Marathon update

On April 20, tens of thousands of runners took part in the 119th Boston Marathon. Five of these runners were also running for a very special cause: to help families and individuals find safe, decent homes they can afford.

Team MBHP 2015 finished the race strong, and their fundraising efforts even stronger. Each runner surpassed their $5,000 fundraising requirement. Special recognition goes to Russ Lodi who raised more than $12,700, a new Team MBHP individual record. Altogether, Team MBHP raised more than $41,000 for MBHP’s work, dramatically exceeding the $25,000 minimum expectation.

For the second year in a row, MBHP held an event to celebrate the achievements of our runners and to thank their donors for supporting them in their goals. The MBHP Mara-thon Celebration was held at District Hall in the Seaport District on April 29.

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Jo Kane at (617) 425-6705 or maryjo.kane@mbhp.org

Team MBHP runners wear ribbons in their hair to mark their participation in the 2015 Boston Marathon.

The discussion revolved around how best to support families who need help finding and retaining permanent housing. All panelists agreed that, in order to stay stably housed, families need resources such as child care vouchers, job training and placement programs, health care services, and long-term rental subsidies.

One issue the panel identified was the need for better coordination of services, for example job and child care resources. “You need child care in order to work, but as soon as you move from the shelter you’re not eligible for your child care voucher anymore,” said Nishman.

Obando agreed, calling for an infrastructure that would make it easier for people to make medical appointments to prevent interruptions in care.

Experts discuss challenges and best practices at MBHP’s first Housing Matters Forum

Thursday, November 12, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Jo Kane at (617) 425-6700 or maryjo.kane@mbhp.org

Metro Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) was named a recipient of a $25,000 grant from the Corporate Foundation of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Awards Ceremony and Cocktails Reception with Heavy Hors d’oeuvres

Hotel to Home: Helping families transition from shelter to stability

Experts discuss challenges and best practices at MBHP’s first Housing Matters Forum

Monday, October 26, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Jo Kane at (617) 425-6700 or maryjo.kane@mbhp.org

Housing Amy Anthony, President & Chief Executive Officer, Preservation of Affordable Housing and Lowell Richards Award Recipient Helene Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Solomon McKenna & Company, Inc. Leadership committee under the guidance of Lawrence H. Curtis, Joseph L. Flatley, Marvin Siflinger (617) 859-0400 • www.mbhp.org

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Jo Kane at (617) 425-6700 or maryjo.kane@mbhp.org

For more photos and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mbfhousing
Property Owner Appreciation Evening

MBHP recognizes three outstanding property owners.

On Thursday, April 23, MBHP gathered to celebrate the property owners who provide safe, affordable housing to MBHP’s program participants. We also took this opportunity to recognize three outstanding property owners who went above and beyond this past year. Steve Bryan, Vu Cuong, and Anthony Quiles. The keynote speaker was Dien Ninh, director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equity for the City of Boston.

In his speech, Ninh reminded attendees that April was Fair Housing Month. “Fair housing is an issue that is close to my heart,” said Ninh. “In Boston, addressing housing instability and advocacy work they go with property owners and tenants to ensure that the residents of Greater Boston have equal access to safe, affordable homes.”

Following in Lowell’s footsteps

The 2015 Lowell Richells Fellows have been named

MBHP is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Lowell Richells Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service. Carrie Seltzer and Terra Richards. We are grateful to State Street Foundation, Massachusetts Port Authority, and all the volunteers whose support made this year’s fellowship possible.

Caroline (Carrie) Seltzer will be working in Massport’s Economic Planning and Development Department where Lowell served as chief development officer for more than 10 years. Seltzer is also a Master of City Planning candidate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The same degree Lowell earned from the same school.

Terra Richards will be hosted at DREAM, a youth-mentoring program in Lowell. Since enrolling in MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2012, Terra has completed her bachelor’s degree at Community College and is currently working on her master’s, all while working full-time as a paraprofessional for Boston Public Schools and raising her three children.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Janet Frazier of Maloney Properties

Board member, donor, partner

As president and chief executive officer of Maloney Properties, Janet Frazier is a maverick managing 6,000 units, an inventory which is affordable and accessible to those who need it. Frazier’s commitment to improving the quality of life of the residents she serves has made her a natural partner for MBHP.

Through our long-term relationship, MBHP and Maloney Properties have helped many families find safe, affordable homes where they can thrive. “Maloney Properties understands that, beyond the need for housing, families also need a support system,” said Frazier. “Their program is absolutely cutting edge, working with people in ways that go above and beyond just providing a voucher.”

Along with her professional ties to the organization, Frazier is also a donor in addition to her personal contributions, as well as donations from Maloney Properties, she has also given in unique ways, stepping up to donate the space for the 2016 Marathon Celebration at Hotel NO, managed by Maloney Properties.

“Terra being surprised when I was first asked to donate,” said Frazier. “I thought of MBHP as being more of a voucher provider. It made me wonder what other support they need or provided. When I looked into MBHP, I became more and more impressed.”

