



the heartbeat

NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS...

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Remembering Sister Miriam, a Voice for the Voiceless

Sister Miriam Patrice McKeon, a co-founder of Father Bill's & MainSpring, was our "Mother Theresa." On Feb. 28, she passed away at the age of 88.

When you spoke with Sister Miriam, you felt like the most important person in the world. It didn't matter if you were a stranger or someone she had known for 50 years, whether you were a prominent community leader or homeless. When you were in Sister Miriam's presence, you were loved,

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Sister Miriam Patrice McKeon



Jean Rountt moves into her new home, the Rust House in Hingham, after spending nearly a year in shelter.

Braintree Native Kept Hope Alive, Has New Home in Hingham

When Jean Rountt got sober in 1997, she thought she had spent her last night in a homeless shelter. But life had other plans.

Over a year-and-a-half span, four of Jean's loved ones all passed away. Jean stopped sleeping and eating (her weight dropped to 97 pounds), and soon thereafter she lost her job, was evicted from her apartment, and was on her way to a nervous breakdown. In February 2016, with nearly two decades of sobriety under her belt, she showed up at the front door of Father Bill's Place in Quincy with nowhere else to go.

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NEW WEBSITE TO DEBUT THIS SUMMER

Look for a redesigned Father Bill's & MainSpring website this July. The new site is mobile-friendly, enhances readability, and provides updated information and videos about our programs and services. Come visit helpfbms.org.



Gideon Gray talks about his volunteer work in the office where he assists guests at Father Bill's Place in Quincy.

Tech-savvy Volunteer Shares Skills with Shelter Guests

Gideon Gray's approach to helping people is similar to Father Bill's & MainSpring's approach to combating homelessness; provide enough support so eventually no outside assistance is needed.

"This is a place where people feel safe," Gideon said of Father Bill's Place in Quincy, where he has volunteered since November. "Father Bill's is set up to be more than just a shelter. It's set up, as I see it, as a program to end homelessness."

Gideon, a Quincy resident, worked as a tech-support specialist at the Apple store in Dedham until he left recently to pursue other opportunities. While at Apple, he leveraged his volunteer

hours into over \$1,000 in donations for FBMS. The global tech giant has a program that donates money to a non-profit organization for every hour an Apple employee volunteers at that organization.

Gideon, a native of England, is lending a helping hand at the Quincy shelter wherever possible, including offering computer and phone support to shelter guests. He has been sober for more than two years, so he said he understands some of the struggles faced by people experiencing homelessness.

"We're here to achieve something," he said. "We're here to help you get back on your feet, and up and running."

MATCHING-GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

There may be ways your support can go further through employer-matching gifts. Speak with someone in your human resources office to see if your company can match your donation dollars or volunteer hours.

A Fresh Start at Former Weymouth Rectory

Father Bill's & MainSpring's housing stock — which moves the community's most vulnerable residents off the streets and out of shelters — continued to grow this spring with the opening of 12 new permanent, supportive housing units at the former rectory next to St. Albert The Great church in Weymouth.

Residents started moving into the former rectory building in early April. Paula Creutz was among the first to arrive, moving from MainSpring House, FBMS' emergency shelter in Brockton for homeless individuals.

"MainSpring itself just was a Godsend at the time, but after a while, if you have any hope for the future you want to move on," Paula said.

The former church rectory is owned by St. Albert's and is being leased by FBMS, which collects affordable rent (30 percent of resident's income). The parish was kind enough to support the renovating of the 64-year-old building in order to make enhancements and upgrade utilities.

To ensure that new residents felt right at home on the first day, several local community groups and businesses generously donated household items such as toiletries, pillows, sheets, towels, and other necessities. Major donors include employees from Electro Switch in Weymouth, the Weymouth Rotary Club, and parishioners from St. Albert's and St. Francis Xavier church in Weymouth.



The former rectory at St. Albert the Great church in Weymouth now houses 12 formerly homeless individuals.

"We are very grateful to the Weymouth community for supporting this new home," said John Yazwinski, President & CEO. "It's so important to the residents' success that they feel welcomed."

