“I cry every day knowing I don’t have to be on the street anymore. My family is very proud. My mom doesn’t have to be scared anymore about me being out on the street.”  - LORENZO

LORENZO DOESN’T USUALLY ANSWER HIS PHONE WHILE HE’S IN CHURCH. BUT ON ONE PARTICULAR SUNDAY THIS PAST WINTER, THIS CALL WAS FROM FATHER BILL’S & MAINSPRING (FBMS) AND HE KNEW HE NEEDED TO ANSWER IT.

“It felt like the world stood still for a moment,” he remembered.

Lorenzo received word from Matt Fitzgibbon, a Diversion Specialist at FBMS, that there was an apartment unit available. After 11 years experiencing homelessness, he finally had a home of his own. Lorenzo became homeless in 2011 after a series of events that included being displaced by a house fire and then a close death in his family. He also struggled with addiction, which resulted in years of starts and stops in his path to regain stable housing.

“I know I deserved better. Being on the street, that’s not me,” he said.

Last year, FBMS formed a Triage Department, adding staff specializing in street outreach and homelessness diversion and prevention. FBMS Triage Director Taylor DeSanty helped Lorenzo get off the street and into a hotel that our agency was utilizing during the pandemic. Having his own private space in shelter was the start he needed. From there, he began working with Taylor and Matt to search for housing, look for a job, and stabilize his life. He reconnected with family and started to find peace with himself.
FATHER BILL’S & MAINSPRING’S (FBMS) TRANSFORMATIVE VISION TO END HOMELESSNESS IS COMING TO PLYMOUTH COUNTY!

FBMS is planning to build a Housing Resource Center at 124 Manley Street in Brockton, site of the former U.S. Army Reserve Center. The project will replicate the innovative Yawkey Housing Resource Center, currently under construction in Quincy.

The Housing Resource Center model will replace the overnight-shelter model with a more cost-effective approach that engages individuals much earlier in their housing crisis, providing the personalized, targeted support they need.

This new approach, based out of a new day center, will dedicate more staff and resources to homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid rehousing, thus reducing the overall reliance on overnight shelter. By offering wraparound services in a single location, we are increasing access to housing and healthcare.

In addition to the day center, the Housing Resource Center in Brockton will have an emergency shelter with 128 beds and a second building with 32 units of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals.

Both Housing Resource Centers also aim to address the significant disparities among marginalized groups facing homelessness, particularly Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latino households.

The Housing Resource Center will improve equitable access to housing through coordinated entry, a process designed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed, and connected to housing and assistance based on their individualized needs.

FBMS is committed to improving assessment tools and training staff to ensure that access to housing opportunities is equitable across all races/ethnicities and reflective of the greater population.

FBMS “A Path Home” campaign seeks to raise $4 million to construct and operate a new Housing Resource Center in Brockton. This comes after we successfully raised $10 million needed to support the Yawkey Housing Resource Center in Quincy.

We are planning several supporter receptions this summer to share more information about our Housing Resource Center plans and how the community can help us end homelessness in Southern Massachusetts.

Individuals and businesses interested in supporting “A Path Home” or attending a supporter reception can contact FBMS Chief Development Officer Catie Reilly at cpreilly@helpfbms.org or 508-427-6448 ext. 2235.

Learn more at pathhome.helpfbms.org

THE YAWKEY HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER IN QUINCY, EXPECTED TO OPEN IN 2023, WILL INCLUDE A DAY CENTER, AN EMERGENCY SHELTER WITH 75 BEDS, AND 30 UNITS OF PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.
“I know I deserved better. Being on the street, that’s not me,” he said. Last year, FBMS formed a Triage Department, adding staff specializing in street outreach and homelessness diversion and prevention. FBMS Triage Director Taylor DeSanty helped Lorenzo get off the street and into a hotel that our agency was utilizing during the pandemic. Having his own private space in shelter was the start he needed. From there, he began working with Taylor and Matt to search for housing, look for a job, and stabilize his life. He reconnected with family and started to find peace with himself.

