

## Holding her own in a challenging economy

*Support of Pine Street staff, fellow tenants sustains her*

Terri Flaherty is proud of her temporary office assistant position. It is the culmination of the nearly two decades the 43-year-old Dedham native has spent rebuilding her life from the devastation of homelessness and mental illness.

But like many of the men and women at Pine Street who have overcome major barriers to employment, she feels her modest paycheck being stretched thin in the face of rising expenses, and recognizes that her job is anything but secure in a faltering economy.

"I've lost a job before— it's frightening," she says. "If you've ever been laid off, you always will have the fear of it happening again in the back of your mind."

In 1990, Flaherty was placed in a psychiatric hospital after fleeing a violent home. When released three months later, she had no place to return to and nothing to her name.

With the help of a social worker, Flaherty found a home at a Pine Street residence for women with mental illness and at risk of homelessness. Within the safety of this house tucked away on a quiet residential street in Jamaica Plain, she found the support of a case manager, the welcome of a community of women



Pine Street Housing tenant Terri Flaherty gathers coupons to create a cost-conscious grocery list for herself and fellow tenants. Like many of the residents of Pine Street's permanent, supportive housing sites, Flaherty feels vulnerable in the face of an economic downturn.

with similar backgrounds and the peace of mind needed to begin working toward employment.

Progress was slow. Flaherty found it difficult to explain the gap in her employment history to potential employers. She lacked the training and familiarity with computer systems necessary for many positions.

"If you are disabled, finding work is harder— everything is harder," she said. "It's really emotionally challenging. Your self-worth is in question; your value to society is in question."

With the help of her case manager, she attended job fairs, checked newspapers and routinely visited career cen-

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## Guiding guests' job search in a tight market

*STRIVE job readiness program's job placement coordinator intensifies efforts*

Helping homeless men and women to secure employment can be a challenge even in a strong economy. In a shaky job market, John Dunham has his work cut out for him.

As job developer for the Inn's STRIVE program, Dunham works with guests who have completed the intensive three-week job readiness training program, helping them find meaningful employment. The Massachusetts unemployment

rate rose this June to a four-year high of 5.2 percent, and hiring is down in some of the sectors where guests have



STRIVE Job Placement Coordinator John Dunham (right) discusses interview strategy with a recent STRIVE program graduate.

traditionally found employment: construction, retail, manufacturing and office support.

"It's very competitive out there," Dunham notes. "Things have definitely gotten tougher. Our guests have been out of the job market for a while and may have mental health or substance abuse issues or a criminal record. In addition, they are competing against people who don't necessarily have those barriers."

Over the past few months, Dunham has intensified his efforts: he's out pounding the pavement, visiting corner stores and local restaurants to introduce himself and STRIVE to potential employers. "It

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## From the president

DEAR FRIENDS,

In this time of economic uncertainty, many people—supporters, volunteers and reporters—have asked what impact the economy has had on demand for the Inn’s services. They are usually surprised by my answer: although we have certainly seen some consequences, we haven’t experienced a significant increase in demand—*yet*.

Typically, we do not see the results of a downturn in the economy immediately. Most of the men and women who come to the Inn after losing their homes or apartments have stayed with relatives or friends for as long as possible. Shocked that they have found themselves in circumstances they had never imagined and ashamed that they could not find a way to get through a difficult time on their own, they often wait until they are facing the most desperate of circumstances before they show up at our doors. This is especially true of those who have never experienced homelessness before.

However, we anticipate that in the coming months we will assist increasing numbers of men and women who need our services to sustain themselves as they rebuild their lives.

Right now, we are doing all we can to anticipate and prepare for the challenging months ahead. For one, we are closely monitoring our own organizational budget, paying particular



attention to rising energy and food costs. We expect increases well into the double digits for the combination of utility, transportation, and health insurance costs. We are also thinking creatively about how to offset a decrease in food donations.

As businesses, including long-time partners, have cut back on hiring, graduates of our job training programs are finding it more difficult to secure jobs. In turn, these developments directly affect guests’ prospects for securing housing.

I know that each of you is also facing challenges with your own household budgets and like us, you are making adjustments. As we help those among us who have lost just about everything there is to lose, I want you to know how much your continuing support means to us.

Your generosity, in good times and bad, sustains us and our core business: *hope*.

