



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2007

For more information contact:

Erin Donohue 617-367-6447

edonohue@mhsa.net

HOMELESS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION TO HONOR SENATE PRESIDENT THERESE MURRAY

Will receive inaugural Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. Policy for People 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 Senate President Therese Murray** and others who have made outstanding efforts to end homelessness in Massachusetts.

Senator Murray will receive the inaugural *Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. Policy for People Award*. The award honors a public official who, in the tradition of Tip O'Neill, uses public office to serve the poor, needy, sick and vulnerable. Senator Murray served as Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means from 2003 until her election as Senate President in March 2007. She is a strong advocate for programs that help individuals and families move from poverty to self-sufficiency. In 2006 she was instrumental in securing funds for *Home and Healthy for Good*, the Commonwealth's first statewide Housing First initiative. Murray has played a vital role in re-shaping the conversation around homelessness from an emergency response to permanent solutions.

"Like Tip O'Neill, Senator Murray is committed to her local constituents, especially the needs of ordinary working families and those who have less. We are honored to have her as the first recipient of this very special award" said MHSA Executive Director Joe Finn.

The evening will also feature award presentations to **Jerry Rappaport, Jr.**, President and CEO of New Boston Fund, Inc. and **Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership**.

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.

###