MBHP is pleased to announce the addition of two new individuals to our board of directors: Joseph Kriesberg, president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, and Mike Widmer, former president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

"MBHP does so much to provide that foundation to so many that I am thrilled to have the chance to help enhance and strengthen those efforts as a board member," said Kriesberg.

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**FSS report released**

The University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Social Policy has released a report on the success and challenges of MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is a national program available to Section 8 participants and people in public housing to help them sustain their tenancy, improve their career and financial goals. CSP’s evaluation found that outcomes of MBHP’s FSS program exceed the national average on almost every count, including higher enrollment rates, higher levels of asset accumulation, and lower termination rates.

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Geeta Pradhan**

Geeta Pradhan began her career in architecture and urban design, but following the beginning, community development and sustainability were guiding passions. These led her to The Boston Foundation, where she served as Associate Vice President, and Cambridge Community Foundation, where she now serves as President.

“You have to believe you can create change,” says Pradhan currently has.

Pradhan first connected with MBHP during the foreclosure crisis in 2008, when large number of MBHP Section 8 participants were facing eviction from foreclosed properties in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Allston. The Boston Foundation multi-pronged strategy administered a Neighborhood Stabilization Fund to purchase distressed properties, funded advocacy, and supported MBHP to help tenants to remain in place. From this first partnership, her relationship with MBHP grew.

“During conversations with Chris Norris about struggling families,” says Pradhan, “I realized our program needed to support MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program with a five-year grant to expand MBHP’s FSS enrollment in the Farmount Community. This will build their income and assets.”

“I saw everyone doing their bit in Farmount, the work coexisting,” says Pradhan. “Philanthropy can play a big role in this, by helping community organizations work together towards greater good.”

Pradhan continues this tradition today. Recently, the Cambridge Community Foundation has pledged support to MBHP’s Housing Intervention initiative, which will help low-income elders in Cambridge and beyond to maintain safer homes and age in place with dignity.

**Thanks Ropes & Gray!**

MBHP is grateful to once again receive the support of Ropes & Gray, whose staff members came together to donate more than 200 children’s winter coats. MBHP delivered these gift-wrapped presents to the homeless families, to make rent more affordable.

For more information on the many programs and services we administer, or to contact us at www.mbhp.org or call our Housing Consumer Education Center at 617-425-8700.

**Staying healthy at home**

Salvatore wanted to live at home with his family. The University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Social Policy has released a report on the success and challenges of MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Salvatore wasn’t the only one. Nearly 600 MBHP residents received critical home modification grants, making their homes safer and more accessible.

“Salvatore’s story is one of the many success stories captured in the report. Through MBHP’s Home Modification Loan Program, we’re able to make their homes a safe place for the entire family to live.”

**Attention MBHP alums: We want to hear from you!**

As we approach our 35th anniversary, MBHP is looking to connect with MBHP’s Success Program.

“‘Y ou couldn’t make it any better than this.’” says Cheryl. She says both Salvatore and her daughter, Cheryl, and her husband. Throughout the fund program, Cheryl was able to make her family’s home a safe place for her father to live.

But last summer, he enjoyed many meals outside on a brand new deck, just one of the many improvements made possible by MBHP’s Home Modification Loan Program.

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Pradhan is a proud supporter of MBHP’s work. “MBHP’s amazing work speaks a lot for the organization’s values,” she said. “We’re pleased for collaborative work on critical issues of housing and economic mobility.”

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The study was funded by The Boston Foundation, who in 2010 provided MBHP with a five-year $500,000 grant to expand the FSS program in the Farmount Community. The grant permitted MBHP to help tenants to remain in place. From this first partnership, their relationship with MBHP grew.

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FSS report released

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Credit:

Geeta Pradhan began her career in architecture and urban design, but from the beginning, community development and sustainability were guiding passions. These led her to The Boston Foundation, where she served as Associate Vice President, and Cambridge Community Foundation, where she now serves as President.

“We have to believe you can make a difference,” says Pradhan. “You have to believe you can make a difference.”

