The Heartbeat

The mission of Father Bill’s & MainSpring is to help homeless people obtain a home by giving temporary shelter and food, finding safe and affordable housing, and providing permanent housing with supportive services. Father Bill’s & MainSpring helps people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency.

The 18th Annual FoodFest & Auction

It was an evening filled with fun and laughter as friends and family gathered for The 18th Annual FoodFest & Auction to benefit those served by Father Bill’s & MainSpring. With deep gratitude to DePasquale Ventures, Inc., the event was held at the beautiful Ocean Club at Marina Bay, Quincy. A bit of rainy weather could not deter the 1,000 attendees from enjoying an exciting evening of: live entertainment by the BaHa Brothers and East Coast Acappella and special guest appearances by Scott Wahle, The Patriot Cheerleaders and The Rev Girls. There were delicious samplings from 40 of the area’s premier food and beverage providers. The live auction and raffles offered unique and exciting items including: trips, autographed sports and celebrity memorabilia, private dining experiences and more!

Thank you Arbella, our premier sponsor and many corporate and private sponsors (see www.helpfbms.org for a full list) and please be sure to patronize our generous purveyors listed to the right.

Mary Wessling, Stephen J. Wessling and Tracy Wessling Cristiani of Wessling Architects attend FoodFest 18.
Dear Friends,

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of two of our most committed founders, Jack Conway and Marie Sheehan.

Both Jack and Marie’s shared vision of ending homelessness in our community began more than 30 years ago.

As the director of Catholic Charities in the early 1980’s, Marie recognized the immediate need in Brockton for overnight shelters, and helped establish a new entity called the “Brockton Coalition for the Homeless.” Marie gathered local politicians and volunteers who worked with more than 20 local churches to provide a safe refuge in their basements for those in need.

Simultaneously, Jack Conway and his wife Patty, who was at the time working as a case worker with Marie at Catholic Charities, were greatly compelled to get involved at a deeper level, and joined Marie to purchase and renovate a neglected building now known as MainSpring House. Jack personally approached the mayor of Brockton to acquire the building and raise the first $100,000 required to prepare the shelter to accept guests, a monumental task.

Over the years, Marie became instrumental in the development and implementation of work programs and housing placement services. Then she and the Conways realized there was a need for families. The Conway House, named for Jack, became a family shelter in Middleboro, offering a safe and comfortable environment with supportive services.

As we know, the forces of this inspiring team and Father Bill McCarthy met and eventually merged to become Father Bill’s & MainSpring in 2007. Today we honor their mission to never turn anyone away who seeks our help and we continue to expand our services.

It is impossible for me to convey the impact these folks had in the struggle against homelessness in the South Shore area. Their selflessness, warmth and friendship will be truly missed by all of us here and the thousands of lives they touched.

Sincerely,

John Yazwinski
President & CEO
A Place to Call Home

Over the past year we have been working closely with the City of Brockton and the State of Massachusetts to secure two foreclosed, three-family homes that will house the families we serve. We have been fortunate to work on projects that provide high quality, affordable housing for six families that have been in temporary housing for more than a year.

One mother shares her story of struggle over the years to find a place where she and her three children can call home, and is thrilled to now be given that chance. Literally with no place to go, she and her children were placed in a local hotel for five months, forced to live in one room, without any kitchen or laundry facilities. They were then placed in a scattered site in Quincy, which she was extremely grateful for, but had to struggle to bus her children to school in Brockton each day. Working with the FBMS housing coordinator, she and her children were finally able to move into this permanent, three-family home in Brockton which is everything she could have ever hoped for and more. She can now work while her children attend school, and be home in time to meet them.

Thank you to the Brockton housing team for helping these families find a place they can finally call home.

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FBMS and Social Media

As the social media wave becomes more predominate in our lives, FBMS recognizes the potential of platforms such as FaceBook and Twitter for a non-profit like ours to spread the word of our mission. Here at FBMS, we find these tools to be wonderful channels to share news, events and the involvement of our many supporters.

