



@Home

News and Updates from Metro Housing|Boston

Winter 2017-18

1411 Tremont Street | Boston, MA 02120-3401 | 617.859.0400 | toll free: 800.272.0990 (MA only) | MetroHousingBoston.org

Our Mission

We mobilize wide-ranging resources to provide innovative and personalized services that lead families and individuals to housing stability, economic security, and an improved quality of life.

Our Programs

Metro Housing|Boston empowers families and individuals to move along the continuum from homelessness to housing stability. Serving more than 25,000 households annually, we work seamlessly to bridge the gaps among government, nonprofits, and corporations to continually increase our impact. With 35 years' experience piloting and implementing housing programs, we have solidified our position as an industry-leading expert on navigating the affordable housing field.

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 wide range of housing-related issues, from preventing evictions and homelessness, to helping people find suitable homes, to making rent more affordable.

For more information on the many programs and services we administer, visit metrohousingboston.org or call our Housing Consumer Education Center at 617.425.6700.

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,
After many years of planning and hard work, I am very happy to be writing to you from our new home in Roxbury Crossing, just across the street from the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line station.

Located at the intersection of Tremont Street, Columbus Avenue, and Malcolm X Boulevard, our location will enable our dedicated staff to better serve you.

Our move marks a new era in the history of Metro Housing|Boston. As you know, we changed our name from MBHP in September, introduced "People First.

Housing Always." as our new tag line, and just recently launched a brand new website. These are exciting times for us and we look forward to continuing to provide customized services for a variety of housing related issues.

Additionally, I wish to thank all of the generous donors to our successfully-completed capital campaign, *Building on Mission*, which helped make our new home a reality. We would literally not be here today without your support.

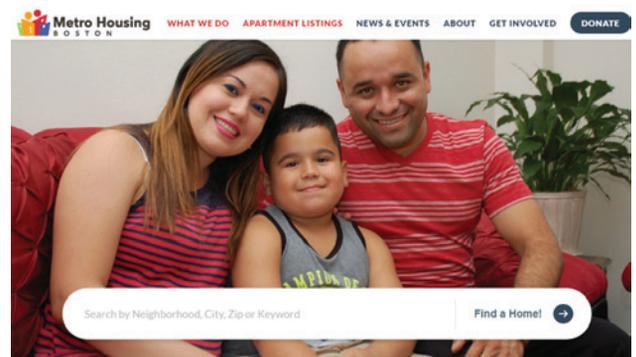
On behalf of all of us here at Metro Housing Boston, I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year!

Christopher T. Norris
Executive Director
Metro Housing|Boston

Metro Housing|Boston Launches New Website

Adding to the evolution of Metro Housing|Boston—new name, new logo, and new home—is a recently launched new website at www.metrohousingboston.org. We hope you will find the site much easier to use. For convenience, many forms and applications are available online. Residents and property owners will have all of the resources they need in one place, and our partners and supporters will find a helpful section of the site that provides many new ways to donate to Metro Housing, including the new Cornerstone Society and sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

Visitors can translate the website to more than 100 different languages, and an entirely new section for service providers has been added. Let us know what you think by emailing us at info@metrohousingboston.org.



Tenth Annual Founders Celebration

More than 300 people joined Metro Housing|Boston at the Tenth Annual Founders Celebration as we honored longtime board members, Langley C. Keyes and Steven J. Rioff with the Lowell Richards Award, as well as Founders Award recipient New Lease for Homeless Families, Inc. Led by event co-chairs John W. Keith, Chairman of Keith Properties, Inc. and Darryl S. Settles, President/Managing Partner of Catalyst Ventures Development, Metro Housing raised \$304,000 to support our programs serving families with low incomes throughout the region.



(L-R) Darryl Settles, Chris Norris; Langley Keyes; Steven Rioff; Cynthia Lacasse.



State Representative Kevin Honan, Chair, Joint Committee on Housing (center) speaks with board member Joe Kriesberg (L) and Colette Irving of Nolan Sheehan Patten LLP (R).



FSS graduate Valerie Vest with Program Manager David Kelley. "I wanted to do the best that I could living in the situation that I was in," said Valerie. "That is why I set high goals for myself."



State Representative Marjorie Decker shared her appreciation for Metro Housing's fast action and commitment to those in need. "A year ago, a devastating fire in Cambridge left 54 families homeless. With the help of Metro Housing, we had everyone in new homes within two weeks."

