Governor Baker Visits FBMS Housing

On Tuesday, January 6, just days before his inauguration, Governor Charlie Baker visited Father McCarthy’s House in Quincy. The residence is owned by NeighborWorks Southern Mass and is operated by Father Bill’s & MainSpring, and provides permanent, supportive housing for 16 formerly homeless men.

While there, Governor Baker met with several of the residents of both Father McCarthy’s House and a nearby residence that houses formerly homeless women. He heard from the residents how having a home of their own is making a real difference in their lives. Cheryl, a resident of the women’s house, explained to Governor Baker how the women cooperate in a shared living situation: “Everybody works together to help one
Volunteer Profile: Mary Edmonston

“I believe it is our purpose in life to help one another. I am happy that in some small way, I and my coworkers have helped someone today.”

– Mary Edmonston

Mary Edmonston has been a longtime volunteer with Father Bill’s & MainSpring. She began as a volunteer at MainSpring House in Brockton many years ago and more recently spearheaded significant volunteer efforts on behalf of her employer, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, to benefit Evelyn House family shelter in Stoughton. From organizing yard work and house cleaning projects, to running donation drives and encouraging coworkers to choose FBMS as the recipient of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care mini-grants, Mary has improved the lives of many. In 2013, Mary’s efforts were recognized when Harvard Pilgrim Health Care presented her with a Community Spirit award in 2013.

At the end of 2014, Mary retired and moved to Florida, but she didn’t do so without making one last thoughtful gesture. For Mary’s 70th birthday party, she requested that, in lieu of birthday gifts, guests bring a donation for Evelyn House.

We are deeply touched that Mary continues to keep Father Bill’s & MainSpring in her thoughts, even though she hails from a warmer climate! Last month, we received a donation of quilts made by Mary’s daughter after Mary had heard the news about the cold New England winter. Thank you, Mary, for your hard work, generosity and compassion for the families and individuals served by Father Bill’s & MainSpring.
Success Story: Three Students Get a Home

“Homelessness not only stripped me of my material possessions, it robbed me of my sense of security and stability... This made it incredibly difficult to maintain a job and continue my schooling.”

– Justine, college student

Justine* lived out of her car while attending classes at Massasoit Community College. Petra*, a high school senior, “couch surfed” at friends’ houses, never certain where she would sleep each night. Emily*, a high school junior, stayed at MainSpring House emergency shelter, sharing space with people twice her age. Without a place to call home, a stable family situation or support system, they worried that their dream of a good education was too much to hope for.

This fall, Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) changed the lives of these three young women, moving them to a furnished 3-bedroom apartment. Private fundraising dollars and a grant from School on Wheels, a local community partner, are helping support rental costs so that these students can focus on their academics. To ensure their success, a dedicated FBMS case manager checks in regularly, offering ongoing support.

“With a stable place to call home, learning to balance the demands of life, work and school. Staying in school is a priority. Through a partnership with School on Wheels, each receives tutoring and mentoring, as well as school supplies, gift cards for personal items and bus passes.

Today, Emily is working part time at a grocery store and is focused on graduating from high school this June. She is applying to Massasoit Community College for the fall looking to major in liberal arts. Justine is studying criminal justice and, despite recent challenges, plans to finish her associate’s degree at Massasoit this year. Petra, who works as a home health aide, is also a student at Massasoit. Her goal is to go on to medical school and become a surgeon.

Young adults are not only learning new skills such as budgeting, paying bills and setting goals, they are learning to balance the demands of life, work and school. Staying in school is a priority. Through a partnership with School on Wheels, each receives tutoring and mentoring, as well as school supplies, gift cards for personal items and bus passes. FBMS is committed to helping young adult students who are experiencing homelessness. In 2009, FBMS joined with local nonprofit Schools on Wheels to increase awareness about the needs of at-risk teens and young adults experiencing homelessness. Today, FBMS is continuing to work with community partners, including School on Wheels, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and school system liaisons to help young adult students in our community. FBMS has also developed an innovative, age appropriate Young Adult Protocol for all 18-22 year olds in our shelters who are engaged with a school system or are working full time, offering individualized resources and added flexibility to ensure they stay on track with their educational and employment goals.

The number of young adults experiencing homelessness is on the rise. According to a 2014 report from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the past year there was a 25% increase in homelessness among this age group statewide and on the South Shore. Many of these young adults are struggling to complete high school or college, having become homeless when they aged out of foster-care at 18 or due to issues related to family instability. Staying in school can be extremely difficult during this traumatic time. Statistics show that fewer than 25% of teens impacted by homelessness will graduate from high school. Going on to get a college degree can be an even bigger challenge.

FBMS Young Adult Shelter Protocol
• Invited to tour the shelter before entry to meet staff and become comfortable with the new environment
• Assigned a dedicated Triage Worker who helps them create a self-sufficiency plan and access services
• Receive separate check-in, meal and sleeping space
• More flexibility to accommodate busy student and work schedules
• Access to quiet study space
• Connections to education and other community supports

Justine*, Petra* and Emily* are not only in regularly, offering ongoing support. Justine, Petra and Emily are not only

Homelessness Among Young Adults

Young adults represent 8% of our total individual shelter population.

