

Tipping the Balance

Supportive housing changes lives. That's something that Elroy C. knows well.

Since moving into Pine Street housing five years ago, Elroy has successfully maintained his recovery, taken better care of his health, and started working and saving money to one day get his own apartment.

"When I finally decided to grow up

and get serious about getting my life on track, Pine Street helped me put a support plan in place," he says. "I am grateful to have a roof over my head, and I owe much to the staff here for making that possible."

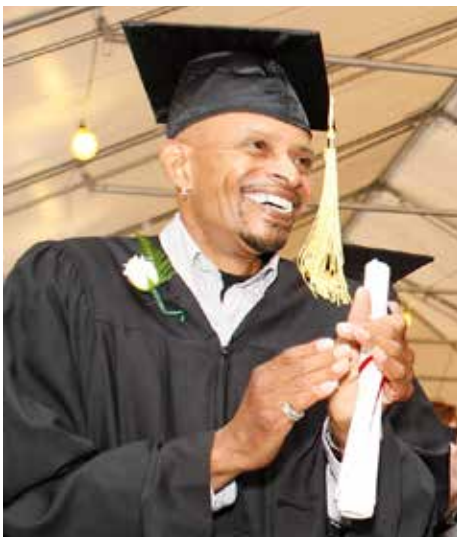
Data and our own experience have confirmed that housing is the best platform from which to help people become stable and move forward with

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Elroy C., a tenant in Pine Street housing

Moving Forward



John Rich

Job Training Graduation

Spirits were high as the men and women in their caps and gowns proudly marched toward the stage. They were graduating from Pine Street's job training programs in food services, building maintenance and housekeeping, preparing them to move into the workplace and to move forward with their lives.

Celebrating with them were family, friends and Pine Street staff, many of whom have supported them along the way.

To these men and women, who have faced a variety of challenges in their lives, including homelessness, mental illness and addiction, this ceremony represented the completion of an important step in their journey.

The morning's keynote speaker was Judge Kathleen Coffey, founder of Homeless Court, an alternative court designed to resolve misdemeanor offenses and outstanding warrants for homeless men and women who have shown a commitment to sobriety and stability.

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From the President



Our front-page stories, highlighting Pine Street’s job training graduation, as well as our efforts to increase housing, represent two key components of our work. Finding a home and a job are the steppingstones to helping men and women regain their independence and move toward self-sufficiency.

While we know that policies that promote housing and employment are critical, our real success is because of *people* – our staff – who dedicate themselves to the wellbeing and accomplishments of each guest, tenant and trainee.

Some of this success comes in small increments, like convincing a person to take medication that will improve his health and prolong his life. Sometimes, the steps may seem

more momentous, like helping a tenant settle into a new home and find a job. We are so gratified when we hear men and women acknowledge the support they have received from staff.

Mark, a graduate of Pine Street’s Building Maintenance Training Program (BMTP) has lived on his own since he was 14 years old, struggling to find housing and a job. He spent three years in prison, serving time for breaking and entering, a crime he said he committed simply to find a place to sleep.

After his release, Mark came to Pine Street Inn, where he began the BMTP and immediately became entranced with transforming raw materials into goods.

Finding a home and a job are the steppingstones to helping men and women regain their independence and move toward self-sufficiency.

“For years I had been trying to get out of a ditch, and Pine Street gave me a ladder,” he said. “Nick (Director of the Building Maintenance Training Program) believed in me and guided me. He helped me see that I have the ability and capacity to go almost anywhere,” Mark added.

Your generosity has enabled Mark and hundreds of others to receive the support they need to move on to productive, self-sufficient lives. Thank you for all you do for Pine Street Inn. ❖

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Judge Coffey praised the graduates, telling them “I want to commend you for your extraordinary effort and achievement in completing a demanding program and working toward your professional and personal goals.”

“These new skills and training – and the right attitude – will help ensure your success,” she added.

Terry Carter, who graduated from the Food Services Training Program, the morning’s graduate speaker, shared his appreciation with his fellow graduates: “Pine Street provides solutions to re-educate and open many doors that once were closed. Lives change from the negative to the positive. Confidence is built and restored where once lost. Thank you for your support, Pine Street.”