Welcoming Back Our Volunteers

ONE OF FBMS’ TOP PRIORITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS WILL BE WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS BACK TO OUR PROGRAM SITES.

The pandemic challenged our mission like never before, and one of the biggest impacts was the suspension of on-site volunteer activities. Our staff and guests missed seeing our volunteers’ smiling faces and hearing their words of support and encouragement.

Last fall, we began a pilot program to learn how we could safely welcome back volunteers on site. On Thanksgiving (see below), volunteers supported our return to in-person dinners for our neighbors in need.

We will continue to welcome back more volunteers, and we very much appreciate the patience of our supporters who are eager to return and make a difference.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit helpfbms.org/volunteer or email volunteer@helpfbms.org.

Together Again for the Holidays

On Thanksgiving, approximately 100 volunteers helped FBMS provide more than 1,300 dinners to our neighbors in need, a record for the highest single-day meal total in our agency’s history.

We expanded our meal-delivery program and hosted several in-person dinners, including the return of our community meal at Christ Episcopal Church in Quincy, canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

This was all made possible by generous supporters who contributed nearly $20,000 to our Thanksgiving Fund.

In February, Lorenzo moved into a Brockton apartment building owned by FBMS. As a tenant in one of FBMS’ 600+ permanent supportive housing units across Southern Massachusetts, Lorenzo receives case management services to support his stability in housing.

Lorenzo wakes up every day thankful to be in his own place. His advice to others struggling with homelessness:

“Never give up. Keep your faith.”

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Brian Sheehan
TITLE: Food Service Worker/Chef at MainSpring House, Brockton
FBMS TENURE: 2 years
WHY IS THE MISSION IMPORTANT TO YOU:
“Providing a hot meal can help improve someone’s situation, get them back on their feet and give hope for better days.”
A STORY/EXPERIENCE FROM YOUR WORK AT FBMS THAT HAS STAYED WITH YOU:
“I am always touched when someone has moved on from MainSpring House. I have had a number of individuals return to say ‘hi.’ It is proof that what we are doing is working.”
WHAT DOES THE WORD “HOME” MEAN TO YOU:
“Safety, comfort and stability.”
HOMETOWN: Brockton
FUN FACT ABOUT YOU:
“I have an amazing sense of humor. Often needed in this line of work.”

“Brian is one of a kind and an absolute blessing!” said Anne Regnier, a volunteer from the First Congregational Church of Milton.

CONTINUED from Page 1

Lorenzo in his new apartment in Brockton

FBMS volunteers returned to Christ Church in Quincy to support our in-person Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

This was all made possible by generous supporters who contributed nearly $20,000 to our Thanksgiving Fund!
**Difference Maker: SHARON WILLIAMS**

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Williams has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness for more than three decades.

A former FBMS manager and longtime supporter of our mission, Sharon’s passion for helping others was inherited. While growing up in Michigan as one of 12 kids in her family, a crowded dining room table didn’t stop her father from inviting people in from off the streets to join their holiday dinners.

“I grew up with that from both of my parents. They would give people the shirt off their back,” Sharon said. “If someone needed help, you help. That’s what I love to do.”

As a young adult, Sharon moved to the Boston area to pursue a career in the insurance field, but she spent her nights with fellow church members handing out food and blankets to people sleeping outside in Boston.

In the 1990s, she moved to Rockland, where she started her own church and became a pastor. She and her church members went out to the streets and wooded areas in Brockton, distributing food and other essential items. Beyond donations, Sharon offered to pray with the people staying outside, treating them with respect and dignity.

In 2012, her nonprofit Possibilities Ministries opened a center in Rockland that provided furniture and other household items at no cost to individuals exiting homelessness and starting anew in housing.

Naturally, Sharon’s work led to many collaborations with FBMS. After several conversations with FBMS President & CEO John Yazwinski and COO April Connolly, Sharon quit her more profitable insurance job to become an outreach worker for FBMS. Six months later she was promoted to become the manager at FBMS’ MainSpring House shelter in Brockton, a challenging – yet rewarding – position she proudly held for three years. She closed out her tenure at FBMS by serving as the manager of our Plymouth Housing team.