FBMS owns or leases more than 480 permanent, supportive housing units across Southern Massachusetts. The agency provides case management services to all of the tenants in these units, providing the support, guidance and referrals needed to achieve self-sufficiency.

Pictured here on move-in day at the St. Albert's rectory are (left to right) Case Managers Monicka Hasan and Dianna Otieno Fisher; resident Sammy Githua; Triage Services Coordinator Brandon Reynolds; Case Manager Bill Brown; Father Bill's Place Site Coordinator Juan Ortiz; Case Manager Carol McSorley; and residents Audrea Tighe and Paula Creutz.





FBMS President and CEO John Yazwinski poses with Chrystal Kornegay, undersecretary of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, and Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito during an event announcing state funding for several affordable-housing projects on March 28 in Chelsea.

Montello II Project Gets Boost From Baker-Polito

The administration of Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito has committed \$3.1 million in state funding towards the “Montello Welcome Home II” project, which creates 23 new permanent, supportive housing units in Brockton for individuals experiencing homelessness, including 12 apartments for military veterans.

The new, efficiency-style apartments will be built at 682 North Main St., a property that has been vacant for more than a decade and is known by many local residents as the former site of Phaneuf Hospital and then Catholic Charities. Demolition of the 117-year-old building was completed in March. Construction could start late this summer or early fall.

The site of the \$4.8 million project is across the street from two other new FBMS properties that opened last year, called Jack’s Place, which holds 20 apartments for formerly homeless individuals, including 10 designated for veterans. Patti’s House, on the same lot, is a two-family duplex for formerly homeless families. Jack’s Place and Patti’s House were supported by \$2.6 million in state funding.

“We’re very grateful to the state for making another generous commitment to a project that will assist some of our community’s most vulnerable residents, including individuals who have fallen on hard times after proudly serving their country,” said John Yazwinski, President & CEO of FBMS.

INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

There are various interior and exterior naming opportunities at Jack’s House, Patti’s House, and the Montello II project. Funds raised will provide ongoing operational support and reserves that will help maintain high-quality housing for those in need. For more information, please contact Chief Development Officer Lucille Cassis at 508-427-6448, ext. 2222.



Pictured, from top to bottom, are the old Phaneuf Hospital building at 682 North Main St. in Brockton, a rendering of what Montello II will look like, and Jack’s Place, which is located across the street from the Montello II site.

REMEMBERING SISTER MIRIAM, A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

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respected and valued - because she saw every person for what they are above all else: a child of God.

A Sister of Charity for 67 years, Sister Miriam spent many years residing at St. John the Baptist Church in Quincy. In the early 1980s, she was part of the original group of interfaith leaders, along with Father Bill McCarthy, who stood up with great courage to make sure people experiencing homelessness had a safe place to stay, leading to the creation of Father Bill’s Place in Quincy.

She volunteered a countless number of hours supporting our agency’s mission, and served on our board of directors for many years. For some in our agency, it was Sister Miriam’s unwavering belief in God’s will that provided the strength needed to continue carrying out our mission, no matter what type of resistance we faced. We’re certain she is with us as we begin every board meeting with a reflection for guidance and support.

Sister Miriam was a voice for the voiceless. You don’t meet many people like Sister Miriam in a lifetime; she was a real treasure. We thank the Lord for knowing her.

Rev. Adolph H. Wismar, Jr.
Pastor, Wollaston Lutheran Church; Co-founder and board member, Father Bill’s & MainSpring

John Yazwinski
President and CEO, Father Bill’s & MainSpring



Monthly donor Dana Szymczuk

Seeing the Value in Monthly Giving

Dana Szymczuk, of Weymouth, is a member of the Father Bill's & MainSpring Recurring Gift Club. He's been a monthly donor since 2010.

"You budget everything in your life, except for car repairs. No one can budget for car repairs," Dana said. "You budget for your utilities, your cable bill, so why not budget your charitable giving? I think it's just neat; it's proper planning."

