



**Pine Street Inn**  
Ending Homelessness

# Innsider

Winter 2018

News from Pine Street Inn

## Coming In From the Cold



Rick Friedman

Outreach teams build relationships with those on the streets, urging them to come inside.

The cold of winter is the most difficult time of year for those who are homeless, especially for men and women who choose to stay outside. With the bitterly cold weather of the past weeks, we have been deeply concerned about men and women on the streets.

Our Outreach teams have been out around the clock, urging men and women to come inside, offering nourishment, hot drinks, warm blankets and clothing – and most of all, building relationships.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Going Out Into the Cold



What kind of person goes out into the frigid cold and snow when the rest of us are warm and snug inside? It takes a special kind of person, dedicated to ensuring the safety of the most vulnerable men and women, whatever the weather.

“We are the safety net for the City of Boston. We will never say ‘no’ to anyone who wants help. What keeps us going night after night is the possibility of someone accepting help – of taking steps forward, of getting housing,” says Mike Andrick, Director of Outreach Services.

## A New Home, A New Life

Lakiya, 25, had been homeless for seven years, leaving home when she was 18 because of a difficult relationship with her mother. She “couch-surfed” for a number of years, staying with family and friends, and living out of a suitcase.

Even though she was homeless, Lakiya managed to attend school

and completed a degree in computer science. Because she did not have a permanent address, she found it

difficult to apply for jobs; eventually, she went to a shelter,

which provided some measure of stability.

During this time, she applied for jobs and for housing. Lakiya began

*(Continued on page 2)*

“The staff here is great, and this place was all set for me to move right in – with all the furniture I needed and everything else, down to pots and pans – even soap and toothpaste!”



John Rich

# From the President



Richard Howard

We continue to work closely with the City of Boston and other partner agencies, to ensure the safety and well-being of every vulnerable man and woman, whether on the street, in shelter or once they are housed.

As I write this, Boston is experiencing one of the most extreme (and longest) cold snaps in our city's history. At Pine Street Inn we prepare for the worst the winter has to offer, and we worry most about the vulnerable men and women on the streets. Yet, even in extreme weather, there are still those who choose to remain outside.

Our amazing Outreach teams have been on the streets, day and night – building relationships with men and women who stay outside, giving out blankets, warm

clothing and hot drinks and food – and urging them to take the next steps to come inside. Given the frigid temperatures and snow, I am relieved to report that we have not lost anyone to the cold.

At the same time, we remain focused on the goal of moving men and women off the streets, out of shelter and into housing, helping them rebuild their lives and connect back with a caring community.

We continue to work closely with the City of Boston and other partner agencies, to ensure the safety and well-being of every vulnerable man and woman, whether on the street, in shelter or once they are housed.

Along with our partners, we have made strides over the last couple of years in housing homeless veterans, and those who are chronically homeless. We have launched new initiatives to support people in moving from shelter back to housing quickly, or better yet, reuniting them with family or friends, preventing them from entering shelter in the first place.

As we move into 2018, I wish you and your family health and happiness, along with my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of our work. My hope for this year, as every year, is to end homelessness for as many men and women as possible. I am confident that, with you as our partners, we will continue to make significant progress. Thank you. ❖

*(Coming in from the Cold, continued from page 1)*

Why would anyone choose to stay on the street, particularly in the frigid winter weather? Many suffer from mental illness and/or addiction. Some do not like the crowds inside shelters, or the rules: when to eat, when to shower, when to go to sleep or wake up. They prefer the freedom that the street allows.

Our greatest concern for those outside is the effect that the cold can have: frostbite, hypothermia – even death. Our shelters are open around the clock so men and women can stay inside. Our Outreach teams have been out in force, coordinating with the City of Boston and other homeless services agencies to ensure that everyone stays safe.

