



# the heartbeat

NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS...

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER



***Tom, a former police officer, started participating in WorkExpress shortly after entering emergency shelter in 2017.***

## Your Support Helped Tom Get Back on Track

Tom prided himself on being a good role model early in his adulthood. He worked as a police officer in his hometown, as a security officer at a Boston hospital, and he devoted time to helping counsel troubled youths in South Boston.

But Tom's addiction to alcohol took over his life and steered his decision-making, causing him to lose good jobs, important relationships, and, ultimately, his ability to live on his own. In June 2017, Tom entered Father Bill's Place in Quincy, an emergency shelter

operated by Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Tom quickly received support and encouragement from the shelter staff, and within three weeks he was participating in WorkExpress, a social enterprise operated by FBMS. WorkExpress employees, who are either currently or formerly homeless, are paid to perform cleaning, maintenance, and landscaping jobs throughout the community for a variety of reputable local employers.

The program's support and structure help the participants improve on skills and become more self-sufficient.

"These people really do care," Tom said. "I came in and I was at the bottom of the barrel. I had nothing.

"At first it was just a roof over my head. Finally, I woke up. Father Bill's & MainSpring gave me the opportunity to work and that helped me wake up."

Tom, who in the past lived in Rockland, Weymouth, and South Boston, had

***Continued on Page 6***



In late March, South Shore Bank employees, including FBMS board member Jane Wing, VP at South Shore Bank (second from right), prepared and served meals to guests at Father Bill's Place in Quincy.

## FBMS Can Count on Local Bank

When the extreme cold weather and snow arrived this past winter, South Shore Bank jumped into action to help its most vulnerable neighbors.

Always there to lend a helping hand, bank employees worked together to collect over 80 blankets and towels for Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS). This is just the most recent example of South Shore Bank's commitment to FBMS, as it has been supporting the agency for over 20 years, dating back to the bank's creation in 1997 with the merger of Weymouth Savings Bank and South Weymouth Savings Bank.

"It is an honor and privilege to support Father Bill's & MainSpring,"

said Jane Wing, vice president at South Shore Bank and a member of the FBMS board of directors. "Serving our community is one of the foundations of South Shore Bank. We look forward to continuing our pledge to give FBMS the highest level of assistance in its mission to prevent and end homelessness."

Every year FBMS can expect the bank's employees to show their support to local residents who are struggling to make ends meet. In 2015, the employees banded together to hold a drive for essential items needed by shelter guests and program participants.



In 2016, they held a "Socktober" drive in which they called upon their customers for help. The bank's employees and customers delivered in a big way, donating over 1000 pairs of socks to FBMS. It was an initiative that kept shelter guests' feet warm throughout the winter!

This year, South Shore Bank merged with Braintree Cooperative Bank, another regular supporter of the agency. Both banks have been regular sponsors of FoodFest and frequently volunteer at Father Bill's Place in Quincy, helping prepare hot meals for the shelter guests.

## Janice Clifford Brings Food and Fun

Janice Clifford retired from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. last year, but don't expect her to miss out on Gallagher's tradition of serving guests at Father Bill's Place in Quincy.

"We try to provide something nice every time, by diversifying the menu each time we serve," Clifford said. "We truly feel like it makes a difference, being able to offer a nice meal that someone might not normally receive."

Janice started volunteering almost 20 years ago at Father Bill's Place in 1999 with a group from St. Jerome's Church in Weymouth. At the time, the cost of the meal being provided was generously covered by her employer, William Gallagher Associates (acquired by Arthur J. Gallagher, no relation, in 2015).

Janice, along with a few colleagues on Gallagher's Community Involvement

Committee, helped connect employees directly with volunteer activities. The team from Gallagher always brings plenty of spirit and positive energy to the kitchen at Father Bill's Place, dressing up in costumes around Halloween and patriotic gear before the 4th of July, for example.

Janice has not only left a lasting mark on Gallagher and its culture, as the team still continues the monthly meal tradition even after her retirement, but she has also left a lasting mark on the Father Bill's Place kitchen. In honor of her retirement at the end of 2017, her Gallagher colleagues generously donated funds in honor of Janice to go towards FBMS, which were used to purchase a brand-new mixer for the kitchen and fund a few of the Gallagher monthly meals.



Janice Clifford (center) has been instrumental in organizing volunteers from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. to serve meals at Father Bill's Place.

These days Janice goes into the office once a month to rally the team, and always makes sure there's plenty of great food for the guests at FBMS. Janice's tradition of having the Gallagher team provide homemade desserts continues each month with the sponsored meal and the guests get to choose from an assortment of treats.

