



**Pine Street Inn**  
Ending Homelessness

# Innsider

Winter 2013

News from Pine Street Inn

## What a Difference a Year Makes!



John Rich

The past year brought big changes for Barbara, who now calls Pine Street's Mulhern House "home."

Over the years, Barbara had held various administrative jobs, primarily in human resources. A college graduate, she was used to supporting herself. When Barbara was laid off during the economic downturn, she managed to get by on her unemployment benefits, while continuing to look for work.

Then her unemployment ran out. Without a safety net, Barbara lost her housing and wound up in the Women's Inn at Pine Street.

"It was hard having to carry around your belongings with you and then wait for a bed every night," she says.

She continued to send out resumes but found looking for work to be very challenging without a permanent address.

Spending last year's holiday season in the shelter was difficult, although Barbara did her best to keep her spirits up. To further complicate

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## A Fresh Start

Pine Street is working with a variety of legal agencies and services to expand an innovative program that aims to erase some of the legal barriers faced by homeless men and women.

Homeless Court is an alternative court session designed to resolve misdemeanor offenses, non-violent felonies and outstanding warrants for homeless individuals who have shown a strong commitment to recovery and stability.

"Open warrants or unresolved cases interfere with a person's ability to get housing and employment. Many people – especially those who are homeless – are fearful of coming to court to resolve their legal problems, further compounding the problems," says First Justice Kathleen Coffey of Boston Municipal Court–West Roxbury.

Coffey established the Homeless Court pilot project at the former

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First Justice Kathleen Coffey and Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley established the Homeless Court pilot project in 2010.

# From the President



**Homelessness is** a series of disconnections – from your home, family, community – and self. A big part of our job here at Pine Street Inn is to help people reconnect with these pieces of their lives.

Homelessness is a very isolating experience, and the holiday season can be an especially difficult time for those who have lost connection to home and family. At Pine Street,

we try to make the holidays special by distributing holiday gifts, serving special meals and providing entertainment. However, none of that is a substitute for having the stability of a home and support in putting one's life back together.

The theme of this newsletter is about those reconnections. Once people are in a stable living situation and don't have to worry about where they are going to sleep at night, they can make real progress toward self-sufficient lives.

**“A big part of our job here at Pine Street Inn is to help people reconnect to their lives.”**

Your generosity throughout the year, and especially at the holiday season, is overwhelming. We are so very grateful for your ongoing commitment and support, both monetary and time.

Because of you, we continue to move forward on our strategy to place more men and women in permanent supportive housing, reconnecting them with stable lives and hope for a better future. ❖

## *(A Fresh Start, from page 1)*

hopeFound's Shattuck Shelter in 2010, and it became part of Pine Street's services through last year's merger.

“Homeless Court eliminates some challenges and barriers and makes the court system more accessible,” she adds.

To be eligible for Homeless Court, individuals must be participating in a substance abuse treatment program, mental health treatment, housing search or employment program, and receive the recommendation of their case manager.

Candidates with open warrants in Boston Municipal Courts are screened by multiple agencies, including the

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Committee for Public Counsel and the Probation Department.

The District Attorney's Office ultimately decides if the dismissal of charges is appropriate and then works with the defense attorney to agree upon a recommendation for resolution.

For cases that appear before Homeless Court, the resolutions can bring finality to legal issues that have hindered the participants' progress, allowing them to focus on what brought them to the criminal justice system in the first place, says Judge Coffey.

“Each individual who comes before the

court has a unique story,” she says. “It is a strong reminder to me about how difficult life can be.”

Beginning in January 2013, monthly Court sessions will alternate between Pine Street's South End and Jamaica Plain locations.

“Homeless Court provides help in resolving those issues for participants who also seek treatment and services from partner agencies,” says Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley.

“Expanding the program shows the success it's had so far and the promise it holds for so many here in Boston. This is a great step forward for the program and the people it can help,” he adds. ❖

# Making Connections

**The people we serve** connect with Pine Street through a broad spectrum of programs and services aimed at helping them achieve a life of stability and independence.



**KEVIN**  
MEN'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Kevin had travelled the country for his job training race horses since he graduated high school. But in September, alcohol abuse derailed his life, leaving him without a job or place to live.

Seeking treatment, Kevin finished a detox program and was referred to Pine Street's Men's Transitional Housing Program, a two-year sober program that helps homeless men with a successful transition into permanent, affordable housing.

