October 3 was a very special day for Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) as Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker helped us break ground on our new property in Randolph, the Envision Bank Home for Veterans.

The Governor praised the project, saying it exemplified how the private, public, and non-profit sectors can collaborate to provide solutions for our neighbors in need.

Approximately 200 people attended the groundbreaking for the Envision Bank Home for Veterans, which will consist of 10 permanent supportive housing units for formerly homeless individuals.

All of the apartments will have a preference for military veterans.

“This notion of finding state support, in some cases federal support, in some cases private support, and a terrific partner, like Father Bill’s & MainSpring, to put together supportive housing for veterans is absolutely the formula that’s been used over and over again for many years here in Massachusetts,” Baker said.

Your generous support makes this project possible. These apartments will add to the more than 550 permanent supportive housing units that FBMS currently operates in Southern Massachusetts.

The efficiency-style apartments are being built on the vacant parcel of land located behind the new ground.
PARTICIPANT PROFILE: adam

Adam says he feels like the Six Million Dollar Man, a reference to the 1970s television show about a man who is rebuilt into a stronger version of himself.

After 25 years of living out on the streets, Adam now has an apartment of his own in his hometown of Plymouth. He’s sober, eating regularly, owns his own bed and TV, and has a warm, quiet place to rest his head every night.

“This place is rebuilding me and making me better,” Adam says of the apartment, one of more than 550 permanent supportive housing units operated by Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) in Southern Massachusetts.

When Adam was in his 20s, he and his father started living on the streets after a transition in their family forced them out of their home. Adam, who suffers from depression and anxiety, drank to cope with his feelings, and he and his father adapted to the lifestyle of living outdoors.

“I used to live with the wild animals,” Adam said. “You get used to the rotten weather after a while. After seven days of rain, you stop noticing it.”

Adam said he would go weeks without eating anything besides peanut butter out of a jar, he’d use a trash bag as a blanket, and he developed severe arthritis and neuropathy in his feet from sleeping out in the cold. Sadly, Adam’s father developed pneumonia while out on the streets and he passed away about 10 years ago.

Adam first connected with FBMS through the Overnights of Hospitality, a seasonal sheltering program — operated in partnership with the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness — that provides overnight beds and hot meals to local men and women in need during the cold winter months.

Adam, now housed, is building a new life for himself. Adam said he recently bumped into a police officer who used to see him out on the streets, and the officer was shocked by his transformation. He said to Adam: “Where have you been? You’re looking good. You’re worth something, Adam. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

Your support helped bring hope to Adam

Homelessness in suburban and rural towns is on the rise. Last year, 74 people sought refuge through the Plymouth Overnights of Hospitality, an increase of 23% since 2017. On average, we sheltered 16 people per night in Plymouth, a 60% rise since 2017.

We need your help to make sure people like Adam aren’t left out in the cold this winter. Help keep our doors open in Plymouth.

make a gift at helpfbms.org/donate.
A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AT 25TH FOODFEST

Delicious food, great music, and gorgeous weather set the scene for a celebration a quarter-century in the making.

Approximately 1,000 guests, vendors and volunteers gathered at the scenic Hingham Shipyard for Father Bill’s & MainSpring’s 25th annual FoodFest fundraiser. Thanks to our amazing network of corporate sponsors, vendors, and supporters, the event raised more than $350,000 toward our programs.

“Last winter we saw our nightly shelter stays spike by about 20%, and we continue to see an increase in the number of elders coming to our doors desperate for help. This year’s FoodFest was proof that we’re part of a community that steps up for its neighbors in need,” FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski said.

The event featured a video that highlighted two women, Jennifer and Melissa, who received assistance from FBMS in previous decades.

“We’re all human, anything can happen,” Jennifer said. “The bottom line is: Everybody needs help and thank goodness there are places like Father Bill’s to offer that help.”

PHOTO 1: Attorney George Burke and his family receive the Welch Dedicated Volunteer Award.

PHOTO 2: Former FBMS shelter guests Melissa (left) and Jennifer.

PHOTO 3: Jim Wells (third from left), a former longtime FoodFest chairman and FBMS board member, with his family.

PHOTO 4: Employees from Jack Conway & Company.

PHOTO 5: State Senator Patrick M. O’Connor presents a special citation to FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski.

All photos by Jack Foley.

thank you to our sponsors

PRESENTING:

▲ PREMIER: Electro Switch Corp.; Jack Conway & Company, Inc; Flatley Foundation.

▲ PLATINUM PLUS: Launch at Hingham Shipyard; United Way of Greater Plymouth County.

▲ PLATINUM: Attorney George G. Burke; Cape Cod Lumber Company; North Easton Savings Bank; South Shore Bank.

▲ GOLD: Cashman Dredging; Tom and Line Corcoran; Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation; Envision Bank; HarborOne Bank; Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance; Republic Plumbing Supply; South Shore Health; Webster Bank.