Lacing Them Up for Metro Housing

We are excited to announce the six new members of Team Metro Housing as they begin their training to represent us in the 2018 Boston Marathon. To donate to Team Metro Housing, please visit <http://bit.ly/teamMHB>.

Team Metro Housing (clockwise)

AJ Burckhardt has never run a marathon, but finished three half-marathons in 2017 and has waited years for this chance to take on Boston. He looks forward to "challenging myself beyond anything I have ever done."

Mia Friedman is an attorney with Lawyers Clearinghouse and a close Metro Housing collaborator, donating essential legal services to families. Mia looks forward to the marathon's mental and physical challenges and "to do something I consider extraordinary."

Michael Lara, Manager of the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program for Metro Housing|Boston, is running his first marathon. He was inspired by his supervisor, Katharine Kaplan, a member of Team Metro Housing in 2013 and 2014.

Dan Rosen is both an active runner and a longtime supporter of Metro Housing. Fulfilling his lifetime goal of running the Boston Marathon while a member of Team Metro Housing is "a perfect package for me." Dan is a partner at the law firm Klein Hornig in Boston.

Diane Lane Jensen is no stranger to the Boston Marathon or Metro Housing. She lives in Berkeley, CA, spent her childhood in Newton walking the course with her family before each marathon, and ran Boston on behalf of Metro Housing last year. Her mother is a long-time board member.

Dana LeWinter is executive director of the Massachusetts Community & Banking Council, but her first job after college was with Metro Housing, which she describes as "eye-opening and rewarding." This will be her second running of the Boston Marathon.



HOME SWEET HOME

After years of hard work, careful planning, and the generosity of donors to our capital campaign, Metro Housing Boston realized the dream of owning our own home when we moved into new offices in early November at 1411 Tremont Street, across from the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line T station, on time and under budget. For more photos, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MetroHousingBoston.



City and state officials join the Metro Housing Board in dedicating the new headquarters.



Metro Housing staff members prepare to leave their former offices at 125 Lincoln Street.



Executive Director Chris Norris welcomes staff to their new home on moving day.



Metro Housing staff settling in on moving day.



Our new home at 1411 Tremont Street, Boston.

HMLP Also Benefits Individuals with Autism and Dementia

While many folks know that the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP) helps home owners adapt or update their homes to improve accessibility for seniors or those with physical disabilities, they may not know that it can also be used for those with cognitive disabilities. Metro Housing|Boston has managed the HMLP since 2000, and has guided hundreds of families through the process of adding ramps and lifts, widening doorways, and updating kitchens and bathrooms. However, there are opportunities to do even more, specifically for families with children with cognitive or neurological limitations that could benefit from changes to their home.

“Metro Housing has helped a number of clients with cognitive disabilities,” says Jennifer Shaw, Property Owner Resource Manager at Metro Housing. “Some of the changes we made included installing a hard-wired alarm

system for doors and windows and ensuring the kitchen is safe by installing locked cabinets, modifying the oven, or removing a gas stove.”

HMLP has also assisted families with children that have been diagnosed with autism. The program ensures greater safety for children by creating a sensory space, designed to help them develop and engage their senses and work on sensory integration therapy or strategies. Additional assistance is provided based on individual needs, including replacing windows with special break and shatter resistant windows.

The Home Modification Loan Program has evolved to meet the needs of Massachusetts residents, and we encourage applicants to contact us. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/MHBHomemod>.



Metro HousingTM B O S T O N

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MetroHousingBoston.org

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Executive Director

Christopher T. Norris

Give the Gifts of Choice, Stability, and Security

Metro Housing|Boston recently launched the Cornerstone Society, a community of donors who are committed to helping people like Roseann take their first steps toward housing stability and economic security.

This newest option to support Metro Housing's mission allows us to go beyond just getting people housed, it gives us the resources to assist them as they move beyond thinking about tomorrow and begin planning for their future. For Roseanne, who was given four to eight months to live because of cancer, while also being forced out of her home, Metro Housing found her somewhere safe to live and ensured she was able to get to her medical appointments, all while having a team of people that she could count on.

Gifts of \$1,200 (just \$100 per month) or more will help pioneer innovative services and programs, which are



designed to encourage housing stability, increase economic security, and enhance the quality of the lives of those that need our support most.

If you are interested in joining the Cornerstone Society or other ways to support Metro Housing, contact Carla Beaudoin, Director of Development, at carla.beaudoin@metrohousingboston.org or 617.425.6679.