Kevin fills his days with group meetings – beginning every morning at 7:00 a.m. – meeting with his case manager and spending time with other men in the program.

“We are a little society here,” he says. “We work with each other and support each other.”

Given this chance, Kevin hopes to remain sober, take better care of his health and move toward his ultimate goal of finding housing and returning to his work with horses. ❖



**KHESHA**  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Khesha is grateful. After a period of homelessness, she's found stable housing in Boston and is working with Pine Street to improve her self-sufficiency and independence.

“There are a lot of good resources available that I am taking advantage of,” she says.

WorkFirst, a program helping newly housed individuals find employment, referred Khesha to the Housekeeping Training Program, an eight-week program offering instruction in general cleaning and maintenance. With Pine Street's facilities staff, Khesha is learning new skills she hopes will help her re-enter the job market after a long gap in employment. WorkFirst is also on Khesha's side, helping her update her resume and apply for full-time employment.

“I learned from being in shelter that you can fall, but you can also bring yourself back up. I'm very blessed to have this chance to do that,” she says. ❖

## OUR PROGRAMS

### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

500+ rooms in congregate housing  
260+ scattered site apartments

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

Men's Inn  
Women's Inn  
Shattuck Shelter  
Anchor Inn

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Men's Transitional Housing Program  
Housing & Working Program  
Women in Transition

### STREET OUTREACH

Neighborhood-Based Outreach  
Nighttime Outreach Vans

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & JOB TRAINING

Building Maintenance Training Program  
Food Services Training Program  
Housekeeping Training Program  
IMPACT Employment Services  
WorkFirst (*employment program*)

### RECOVERY SERVICES

Stabilization (*substance abuse treatment and wellness services*)

### VETERANS' PROGRAMS

Veterans' Services (*case management*)  
Veterans' Transitional Housing

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

iCater  
Boston HandyWorks



# Connecting with the Community

## Corporate Partnerships:

## Natixis is Making a Difference

**Our Corporate** partners play an important role in moving Pine Street's mission forward, and companies like Natixis Global Asset Management are a big reason why.

Natixis had been a loyal supporter of hopeFound, a homeless services organization that merged with Pine Street last year, and a supporter of our social enterprise, iCater, making a gift to purchase a new delivery truck, thus increasing our catering business's capacity to grow.

Natixis also sponsored our two signature events and named us a Community Partner for 2011 and 2012.

In addition to financial support, employees volunteer in our kitchen, serve meals to guests, and chop vegetables in Chop-A-Thons. They also host events at their office, bringing awareness about our work to their colleagues.

With support of community and corporate partners like Natixis, Pine Street is moving closer to its goal of ending homelessness.

*To learn about corporate volunteer opportunities, contact Scottie Wait, 617.892.9187 or [scottie.wait@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:scottie.wait@pinestreetinn.org).* ❖



**Employees from Natixis Global Asset Management are frequent volunteers at Pine Street Inn.**

## Memorials & Tributes: Honoring Someone Special

Making an honorary gift is a wonderful way to acknowledge someone who has made a meaningful impact on your life, while also supporting an important cause. Consider these ways to make this heartfelt gesture:

- A memorial or tribute donation can help meet the immediate needs of our guests or fund an upcoming project. A card recognizing your gift will be sent to your honoree.
- Honorary gifts made through a bequest in your will or living trust can direct an asset, dollar amount or percentage of your estate to benefit Pine Street.

Depending on the nature of your gift, there are a variety of ways we can recognize your honoree and your generosity.

*To learn more, please visit [www.pinestreetinn.org/pg](http://www.pinestreetinn.org/pg) or contact Kristina M. Lentz, 617.892.9182 or [kristina.lentz@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:kristina.lentz@pinestreetinn.org).* ❖

*(What a Difference a Year Makes, from page 1)*

matters, she wound up with health problems and had to seek medical assistance.

What a difference a year makes. Several months ago, Barbara moved into a Pine Street permanent residence in Jamaica Plain, where she has a room of her own, the support of a caring case manager, and is surrounded by housemates who have become a family to her.

For this year's holidays, she helped prepare and serve the holiday meals they all shared together. "Coming together over the holidays helped create a great sense of community in the house," she says.

