When Debbie Griffin found out earlier this year that her late brother, Daniel “Danny” Connolly, had unclaimed money held by the state, she knew immediately where it needed to go.

Debbie, of Quincy, donated to Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS), the organization that provided the care and stability Danny needed when he became homeless. She and her husband also made a generous donation in addition to the gift in Danny’s name.

“Please know Danny’s family will never forget the kindness your staff showed our brother when he needed it,” Debbie wrote in a letter to FBMS accompanying her donations.

At FBMS, we often hear from family members, like Debbie, who tell us their loved ones came to our doors, received help, and built a better life filled with purpose, joy, and stronger relationships.

The ripple effects of our services — on families, friends, and communities — are made possible by supporters like you.

Although he worked his entire life, Danny’s struggles with alcohol led to a stay at Father Bill’s Place, our emergency shelter in Quincy. While in shelter, Danny got sober and developed a love for cooking.

He loved it so much that after he moved into his own apartment, he continued volunteering in our shelter’s kitchen.

CONTINUED on Page 11
Opening nears for Yawkey Housing Resource Center in QUINCY

OUR BOLD VISION TO END HOMELESSNESS HAS TAKEN SHAPE!

In October, Father Bill’s & MainSpring (FBMS) and general contractor Dellbrook|JKS held a “topping-off ceremony” to commemorate the last beam being placed atop the Yawkey Housing Resource Center, our transformative new development in Quincy.

The Yawkey Housing Resource Center’s first phase, a two-story 15,700 square-foot building, is expected to be completed in late spring 2023. The state-of-the-art building includes emergency shelter beds and an innovative day center, which will host our new service-delivery model with added housing supports, co-located programs, and access to health care, technology and meeting rooms.

By streamlining wraparound services, the center will serve as a hub for individuals facing a housing crisis, providing targeted, more personalized care to prevent homelessness and reduce the length of shelter stays.

The second phase, to be completed by fall 2023, will be a four-story, 20,000 square-foot facility that will hold 30 on-site efficiency apartments for formerly homeless individuals. FBMS will provide case management services to these residents.

"Homelessness and the affordable housing crisis in our region are urgent social justice issues, and inaction is not an option," said Nancy Huntington Stager, President and CEO of Eastern Bank Foundation. "Tackling a problem as complex as homelessness will require a collective, community-wide effort. We urge other businesses and foundations to join us to support Father Bill’s & MainSpring’s bold vision to end homelessness."

For years, Eastern Bank has strengthened our mission through a range of support, including grants supporting our individual and family services, workforce development program, and facility upgrades. In addition to the Foundation’s philanthropic support, Bob Rivers, Chair & CEO of Eastern Bank, has joined as a member of FBMS’ A Path Home Leadership Cabinet.

Eastern Bank takes pride in its outspoken advocacy and community support that includes $240 million in charitable giving since 1994. Eastern’s Foundation seeks to support historically disadvantaged communities, including Black, Latino, Asian, women, LGBTQ+, Veterans and People with disabilities.

Eastern Bank’s grant to the Brockton Housing Resource Center (rendering pictured below) was awarded a few months after the state awarded $4.4 million toward the first phase of the innovative Brockton development, expected to break ground this spring.
**The Road Home**

**HOTEL-TO HOUSING CONVERSION WRAPS UP**

On her move-in day this past summer Miss Mona was joyfully basking as she finally signed the lease to her brand-new unit at the Roadway Apartments, our hotel-to-housing conversion in Brockton. After experiencing difficult situations that left her homeless, she couldn’t contain her joy.

“I was very happy to move in my new space,” Mona said.

Mona immigrated from Haiti and has been living in the U.S for 42 years. Several years ago, Mona was living in an apartment where she says she fell prey to discrimination and harassment from her neighbors and landlord. Unfortunately, Mona was evicted with nowhere to go.

In 2020, as COVID-19 surged, she found refuge at MainSpring House, our emergency shelter in Brockton. Fortunately, Father Bill’s & MainSpring had opened satellite shelter sites, including rooms at the renamed Roadway Apartments. Room construction was staggered to preserve shelter space during the pandemic, and the final group of tenants, including Mona, arrived in July.

In January, the first group of tenants moved into their new units at the renamed Roadway Apartments. Room construction was staggered to preserve shelter space during the pandemic, and the final group of tenants, including Mona, arrived in July.

Her smile was contagious as she expressed gratitude for having her own place. She expressed appreciation and admiration for FBMS case managers for treating her with kindness, respect, and empathy.

**The Roadway Apartments in Brockton, formerly the Rodeway Inn, is home to 69 formerly homeless individuals.**

In late 2020, FBMS purchased the Rodeway Inn to begin a first-in-the-state, hotel-to-housing conversion project for homeless individuals. In the fall of 2021, construction began to convert each room into an efficiency apartment by adding a kitchenette.

Additional site improvements include a new laundry room, new staff offices, and exterior enhancements such as an outdoor courtyard and façade upgrades.

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**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

On June 9, 2022, longtime FBMS volunteer Bobby O’Hayre passed away. For many years, Bobby played an integral role in our annual Thanksgiving Community Meal in Quincy.

We are touched that Bobby’s family named FBMS as the beneficiary of tribute donations in Bobby’s honor. His daughter, Meredith O’Hayre-McCarthy, was kind enough to contribute the following information about her father.