Pradhan first connected with MBHP during the foreclosure crises in 2008, when large numbers of MBHP’s Section 8 participants were facing eviction from foreclosed properties in Boston, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

The Boston Foundation’s multi-pronged administration strategy to purchase distressed properties, funded advisory, and supported MBHP to help tenants to remain in place. From this first partnership, their relationship with MBHP grew.

“During conversations with Chris Norris about struggling families,” Pradhan says, “the network work for The Boston Foundation’s Neighborhood Stabilization Fund to purchase distressed properties, funded advisory, and supported MBHP to help tenants to remain in place. From this first partnership, their relationship with MBHP grew.

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Pradhan is a proud supporter of MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program. MBHP is a well poised for collaborative work on critical issues of housing and economic mobility.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Geeta Pradhan

MBHP empowers families and individuals to move along the continuum from homelessness to housing to self-sufficiency, and enhance the quality of the lives of those we serve. Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency and to providing efficient service delivery. We work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

MBHP’s programs

MBHP empowers families and individuals to move along the continuum from homelessness to housing to self-sufficiency, and enhance the quality of the lives of those we serve. Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency and to providing efficient service delivery. We work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

Our broad array of programs and services, as well as our extensive network of property owners and fellow service providers, allow us to address a wider range of housing needs. For example, in addition to preventing evictions and homelessness, MBHP helps people purchase their own suitable homes, to making rent more affordable.

FSS emplois residents in various aspects of its work. As a result, MBHP is now employing a number of people in Greater Boston who are working so hard to increase their incomes and become self-sufficient. MBHP is grateful to once again receive the support of Ropes and Gray, whose staff members came together to donate more than $50,000 in monetary and in-kind donations to MBHP.

Salvatore wanted to live at home with his family. Thx to MBHP's Home Modification Loan Program, he can do just that.

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Thanks to Ropes & Gray

Ropes & Gray is one of the top law firms in the world, renowned for its comprehensive practice across all sectors of the economy. The firm is committed to giving back to the communities in which it operates. MBHP is pleased to be a recipient of Ropes & Gray’s annual pro bono program. Ropes & Gray is an excellent partner and has provided MBHP with a wide range of legal services.

Attention MBHP alums: We want to hear from you!

As we approach our 35th anniversary, MBHP is looking to get in touch with former staff, board members, and other supporters who have helped us play a big role in that, by helping community organizations work together towards greater good.

Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to alumni and former staff, board members, and other supporters who have helped us play a big role in that, by helping community organizations work together towards greater good.

Salvatore had been out of the house for almost a year. His health issues, including partial blindness, made it difficult for him to get around. But last summer, he enjoyed many meals outside on a brand new deck, just one of the many improvements made possible by MBHP’s Home Modification Loan Program.

Salvatore was able to make their family home a safe and perfect partner.

Staying healthy at home

MBHP is on a mission to ensure that the region’s low- and moderate-income individuals and families have choice and mobility in finding and retaining safe and affordable housing, all of our programs and initiatives are designed to create stable, sustainable, and affordable housing, increase economic self-sufficiency, and enhance the quality of the lives of those we serve. To achieve our mission, MBHP offers a broad array of services and programs, which are available to income individuals and families.

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Thank you to our recent grant funders

Citizens Bank Foundation; Cambridge Community Foundation; Linde Family Foundation; Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation; Santander Bank

Changes included an exterior stair lift to help him get in and out of the house, a new bathroom in the first floor suite where he was living, and a new front porch that made it much easier for him to get around. "You couldn't make it any better than this," says Pradhan.

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FSS report released

The University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Social Policy has released a report on the success and challenges of MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is a national program available to Section 8 participants and public housing to help them save money and move toward greater economic independence. The report was released in 2014.

MBHP’s success was attributed in part to our collaborative approach. Through co-locating our services with CONNECT in Chelsea, we are able to recruit a number of potential participants. Our extensive network of service providers, we can connect participants with resources they need to achieve their goals.

The report included policy recommendations to address some of the challenges faced by FSS participants increasing wages, improving working conditions in the business community, and investing in the availability of affordable housing.