Sharon left FBMS to dedicate more time to Possibilities Ministries but remained involved with FBMS, volunteering through “days of giving” each summer and during the holidays.

She recently moved back to Michigan to be closer to family. As she closed up Possibilities Ministries Sharon gave the remaining furniture and cash donations to FBMS.

“The reason I always stuck with Father Bill’s & MainSpring and what I always loved was their care for the people,” she said. “They treated people with dignity and care. They were doing right by God’s people.”

In 2018, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Williams leads a prayer with FBMS guests and staff at the Holiday Shopping Days held at MainSpring House shelter in Brockton.

**JOIN OUR Legacy Society**

Making a planned gift to Father Bill’s & MainSpring can change lives, and be one of life’s most satisfying experiences. Learn how a charitable gift, like a bequest in your will or living trust, can match your goals, values, and what you hope your lasting legacy will be.

The planning you do today is critical to ending homelessness for thousands in Southern Massachusetts. Regardless of how you choose to support FBMS, you are making an investment that will change lives for years to come.

**What does the word “Home” mean to you?**

“Home is waking up every day to a roof over your head and a good nutritious meal in your belly, happily waiting to take on a new daily adventure.”

**Fun Fact:**

“I attended Woodstock in 1969. Tickets were only $8 per day!”

**Bob Hughes has led an exciting life, which he shares more about on our website. Visit to read the full interview.**

Learn more at giving.helplfbms.org or by contacting Lynn Calling at lcalling@helplfbms.org.

**NAME:** Bob Hughes

**Location/Hometown:** Duxbury

**Family:** “My daughter, Kristina, lives in Los Angeles, with her partner Brian. They are parents to my 5-year-old grandson, Jackson. Here in Duxbury, I am a proud butler to my tuxedo cat, Sir Elton Hughes I, The Duke of Duxbury.”

**Your Impact on FBMS:** “I am a longtime volunteer and member of The Legacy Society.”

**Why did you decide to support FBMS?**

“Because of my success, I look back and am thankful that positive things that have happened and I am grateful. I’m now on the other side of that kitchen door and now is the time for me to give back even more. As I prepare for retirement, I want to continue supporting FBMS through a planned gift. FBMS has helped so many individuals, I’m happy and proud to be affiliated with this caring organization. As a volunteer and a member of FBMS Legacy Society, I’m thinking about the future and helping to educate others so that they can enjoy having a roof over their head as well as a nutritious meal to chow down on. I gladly support the work they are doing, and I hope this will encourage you to help as well!”

**What does the word “Home” mean to you?**

“Home is waking up every day to a roof over your head and a good nutritious meal in your belly, happily waiting to take on a new daily adventure.”

**Fun Fact:** “I attended Woodstock in 1969. Tickets were only $8 per day!”

**Bob Hughes has led an exciting life, which he shares more about on our website. Visit to read the full interview.**

Learn more at giving.helplfbms.org or by contacting Lynn Calling at lcalling@helplfbms.org.

**Join our Legacy Society**

Making a planned gift to Father Bill’s & MainSpring can change lives, and be one of life’s most satisfying experiences. Learn how a charitable gift, like a bequest in your will or living trust, can match your goals, values, and what you hope your lasting legacy will be.

The planning you do today is critical to ending homelessness for thousands in Southern Massachusetts. Regardless of how you choose to support FBMS, you are making an investment that will change lives for years to come.

**What does the word “Home” mean to you?**

“Home is waking up every day to a roof over your head and a good nutritious meal in your belly, happily waiting to take on a new daily adventure.”

**Fun Fact:** “I attended Woodstock in 1969. Tickets were only $8 per day!”

**Bob Hughes has led an exciting life, which he shares more about on our website. Visit to read the full interview.**

Learn more at giving.helplfbms.org or by contacting Lynn Calling at lcalling@helplfbms.org. **DONOR SPOTLIGHT**
The past year has shown that the Conway legacy of giving is an integral part of FBMS’ past, present and future!

