



# MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Ending Homelessness in Massachusetts: How Your Faith Community Can Get Involved

### Educate yourself, your congregation, and your local community about the problem.

- Integrate a concern for social justice into your congregation's religious practices (e.g. prayer, liturgy, sermons).
- Learn about current efforts to end—not merely manage—homelessness in Massachusetts. **Social Action Ministries (SAM), a program of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA),** is available to give presentations to your social action group or entire congregation. Contact Caitlin Golden for more information ([cgolden@mhsa.net](mailto:cgolden@mhsa.net) or 617-367-6447 ext. 28). You can also access up-to-date information on the MHSA website at [www.mhsa.net](http://www.mhsa.net).
- Create a task force within your congregation to concentrate on the issue. If your congregation has a social action committee, start there!
- Write to your local paper, cable TV, etc. Let others know that homelessness is a problem that can and should be solved.

### Build relationships with others committed to finding *solutions* to homelessness.

- Connect with other faith communities in your area and encourage them to work with you on the issue.
- Get involved with homelessness task forces in your area! We can help you with contacts for this. For example, the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH) has established regional networks to develop innovative solutions to homelessness; we can connect you with your region's convening agency for more information about how to get involved.
- Engage your local legislators and voice your support for programs that *change the status quo*. Go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com) to find out who your legislators are and [www.mhsa.net](http://www.mhsa.net) to learn about innovative approaches to ending homelessness. MHSA is also available to accompany you when you visit your legislators.
- Join the SAM and MHSA mailing lists and/or become a MHSA member to stay updated on statewide efforts to end homelessness. Contact Caitlin Golden for more information ([cgolden@mhsa.net](mailto:cgolden@mhsa.net) or 617-367-6447 ext. 28).

### Donate to and/or volunteer for outcome-based initiatives.

- Think about directing your charitable giving toward *change* and new and innovative solutions that work to **end** homelessness. We are happy to talk with you about ways to do this.

For assistance with any of these efforts or more information about how your faith community can get involved, contact:

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