



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness

Innsider

Fall 2009

News from Pine Street Inn

Graduating to a Better Life

It was a cool rainy day, but the weather could not dampen the spirits of the job training graduates, their families and friends.

Wearing caps and gowns and marching to “Pomp and Circumstance,” they seemed like any other graduates...but the 150 graduates were no ordinary students.

The men and women who took part in Pine Street’s graduation ceremony have faced major life challenges, including homelessness.

These men and women are working their way back from homelessness, completing a job-readiness program and job skills training in food services or building maintenance. They have committed themselves to moving forward with their lives. *(Continued on page 2)*



On His Way

For 15 years, Thomas Wahlstrom worked for an auto parts company. Then the recession hit and he lost his job. “For almost a year, I tried to find work but had no luck,” he recalls.

Tom ended up collecting unemployment, which “hurt,” he says. “I had never been on unemployment—I think people should work for what they get.” Things spiraled downward from there: his unemployment ran out, and the house where he rented a room was sold and he wound up on the street. “It was impossible to apply for jobs because I didn’t have an address or phone.”

“I lost everything,” he says. “It was the lowest point of my life.” Wahlstrom turned to alcohol to help cope. *(Continued on page 4)*



From the President



Every day, our staff members dedicate themselves to providing men and women with the tools they need to live the most self-sufficient lives they possibly can.

When we were founded 40 years ago, Pine Street Inn provided 200 men a bed for the night. We have come a long way in 40 years: today we serve over 1,300 men and women each day, offering a comprehensive array of services including permanent housing, job training, emergency shelter and outreach services.

In thinking about how we wanted to represent Pine Street Inn in the 40th year since our founding and our 25th year of permanent housing, we knew that conveying the “housing” message was critical, and we want to be sure to communicate that message in every way possible.

In our work

at Pine Street Inn, there is nothing more gratifying than presenting someone with the key to his or her own home. To see the look of joy on people’s faces when they receive a key—that’s what motivates us to do this work every day. That key represents stability, independence and the promise of a new life.

We want everyone to know that our work goes beyond a meal and a bed for the night. Our goal is to get people out of shelter and into affordable, permanent housing with on-site staff to connect tenants with community services, maintain stability and avoid a return to homelessness.

“Every day, our staff members dedicate themselves to providing men and women with the tools they need to live the most self-sufficient lives they possibly can.”

Earlier this year, we launched a new logo and website (www.pinestreetinn.org). The house and key represent stability and permanence, and the tagline, “Ending Homelessness” states our goal. Finding a home and having a key: that is the solution

to homelessness. With 550 residents in permanent housing and a retention rate of almost 90%, we are confident that we are on the right track.

We know we won’t get there today or tomorrow, but with your continued support we *will* get there.

(Graduating to a Better Life, continued from page 1)

“At Pine Street we believe in second chances—in perseverance—and in people’s ability to overcome odds and make positive changes in their lives,” said Lyndia Downie, Pine Street’s president. “This day is about celebrating all of those things,” she added.

Community activist and keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond brought the audience to their feet as he told the graduates, “With this training you have entered the ranks of the privileged—those with access to skills, learning and connections that open new doors of opportunity. It was true

before, but it is even more true now that you are a vital part of this nation’s wealth and strength.”

Susan Jarvi, food services training graduate and student speaker, summed it up: “The most valuable benefit I received from Pine Street’s Food Services Training Program was inspiration. Inspiration to improve myself and the world around me. Inspiration to try harder and to not give up.”

Job training graduation at Pine Street is a proud day for all—for some, the first celebration of a positive achievement in their lives. Graduation day at Pine Street is about hope and possibility.

Partnering for Greater Impact

“Collaboration” and “partnership” are terms that are frequently used in today’s challenging economic environment. Both are familiar concepts to Pine Street Inn.

Over five years ago, Pine Street recognized that our guests could be better served by combining efforts with other organizations in a couple of key areas. Pine Street’s healthcare clinic and clothing program, both in-house operations, became outsourced partnerships with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program and Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries.

Today, Pine Street Inn is once again partnering for maximum impact. As of this fall, Pine Street will team up with Project Place, a neighbor in the South End, to provide

job readiness training to prepare students for the workplace, providing assistance with resume writing, interviewing and job search.

Pine Street will continue to offer (and expand) its two training programs in food services and building maintenance. Both of these programs offer skills that prepare guests to re-enter the workforce.

With this alliance, Pine Street Inn continues its history of seeking out value-added partnerships in the community to provide the most comprehensive array of services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible—enabling us to remain focused on our core mission of ending homelessness.

Purl for a Purpose

THIRD ANNUAL KNIT-A-THON & FUNDRAISER FOR PINE STREET INN

Sunday, November 8th | 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
GE Healthcare | 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

Help raise money and awareness for homeless men and women by participating in Pine Street’s third annual Knit-a-thon and pledge drive. Invite family and friends to sponsor you as you “purl for a purpose.”

Register today!

For more information or to register, visit www.pinestreetinn.org/knit-a-thon or contact Eric Monty at eric.monty@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9173.



Pine Street Inn Marks Milestones

- 40 years of helping homeless men and women rebuild their lives
- 25 years of pioneering permanent supportive housing for homeless men and women
- 25 years of dedicated service by President and Executive Director Lyndia Downie

Then and Now: Moving Forward



Msgr. Frank Kelley
Founding Board Member

In my 40 years at Pine Street, I've seen a shift in our fundamental approach—from reacting to guests' immediate needs to seeking out long-term solutions. We came to realize that people can change. Even though they might need to be pushed a bit, if we give people the right tools and support, they can overcome all kinds of challenges.