Sincerely,



Lyndia Downie  
President & Executive Director

## Sponsor the Inn’s premier event...



**HOME  
REMEDY**  
A BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT  
PINE STREET INN

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Westin Copley Hotel, Boston**

Become a sponsor of *Home Remedy: A Breakfast to Benefit Pine Street Inn*. This inspiring high-profile event will support the critical work of Pine Street, as the Inn observes several key anniversaries: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding; Lyndia Downie’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Inn’s permanent housing program.

More than 500 of Boston’s business and government leaders attended the 2008 event, which raised more than \$430,000 for the Inn. A range of sponsorship levels and benefits is available. For more information, contact Jocelyn Fary-Holzwarth at [jocelyn.fary-holzwarth@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:jocelyn.fary-holzwarth@pinestreetinn.org) or 617-892-9178.

## Holding her own

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ters. She began volunteering in an office to bolster her resume. Later, through a temporary employment agency, she secured a 30-hour-a-week job doing general office work. She can pay her rent (Pine Street tenants pay up to 30 percent of their income), her bills and “have a little left.”

Nevertheless, she knows that the economic forecast is grim and that she could lose her job any day. To offset rising expenses, she coordinates coupon-clipping and grocery-purchasing with a number of her housemates and stocks up on sale items.

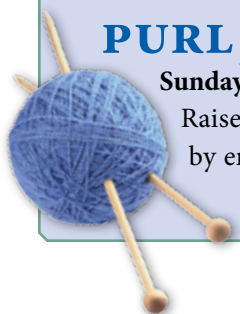
“It’s a bit stressful sometimes—wondering if you’re going to have enough to cover your needs through the end of the month,” she said. “But we have this

## PURL for a PURPOSE: 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL KNIT-A-THON

Sunday, November 9, 2008 • 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. • **NEW LOCATION:** GE Healthcare, 116 Huntington Ave, Boston

Raise funds to support Pine Street’s permanent supportive housing program for formerly homeless individuals by enlisting sponsors and knitting blankets for tenants of the Pine Street residences.

[www.pinestreetinn.org/knit-a-thon](http://www.pinestreetinn.org/knit-a-thon) or call Eric Monty at 617-892-9173



## Friends of the Inn

Organizations and individuals leading the way

John Rich



**Patrick addresses program grads**  
Gov. Deval Patrick (*right*) joined the Inn in celebrating the success of 125 homeless and formerly homeless graduates at this year's job training and job readiness graduation ceremony.

Patrick delivered the keynote address to the men and women who this year completed the Inn's Building Maintenance Training Program, Food Services Training Program or STRIVE, a job readiness "boot camp."

Prior to the ceremony, the governor met privately with the graduates, personally offering his congratulations.

### Lee Kimball offers home tours to raise funds for Pine Street Inn

This year's **Lee Kimball** Home Tour, featuring homes on Beacon Hill, will take place on Saturday, September 27. All proceeds will benefit Pine Street Inn. An award-winning design/build firm, Lee Kimball invites you to view its innovative work inside newly renovated Beacon Hill homes. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information or tickets, call Beverly Panarese at 781-838-6131 or email [bpnanarese@leekimball.com](mailto:bpnanarese@leekimball.com).



### Family of Ninety Nines founder joins celebration of Doe House opening

John Rich



On May 3, Pine Street Inn opened Doe House, named in honor of benefactors **Charlie and Shirley Doe and their family**. The extended Doe family, along with Pine Street staff, supporters and city and state officials, turned out to cut the ribbon and celebrate. Charlie Doe was the founder of the Ninety Nine Restaurants, which generously provided a delicious barbecue for the event.

## A Lasting Gift

Charitable bequests enable supporters of the Inn to have a lasting impact on the lives of Pine Street's guests and tenants. The Tower Society was created to recognize and honor friends who have named Pine Street as a beneficiary in their wills. If you choose to make a planned gift to Pine Street Inn, please share this decision with us so that the Inn may recognize your special contribution. For more information, contact Alicia Ianiere at [alicia.ianiere@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:alicia.ianiere@pinestreetinn.org) or 617-892-9177.

# Holiday Gift Ideas



## Creative ways to honor family, clients & friends this holiday season

Pine Street Inn is grateful to benefit from the abundant generosity and compassion of so many people during the holiday season. A number of individuals and corporations give to Pine Street in lieu of giving material gifts or sponsoring office parties.