We are pleased to report that within a couple of weeks of graduation, Terry was offered a full-time position with benefits in dining services at a local university.

Terry’s accomplishment is our hope for all of our job training graduates. Congratulations to Terry and to the entire Class of 2013! ❖

Making Dreams Come True

SHENITA Housekeeping Job Trainee

“When I was young I imagined growing up to be a nurse, getting married and having children. I never thought I’d be homeless, but then I started using drugs.

Now I am trying to do something different with my life. In Pine Street’s Housekeeping Training Program, I hope to gain the skills I need to get my career going. Maybe someday I can become a supervisor or open my own cleaning company.



The staff at Pine Street support all of my dreams and give me good information to help get me there.”

FRANK Pine Street Housing Tenant

“Being homeless was very lonely. I didn’t know where I would sleep at night or when I would have my next meal. I dreamed about having a home and friends.



John Rich

Now that I have a place to live, there are lots of housemates, so it’s not lonely. We share meals and watch movies together. We like to play chess, which is my favorite hobby. I also like to go to the library and cook for people in the house.

After being on the street, then in a shelter, for almost two years, it’s real nice to have my own place.”

HABIBA MUMIN Pine Street Housing Case Manager

“When a new tenant moves into housing, they often just need someone to listen. Being homeless and living on the street or in shelter often causes people to lose sight of all their hopes and dreams, so I ask them questions about what they want for their future. And, when they are ready, I am there to offer them guidance on how to reach those goals.

My hope for each of my tenants is that they will achieve their dreams and be happy wherever they are.”



John Rich

'Tis the Season of Giving

Give Gifts with Heart

As you look for ways to remember family, friends, colleagues and clients at the holidays, consider honoring the special people in your life while making a difference in the lives of homeless men and women.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Give a tribute gift in honor of someone special
- Make a monetary gift to help us meet our most urgent needs
- Sponsor a meal in shelter or housing
- Hold a food drive
- Provide gifts we can give to our shelter guests
- Purchase *Boston HandyWorks* cutting boards as gifts to support job training programs
- Send Pine Street holiday cards

Visit www.pinestreetinn.org/holidaygiving to learn more about giving this holiday season or call 617.892.9170. ❖

Join the Innkeepers to support Pine Street year-round

Pine Street Inn is here for those in need 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Now, by becoming an Innkeeper, you can make a vital and sustaining gift to last year-round.

Innkeepers are a special group of friends who make monthly donations that are automatically charged to a credit card or checking account. Your support as an Innkeeper provides income that we know we can count on to help those who depend on us.

Joining the Innkeepers will help your gift go further by saving on gift-processing and postage costs – bringing us that much closer to the goal of ending homelessness.

To sign up or for more information, contact Melissa Cording, innkeepers@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9183. ❖



Become an Innkeeper and receive this eco-friendly bag as a gift.

Buy Pine Street Holiday Cards & Help End Homelessness

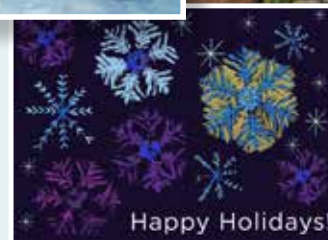
Show your love for Boston by choosing from five designs of iconic Boston city scenes, plus a special snowflake design by a Pine Street Inn guest.

All cards may be customized for orders over 100.

Holiday cards will also be available for sale at several BJ's Wholesale Club locations.

Learn more or place your order online by visiting:
www.pinestreetinn.org/holiday.

Questions? Call 617.892.9179. ❖



View all six designs at www.pinestreetinn.org/holiday

Campaign to End Homelessness

We are pleased to announce *Ending Homelessness: The Campaign for Pine Street Inn*, a special initiative to raise funds to create 300 new housing units, with a focus on those who have been homeless the longest.

Once in housing, tenants receive coordinated care provided by case managers and property managers who offer consistent, reliable support, appropriate program referrals and a better quality of life.