In December 2012, Frazier joined the board of directors, providing a much-needed property management perspective. Since then, she has been a regular presence at MBHP events and a valuable member of the board. “I’m incredibly impressed by the board and the people involved,” she said. “I’m happy to contribute in any way I can.”

Frazier’s appreciation for MBHP’s work makes her a natural ambassador for the organization. “I’m always singing their praises wherever I go,” she said. “It’s a tremendous agency that deserves our support. We’re very lucky to have MBHP.”

MBHP is also helping to launch a partnership with the Chelsea HealthCare Center to assess the physical and mental health of clients in Waltham, where MBHP and BHCHP have both established a presence. The project kicked off in Waltham on April 28, MBHP also kicked off a partnership with Quincy College where we are now holding regular office hours. Thanks in part to support from AmeriCorps, MBHP also has colocations in Chelsea and Somerville, as well as Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury in Boston.

“Quincy College is pleased to partner with MBHP” said Susan Bixas, associate vice president of Student Development, noting that this partnership has already benefited local students as well as faculty members. “We look forward to a successful partnership.”

RAFT wrapped for 2015

As of April 15, MBHP has distributed more than 2.7 million dollars this year to help more than 1,000 families in Boston and 35 surrounding communities, many of whom were at risk of homelessness, stay stably housed. With an average assistance of $2,765 per family, and the average stay for a family in shelter cut in half, MBHP has paved the way for continuity of care once they reach stability, increase economic self-sufficiency, and enhance the quality of the lives of those we serve. To continue this work, we are launching new initiatives to expand our reach and to promote efficient service delivery. This will look like work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

Building Bridges to Better Health

Planning Grant from The Boston Foundation

In April, a project proposed by MBHP was one of four selected to receive a planning grant from The Boston Foundation’s Health Starts all at Home initiative. The grant will be used to address the health and housing needs of homeless or at-risk individuals who lack secure housing.

As the lead organization, MBHP will collaborate with our partners Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Urban Edge to identify comprehensive and behavioral health challenges that families who are homeless, assist clients in applying for those services they are eligible for but not yet receiving, and pave the way for continuity of care once the families are rehoused.

The demonstration program will take place at Home Suites Inn in Waltham, where MBHP and BHCHP have both established a presence. The program will rely on a solid and effective service presence. The program, which started in May, will run through January 2016.

MBHP Colocation Coordinator Tim Synan speaks with students at Quincy College

This spring, MBHP started a new colocation to serve our program participants in the South Shore. Our Outreach Team has been traveling to Interfaith Social Services in Quincy since March to meet residents close to where they live and address their housing-related issues. On April 28, MBHP also kicked off a partnership with Quincy College where we are now holding regular office hours. Thanks in part to support from Americorps, MBHP also has colocations in Chelsea and Somerville, as well as Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury in Boston.
MBHP recognizes three outstanding property owners

On Thursday, April 23, MBHP gathered to recognize three outstanding property owners who provide safe, affordable housing to MBHP program participants. We also took the opportunity to recognize three outstanding property owners who went above and beyond this past year. Steve Bryan, Vu Cuong, and Anthony Quiles. The keynote speaker was Dion Irish, director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equity for the City of Boston.

In his speech, Irish reminded attendees that April was Fair Housing Month. “Fair housing is an issue that is close to my heart,” said Irish. “I commend MBHP for the education and advocacy work they do to promote efficient service delivery, and to promote fair housing.”

Following in Lowell’s footsteps

The 2015 Lowell Richelows Fellows have been named

MBHP is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Lowell Richelows Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service. Callie Selker and Terra Richards. We are grateful to State Street Foundation, Massachusetts Port Authority, and all the funders whose support made this year’s fellowship possible.

Callie (Callie) Selker will be working in Massport’s Economic Planning and Development Department where Lowell served as chief economic officer for more than 10 years. Selker is also a Master of City Planning candidate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The same degree Lowell earned from the same school.

Terra Richards will be hosted at Dream, a youth-mentoring program Lowell was passionate about. Since enrolling in MBHP’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program in 2012, Terra has completed her bachelor’s degree at Cambridge College and is currently working on her master’s, while working full-time as a paraprofessional for Boston Public Schools and raising her three children.

Mission statement
MBHP’s mission is to ensure that the region’s low- and moderate-income individuals and families have choice and mobility in retaining and retaining decent and affordable housing, all of our programs and initiatives are designed to reduce housing insecurity, increase economic security, improve the quality of the lives of those we serve, and to promote efficient service delivery through our work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

MBHP’s programs
MBHP empowers families and individuals to move away from the continuum of homelessness to fair housing. Services to more than 20,000 households annually, we work side-by-side to bridge the gaps among government, corporations, and communities to continually increase our impact. With more than 30 years experience piloting innovative housing programs and initiatives are designed to encourage housing self-sufficiency, and enhance the quality of the lives of those we serve, and to promote efficient service delivery through our work collaboratively with a broad array of service providers and neighborhood-based organizations.

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MBHP recognizes three outstanding property owners

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Janet Frazier of Maloney Properties

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On Thursday, April 23, MBHP gathered to recognize and celebrate the property owners who provide safe, affordable housing to MBHP’s programs and participants. The event was attended by many of the approximately 20,000 households who live in MBHP-owned and -managed housing, as well as community leaders, property owners, and tenants. The theme of the evening was “Finding and Retaining Decent Homes.”