For example, earlier this year we were able to promote the multiple drives held by local businesses and groups that included: New England Thunder; Living the Dream Auto Care; Brahmin Leather; Eddie’s All-Stars, and Leandra Andrade, an amazing sixth grader from Stoughton who, along with her family, hosted a drive that yielded much needed supplies for our family shelter, the Evelyn House in Stoughton. This past summer, a Bank of America drive generated toiletries and linens for the shelter and Arbella ran a drive that produced $5,000 in donations for FBMS through their own FaceBook page. The FBMS Facebook and Twitter pages have also allowed us to broadcast our need for help when our shelter supplies are critical, especially during those extreme summer and winter months. Viewer response has been amazing.

Please visit our FaceBook page at: www.facebook.com/fatherbillsmainspring
or follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/FrBillsMnSpring

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For those of you that follow us, we can’t thank you enough, and for those considering it, know that a simple “like” has the potential to send our message to thousands of viewers, helping us to end homelessness every day, one post at a time. Please re-share.
Volunteer Profile: Diane Tetreault

Diane Tetreault’s front walk glitters with beautiful sea-glass, and shines as brightly as her warm personality. Her home is filled with many books, exquisite quilts hand crafted by Diane, and a perfectly polished baby grand piano that her husband David plays while their cat named Bella lounges nearby.

Diane’s home reflects her own persona of warmth and intelligence. With a long history of teaching at various high schools and Bentley University, newspaper reporting and owning her own brokerage firm, Diane takes a very pragmatic view of supporting those in need. When she first met John Yazwinski, FBMS President & CEO, she was impressed by his compassion, but even more so of his practical approach of Housing First, that she instantly became a committed supporter.

She recognized that the mittens her 8th graders made were a good learning lesson, but did not lay the ground work for what she calls, “smart philanthropy.” Determined to teach her college students competences that could be carried forward in business while making them aware of needs around them, she implemented assignments that required collecting specific items for various local non-profits, including FBMS, by using problem solving skills. The results were truckloads of supplies and a “promise to remember” from every student.

Even after retirement, Diane says there is still always something coming her way and has never stopped finding ways to give and teach how to give. She is happy to say her legacy lives on from her work at Bentley, as a group of graduates that she had as freshman have formed their own non-profit group to continue the type of work they did in the classroom. And as far as her continued work with FBMS, she says she is always ready to help in a pursuit that is meaningful in so many ways.

Celebrating Community Champions

Community Services of Greater Brockton awarded the FBMS family programs its “Outstanding Human Services Program” award at their “Celebrating Community Champions” award dinner in June, 2012, in recognition of the outstanding support and services offered by FBMS to families facing or experiencing homelessness in the greater Brockton community. Our total current housing inventory includes more than 325 units, 31% of which are designated for families. While staying at the shelters, guests can participate in a wide range of services designed to help them move on from homelessness, including healthcare, adult education, behavioral health and substance abuse services.

Congratulations to our family programs for a job well done.

A representative of Community Services of Brockton recognizes FBMS for outstanding services and support.

Congratulations to Stephen J. Wessling Architects of Quincy on their 20th Anniversary.
Thank you to everyone who supported our mission by hosting or several events that took place during the spring and summer months of 2012.

April kicked off with the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of the Evelyn House restoration project creating a new 3rd floor education and resource space where families now have access to classes, tutoring and training, leading them on a path to greater self-sufficiency.

The month of May was busy with the South Shore Young Professionals expo at The Quincy Marriott where experienced board members shared and encouraged young professionals to get involved in their communities.

FBMS employees joined the hundreds of thousands of walkers to support Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger, and then celebrated the grand opening of The Commander Paul F. Anderson Hingham home for veterans later in the month. The newly built home provides (6) supportive housing units with educational and case management services, behavioral counseling, health care and vocational services for veterans who have experienced homelessness. The open house was an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the housing and services that are provided for those who have served our country.

In June our community partners, Neighborhood Housing Services of the South Shore, held their 13th Annual Mulligan Golf Tournament at the Brook Meadow Country Club, and the Conway Country Golf Tournament to Benefit FBMS, had a great turn out at the Easton Country Club.

Photos provided by Keith Berry.

Top: Schools on Wheels representatives Nicole Jensen (left), and Emily Ring (right), present FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski with an appreciation plaque.