The following are examples of ways to honor others while helping the men and women at the Inn:

- **Businesses may honor staff, clients or customers for a donation of \$15 or more each.** Many companies use a tribute donation to thank staff, clients or customers. A specially designed holiday tribute card will be provided to a company to inform those being honored or the Pine Street development office can assist with notification.
- **Holiday tribute cards** honoring an individual or individuals can be purchased from Pine Street for a donation of \$15 or more. A specially designed card is sent to the donor, or can be mailed 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 that direct such gifts to Pine Street.

For further information about tribute donations or giving tree acknowledgments, please contact Shauna Helton at 617-892-9179 or [shauna.helton@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:shauna.helton@pinestreetinn.org).

In addition to these gift-giving opportunities, the Inn also sells unique holiday cards that benefit the Inn's work. See the ad on page four for further information about this year's selection.

## Housing Picnic serves up opportunities for connection, fun—and good food!



Tenant Bob Cordova enjoys a game of horseshoes at the annual Pine Street Housing program picnic.

Pine Street tenant Bob Cordova can easily name his favorite parts of this year's annual housing program picnic.

"I love pitching horseshoes," he said. "I'm trying to find a teammate to join me in another game. Of course, the barbecue sausages are excellent, too."

Cordova was one of nearly 150 tenants who gathered at Lars Anderson Park in Brookline to enjoy a day of warm summer weather, games, food and friendship.

For 24 years, Pine Street has been a pioneer in creating permanent housing with on-site support staff for very low-income and formerly homeless men and women. Tenants pay up to 30 percent of their income in rent and receive the benefits of a private room; shared kitchen, dining and living areas; a case manager who helps them with everything from budgeting to medical

care; and a community of peers. Eighty-five percent of tenants have a physical or mental disability, and an equal percentage have an annual income of less than \$9,000 a year.

Volunteers from **America's Growth Capital** served the tenants hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and ice cream. Housing staff brought out a variety of games to encourage guests to socialize. The picnic's purpose extends beyond simply promoting a good time—it encourages guests to broaden their horizons a bit.

"The picnic provides an opportunity for our tenants to get out of their normal environment and meet new people," said Eleanor Batuyios, a housing program administrator. "It gives men and women throughout the housing program an opportunity to relax, eat, play and get to know one another."

## Job Placement

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helps that I'm able to establish contact first, but guests still have to get hired themselves. No employer is going to hire someone on my recommendation alone," he says.

For now, Dunham continues to encourage guests in their searches while counseling them that the process may

take longer than they think. "For most people, looking for a job is a full-time job; for our guests, in this economy it means overtime," he says. "I keep telling them that they're going to get a lot of 'no's, but they have to keep knocking on doors. Someone will give them a shot and say 'yes.'"

## Send Pine Street holiday cards and change lives!



[www.pinestreetinn.org/holiday](http://www.pinestreetinn.org/holiday)

Choose from four beautiful new designs. Wish friends and family season's greetings while supporting a worthwhile cause. Customized options are available.

To learn more, contact Jocelyn Fary-Holzwarth at [jocelyn.fary-holzwarth@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:jocelyn.fary-holzwarth@pinestreetinn.org) or 617-892-9178. This program is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

## Family-Friendly Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering with your family is a great way to spend time together, engage in a meaningful activity and have fun! Below are some examples of how you and your family can participate:

### Sunday Lunch Service

Serve lunch and visit with guests at the Women's Inn.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

### Saturday Brunch Club

Prepare a Saturday brunch and visit with the tenants at one of our permanent housing locations in Boston or Brookline.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.–noon

### Supper Club

Plan a creative menu and prepare a healthy dinner for the tenants at one of our permanent housing sites or provide the ingredients and cook on site for 12–15 tenants.

Weekdays, 5 p.m.–7 p.m.

### Family Gift Wrapping Day

Wrap gifts that will be given to guests in Pine Street's Women's and Men's Inns and share in the holiday cheer!

Saturday, December 6  
9 a.m.–noon

### School Vacation Opportunities

These volunteer opportunities will take place during Boston Public School vacations.

### For More Information...

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities and would like more information, please contact Coffie Fields at [coffie.fields@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:coffie.fields@pinestreetinn.org) or 617-892-9186.