As the lead organization, MBHP will collaborate with our partners Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Urban Edge on the development and implementation of behavioral health challenges that families have, assist community members whose housing services they are eligible for but not able to use. The program will run for five years, with the first year serving roughly 200 families.

MBHP is also helping to launch a similar program Through the Chelsea Homes for Healthy Families Housing and Mental Health program; the same one that has been successful in Waltham, where MBHP and BHCHP have both established a much-needed property management of families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The program will provide a solid and effective service presence. The project is funded by a new grant from City of Boston.

In April, a project proposed by MBHP was one of four selected to receive a planning grant for The Boston Foundation’s Health Starts at Home initiative to address the health care and housing needs of families who are chronically homeless or who lack secure housing.

MBHP in the South Shore

New colocation at Quincy College

This spring, MBHP started a new colocation to serve our program participants in the South Shore. Our Outreach Team has been traveling to Interfaith Social Services in Quincy since March to meet residents close to where they live and address their housing-related issues. On April 28, MBHP also opened a partnership with Quincy College where we are now holding regular office hours. Thanks in part to support from the City of America, MBHP also has colocations in Chelsea and Somerville, as well as Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury in Boston.

“Quincy College is pleased to partner with MBHP,” said Susan Bissex, associate vice president of Student Development, noting that the partnership has already benefited local students as well as the local community. “We look forward to a successful partnership.”

RAFT swapped for 2015

As of April 15, MBHP has distributed more than $2.7 million this year to help more than 500 families in Boston and 35 surrounding communities, many of whom were at risk of homelessness, stay stably housed. With an average existence of $2,785 per family, and the average stay for a family sheltered or $24,000 annually, this represents a potential estimated savings of $27 million for the Commonwealth.

The Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program helps families experiencing a financial crisis cover expenses such as rent, medical costs, and basic furniture. MBHP will begin accepting RAFT applications again when the fiscal year 2016 funds are available, most likely in July.

MBHP in the South Shore

New colocation at Quincy College

Janet Frazier is a powerful ally. “I’m impressed by the board and the people involved,” she said. “I’m happy to contribute in any way I can.”

Frazier’s appreciation for MBHP’s mission and work makes her a natural ambassador for the organization. “I am always singing their praises wherever I go,” she said. “It’s a tremendous agency that deserves our support. We’re very lucky to have MBHP.”

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Threading the needle was a major accomplishment and a tough nut to crack.Faizan and I were both happy to see it come to fruition and how it has benefited many members of our community.”

She also spearheaded the project from the City of Boston.

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Marathon update

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Team MBHP 2015 finished the race strong, and their fundraising efforts even stronger. Each runner surpassed their $5,000 fundraising requirement. Special recognition goes to Rus Lodi who raised more than $12,700, a new Team MBHP individual record. Altogether, Team MBHP raised more than $41,000 for MBHP’s work, dramatically exceeding the $25,000 minimum expectation.

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The MBHP Marathon Celebration was held at District Hall in the Seaport District on April 29. For more photos see our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mbhp-

You can also see more photos of the runners and footers participating in the MBHP End-to-End Marathon or our race.
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Team MBHP runners, past and present, with MBHP Executive Director Chris Norris at the 2015 Marathon Celebration.

Awards Ceremony and Cocktail Reception with Heavy Hors d’oeuvres

Thursday, November 12, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Save the Date for the Eighth Annual Founders Celebration

Hotel to Home: Helping families transition from shelter to stability

What do families who are home- less need to move out of shelter and into stable homes? On March 17, MBHP called together a panel of experts to discuss this question, and the resulting conversation was enlightening.

Moderated by The Boston Foundation’s Becky Kuszpik, the panel included Dr. Auro Obando of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program; Lanavi Tolentino of MBHP, Amy Fishman of Jewish Vocational Services; and Esther Shungu, an MBHP program participant who had recently moved out of shelter and into her new apartment.

The discussion revolved around how best to support families who need help finding and retaining permanent housing. All panelists agreed that, in order to stably house, families need resources such as child care vouchers, job training and placement programs, health care services, and long- term rental subsidies.

One issue the panel identified was the need for better coordination of services, for example job and child care resources. “You need child care in order to work, but as soon as you move from the shelter you’re not eligible for your child care voucher anymore,” said Nishman.

Responding to a question about evaluating the effort of Tolentino emphasized that each family had an individualized housing plan based on their situation. “Everyone is measured on a different scale,” she said. “We ask, ‘Are you achieving the goals that are aspirable for your household?’”

Panelists and MBHP Board members at the MBHP Housing Matters Forum.

Housing Amy Anthony, President & Chief Executive Officer, Preservation of Affordable Housing and Lowell Richards Award Recipient Hekie Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Solomon McKuss & Company, Inc. Leadership committee under the guidance of Lawrence H. Curtis, Joseph L. Flanley, Marvin Siffman

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Mary Jo Kane at (617) 425-6705 or maryjo.kane@mbhp.org