At the same time we do everything possible to urge men and women off the street and inside to shelter, our ultimate goal is to move everyone into the stability and safety of housing, where they can begin to rebuild their lives. ❖

*(A New Home, A New Life, continued from page 1)*

working not one – but two jobs – but was on a long waiting list for housing. When she finally got a call from Pine Street that an apartment was available, she had a hard time believing it.

“I didn't believe it was mine until I looked at the mailbox and saw my name there,” she says. “Now I can come and go as I please, go to work, stay in if I want – all the simple things I couldn't do when I was homeless,” she adds.

“The staff here is great, and this place was all set for me to move right in – with all the furniture I needed and everything else, down to pots and pans – even soap and toothpaste!

“I'm happier than I've been in a long, long time.” ❖

# Homelessness Can Happen to **Anyone**

## BARBARA AND JEANNE



John Rich

Jeanne (left) and Barbara spent many hours searching for a place they could afford together, and recently moved into an apartment in Dorchester.

Barbara had worked as a master carpenter; Jeanne had a career as a licensed alcohol and addiction counselor. Both were independent, supporting themselves throughout their lives. Then, each of them suffered from major medical issues that caused them to lose their jobs, then their housing.

They had known each other over the years, but neither knew the other was homeless until they met up at Pine Street's women's shelter. They have formed a close bond, supporting one another through tough times.

With rents so high in Boston, they worked hard to find an apartment together, and we are thrilled to report that they have just moved into an apartment in Dorchester! Barbara and Jeanne are proof that anyone can become homeless.

## EDWARD

Edward is an Iraqi war veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. A bomb blast there left him with a traumatic brain injury. Coming home was challenging to begin with, but then Edward lost his father and two close friends within a month.

Overwhelmed, Edward struggled with anxiety and depression, then turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. With his brain injury and PTSD, he was unable to maintain his housing and became homeless.

He connected with Pine Street Inn, moving into Pine Street's veterans' housing. From there, he went back to school and has since moved into a place of his own, where he is rebuilding his life, along with his service dog, Evander.



Edward, a once-homeless Iraqi War veteran, now has a place of his own and is completing a college degree in biology.

# It's Easy to Provide Year-round Support!

As part of the *Innkeepers Club*, your monthly support provides critical funds that Pine Street can count on throughout the year – helping to bring us that much closer to *ending homelessness!*

Benefits include:

- **Consistent support for vulnerable men and women.** Whether during the cold of winter or the heat of summer, your membership provides year-round support.
- **Convenience.** Gifts are automatically transferred and will appear each month on your credit card or checking account statement.
- **Our gratitude.** When you join the *Innkeepers Club*, you will receive a special Pine Street canvas tote bag.
- **Periodic updates.** Receive news via mail and/or email.
- **Special events and volunteer opportunities.** Join the *Innkeepers* for special service events throughout the year.
- **Flexibility.** Call 617.892.9183 or email [Innkeepers@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:Innkeepers@pinestreetinn.org) to amend your gift at any time.



Join today!

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

## A New Initiative to End Homelessness

In his inaugural address on January 1, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the establishment of the Boston's Way Home Fund, which will support the City of Boston's plan to end chronic homelessness.

In partnership with Pine Street Inn and Bank of America, the fund will raise \$10 million in private funds over the course of four years, which will be used to create 200 new units of supportive, sustainable, long-term housing for chronically homeless men and women. Bank of America has generously seeded the Fund with a \$250,000 donation.

Traditionally, mayors-elect raise private funds to host inauguration celebrations. Mayor Walsh is instead

"We are committed to making sure that every person in our City has a place to call home"

[bostonwayhomefund.org](http://bostonwayhomefund.org)



encouraging organizations and residents to learn more about the city's work to end chronic homelessness and to consider becoming involved in Boston's Way Home.

"Pine Street Inn is thrilled to be part of this initiative with Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston. As Pine Street approaches our 50th anniversary in 2019, we appreciate the Mayor's leadership as we work toward the shared goal of ending homelessness in Boston," said Lyndia Downie, Pine Street's President & Executive Director.