▲ SILVER: BMC HealthNet Plan; Churchill Linen Service; Conway Insurance Agency; Curtis Construction Co.; Gallagher; Gonsile, Burkus & Jesson, LLP; Housing Management Resources; Kevin P. Martin Associates, PC; Lynch & Lynch; Marshfield Community Television; Mary Catherine Finn and Bruce Ring; My Brother’s Keeper; NeighborWorks Southern Mass; New England Regional Council of Carpenters; P Leo and Helen A. Corcoran Foundation; Rotary Club of Weymouth; Shaughnessy & Athern Co./S&A Cranes LLC; Valley Forge Fabrics; Kathleen, Joanne and Richard, Jr. in honor of their parents, Richard and Virginia Welch; Yale Appliance.

▲ BRONZE: Abington Bank; A.W. Perry; Avalon at the Hingham Shipyard; Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation; Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton; Bridgewater State University; Burke Distributing; Camden National Bank; Ron and Barbara Chapman; Howard Cohen/Beacon Communities.

▲ UNDERWRITING SPONSORS: Snow & Jones (Raffle Sponsor); Cambridge Savings Bank (Silent Auction Sponsor); Ladybug Pest Control Services (Floral Arrangements Sponsor).

▲ MEDIA SPONSORS: The Patriot Ledger; Wicked Local.

▲ VENDORS: Phillip’s Candy House; 110 Grill; Davio’s; FBMS FoodWorks; Bia Bistro; Lavishly Dunn Catering; Alma Nove; Boathouse Bistro; Burtons Grill; Capital One Café; The Greenside Grille; Mary Louis Coffee; Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt; Nonna’s Homemade Ice Cream; Peel Pizza Co.; The Quarry Restaurant; Sadie Mae’s Cupcake Café; Sapa Restaurant; Trader Joe’s; Trident Galley & Raw Bar; Wahlburgers; Hill’s Home Market; Jake’s Seafood Restaurant; The Parrot; Townie Frozen Desserts; Abby Park & Novara; The Tinker’s Son; The Fours Restaurant; Fratelli’s Pastry Shop; Fuji at West of Chestnut; Ginger Betty’s Bakery; Montilio’s; The Lantana; Jac’s Café; Player’s Sports Bar & Grille; Galley Kitchen.

save THE DATE

► Workforce Development Career Fair & Celebration: Spring 2020
► 26th FoodFest: Tuesday, July 28, 2020
Q: What does Father Bill’s & MainSpring’s mission mean to you?

A: I personally experienced homelessness when I was in the 9th- and 10th-grades, so I know how it feels to be without a home. And it’s especially difficult as a young person to be going through that while also trying to get good grades and find your way through friends.

I know how it feels to have to deal with the shame of having a friend drop you off at a hotel and having to be faced with the questions of, “Well where do you actually live?” or “How are you guys getting by?” So, for me, it’s important to make sure that the people that are homeless - the population that Father Bill’s is serving - feel seen and feel heard.

Q: Was there anything that surprised you during your internship at Father Bill’s Place?

A: I didn’t know that there were so many people facing addiction, people with varying disabilities, whether it be mental, physical, or anything to do with their health.

I also didn’t know that a lot of older people are facing homelessness. There are senior citizens that have had a home or have been renting a place, and now they’ve been pushed out of that place because rent is too high. I didn’t even fathom that being a possibility.

Q: What was your favorite part about participating in Bank of America’s Student Leadership Summit in Washington DC?

A: My favorite part was realizing my own capabilities. Just to be surrounded by so many smart kids that are as passionate as I am just kind of reassured me that I can do the things that I have my mind set on, and that I am just as capable as all these other amazing kids that are doing such amazing things in their lives.

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There are a number of ways you can be a difference-maker for our mission.

LEARN HOW AT HELPFBMS.ORG/SUPPORT.

A MAJOR MAKEOVER AT EVELYN HOUSE

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Massachusetts donated their time, talents, and tools to help renovate the Evelyn House in Stoughton, our emergency shelter for 16 families experiencing homelessness.

Dozens of member companies of AGC and more than 40 volunteers contributed to the trade association’s annual Day of Service, which was held October 4. The group donated and installed new items in the shelter, including appliances, light fixtures, and flooring.

The contractors also made significant renovations to the shelter at no cost to FBMS, including repairs and upgrades to two kitchens, repairs to the handicap access to the shelter, a facelift to the common areas and bathrooms, landscaping, and updated electrical systems.

Special thanks to Emily Sheedy, AGC’s Director of Member Services; Kelly Gillen, the Chair of AGC’s Construction Leadership Council; and Lisa Frisbie, AGC’s Director of Marketing and Communications.

WE’RE BREAKING NEW GROUND – THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Envision Bank branch in downtown Randolph. The bank and its foundation are selling the land to FBMS for $1 and will provide a $500,000 grant as well as permanent financing to support the $2.57 million project, which is expected to start welcoming tenants in the fall of 2020.

“We are honored to be able to partner with Father Bill’s & MainSpring on this project that will ensure at least 10 Veterans, who would otherwise be homeless, will have the safety and security of a place to call home,” Jim McDonough, President and CEO of Envision Bank, said.
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.

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