Now in a stable home with a permanent address, Barbara has been participating in Pine Street's WorkFirst program, designed to assist men and women who have recently moved into housing in finding a job. She is looking forward to re-entering the workforce and has set a goal of moving into a "little apartment" of her own – perhaps by this time next year! ❖

# The Season of Service!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers and supporters whose generosity provides our guests and tenants with a happy holiday season. With their help, gifts were purchased and wrapped, delicious meals were prepared and served, and everyone had a wonderful time!



**Above:** Gail Huff and Sen. Scott Brown, with the City of Boston's Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon, and Director of the Emergency Shelter Commission Jim Greene, helped in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day.

**Top Right:** Chefs Kevin Watson from Legal Sea Foods, Andy Husbands from Tremont 647 and Frank Van Overbeeke from Pine Street prepared the Thanksgiving meal.

**Bottom Right:** Pine Street Board Member Steve Kelley and his family joined more than 100 volunteers to wrap holiday gifts for our emergency shelter guests. ❖

## Innbassadors

Our Young Professionals Group has a new name: Introducing the Pine Street *Innbassadors*!

The *Innbassadors* are looking forward to 2013 and are planning several social networking events and service opportunities at our shelter and housing locations in the coming months. All are welcome!

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, visit [www.pinestreetinn.org/innbassadors](http://www.pinestreetinn.org/innbassadors). ❖

Joe Growhoski and Jennifer Garrick enjoy the *Innbassadors'* Annual Holiday Party at Legal Sea Foods, which raised funds for our programs and to purchase gifts for 18 tenants in Pine Street's Doe House. Thanks for spreading the cheer!



## SAVE THE DATE

**HOMEREMEDY**  
A Breakfast to Benefit Pine Street Inn

**Tuesday, April 23, 2013**  
**Westin Copley Place**  
**Boston, MA**

**Join Us in Ending Homelessness.**

Home Remedy raises critical funds to help Pine Street Inn move people from the streets and shelter to housing.

For information on Home Remedy corporate sponsorships and ticket sales, please contact us at 617.892.9170 or [info@pinestreetinn.org](mailto:info@pinestreetinn.org).

[WWW.PINESTREETINN.ORG/BREAKFAST](http://WWW.PINESTREETINN.ORG/BREAKFAST)



# Friends of the Inn

## A Thanksgiving treat for our tenants

On Thanksgiving Day, tenants living in Pine Street's scattered site apartments gathered together to celebrate with some generous volunteers and supporters. St. Cecilia Parish in Boston provided space in its community room, and about 30 parishioners provided entertainment, games and plenty of helping hands to serve the meal to nearly 50 tenants in attendance.

BoMA Restaurant + Bar in the South End prepared and donated all the traditional fixings, including turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. This heartfelt event truly made a difference in the lives of many of our tenants, and for that we are grateful.



St. Cecilia Parish in Boston hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for tenants in Pine Street's scattered site apartments.



Pine Street was thrilled to be a part of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation's *Celebrate Volunteerism* initiative during the 2012 Patriots' Season.

Each week of the season focused on a different area of need to inspire New Englanders to become lifelong volunteers. Pine Street was highlighted during Homelessness Week in December to help build awareness of how the community can get involved in ending homelessness.

Standout volunteer Michael Ferullo was also recognized as a Patriots Difference Maker during an event in December. Michael coaches the Bulldog Running Club, which introduces men in Pine Street's Stabilization program to running as a tool for recovery. Congratulations to Michael on this much-deserved honor.



Pine Street volunteer and Patriots Difference Maker Michael Ferullo with NE Patriot Vince Wilfork.

## Shattuck's Holiday Heroes

For the second year in a row, Kingdom Minded Ministries of Boston provided delicious meals and terrific volunteers to help celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas Day with guests at Shattuck Shelter and in the Stabilization Program. To top off the festivities, the Ministries also generously fulfilled the holiday wish lists of guests.

Kingdom Minded Ministries' spirit of giving extends throughout the year.

The church often sends volunteers to serve dinner and hosts a summer BBQ

at Shattuck Shelter.

They also hold donation drives for items most often needed by our guests, such as toiletries and socks.

Their kindness and generosity shows our guests that the community cares about them at the holidays – and every other day of the year.



Volunteers from Kingdom Minded Ministries in Boston prepared and served dinner to more than 150 people at Shattuck Shelter on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### Insider

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### Pine Street Inn

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