



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

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Individual Homelessness in Boston Drops 30 Percent *Data Confirms Effectiveness of Mayor Menino's Focus on Housing Solutions*

BOSTON – Homeless census data reported by the City of Boston and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 2005 – 2010 shows a **30 percent decrease in homelessness** among individuals in the City of Boston, with a dramatic **25 percent reduction in chronically homeless individuals**, the most disabled and costly segment of the homeless population.

The number of homeless individuals dropped from 3,944 to 2,747 over the time period, corresponding with Mayor Thomas M. Menino's and the City of Boston's shift from reliance upon emergency resources to address homelessness to an approach based on permanent supportive housing.

"We know a simple fact: keys cure homelessness," said MHSAs President & Executive Director **Joe Finn**. "Under Mayor Menino, Boston has been a national, innovative leader in developing programs that work to move homeless individuals directly from the streets to permanent housing."

The number of chronically homeless individuals, defined as those with a disabling condition who have been homeless for a year or more, or four times in three years, dropped from 962 to 725. This decrease can be directly attributed to an **increase in permanent supportive housing opportunities** for these medically vulnerable, disabled individuals. "The Mayor has been a leader in ending homelessness and you can see the results of his work in these numbers," said **Lyndia Downie**, President & CEO of the Pine Street Inn. "It is gratifying to see this problem get better and we are indebted to the Mayor for working so hard to make life better for homeless men and women."

In recognition of his accomplishments, the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSAs) will honor Mayor Menino with its **Public Innovator Award** at the MHSAs Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, December 28, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** at the Boston law firm of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo. The event will include a cocktail reception and review of accomplishments made in ending homelessness.

Registration for the MHSAs Annual Meeting will be open until Monday, December 27 at 5:00 p.m. and **all attendees, including media, must be on the registration list to gain entry into the building.** Visit www.mhsa.net to register or contact Erin Donohue at (617) 367 – 6447 ext. 25 or edonohue@mhsa.net.

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About Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) public policy advocacy organization, was established in 1988 by Greater Boston homeless providers and citizens seeking to create a coordinated strategy to end homelessness. MHSAs represents 90 community-based agencies operating more than 250 programs statewide that serve more than 98 percent of all homeless individuals in Massachusetts. Through strategic partnerships formed with government, private philanthropy, service providers, homeless individuals and business, MHSAs works to ensure that homelessness does not become a permanent part of the social landscape. For more information, visit www.mhsa.net.