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At a Glance...
• 35% more young adults, ages 18-24, in individual shelters in FY10–FY13
• 161 young adults sheltered in FY14
• 8% of the 2,000+ sheltered were young adults in FY14
• 10 young adults are sheltered on average each night – more than double the past average of 3 or 4

Save the Date for These Upcoming FBMS Events!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
April 16, 2015
Randolph Elks Lodge, Randolph

Evelyn House, Play Space Re-Dedication
April 30, 2015
Evelyn House, Stoughton

Jack Conway Memorial Golf Tournament
June 11, 2015
Easton Country Club, Easton

21st Annual Food Fest
July 28, 2015
The Launch at Hingham Shipyard, Hingham

For more information call the development office at 617-376-2255 or visit helpfbms.org/events.
Donor Profile and FBMS Success Story: Joe R.

Joe was in his mid-30’s and living in the Quincy area in the spring of 1999. He had recently lost his job as a computer programmer, and though he was able to secure work as a day laborer, he still did not earn enough money to afford housing. As a result, Joe was forced to live in his van. He had heard that Father Bill’s Place would give him a place to sleep and shower. Joe was very appreciative of the support that Father Bill’s Place could provide, noting, “being able to wash my clothes and get a meal was a bonus.”

As Joe aged, he felt limited in the work he could perform as a day laborer and was just making enough to get by. He was hoping to get back into his work as a computer programmer, which became more difficult as the nation reached the end of its technology boom. However, with the help of dedicated Father Bill’s & MainSpring staff, Joe secured a job offer by the end of the summer.

At that time, Joe made the decision to move to Florida to be closer to his family. With the job skills gained by working with Father Bill’s & MainSpring staff, he quickly started work as a computer programmer in Florida. This income allowed Joe to become self-sufficient and even permitted him to save enough money to buy his family’s spring water distribution company, which was in need of management at the time.

Today, Joe continues to successfully run his family's spring water distribution company. We are proud that Joe has remained in touch with Father Bill’s & MainSpring as a friend and supporter. “I was impressed with all the services. I made friends there. They treated me really well. The experience was good and I will never forget it. That’s why I give back to FBMS.”

Friends of Our Mission

Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) would like to extend our heartfelt thank you and well-wishes to the friends of our mission who have retired over the past year.

Janet has been an employee at FBMS for 28 years. A dedicated member of the agency, she inspired colleagues through the integrity and compassion she demonstrated in her work. Janet’s leadership and commitment grew FBMS’ family program to give quality support to families we served. FBMS will miss Janet being a part of our staff, but we look forward to her remaining a friend and advocate of our mission.

Leo has been a pillar in the local nonprofit community. Leo MacNeil has been a friend of Father Bill’s & MainSpring for many years. His work has led to many great partnerships between HarborOne Bank and FBMS, including their lead gift in building the Residences at 26 Spring Street and annual visits from Santa Claus to Conway House family shelter. Thank you, Leo, for your commitment to our community.

Pat is remembered for her leadership and camaraderie during the 16 years she worked in FBMS family programs. Taking a positive approach in working with families, Pat led by example. Her emphasis on teamwork elevated staff members’ contribution to provide better outcomes for those served by FBMS. The staff at FBMS is thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such an inspirational woman who will continue to be a friend to many.

Corporate Profile: Conway Insurance Agency, Inc.

Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) is proud to recognize our corporate supporter, Conway Insurance Agency. A successful family-owned business located on the South Shore, Conway Insurance Agency shares our commitment to ending homelessness and has been a friend to FBMS for more than a decade. During this time, Charlie Drea, President, has served as a trusted advisor to FBMS senior staff on insurance issues as they pertain to our housing properties or participants in any of our programs.

Giving back not only runs deep within Conway Insurance Agency but also within the Drea family. Charlie’s wife, Sandra, Vice President of Conway Insurance Agency, is actively involved with Altrusa International, a civic organization dedicated to creating better communities through volunteer service. Additionally, their son, Richard and daughter, Reanne Antonino, are supportive of the FBMS mission. In addition to supporting our mission each year at our annual fundraiser, Conway Insurance also regularly supports the Conway Country Charity Golf for the Homeless, which benefits FBMS and other local nonprofits that provide services to people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you to the Drea family and Conway Insurance Agency for improving our community by dedicating time and donating critical funds to support our mission to end homelessness on the South Shore.

Planning Your Estate?

When planning your estate, please consider a gift to FBMS in your will. If you would like more information on making a planned gift to help those experiencing homelessness, please contact Lucille Cassis, Chief Development Officer: 617-376-2255 x222.

Friends of Our Mission

Janet Long
Operations Placement Manager, FBMS

Leo MacNeil
Senior Vice President of Community Relations, HarborOne Bank

Pat Perry
Director of Family Programs, FBMS

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The Heartbeat

SPRING 2015

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