Bottom: The family of Commander Anderson gathered to celebrate the official opening of the new home for veterans in Hingham.
More than 100 attendees were present to celebrate the accomplishments of ten graduates of the WorkExpress program in June 2012, a social enterprise operated by FBMS to help individuals remain on a path of self-sufficiency.

Graduate Scott Bruce, said “I am so blessed to have worked with such positive people. Life is really good today.”

WorkExpress was recently selected as a Root Cause social innovator for their unique social enterprise model. The program provides its participants up to 12 months of supportive services which include a stable place to live, paid on-the-job training, case management and job and housing placement.

WorkExpress is open to formerly homeless individuals who are serious about moving forward and committed to sobriety and recovery. The goal is to prepare participants for future employment opportunities and permanent housing by emphasizing stability, reliability, work discipline, and life skills.

Those participating in WorkExpress live in special, shelter dormitories. They are trained as landscapers, painters, cleaners and apartment rehab specialists and work within the community four hours per-day, five days a week. They save a portion of their income for housing, attend support groups and life skills classes. Last year the WorkExpress graduation rate was more than 70%. Every single graduate had housing the day they completed the program and more than 60% had a job within 6 months of graduation.

For more information, please contact Paul Key at 508-894-8520 ext.201, or pkey@helpfbms.org.

Considering a Planned Gift to FBMS?

Please consider a gift to FBMS when planning your will.

Called a “charitable bequest,” this type of gift offers three primary benefits:

- **Simplicity:** Just a few sentences in your will or trust states your intentions. “I, (name), of (city, state, ZIP), give, devise and bequeath to Father Bill’s & MainSpring (written monetary amount, percentage of your estate, or description of assets or stocks) for unrestricted use or for use in greatest area of need.”

- **Flexibility:** You can change the amount or percentage of your gift at any time based on your needs, desires or family. You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate.

- **Tax Deductable:** Your estate is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift’s full value.

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust. Most attorneys who deal with estate and financial matters can work with you to create a will or revocable living trust that suits you and your family.

If you have questions or would like more information about making a planned gift, please contact Lucille Cassis, Chief Development Officer at 617-376-2255 x222.
Holiday Cheer

The holidays and cold weather will be here soon, and we start preparing as early as August. Each year we are fortunate to have many new and returning volunteers to help us with Thanksgiving and other holiday related events, and we can’t say thank you enough. For those who are unable to volunteer, donation drives are another great option. If you decide to host a drive, we’d like to support you by offering publicity materials and wish lists of most needed items. Drives intended for the holiday, should occur no later than the first week in December, to guarantee the items will get distributed by December 25th. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Ann Mendes at mmendes@helpfbms.org. If you would like to host a drive or donate items, please go to our website/ways to give/shelter wish lists for more information. Thank you.

Corporate Profile

If you’ve attended FoodFest in the last decade, you may have noticed the Republic Plumbing Supply sponsorship. A family owned business, William Duggan Sr. purchased the pre-existing supply business in 1977, and with the help of his family, grew it into one of the top 100 wholesalers of plumbing supplies in the U.S. today. Currently owned and operated by brothers Bill, Jr., Jim and their cousin Jerry, this highly well-established company offers nine locations with five, stunning kitchen and bathroom showrooms.

Community support was always a priority as William Sr. fostered a strong friendship with Father Bill McCarty, co-founder of Father Bill’s Place, and has continued today through the family’s annual contributions to FoodFest and the support of local little league and hockey teams in surrounding towns.

Bill Jr., shared his memory of Father Bill’s annual phone call, in that “so very distinctive voice. “Republic always answered the call. “It has always been our belief that when you give, you get back in so many other ways. It’s a good thing, and we are happy we are able to do it.”

“Republic Plumbing has been a constant source of support for FoodFest over the years” says John Yazwinski, FBMS President and CEO, “and we are extremely grateful for all they have done to grow with us in our mission. We look forward to many more years of partnership.”

Thanks to Republic Plumbing Supply and the Duggan Family, many in need from the South Shore will not have to go hungry or sleep outside this winter. Thank you for being a good neighbor.
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