Dana, who works as the Life Safety Director for a major Boston area bank, said making small, recurring donations is easier than trying to cut a big check around the holiday season, when families are feeling philanthropic, but money can be tight.

By joining Father Bill's & MainSpring's Recurring Gift Club, donors have contributions charged to their credit cards either weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The contribution amounts can be adjusted, suspended, or canceled at any time. A year-end tax statement will be mailed to donors totaling their contributions.

Monthly giving also provides charities like Father Bill's & MainSpring a sense of security in knowing they can plan on funds coming in to support vital programs all year long. Thank you Dana for your ongoing commitment to our mission!

To learn more and enroll, contact Tricia Fennessy at tfennessy@helpfbms.org or 508-427-6448 x2238, or visit www.helpfbms.org/donatetoday



Braintree Native Kept Hope Alive, Has New Home in Hingham

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In February 2017, Jean showed up at a much different type of front door in Hingham. With a suitcase in hand, Jean, 59, walked into the Rust House in Hingham, a home with permanent, supportive housing apartments leased by Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS).

Through a partnership between the Hingham Congregational Church and FBMS, the Rust House provides a safe, encouraging environment for women who have fallen on hard times and are trying to get back on their feet.

Embodying their church's mission, members of the Hingham Congregational Church volunteer their time to provide continued maintenance at the home and to socialize with the tenants, helping lift their spirits.

Weighing a much healthier 125 pounds, Jean is now seeing a psychiatrist, has plans to start looking for a job, and celebrated 20 years of sobriety in April.

"I thought I was going to be in that shelter forever. You lose hope after a few months," Jean said. "I wanted to give up, but I didn't, and I'm glad I didn't."

Jean, who grew up in Braintree, said there's no way she would've been in a position to move into the Rust House without her faith in God and the support she received from FBMS. She's especially grateful for Lockett Stone-Riley, her triage worker.

Triage teams at both of our emergency shelters, Father Bill's Place in Quincy and MainSpring in Brockton, work with guests to come up with a plan to address the difficulties in their lives with a goal of ultimately finding housing.

"They were invested. They actually care about me as a person," Jean said. "That's the most redeeming thing about Father Bill's, besides the housing. The quality of my life changed. I don't feel so hopeless."

BROCKTON BANK MARKS 100TH YEAR WITH CHARITABLE GRANTS



To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Brockton-based HarborOne Bank has launched a charitable organization, the HarborOne Foundation, with a focus on supporting high-impact, non-profit organizations that provide educational opportunities, access to safe and affordable housing, and deliver basic human services to the community's most vulnerable residents.

On March 13, the HarborOne Foundation distributed \$100,000 in inaugural grants between four local non-profits: Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS), NeighborWorks Southern Mass., the Old Colony YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton. FBMS will utilize its \$25,000 grant from HarborOne Foundation to support WorkExpress, its job-skills program for homeless individuals.

"We are so grateful and proud to call HarborOne a partner," John Yazwinski, FBMS President and CEO, said.

From left to right, Jennifer White, VP Community & Public Relations of HarborOne Bank, and Harbor One Foundation President; Patricia Williams, SVP of Human Resources of HarborOne Bank and Foundation Director; Joe Casey, President & COO of HarborOne Bank and Foundation Director; and Father Bill's & MainSpring CEO John Yazwinski.



SAVE THE DATE

Join Us for the 23rd Annual FoodFest

Support Our Mission To Prevent and End Homelessness

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

(Tasting starts at 6 p.m.)

The Launch at Hingham Shipyard & Hingham Beer Works



Father Bill's & MainSpring

For more information, visit helpfbms.org/foodfest2017 508-427-6448 x2239



Arbella Insurance employees pose for a group photo during last year's FoodFest.

SAVE THE DATE



33rd Annual Jack Conway Memorial Golf Tournament for the Homeless

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017

Easton Country Club

For more info or to register, visit jackconway.com/golf



Father Bill's & MainSpring

NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS

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Father Bill's & MainSpring is committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Southern Massachusetts with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services. We help people who are struggling with homelessness or are at risk of homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency.

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