



MBHP releases Hoarding Training Manual

Since 2006, MBHP has helped hundreds of people with hoarding avoid eviction and maintain healthier homes. Now, with generous funding from the Oak Foundation, we have created a manual for non-clinical professionals looking to do the same thing. *Effective Hoarding Intervention* breaks down MBHP's model step by step and gives invaluable insight gleaned from our experience in the field. The manual is available at a cost of \$20 each; for more information contact Jesse Edsell-Vetter at (617) 425-6658 or jesse.vetter@mbhp.org.

A fresh start for Nikia

MBHP helps a new mother find a home for her and her son.

Last winter, MBHP began issuing more than 70 state rental assistance vouchers that had been set aside for families on the newly-created Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program waiting list. As part of this process, MBHP works closely with clients to ensure they are able to move into new homes where they can thrive. Sometimes that means leveraging relationships we have with property owners in our region and mitigating credit issues or other issues that are deal-breakers for many landlords. Other times, it can mean educating property owners who are unfamiliar with MBHP's programs. The story below is just one example of how MBHP was able to help Nikia utilize her voucher to secure a new home and begin a new chapter of her life.

Nikia was living with her mother, sharing a bedroom with her 12-year-old sister and 2-month-old son, when she found out she was selected to receive an MRVP voucher. She knew just where she wanted to move: a two-bedroom apartment in a complex in Braintree with utilities included in the rent, which would help her stay on budget. But then she faced an unanticipated barrier that would have prevented Nikia from utilizing her voucher to rent there. Fortunately, MBHP's Fair Housing team intervened.

Once the property owner was informed of their fair housing responsibilities, the company agreed to move forward with the proper paperwork without MBHP having to file a formal complaint. Nikia says it was a relief to know that MBHP was handling things. "I had so many other things to worry about," the new mother said. "It was very comforting to know I had so many people working for me."

Nikia moved into her new home in August. Now, she says, she can focus on saving money and improving her credit, working toward her goal of eventually buying her own home. "Right now it is hard," she admits, "but with the MRVP program it's going to get better."

MBHP has been designated as one of the lead agencies for Mass LEAP, a new five-year program to help people increase their incomes and become more self-sufficient.

MBHP's Mass LEAP enrollment (as of September 1, 2015):

41 MRVP participants
31 Public Housing residents



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E I G H T H A N N U A L



*Founders
Celebration*

MBHP to honor Amy S. Anthony and Helene Solomon on November 12

MBHP's driving mission is to connect the residents of Greater Boston with safe, decent homes they can afford. For us to be able to do this work, the creation, promotion, and preservation of affordable housing is vital. At this year's Founders Celebration, MBHP will honor two outstanding individuals who have championed this cause:

Amy S. Anthony, former president and chief executive officer of Preservation of Affordable Housing will receive the Founders Award.

Helene Solomon, founder and chief executive officer of Solomon McCown & Company will receive the Lowell L. Richards III Award.

The event will be held on Thursday, November 12, and will once again be hosted by State Street, the event's Presenting Partner. To R.S.V.P., contact Mary Jo Kane at maryjo.kane@mbhp.org or (617) 425-6705. More information is on our website at www.mbhp.org/donate.