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News and Updates from Metro Housing|Boston

Fall 2018

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

CHAMPIONS of HOUSING

Metro Housing will honor community leaders who share our passion and commitment to ensuring that everyone in Boston has a place to call home on November 1 when it hosts Champions of Housing. The Champions of Housing celebration will be held on Thursday, November 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at John Hancock Financial's headquarters at 601 Congress Street in the Seaport. The annual event raises funds to help fill the gaps where government and restricted funding end.

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's personalized programs and services help residents of Greater Boston bridge gaps in the homelessness prevention and affordable housing system. Working with individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes navigate available services, we empower them to move along the continuum from homelessness to housing stability.

For more information, visit metrohousingboston.org or call our Housing Consumer Education Center at 617.425.6700.

This year's honorees are:

DONALD CONOVER

Donald Conover was a member of Metro Housing's Board of Directors from 2010-2012 and was the Chair of the Building on Mission capital campaign that contributed to the construction of our new office in Roxbury Crossing. He was an Executive Vice President at State Street Corporation, where he worked for 14 years. He currently operates Conover & Associates LLC, a consulting firm providing strategic advice on global real estate matters.

PATRICIA FLAHERTY

Currently the Executive Director of Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., Patricia Flaherty has more than 30 years of community planning and development experience in Mission Hill. She directed the Parcel 25 Community Planning and Development Initiative that resulted in a \$100 million redevelopment plan. The full development of Parcel 25 will result in affordable housing, neighborhood-serving retail, and office space, including the new home of Metro Housing.

LESLIE REID

Leslie Reid has dedicated her nearly 25 year career to affordable housing, and commercial and community development. She is the Vice President of Programs at Madison Park Development Corporation, one of the oldest and largest community development corporations in Massachusetts. She has also worked at the Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing Partnership Fund, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, and Recap Real Estate Advisors.

ERIC SHUPIN

A member of the Massachusetts Bar, Eric Shupin joined the Citizens' Housing & Planning Association (CHAPA) in 2013 and has served as its Director of Public Policy since 2016. At CHAPA, he is responsible for directing CHAPA's state policy advocacy agenda. Prior to joining CHAPA, he worked for multiple housing and community nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC including Save the Children, Bread for the City, and AmeriCorps.

For information on tickets and sponsorships, contact Carla Beaudoin at 617-425-6679 or carla.beaudoin@metrohousingboston.org.



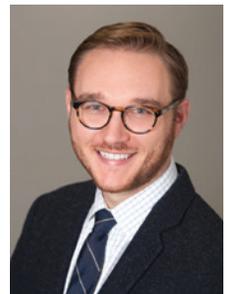
Donald Conover



Patricia Flaherty



Leslie Reed



Eric Shupin

Former Bus Driver Takes Direct Route to Stable Housing

Bertha was a dedicated bus driver for the MBTA for 16 years, working four 10-hour days. In May 2017, she woke up one day to get ready for work, but something didn't feel right. She had a severe headache that she could not shake. A trip to the doctor revealed the worst possible news—Bertha had a brain tumor.

Bertha had brain surgery to remove the tumor but needed extended recovery time. She collected short-term disability, but that eventually ran out. Because long-term disability benefits took a while to start, Bertha was short on cash, leading to her falling behind on rent and, ultimately, she was evicted. With no place to go, Bertha lived in her car in December of that year. On December 22, which was also her birthday, Bertha was introduced to Sylvia Kelly, SIPS Manager at Metro Housing.

“Sylvia was so sympathetic. She told me she would not leave me until I had an apartment,” said Bertha. “When you know someone is invested along with you, it means a lot. I am so grateful and blessed to have met Sylvia and Metro Housing.”

With Sylvia's help, Bertha moved on April 1 into an apartment when a project-based voucher became available. Bertha now has her sights set on starting an organization called “Just a Little Help.”



“I just needed a little help when I got sick. There are others out there that need just a little help and I want to be their angel, just like Sylvia was my angel.”

What is SIPS?



Michael, a SIPS participant, was able to find accessible housing after suffering a stroke.

SIPS serves Metro Housing's most disadvantaged clients, including people with physical, developmental and/or psychiatric disabilities, the elderly, the chronically homeless, and those with very low or no income.

Compared to other supportive housing programs, SIPS is unique in the depth of service we provide. Our case managers engage in very intensive, every-day-living supports such as visiting participants in their homes, accompanying

them on visits to health centers and courts, buying groceries, and even sitting at their kitchen tables to help pay bills each month.

