Michael is such a big fan of The Wizard of Oz that he painted his bedroom walls green. This way, he feels like he’s in his own version of Emerald City. The room, filled with an impressive collection of Oz-themed books and posters, brings comfort and joy to Michael, who is 21 years old and has Asperger’s syndrome.

Three years ago, Michael’s family – which includes his mother, Rachel, and younger brother, Riley - was sharing a single bedroom in Braintree and was on the verge of homelessness because their landlord had other plans for the property.

That’s when Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) stepped in and, thanks to support from people like you, was able to connect the family with a three-bedroom apartment in Braintree that they could afford.

Without Father Bill’s, I would have... I don’t even know,” Rachel said. “Probably stayed in my car. We didn’t know where we were going to go.”

A team of FBMS employees, based out of the agency’s housing office serving the Quincy area, utilized federal funding administered by the Town of Braintree to secure subsidized housing for Rachel and her children.

Their apartment in Braintree, which they’ve been in since January 2017, is one of more than 500 permanent supportive housing units managed by FBMS on the South Shore and throughout Southern Massachusetts.
FHLBANK BOSTON INVESTS IN FBMS

In our efforts to end homelessness, every dollar counts.

That's why Father Bill's & MainSpring is grateful for Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, which provided a key source of funding toward our newest housing development in Brockton. The wholesale bank approved a $200,000 grant and $1.2 million subsidized loan toward Montello Welcome Home Again, which opened in December and is home to 23 formerly homeless individuals, including veterans.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBank Boston) is a bank for banks, credit unions and other financial institutions. It is cooperatively owned by more than 440 member organizations throughout New England.

FHLBank Boston assisted FBMS' Montello Welcome Home Again project through its Affordable Housing Program. Established in 1990, the Affordable Housing Program has provided more than $600 million in funding for more than 32,000 affordable rental and homeownership units, helping to ease the burden on our neighbors by creating new housing options.

"Montello Welcome Home Again is a prime example of the type of life-changing housing that our Affordable Housing Program is designed to produce, and we are pleased that we were able to support HarborOne Bank with this important initiative," said Susan Elliott, Executive Vice President/Chief Business Officer of FHLBank Boston. "We also commend Father Bill's & MainSpring for making sure that some of our most vulnerable community members have a place to call home."

The subsidized loan for Montello Welcome Home Again was distributed in partnership with HarborOne Bank, a longtime supporter of FBMS and member of FHLBank Boston.

"We are proud to support the good work that Father Bill's & MainSpring does helping the homeless, including veterans and the disabled, in our city and our region," said James W. Blake, CEO of HarborOne Bank.

FBMS RECEIVES STATE GRANT TO HELP YOUNG ADULTS

Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) has been awarded a new state grant that provides special support for young adults experiencing homelessness.

This winter, the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announced new initiatives aimed at ending homelessness among young adults (18-24 years old), and FBMS was among 10 community partners to receive grant funding. FBMS will receive $300,000 per year for two years and will partner with the Old Colony YMCA to expand its services to assist young adults.

The grant funding will allow FBMS to provide emergency housing, hire additional support staff, and provide flexible funding to help re-house young adults. Flexible funding can help young adults cover upfront housing costs, such as first and last month's rent, and address other barriers to housing.

"We want to thank Governor Baker and his administration for this critical funding that will help young adults in need," John Yazwinski, FBMS President & CEO, said. "Young adults should not be worried about where they’re going to sleep tonight. They should be thinking about where they’re going to attend college and planning for their future. This grant funding will help make that possible."

Besides the grant funding, the Baker-Polito Administration also announced the Massachusetts Student Housing Security Pilot to provide dorm rooms to students attending community college who are experiencing homelessness. FBMS is collaborating with Bridgewater State University and Massasoit Community College to provide support services to the young adults enrolled in the pilot program.

naming opportunities

There are a variety of individual and corporate naming opportunities still available at Montello Welcome Home Again. Opportunities range from a spot on our donor wall to the building's name. To learn more, please contact Catie Reilly at 508-427-6448 x2235.

Sadel was one of 145 young adults served by FBMS’ emergency shelters last year. You can learn more about Sadel in our new Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018, which can be viewed at helpfbms.org/fy18annualreport.
CELEBRATING FBMS WORKFORCE PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 200 people gathered for Father Bill’s & MainSpring’s (FBMS) Workforce Development Career Fair & Celebration, recognizing the hard-work and perseverance of the agency’s program participants.

The event, held on Tuesday, April 30 at The Lantana in Randolph, highlighted the vital role that the agency’s job-training and employment programs play in helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness overcome barriers to employment and secure permanent supportive housing.

FBMS offered transportation, on-site childcare, and professional attire to participants, allowing them to network with 30 local employers during the career fair.

Despite a 40 percent reduction in government funding for job-training programs over the past five years, FBMS’ three employment programs (WorkExpress, FoodWorks, and WorkReady Family) have continued helping hundreds of South Shore residents find jobs, thanks to funding from corporate sponsors, charitable organizations, and individual donations from private citizens.

Delrose Newman, a graduate of FBMS’ WorkReady Family program, delivered the event’s most riveting remarks. Newman, who now works as DTA Works Program Manager for the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, spoke of the many lessons she learned during challenging times for her and her young daughter. One of those lessons was the strength she found in her community.

“Real challenges, real obstacles remind us of our limitations and drain us of hope. But we were not meant to do life alone,” Delrose said. “Redwood trees are some of the tallest and strongest trees because their roots lock with other redwoods nearby. Find healthy, supportive community so you can weather the storm.”
BRINGING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO VETERANS

If you ever take a tour of Jeff’s Place in Brockton, there’s a slight chance you’ll hear “Happy Birthday To You!” echoing through the hallways. Most likely, Diane Tetreault is the one singing it.

