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**LYNDIA DOWNIE
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

BIOGRAPHY

Lyndia Downie has been Pine Street Inn’s President & Executive Director since 2000. As a result of her leadership and vision, Pine Street is now the largest provider of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless men and women in New England. During her tenure, Pine Street Inn has more than tripled its inventory of permanent supportive housing and now has more than 950 units of housing. Her collaboration with other key agencies, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston has contributed to an 18% percent decrease in the number of homeless individuals living on the streets and in shelters in Boston in the past decade. Within the past several years, her efforts have led to a strategic decision to decrease a limited number of Pine Street’s shelter beds and convert resources to permanent supportive housing. This was the first time that shelter beds were closed in Boston due to decreased demand as a result of placing greater numbers of people in housing.

With her keen understanding of the complex causes of homelessness and proven methods to combat it, Lyndia is a frequently-requested speaker who regularly serves as a policy advisor at the city, state and federal levels. She serves on Mayor Martin Walsh’s Advisory Council on Homelessness and was a member of the task force that helped shape the City of Boston’s new action plan to end veteran and chronic homelessness. She also serves on a number of policy advisory committees to the state’s Executive Office of Health and Human Services and was a member of Governor Baker’s Task Force on Persons Facing Chronically High Unemployment. She has presented on Pine Street Inn’s strategic housing expansion at the annual conference of the National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington, D.C. and at the national Housing First Partners conference in Chicago. Additionally, she has been tapped to serve on a number of committees and boards, including the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers, the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance, and the Franklin Square House Foundation. She was also named a Barr Fellow through the Barr Foundation’s program to honor nonprofit leaders in the region and has co-taught a course on solutions to homelessness at the Harvard Kennedy School.

In 2015, Lyndia was honored to receive the Massachusetts Council of Human Services’ CEO Award of Excellence for her leadership. In addition, Pine Street Inn has been honored with Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builders award, which recognizes innovation, excellence and leadership among nonprofits across the country. Lyndia was also the recipient of the 2011 Henry L. Shattuck City Champion Award from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau; and was named the “Most Innovative Person in the Massachusetts Non-Profit Sector” by *The Boston Globe* in 2011. A 2010 recipient of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Pinnacle Award and the 2010 New England Women’s Leadership Award, she was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Mt. Ida College, an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from New England Law Boston and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from William James College. Lyndia is a graduate of the University of Vermont.