For questions regarding gifts to Boston's Way Home Fund, please contact [info@bostonwayhomefund.org](mailto:info@bostonwayhomefund.org) or Marla Strickland, 617.892.9180. ❖



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 26, 2018 • Westin Copley Place

With guest speaker

### TED ENGLISH

Executive Chairman, Bob's Discount Furniture and Former CEO, the TJX Companies

*A home is the remedy for homelessness.*

Home Remedy raises critical funds that help move people off the streets, out of shelter and into a home so they can begin to rebuild their lives.

Please join us and over 600 of Boston's business leaders for our annual Home Remedy breakfast as we work together to end homelessness!

For information on sponsorships and tickets, contact Jessica Mattioli, [jessica.mattioli@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:jessica.mattioli@pinestreetinn.org) or 617.892.9178. ❖

# Join Us for the Winter Walk

Pine Street Inn is a proud partner of the Winter Walk, an initiative that raises awareness and funds for partner organizations through a two-mile walk and community meal in Copley Square.

The second annual Winter Walk will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018. The cold temperatures of winter remind walkers what it is like to be homeless and outside during the winter in Boston. Register as an individual or form your own team of walkers for this important experiential event!

To find out more or to register, visit [www.winterwalkboston.org](http://www.winterwalkboston.org). When asked how you heard about the walk during registration, please select Pine Street Inn! ❖



## Help for the Holidays

We have just completed a very busy holiday season, and are very grateful for the support we received from our generous volunteers and donors! ❖

John Rich



**Thanksgiving:** Mayor Walsh visits with trainees in Pine Street's kitchen.



**Gift Wrap:** Over 100 volunteers wrapped 1,500+ holiday gifts for guests.



**Christmas Eve:** Cardinal Sean O'Malley serves a guest.

# Community Friends

## A Great Partnership

We are honored to have the continued support and service from our friends at Verde Farms. In 2017, they donated 17,000 pounds of organic beef which provided over 54,000 meals for our guests. We are grateful for the continued partnership with Verde Farms and their dedicated staff who volunteer to serve dinner each month.

To learn more about in-kind food donations, contact Jack Nolan, [jack.nolan@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:jack.nolan@pinestreetinn.org) or 617.892.7780.



The Verde team comes in regularly to serve dinner, as well as donating organic beef.

## Honoring Dr. King

Over 50 volunteers from the Boston Chapter of Jack and Jill, a community service group, participated in their annual family chop-a-thon event on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Families donated & chopped over 400 pounds of produce, assembled outreach bags and decorated cookies for our guests. This year marks the fifth year of our partnership with Jack and Jill – an impactful service event to honor Dr. King’s memory.

To learn more about chop-a-thon sponsorship opportunities, contact Scottie Wait, [scottie.wait@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:scottie.wait@pinestreetinn.org) or 617.892.9184.



Jack and Jill volunteers chop vegetables during their service day.

## Welcoming New Tenants

During the holiday season, team members from Audley Travel of Boston donated 15 “Welcome Home” baskets for our guests moving into housing. The laundry baskets were full of all the necessary household essentials, from towels and dish soap to utensils and dishes. Our tenants are very grateful!

To learn more about “Welcome Home” baskets, contact Jessica Mattioli, [jessica.mattioli@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:jessica.mattioli@pinestreetinn.org) or 617.892.9178.



Employees from Audley Travel put together baskets for new tenants.

## Go Pats!

We are very grateful to the New England Patriots organization for their generous donation of 600 blankets collected at their game on December 31. Hall of Famer Andre Tippett and defensive end Derek Rivers paid a visit to the Men’s Inn on one of the coldest days this winter bringing the blankets, hats, gloves and Dunkin’ Donuts gift cards for our guests.



Courtesy Patriots

Patriots player Derek Rivers distributes blankets to guests.

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