## Save the Dates



**Jack Conway Memorial Golf Tournament for the Homeless**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018  
7:30 A.M.**

*Easton Country Club  
Visit [jackconway.com/golf](http://jackconway.com/golf) to sign up*



**24th Annual FoodFest Fundraiser**

**TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018  
6 P.M.**

*The Launch at Hingham Shipyard and  
Hingham Beer Works  
For tickets, visit [helpfbms.org/foodfest](http://helpfbms.org/foodfest)*



**Dedications for Montello  
Welcome Home II, Brockton**

**FALL 2018**

*Opening of 23 units for formerly  
homeless residents  
(12 with veteran preference).*



The MainSpring House emergency shelter in downtown Brockton has undergone some major renovations in recent years.

## Makeover at MainSpring House

### GRANT FROM YAWKEY FOUNDATIONS HELPS FBMS COMPLETE CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the Yawkey Foundations, Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) was able to complete its multi-year campaign to improve accessibility and healthcare at the MainSpring House in Brockton.

Last fall, FBMS was selected to receive a \$100,000 grant from the Yawkey Foundations to help pay for the installation of a new elevator at the MainSpring House, the 124-year-old, three-story building that provides emergency overnight shelter and supportive services to local residents experiencing homelessness. The

\$250,000 elevator project was the final phase of FBMS' \$840,000 campaign, launched in 2014, to increase shelter accessibility and healthcare services.

Since 1977, the Yawkey Foundations has promoted inclusion and equality by donating nearly \$450 million to charities assisting those in need, particularly through education, healthcare, and human services.

The elevator, installed earlier this year, allows guests with physical limitations and disabilities, including the shelter's growing senior population, to have access to beds on the upper floors.

In the past 7 years, the number of seniors (age 60-and-older) staying at Father Bill's & MainSpring's shelters for individuals has increased by 35 percent.

"We're grateful to have the support of a well-respected organization like the Yawkey Foundations, which has been helping New Englanders in need for decades," John Yazwinski, President and CEO of FBMS, said. "The guests we serve already face a number of trying circumstances, and we are not going to allow the inability to physically access services that can prevent, or end, their homelessness be one of them."

### 2014 HEALTHCARE CLINIC



Upgrade of health clinic to provide on-site, full-time healthcare services. Project primarily supported by Federal Capital Development Grant to Brockton Neighborhood Health Center from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### 2014-2018 ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES



Installation of wall-mounted handrails, a reconstructed stairwell, renovated men's and women's bathrooms, an accessible egress door on the second floor, accessible hardware throughout the building, and elevator installation.

### thank you TO CAMPAIGN FUNDERS

Ada Bacon Trust

Charlesbank Homes

Franklin Square Foundation

Goddard Health Foundation

Massachusetts Medical Society and Alliance Charitable Foundation

Medtronic (formerly Covidien)

Yawkey Foundations

## Planning Ahead: GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR GIVING

Making a planned gift to Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) allows you to leave behind a legacy of kindness and compassion without affecting your existing financial resources. Your planning today will improve countless lives for years to come.

Here are some popular planned giving options that will benefit individuals, families, and veterans experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness:

**Make a Bequest:** By naming FBMS as a beneficiary in your will or living trust, you're investing in the future well-being of your community.

**Stocks & Bonds:** Giving long-term appreciated stock is one of the most tax-advantaged ways to make charitable gifts. You can support FBMS while also reducing your capital gains tax.

**Retirement Assets:** A gift of your retirement assets, such as a 401(k), IRA, or tax-sheltered annuity, is an inventive way to

give back. You can protect your heirs from taxes while also funding FBMS' future.

**Real Estate:** A gift of real estate is a significant way to contribute to FBMS. This allows you to preserve your cash assets and receive tax and income advantages.

**Life Insurance:** Life insurance is a valuable asset for making a charitable gift. It can be made without diminishing other investments or assets earmarked for family members or loved ones.

Notifying us of your intentions also helps us plan for our future. If you have already made plans to include FBMS as a beneficiary of your assets, please let us know. Planned giving does not need to be confusing, if you have questions or would like more information on making a gift to help those experiencing homelessness, please contact Stephen Muzrall, Chief Development Officer: 508-427-6448 x2222.

To learn more, visit [giving.helpfbms.org](http://giving.helpfbms.org).