**YOUR DAD’S FULL NAME/NICKNAMES:**
Robert “Bobby” O’Hayre

**HIS HOMETOWN:** Cohasset, Mass.

**HIS FAMILY:** Wife Dayle Dickinson; Daughter Meredith O’Hayre-McCarthy; Son Patrick O’Hayre; grandchildren Timothy O’Hayre, Frances McCarthy, Brenna McCarthy.

**HIS FIRST INVOLVEMENT WITH FBMS:** To my knowledge, Dad began volunteering with Father Bill’s about 15 years ago helping to coordinate the transportation of meals on Thanksgiving Day.

**HIS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY:** My dad was always the first to help someone in need; we really tried to emphasize that in his obituary. Through his involvement in his work with Alcoholics Anonymous, he served as a mentor to many.

Dad could (and did) talk to anyone, and when he heard of a need, he tried to meet it.

**WHY DID YOUR DAD DECIDE TO SUPPORT FBMS:** My dad recognized that any one of us is one bump in the road from finding ourselves on shaky ground. He didn’t see the clients of FBMS as any different than the rest of us — he gave help where he could.
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FBMS hosted three supporter receptions this past year to recognize our generous partners supporting our mission and our compassionate volunteers, including the Claremont House Team from Glastonbury Abbey (see Page 8).

The receptions provide an opportunity to gather with difference-makers in our community and highlight what we’ve been able to accomplish together – and some of the exciting initiatives ahead.

For more photos and to learn more about how you can attend a future reception, visit helpfbms.org/hope.

Danny was the 9th of 10 children in his family, the youngest brother. Family described him as very quiet, compassionate, and humble with a love for animals.

In 2017, Danny suddenly passed away at the age of 48. It was Chris Everett (see above), the Quincy Region Housing Coordinator at the time, who called Debbie to notify her that her brother had passed away.

“I will never forget the kindness he and the rest of your staff at the time showed us at one of the worst times of our life,” Debbie said.

Debbie wrote to FBMS: “We are forever thankful. God bless you and the work you do.”
Difference Makers

CLAREMONT HOUSE TEAM FROM GLASTONBURY ABBEY

During the pandemic, a group of compassionate volunteers from Glastonbury Abbey stepped up to offer support, friendship, and hope to the residents of Claremont House, a Quincy home for 12 formerly homeless women.

The volunteers, known as the Claremont House Team from Glastonbury Abbey, have regularly provided home-cooked meals, in-kind donations, birthday celebrations, and holiday cheer to the residents.

On September 27, 2022, FBMS awarded its annual Richard C. and Virginia A. Welch Dedicated Volunteer Award to the team. Their kindness will have a lasting impact on the residents of Claremont House.

BELOW IS A PERSONAL REFLECTION WRITTEN BY ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS, NANCY VERSECKES OF SCIUTATE:

“Outreach to those in need has long been a hallmark of the mission of the monastic community at Glastonbury Abbey. In the spirit of Benedictine hospitality, some members of Glastonbury’s lay community proposed a form of outreach to the residents of Claremont House. This outreach included focusing special attention on each resident with a visit and small gifts at birthday and holiday time.

I’ve had the good fortune to be a part of the team of women who provide this outreach to Claremont House.

On one occasion I delivered a birthday cake, flowers, and a small gift to one of the residents. Rather than just receive the gifts, she invited me to come in and join her and a few of her housemates for coffee, a piece of birthday cake and a Happy Birthday serenade. Sitting around their kitchen table we chatted randomly about whatever came to mind. It was a delightful time together with housemates weighing in on the topic at hand while extolling the delicious birthday cake.

In retrospect, I’m struck by how effortless and spontaneous this small exchange was. What we shared that morning went beyond a gift exchange. We were women making connections in a comfortable way.”

Answering the Call

FBMS PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS

True to our mission, we will always answer the call to help individuals and families who are struggling, no matter where they come from or their circumstances.

That is why, in September, we responded without hesitation when the State asked us to lead the sheltering operations to support the nearly 50 Venezuelan migrants who were flown, unannounced, to Martha’s Vineyard and then relocated to Joint Base Cape Cod.

Within 24 hours of the migrants arriving in Massachusetts, FBMS leadership was on site to help establish a safe and supportive shelter that provided food, care, and other essential resources to the migrants. For three weeks, our staff worked around the clock to not only provide basic needs but also identify what supports we could provide to help them move on from shelter and find stability.

“Our organization was incredibly proud to be part of this collaborative effort to ensure every individual and family was treated with the dignity and respect they deserve,” FBMS Chief Operating Officer April Connolly said.

On Joint Base Cape Cod, FBMS worked alongside the administration of Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karina Polito, the Massachusetts National Guard, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Barnstable County officials, the Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod, immigration attorneys, and compassionate volunteers.

When the public learned of our involvement in this effort, we were heartened by our community of supporters who asked how to help.
Thank You, Hope and Martha!

We want to congratulate our health care clinics’ longtime Nurses — Hope Somerslee, Registered Nurse from Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Martha Ayano, Nurse Practitioner from Brockton Neighborhood Health Center — on their retirements!

Hope, a Registered Nurse, worked in the medical field for about 50 years, including the last 31 as clinic manager at Father Bill’s Place in Quincy. “I was blessed to find a position that I truly loved,” Hope said. “Each day I looked forward to opening the clinic and starting my day.”

Martha, a Nurse Practitioner for Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, was lovingly nicknamed “Martha Theresa” by FBMS staff and guests. As the provider at MainSpring House’s clinic beginning in 1998, she offered skilled care and empathy to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We wish Hope and Martha the very best in their retirements!
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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THE heartbeat
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