The Board of Directors' Campaign Steering Committee is leading the charge to raise special funds for support services, capital improvements and the acquisition and renovation of a new building.

For more information, visit www.pinestreetinn.org/campaign or contact Alicia Ianieri, alicia.ianieri@pinestreetinn.org or 617.892.9177. ❖

www.pinestreetinn.org/campaign

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their lives. Our housing staff works closely with tenants to support them in a variety of areas, including finding employment or dealing with health issues. We know this approach is working – close to 90% of those placed in our housing over the last few years have remained housed.

“The stability that comes with housing goes a long way toward helping people rebuild their lives,” says Pine Street President Lyndia Downie.

Pine Street case managers guided Elroy through the transition from shelter to housing and are helping him toward his goal of finding independent housing.

Pine Street now houses more than 800 men and women, finally “tipping the balance” with 53 percent of our beds in housing and 47 percent in emergency shelter. Within the next few years, our goal is to shift this further to a 65:35 housing to shelter ratio. ❖

Neighborhood Builders Award

Bank of America 

Pine Street Inn is the grateful recipient of Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders award. This special grant recognizes high-performing nonprofits that have made a significant impact in their communities in the bank's high priority funding areas of housing, jobs and hunger relief.

The \$200,000 award will go towards creating more housing for long-time homeless men and women. ❖



A Pine Street housing location.

Tipping the Balance

More men and women now live in Pine Street housing than stay in our shelters each night — an important shift that is improving lives and moving us closer to the goal of ending homelessness.



Friends of the Inn

He's Grrreat!

We are lucky to have supporters of all ages! This spring, 8-year-old Nathan Green of Watertown collected 163 boxes of cereal from his friends, family and neighbors, and delivered them to our shelter. This was Nathan's second cereal drive for Pine Street, and he has already started planning for an even bigger effort next year. "I love volunteering because it helps people who don't have anywhere to live or anything to eat," he says.

Our shelters go through nearly 600 pounds of cereal each week, making it one of our most urgently needed items.

To learn more about holding a food drive, visit www.pinestreetinn.org/donatefood.



Nathan collected 163 boxes of cereal during his cereal drive this spring.

Student Philanthropists at Work

Many thanks to the Blue Hills Boys and Girls Club and Yawkey Club of Roxbury for supporting Pine Street Inn. During the past school year, students visited Pine Street, volunteered and organized a fundraising walk to help raise awareness and funds to fight homelessness. With support from the Highland Street Foundation, the students were also able to award grants to several Boston-area nonprofits, and Pine Street was among the organizations selected. We were honored to work with this amazing group of students!



Club members present their award to Pine Street's volunteer director Scottie Wait.

Social. Service.

The *Innbassadors* for Pine Street had a busy summer. Their recent fundraiser, *Summer in the City*, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, raised enough funds to support Pine Street's Outreach vans for more than a week. The group also hosted an Ice Cream Social for guests in the Women's Inn, surprising the women with a cool summer treat.

Contact us to find out more about this emerging leaders group or to sign up for one of these upcoming service opportunities:

- Men's Inn Dinner Service – Sunday, Sept. 29, 4 - 6 p.m.
- Shattuck Shelter Dinner Service – Sunday, Oct. 27, 5 - 6 p.m.
- Game Day – Sunday, Nov. 17, 1 - 3 p.m.

Visit www.pinestreetinn.org/innbassadors or call 617.892.9183.

The *Innbassadors* for Pine Street hosted an ice cream social for Women's Inn guests this summer.



Something's Cookin'

This summer, guests at each of our shelter locations were treated to a favorite summertime tradition – the BBQ. Volunteers grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, while guests were entertained with performances by the Boston Minstrels and Adam Ezra Group, the 2013 New England Music Awards "Band of the Year" (www.adamezra.com).

These summer treats were made possible thanks to generous volunteer groups, including the Ninety-Nine Restaurants, St. Mary of the Hills, St. Mark's Church and many others. We thank them for their year-round support!

Innsider

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