## FBMS Purchases Rust House from Hingham Church

With ballooning home prices and rising rents outpricing more and more residents in Greater Boston, Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS), Hingham Congregational Church, and the town of Hingham are committed to providing affordable housing to local residents in need.

In September, FBMS purchased the Rust House, a home to five formerly homeless women, from the Hingham Congregational Church, which had been leasing the property to FBMS in recent years. The agency will continue to provide the same low rent and supportive services to the women living at the Rust House; the only difference is that FBMS, not the church, now owns the property. Parishioners from the church will continue volunteering their time and

interacting with the residents at the home, located on Main Street.

"The Hingham Congregational Church is delighted with the sale of Rust House to FBMS," said Paul Cappers, Chair of the Rust House Committee of the Hingham Congregational Church. "The members see this as a real 'win-win' situation, with the church getting some capital and the housing mission continuing unchanged under the leadership of FBMS."

The townspeople of Hingham played a major role in securing the purchase, as funds from the town's Affordable Housing Trust were used for the acquisition.

"By purchasing the Rust House, we're ensuring that this property will remain



**Rust House is located on Main Street in Hingham.**

an affordable housing option for many years to come," FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski said.

FBMS currently owns or leases more than 500 permanent, supportive housing units for formerly homeless individuals, families, and veterans across Southern Massachusetts.

## Your Support Helped Put Tom Back on Track

*Continued from Page 1*

a challenging childhood. His mother passed away when he was only 11 years old, and his father was an alcoholic. Raised largely by his siblings, Tom said he was on a positive course in his life, serving as a police officer in his early 20s, until his addiction took control.

"Alcohol just brought me down," he said.

While living at the Quincy shelter, Tom said joining WorkExpress was the springboard he needed to improve other areas of his life. With the help of support staff and volunteers at the

shelter, he's been able to improve his computer skills to freshen up his résumé and apply for jobs.

He also attended financial-literacy classes and attended 12-step meetings held at the shelter. Tom plans to celebrate one year of sobriety this summer.

"Because of Father Bill's and sobriety, I've located family members that didn't even know I was alive," he said. "One of my aunts, she was crying when I reached out to her because she thought I was dead."

This past May, after Tom was able to save up enough money from working and after FBMS helped Tom access one-time rental assistance from the state, Tom exited the shelter and moved into his own apartment in Weymouth. Tom said his quality of life has improved drastically over the past year. He has lost weight, lowered his blood pressure to healthier levels, his once-foggy memory is coming back to him, and his attitude is much more positive.

"My pistons weren't firing, and now they're starting to fire again," he said.



**More than 30 local employers participated in the Career Fair for Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) program participants.**



**From left to right, Sue Beaton representing The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation, Lenira Andrade, an estimator for NEI General Contracting of Randolph, and FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski.**

## Hard Work Lauded at Workforce Celebration

Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) hosted its Workforce Development Career Fair & Celebration on October 26th at The Lantana in Randolph, an event that highlighted the vital role that the agency's employment programs play in helping people struggling with homelessness achieve more self-sufficiency.

In the weeks prior to the event, FBMS prepped program participants to improve interview skills such as eye contact, how to work a room, and how to introduce yourself. On the day of the event, the agency offered transportation, on-site childcare, and professional attire to program participants.

And in the moments leading up to the Career Fair, participants put on their most professional attire and prepared in a mock interview room before they entered one of The Lantana's ballrooms, where more than 30 local employers set up tables in hopes of attracting new talent.

The Career Fair invited a great mix of employers, ranging from Amazon to Citizens Bank, interviewing participants from FBMS' three employment and job-training programs, WorkExpress, FoodWorks, and WorkReady Family.

After the Career Fair, program participants were joined by agency employees and supporters for a celebration luncheon. FBMS was honored to share the inspiring story of Lenira Andrade, a formerly homeless mother who is now living her dream of working for an architectural firm.

Special guest speakers included: Sue Beaton from The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation, which launched the Secure Jobs initiative in 2013 that has supported our WorkReady program; Robert Jenkins, executive director of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority, a customer of WorkExpress; and David Palermo of Peak Event Services (formerly Rentals Unlimited), a long-time FBMS partner.

Beaton, who was recognized at the celebration on behalf of The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation for their extraordinary contributions, said the Secure Jobs initiative has supported non-profits that have helped approximately 1,600 people across Massachusetts find jobs. Of those, 345 residents went through Father Bill's & MainSpring programs.

"Father Bill's is always leading the pack," Beaton said.





# Father Bill's & MainSpring

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## DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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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 achieve self-sufficiency.*

helpfbms.org

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SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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