The study was funded by The Boston Foundation, who in 2010 provided MBHP with a five-year $500,000 grant to expand the FSS program in the Fairmount Corridor. During this grant period, participants in this program accumulated a total of $2.7 million in estimated escrow payments, or about $10,000 per participant.

“Despite the challenges faced by FSS participants, we are seeing significant improvements in their lives,” said David Kelley, MBHP FSS Program Manager. “We are excited to see the impact of our program on the lives of those who participate.”

Geeta Pradhan began her career in architecture and urban design, but from the beginning, community development and sustainability were guiding passions. These led her to The Boston Foundation, where she served as Associate Vice President, and Cambridge Community Foundation, where she now serves as President.

“Have you believe you can make a difference,” says Pradhan, “you have to believe you can make a difference.” And Pradhan certainly has.

Pradhan first connected with MBHP during the foreclosure crisis of 2008, when large numbers of MBHP families were facing eviction from foreclosed homes in Boston, Dorchester, and Mattapan. The Boston Foundation’s multi-pronged strategy administered a five-year grant to expand MBHP’s Self-Sufficiency Program with a family self-sufficiency initiative.

“During conversations with Chris Norris about struggling families,” Pradhan said, “the work for The Boston Foundation’s Investment in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program with a five-year grant to expand MBHP’s FSS enrollment in the Fairmount Corridor to help 500 families build their income and assets.”

“I’ve never been happier in my life,” says Cheryl. She says this year the whole family’s quality of life has improved. Salvatore agrees that he has everything he needs.

“Salvatore’s doing better,” she says. “We could not do this without MBHP.”

Pradhan is a proud supporter of MBHP’s work, and says, “MBHP is a great partner. She speaks a lot for the organization’s values.”

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FSS enrollment in the Fairmount Corridor to help 500 families build their income and assets.

“Every time I go see a family, they tell me that MBHP has made a difference in their lives,” says Pradhan. “I’ve never been happier in my life.”

Salvatore’s been outside the house in years. His health issues, including partial baldness, made it difficult for him to get around. But last summer, he enjoyed many meals outside on a brand new deck, just one of the many improvements made possible by MBHP’s Home Modification Loan Program.

As we approach our 35th anniversary, MBHP is looking to get in touch with former tenants, fellow service providers, staff members, and supporters to capture their stories.

Attention MBHP alums: We want to hear from you!

Over the next few months, we will be holding events and other opportunities to help MBHP “alums” connect with us and each other. “You can help us spread the word. If you know of anyone who might be interested in getting back involved, ask them to let us know.”

Contact Steve Farrell at steven.farrell@mbhp.org or call our Housing Consumer Education Center at 617.425.6700.
Mike Widmer

Welcome new board members

MBHP is pleased to announce the addition of two new individuals to our board of directors: Joseph Kriesberg, president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, and Mike Widmer, former president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

"MBHP does so much to provide that foundation to so many that I am thrilled to have the chance to help enhance and strengthen those efforts as a board member," said Kriesberg.

"I am delighted to join the Board of such an outstanding organization which has developed a remarkably impressive array of programs and services on behalf of affordable housing," said Widmer.

Meet MBHP’s 2016 Boston Marathon team

For the ninth year running, thanks to the John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program, a group of volunteers will be competing in the Boston Marathon and raising funds and awareness for MBHP.

This year’s team of includes three MBHP staff members: RAFT Case Manager Lourdes Lopez, FSS Advisor Maksim Sigal, and Program Representative Samantha Sanchez-Lobo. Rounding out the team are Rus Lodi, who is running for the second year in a row, and Mairead Kean.

You can help Team MBHP reach their goal! Visit www.crowdrise.com/mbhp2016 to make a donation, or donate a raffle prize for one of our upcoming fundraisers. Contact Mary Jo Kane at maryjo.kane@mbhp.org or 617.425.6705 for more information on how you can get involved.

Annual Report 2015 is available online

Each year, MBHP helps more than 20,000 households connect with resources to secure safe homes they can afford. In part, we accomplish this by tapping into a policies network. Whether administering a voucher to make rent more affordable, connecting someone with career development services to increase earnings and save more, or loaning money to help someone with a disability stay in their home, MBHP staff exhaust every avenue in order to navigate our clients through this often confusing world of affordable housing.