Ralph Hughes
Director of Permanent Housing

In my 34 years here, Pine Street has gone from being just a homeless shelter to starting a permanent housing program in 1984, to today, where we provide housing to over 550 men and women across 32 lodging houses. Without Pine Street housing, the majority of these individuals would still be homeless.

Dorothy Murphy
Volunteer

In my 27 years volunteering with Pine Street, I've watched the volunteer effort go from a loose network of groups to a very professional, well-organized system, with volunteers coming in to serve food every day of the year.

James Hill
Case Manager

In my 11 years at Pine Street, I've seen the way we approach our work with the guests change dramatically. Years ago, we didn't really understand how to move them beyond homelessness. Today, we've learned how to steer people toward housing through good intake and case management, inspiring them to make positive changes.

1969

Pine Street Inn opens.

1971

Volunteers begin serving meals each night.

1984

First permanent residence opens.

1990

Food Services Training Program opens to prepare guests for employment.

2000

Abundant Table, Pine Street's social enterprise, is launched.

2009

Pine Street Inn operates 550 units of housing in Boston and Brookline.

(On His Way, continued from page 1)

As his life unraveled, the one bright spot was Pine Street's Outreach van, which travels the streets of Boston 365 days a year, with food, blankets and clothing. The Outreach counselors brought Wahlstrom to Pine Street, where he started to put his life back together.

"One day they told me they had a place for me in one of Pine Street's permanent residences. I was so overwhelmed I didn't know what to say," he remembers. "Getting a roof over my

head and a key to my own room was the first major hurdle. I felt like my life was getting back on track."

Wahlstrom's next step is to find a job. He is taking classes to learn computer skills and getting help with his job search. "I want to be self-sufficient again," he says. "I finally have hope, and I feel like I'm on my way."

Planned Giving: Investing in the Future

Each year, Pine Street Inn is the grateful recipient of bequests and other planned gifts that help ensure its ability to provide critical services—and hope—to those in need well into the future.

By making a planned gift, you can:

- provide for your heirs.
- receive income or estate tax deductions.
- ensure the future of Pine Street Inn.

Many people think that planned giving is only for the wealthy, but even people of modest means can make a difference for homeless men and women through planned giving.

Please consider investing in our future by making a gift to Pine Street Inn.

For more information on planned giving, visit our website at www.pinestreetinn.org/pg or contact Alicia Ianiere at alicia.ianiere@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9177.

Send Pine Street Holiday Cards, Help End Homelessness



Send holiday wishes to clients, friends and family while supporting the men and women of Pine Street Inn.

Pine Street is again offering three festive and original holiday card designs. Customized options are available.

To order or learn more, visit www.pinestreetinn.org/holiday or contact Eric Monty at eric.monty@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9173.

Give Gifts for Good

Creative ways to honor family, friends and clients this holiday season

Are you or your company looking for a meaningful way to mark the holiday season in lieu of gifts or elaborate office parties?

You can honor others while helping the men and women at Pine Street:

- Businesses may honor and thank their staff, clients or customers by making a tribute donation. A specially designed holiday tribute card will be provided to the company to inform those being honored, or Pine Street can assist with notification.
- Holiday tribute cards honoring an individual can be purchased from Pine Street for a donation of \$15 or more each. A special card is sent to the donor, or can be sent directly to the honoree.
- Many companies create “giving trees” that allow clients or staff to direct donations to a charity of their choice. The Inn is happy to send acknowledgments to individuals or businesses directing such gifts to Pine Street.

For more information on Pine Street’s Holiday Tribute Program for family, friends, staff or clients, contact Shauna Helton at shauna.helton@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9179.

Friends of the Inn

Volunteers Help Make a House a Home



Over 65 volunteers participated in the Ripples of Hope service day at one of the Inn's permanent housing sites in June. Families painted murals throughout the house, built benches, landscaped the backyard area,

planted a vegetable and flower garden and had a chance to interact with the 30 tenants in the house. The day was a great success and tenants enjoyed the special treatment.

Help Pine Street Go the Distance!

GLOUCESTER TRIATHLON

In August, Pine Street Inn was a grateful beneficiary of the inaugural Gloucester Triathlon. Special thanks to Dick Wilson, president of the Gloucester Fisherman Athletic Association (GFAA) and race organizers for their support. We look forward to partnering with the GFAA in the years to come.

BOSTON MARATHON

Pine Street Inn's participation in the Boston Marathon is always immensely rewarding, both for the critical financial support it provides, as well as for the camaraderie shared among team members. Our marathon program includes assistance with fundraising and access to charity program training runs along the marathon route.

We are seeking donated numbers and recruiting qualified runners to form Team Pine Street 2010.

For more information, contact Shauna Helton at shauna.helton@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9179.

Art for All

Thanks to a generous grant from The Boston Foundation, Pine Street's guests and tenants in both the emergency shelter and housing locations have had the opportunity to participate in weekly art classes that began during the summer and will continue throughout the year.

Local artists taught classes in printmaking, watercolor, collage, quilting and drawing, providing a creative outlet for men and women going through challenging times.



Young Professionals Gather for Fun and Fundraising

In July, Pine Street's newly established Young Professionals group spent a spirited evening celebrating Independence Day at The Place, a club in downtown Boston. The evening combined socializing and service, and featured a rock band competition and numerous raffle items.

More than 75 people participated in the battle for great prizes and raised funds for the guests and tenants who are working toward their own "independence day," as they move toward housing, work and reconnecting with family and community.

The Young Professionals Advisory Board thanks everyone who attended and participated in the fun.

To become involved with our Young Professionals group, become a fan of Pine Street Inn on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or contact Eric Monty at eric.monty@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9173.

Insider

Published three times a year by the Development and External Affairs Department

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