Over the last four years, Diane, a longtime supporter of Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS), has been delivering gifts and warm wishes to the veterans at Jeff’s Place in Brockton to make their birthdays more special. “They served our country, and it just makes sense to help,” she said.

Diane, a retired Bentley University professor, spoke to Paul Mauro, a veterans case manager at FBMS, to inquire about the needs of the veterans at Jeff’s Place, which holds 32 units for formerly homeless individuals. Diane and Paul decided it would be nice to recognize the veterans’ birthdays, considering some of them may otherwise spend the day alone.

The veterans who typically have not celebrated their birthday have said to me that they are very thankful,” Paul said, “and it feels good that someone has taken the time to help them celebrate their birthday.

One veteran at Jeff’s Place had no cookware, so for his birthday Diane brought him pots and pans. Diane and that veteran later sat down for a meal cooked out of those very same pots and pans.

You CAN’T OUT-GROW GIVING

Kyetes Heller has vivid memories of joining her classmates at East Elementary School in Sharon, heading to the cafeteria to decorate brown paper bags and make sandwiches for individuals experiencing homelessness.

We used to have MainSpring House Days at the cafeteria,” Kyetes, now 21 years old and a junior at Simmons University, said. “It was the most special day of the year.

Kyetes was so inspired by these volunteer efforts from her childhood that, more than a decade later, she decided to organize her own bagged lunch initiative for Father Bill’s & MainSpring on her college’s campus in Boston. One night in April, Kyetes, a Resident Assistant at Simmons, and her classmates set up several stations for sandwich-making and bag-decorating inside the school’s dining hall.

The bags were adorned with colorful drawings and uplifting messages such as “Have a Beautiful Day!” and “You’re the Best!”

The next day, Kyetes led a group visit down to Quincy to deliver approximately 100 bagged lunches to Father Bill’s Place, our emergency shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness.

“I’ve always really enjoyed giving back and volunteering for the community, but it’s been really hard to do as a full-time student,” she said. “But I thought this was a great window of opportunity to give back and to give back to a cause that was really special to me when I was young.”

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

It was critically important to Rachel, who has lived in Braintree since she was a teenager, that her family remained in the town. She said the town’s special education program is one of the state’s best, and both of her kids utilize the program.

Rachel’s mother passed away last year, and Rachel, who was very close with her mother, had to dip into her savings to pay for the funeral. This made for a challenging holiday season, but FBMS and their supporters showed up to help. Thanks to Granite Telecommunications and its annual holiday initiative to benefit FBMS participants, Rachel’s family received a decorated tree and an assortment of wrapped presents that they could open Christmas morning.

If it weren’t for FBMS and Granite Telecommunications, “we wouldn’t have had a Christmas,” she said.

Rachel’s family has been on the waiting list for a Section 8 voucher for seven years. Until their number is called they’re grateful that FBMS is a stabilizing presence in their lives. Rachel’s family has a great relationship with their FBMS case manager Tanja Cole-Iyamu, who visits the apartment regularly, providing support and connecting the family with donations such as groceries from local food pantries and school supplies.
FATHER BILL’S & MAINSPRING (FBMS) is committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Southern Massachusetts with a range of programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and supportive services. We help people who are struggling with homelessness or are at risk of homelessness achieve self-sufficiency.

helpFBMS.org
facebook.com/fatherbillsmainspring
twitter.com/FrBillsMnSpring
instagram.com/frbillsmnspring

THE heartbeat
SPRING/SUMMER 2019 | IN THIS ISSUE...

01 Success Story: Rachel & Family
02 Supporter Spotlight: Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
02 Naming Opportunities
03 FBMS Receives Young Adult Homelessness Grant
04-05 Workforce Development Event
06 Volunteer Spotlight: Diane Tetreault & Kyetes Heller
07 Giving Societies

EDITORIAL STAFF
John Yazwinski, Executive Editor
Catie Mills Reilly, Editor
Patrick Ronan, Editor

CONTRIBUTORS
Tim McDonald
Jack Foley Photography

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
executive committee
Dr. Michael Kryzanek, Chair, Special Assistant to the President
| Bridgewater State University
Mary Catherine Finn, PNP, Vice Chair, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
| Village Pediatrics
James Oslin, CPA, Treasurer, Gosule, Butkus & Jesson, LLP
Joyce Hogan, Secretary, Program Coordinator | Valentine Street Program for Women

members
H. William (Bill) Adams III, Realtor | Coldwell Banker
Michael Arkin, Project Manager | TDC
Corey Anne Beach, Project Manager | Intrepid
Al Becker, VP, Marketing & Operations | Jack Conway & Company, Inc.
Ronald Chapman, Facility Manager | DHS, U.S. Coast Guard
Ken DeDominici, President | Churchill Linen Service
Rev. John E. Denning, C.S.C, President | Stonehill College
Athina DiIorio, Owner | The Gourmet Café Catering
Katrina Hartwell, Vice President, Strategic Business Development | Jones & Vining
Kervins Jean, Assistant Vice President, Compliance Officer | Harbor One Bank
Elizabeth Kim, Assistant Vice President of Claims | Arbella Insurance Group
Joyce Livramento-Young, Women Empowerment Initiative for Change
Francis J. (Jay) Lynch, III, Esq., Attorney | Lynch & Lynch Attorneys
Robert M. Pineau, President & CEO | Electro Switch Corporation
Gwendolyn Whigham, Community Health Worker | Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
Jane Wing, VP, CTP | South Shore Savings Bank
Rev. Adolph H. Wismar, Jr., Pastor | Wollaston Lutheran Church

honorary board member
William Fitzgerald, Sr.