FBMS was honored to attend Jack Conway’s annual Thanksgiving Breakfast in November, where Carol Bulman presented our agency with an incredible $100,000 donation. This was in addition to their annual contribution of proceeds raised from the Jack Conway Memorial Golf Tournament for the Homeless.

The donation was made in support of our innovative Housing Resource Center development in Brockton (see Page 2), which will help transform our region’s approach to ending homelessness.

Another highlight was when Carol surprised her mother, Patti, with a group singing of “Happy Birthday” in advance of Patti’s 90th birthday the following month. In December, Patti’s family and friends generously made donations to FBMS in honor of her birthday.

All of this led up to their annual Conway Convention in February where several big announcements were made. In addition to unveiling a rebrand, FBMS Board Member Al Becker was announced as the new President & COO, and Carol Bulman as CEO & Chairperson. Patti Conway was also recognized as the Jack Conway Citizen of the Year for her decades of contributions to the community, including the co-founding of what is now FBMS in 1982.

At the breakfast, the Jack Conway team shared a beautiful video highlighting the longtime partnership. Watch the Jack Conway “Legacy of Giving” video at tinyurl.com/conwayfbms.

Support FBMS with Cryptocurrency

FBMS is now accepting cryptocurrency donations! We are excited to take this important step, positioning ourselves for the future in our fight to end homelessness in Southern Massachusetts.

Visit helpfbms.org/cryptocurrency to learn more about cryptocurrency and the secure Engiven donation platform.
Father Bill’s & MainSpring is excited to welcome Bob DiGiovanni and Jennifer White to our Board of Directors.

Bob is the Director of Cash Management and Retail Banking at South Shore Bank, and Jennifer is Vice President of Community and Public Relations for HarborOne Bank and President of the HarborOne Foundation.

Both South Shore Bank and HarborOne Bank are longtime supporters of our mission.

Check out the back cover of this newsletter for a full board listing.

"Father Bill’s & MainSpring’s tireless and innovative efforts to end homelessness across the region serves as a model for many other organizations. I am honored and excited to work alongside such an incredibly dedicated and talented group of leaders."

– JENNIFER WHITE
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/fatherbilismainspring
twitter.com/FrBillsMnSpring
instagram.com/frbilismnspring

THE heartbeat

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 IN THIS ISSUE...

01 Participant Profile: Lorenzo
02 - 03 Housing Resource Centers
04 Welcome Back, Volunteers!
05 Employee Spotlight: Brian Sheehan
06 Difference Maker: Sharon Williams
07 Donor Spotlight: Bob Hughes
08 Conway Cares
09 Roadway Apartments
10 New Board Members
11 40 Years of FBMS

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

CONTRIBUTORS: Lynn Calling, Mary Ann Mendes

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, Partner | Jesson, Oslin & Associates, LLP
Joyce Hogan, Secretary, Program Coordinator | Valentine Street Program for Women

members

H. William (Bill) Adams III, Realtor | Coldwell Banker
David Arnold, Vice President, Total Rewards and People Services | Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Corey Anne Beach, Program Manager, Audio | The New York Times
Al Becker, President/COO | Jack Conway
Ronald Chapman, Retired, Former Facility Manager | DHS, U.S. Coast Guard
Robert DiGiovanni, Director of Cash Management and Retail Banking | South Shore Bank
Rev. John E. Denning, C.S.C, President | Stonehill College
Katrina Hartwell, Head of Development | Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
Kervins Jean, U.S. Compliance Manager | Bitstamp USA Inc.
Elizabeth Kim, Member, Board of Directors; Retired, Former Assistant Vice President of Claims | Arbella Insurance Group
Joyce Livramento-Young, SER-jobs for Progress, Inc.
Francis J. (Jay) Lynch, III, Esq., Attorney | Lynch & Lynch Attorneys
Robert M. Pineau, President & CEO | Electro Switch Corporation
Jennifer White, Vice President, Community and Public Relations/President | HarborOne Bank/HarborOne Foundation
Jane Wing, Vice President | The Cooperative Bank
Rev. Adolph H. Wismar, Jr., Pastor | Wollaston Lutheran Church