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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 developer of affordable housing for formerly homeless men and women in the region. She has increased Pine Street's affordable housing development by 60% during her tenure. Her collaboration with other key agencies, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston has resulted in an eight-year, 29% decrease in the number of homeless individuals living on the streets and in shelters. Within the past several years, her efforts have led to a strategic decision to decrease Pine Street's shelter beds by 20% 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.



She first joined the organization after reading the obituary of Paul Sullivan, Pine Street's founder and long-time director. Inspired by his life story, she felt compelled to work at Pine Street, and was hired as an administrative assistant in 1984. Lyndia has held positions at nearly every level of the organization, from heading the operations of the Men's Inn shelter, to overseeing public affairs and development, to serving as vice president for programs. As a result, she has the most thorough base of knowledge of anyone in the organization and still knows the circumstances of many guests and tenants firsthand.

Over the past year, Lyndia headed up a merger with another homeless services agency, helping to create a more seamless and comprehensive system for Boston's homeless men and women. With a \$45 million budget and services provided at 36 sites, Pine Street now offers a full continuum of services ranging from street outreach, emergency shelter and job training and placement, to permanent housing services with on-site support for more than 1,600 individuals every day and 11,000 each year.

With her keen understanding of the complex causes of homelessness and proven methods to combat it, Lyndia has been tapped to serve on a number of committees and boards, including the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers and the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. She was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to participate on the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness; and was appointed by Mayor Thomas Menino to the City of Boston's Regional Network Leadership Council. She was also named a Barr Fellow through the Barr Foundation's program to honor nonprofit leaders in the region.

Lyndia was 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. Lyndia graduated from the Program for Developing Managers of Simmons College's Graduate School of Management and the University of Vermont.

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