You can read the stories of just a few of the thousands of people we helped last year in our 2015 Annual Report, available online at www.mbhp.org/annual-report-2015.

Celebrating the past, looking toward the future

Last fall, MBHP honored two individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of affordable housing. The event was hosted by State Street and raised more than $170,000 to support MBHP programs, thanks to the efforts of the Leadership Committee, chaired by Lawrence H. Cutts, Joseph L. Flately, and Marvin Siflinger.

“This is a huge honor and a very special time for me,” said Anthony, who recently retired as president and chief executive officer of Preservation of Affordable Housing. “I’m touched beyond belief,” said Solomon, who is the chief executive officer of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, also spoke at the event. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with all of you to support MBHP and this great work that it does in our communities,” said Anthony. “It’s great to be involved together in an organization that is making a difference in the lives of people, making sure that the quality of life of people who need just a little bit of assistance is realized.”
Meet MBHP’s 2016 Boston Marathon team

For the ninth year running, thanks to the John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program, a group of volunteers will be competing in the Boston Marathon and raising funds and awareness for MBHP.

This year’s team of includes three MBHP staff members: RAFT Case Manager Lourdes Lopez, FSS Advisor Maksim Sigal, and Program Representative Siomara Sanchez-Lobo. Rounding out the team are Boston Marathon veteran Luther Lodi, running for the second year in a row, and Mairead Kean.

You can help Team MBHP reach their goal! Visit www.crowdrise.com/mbhp2016 to make a donation, or donate a raffle prize for one of our upcoming fundraisers. Contact Mary Jo Kane at maryjo.kane@mbhp.org or 617.425.6705 for more information on how you can get involved.

Welcome new board members

MBHP is pleased to announce the addition of two new individuals to our board of directors: Joseph Kriesberg, president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, and Mike Widmer, former president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

“MBHP does so much to provide that foundation to so many that I am thrilled to have the chance to help enhance and strengthen those efforts as a board member,” said Kriesberg.

“I am delighted to join the Board of such an outstanding organization which has developed a remarkably impressive array of programs and services on behalf of affordable housing,” said Widmer.

Annual Report 2015 is available online

Each year, MBHP helps more than 20,000 households connect with resources to secure safe homes they can afford. In part, we accomplish this by tapping into our valued network. Whether administering a voucher to make rent more affordable, connecting someone with career development services to increase earnings and save more, or helping money to help someone with a disability stay in their home, MBHP staff exhaust every avenue in order to navigate our clients through this time and the often confusing world of affordable housing.

You can read the stories of just a few of the thousands of people we helped last year in our 2015 Annual Report. Visit our website at www.mbhp.org/annual-report-2015.

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Celebrating the past, looking toward the future

Last fall, MBHP honored two individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of affordable housing. The event was hosted by State Street and raised more than $170,000 to support MBHP programs, thanks to the efforts of the Leadership Committee, chaired by Lawrence H. Cuthill, Joseph L. Pietry, and Marvin Silfingers.

“This is a huge honor and a very special time for me,” said Anthony, who recently retired as president and chief executive officer of Preservation of Affordable Housing. She reminded the attendees about the about amount of work still to do in addressing the current housing crisis in the Boston area. “We have so far to go. We have so much to do. We have so much undone in this field,” she said, adding, “We all have an obligation to make sure that we do everything we can make it to make it equitable, to maximize the benefit of what we are doing, many of whom are not lucky enough to get the help they need.”

“I’m touched beyond belief,” said Solomon, who is the chief executive officer of Solomon McCown & Company. She also reflected on the well-being of individuals and families throughout the region and beyond. We are very fortunate to have them as allies in our work to ensure that families and individuals in our region find a safe, affordable place to call home.”

Jay Ash, Massachusetts secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, also spoke at the event: “I feel the pleasure of working with all of you to support MBHP and the great work that it does in our communities,” said Ash. “It’s great to be involved together in an organization that is making a difference in the lives of people, making sure that the quality of life of people who need just a little bit of assistance is realized.”