



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

Press Release
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HOMELESS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION TO HONOR MASSACHUSETTS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP *Will receive MHSa Cornerstone Award*

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSa) will hold its fourth annual awards and fundraising event, *Home for Good*, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Omni Parker House, 60 School Street, Boston. **This special event will honor Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership** and others who have made outstanding efforts to end homelessness in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) manages mental health and substance abuse services for more than 300,000 MassHealth members across the Commonwealth. Working collaboratively with members, their families, advocates, state agencies, and providers, MBHP has created a community-based system of care that integrates mental health and primary care for members. MBHP's leadership of Housing First initiatives in our Commonwealth has helped to literally end the homelessness of hundreds of chronically homeless individuals in our state. MBHP has been a critical force in advancing a more humane, cost-effective approach to homelessness.

The *MHSa Cornerstone Award* honors those who have demonstrated a commitment to providing care for homeless citizens across the Commonwealth. "MBHP is a true leader in the use of hard data and performance-based contracting to solve seemingly intractable social problems. Their approach has made a tremendous difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors. We are pleased to honor their excellent work" said MHSa Executive Director Joe Finn.

The evening will also feature award presentations to **Senate President Therese Murray** and **Jerry Rappaport, Jr.**, President and CEO of New Boston Fund, Inc.

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance was established in 1988 by Greater Boston homeless providers and citizens seeking to create a coordinated strategy to end homelessness. MHSa represents 88 community-based agencies operating more than 250 programs statewide that serve over 98% of all homeless individuals in Massachusetts. Through strategic partnerships formed with government, private philanthropy, service providers, homeless individuals, and business, MHSa works to ensure that homelessness does not become a permanent part of the social landscape. For more information visit www.mhsa.net.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available for those wishing to attend by calling MHSa at 617-367-6447 ext. 25.

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