SIPS staff also provide housing-specific supports such as addressing property issues with landlords, helping connect participants with Metro Housing's Fair Housing program for housing rights advice, and seeking reasonable accommodations when necessary. The help can also include addressing additional barriers to housing, such as low income, past evictions, and criminal histories.

Nobody who is referred to SIPS is ever turned away. It is through this deep level of work with clients that SIPS is able to realize a 90% stable housing rate year after year.

“We understand that our clients often have not had positive experiences with service providers and institutions, and are reluctant to engage in a meaningful way with yet another provider,” says Sylvia Kelly, SIPS Manager. “We strive to meet our clients where they are at, and to gain their trust over time.”

SIPS is supported generously through private foundations grants and individual donations.

Colocations: Meeting Residents Where They Are



Metro Housing's Sasha Clements out in the community helping residents.

Metro Housing's colocations embody Metro Housing's commitment to "people first, housing always" by bringing our services to the communities where our participants live. Through collaborations with community organizations, residents can access multiple services in locations close to their home. In FY18, 641 families received services from one of Metro Housing's 14 colocation sites.

Each of our colocation sites addresses a particular need within their communities. Metro Housing tailors the housing services we provide at each site based what is most helpful to the partner organization and its participants. Our colocation case managers can help clients search for affordable homes, complete housing applications, apply for emergency funds, resolve barriers to housing such as criminal records and histories of eviction, and apply for additional benefits. Case managers can also help participants access other services at Metro Housing, such as fair housing advocacy, financial literacy workshops and coaching, and intensive wrap-around case management.

"Through our colocation sites, we increase our visibility in these communities, enabling us to bring our services to people who need them," says Rose Davis, Colocation Manager. "Many people are not even aware of the services that are available for them."

Metro Housing provides services at the following locations:

BOSTON

Boston Medical Center
Children's Hospital

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Multi-Service Center

CHARLESTOWN

Bunker Hill Community College

CHELSEA

Health Starts at Home
CONNECT

HYDE PARK

Georgetowne Homes

QUINCY

Interfaith Social Services

ROSLINDALE

Family Resource Center

ROXBURY

Madison Park High School

SALEM

POAH's Salem Heights
Apartments

SOMERVILLE

Somerville Homeless Coalition

WALTHAM

WATCH CDC

WOBURN

Council of Social Concern

For schedules at the above locations, visit our website at www.bit.ly/MetroCommunities.

For more information on colocation sites, contact Maura Pensak, Director of Housing Supports, at 617.425.6650.

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III Visits Metro Housing

On September 10, Metro Housing welcomed Massachusetts Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy, III to our office for a discussion about the affordable housing crisis impacting area residents. During his conversation with Metro Housing staff, Kennedy talked about his familiarity with the challenges families with low incomes have achieving housing stability based on his work during law school at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. He also commented on the interconnection of the multiple barriers facing families in the region.

"At Metro Housing|Boston, families not only have the security of a roof over their heads, but the stability that comes with it and opens doors to opportunities in employment and education." said Kennedy. "Visiting with the staff, volunteers, and community at Metro Housing was an unforgettable experience that I will carry with me in Congress."

Kennedy, who has represented Massachusetts's 4th congressional district since 2013, also toured two affordable homes on the upper floors of our building at 1411 Tremont Street, and met with the families living in those homes.





Metro Housing[™]
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People First. Housing Always.

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Get Involved: Support Metro Housing's Mission

Since Metro Housing moved to Roxbury Crossing one year ago, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of residents walking in our front door to receive assistance. We will soon be working with families and students from Madison Park High School in Roxbury and the Epiphany School in Dorchester who are experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness. With an increase of walk-in traffic at many of our colocation sites, including Quincy, Chelsea, and Waltham, it is clear that many more families are in need of housing assistance, and they are turning to Metro Housing for help.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Now more than ever, your support is critical to help prevent and address the impact of homelessness in Boston. The following are ways that you can become involved with Metro Housing:

Coordinate a Donation Drive

Metro Housing makes sure that people have the items necessary to transition into their new homes. You can help by

hosting a donation drive for the following types of items:

- Gift cards (for emergency items; including food and basic home goods)
- Home goods (bedding, kitchenware, and bathroom items)
- Children's books (to start a child's first home library of books)

Match your Gift

You can double the impact of your gift. Go to our website at www.metrohousingboston.org/match-your-gift to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

Advocate

Join our efforts to influence policies and initiatives that impacts people and families at risk. Keep current by subscribing to our @Home newsletter by texting "metrohousing" to 22828.

Follow us

Stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Share our posts with your social media network.

For more information, visit www.metrohousingboston.org/donate.