, and Kate Rivera. Bottom left: David Pap, CHAF Board Chair, Jessica Langer, CHAF Director of Development, and Dr. David Talmy. Bottom right: Julie Houle, Andrew Leddy, Maureen McGuire, Ryan Hurley.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN MACLONE



Open Doors for the Homeless 2015

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sponsor. Sponsors enjoy acknowledgment at the event, ad space in our program book, and advertisements in other various local print and social media. CHAF's 2015 goal is to raise \$150,000, enough to help 120 homeless or at-risk families and individuals escape or avoid homelessness. Did you know? It costs CHAF, on average, \$936 to prevent a family from losing their home. It costs the state of Massachusetts approximately \$30,000 per year to provide emergency shelter to that same family. Prevention works!