

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance
PO Box 120070
Boston, MA 02112



www.youtube.com/MHSARevolution

Check out MHSAs YouTube channel to view "Keys Cure Homelessness," a video that highlights the reasons why community members such as **Boston City Council President Mike Ross** and **Sue Beaton of The Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation** support MHSAs work to end homelessness in Massachusetts and believe **keys cure homelessness**.

THE NORTH STAR

MHSA & MBHP Win Better Government Competition

Pioneer Institute, an independent public policy research organization, announced on **June 3** that a collaboration between **Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)** and the **Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA)** won the **Pioneer Institute's 19th Better Government Competition (BGC)**.

Pioneer Institute is an independent, non-partisan, privately funded research organization that seeks to change the intellectual climate in the Commonwealth by supporting scholarship that tests proven solutions against the conventional wisdom of more governmental involvement in Massachusetts public policy issues.

MBHP and MHSA's entry was selected from a nationwide field of **more than 200 candidates** and was chosen by an independent panel of distinguished judges.

The proposal submitted by MBHP and MHSA, **Containing the Cost of Medicaid by Providing Housing for Homeless Individuals**, focuses on providing community-based Medicaid services for intensive case management, paired with supportive housing, as a medical and cost saving intervention. The proposal highlighted the **steep drops in Medicaid costs and increases in quality of life** that result when chronically homeless people are placed into permanent housing with supportive services.

"We were absolutely thrilled to be chosen as the winner of this



year's Better Government Competition," said **MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn**. "Empirical studies from here in Massachusetts and across the country prove that it **costs less to end homelessness** by providing permanent housing with services for homeless individuals, rather than simply managing their homelessness through a temporary shelter-based response. Better and more efficient use of mainstream resources such as Medicaid will be crucial in moving forward our effort to **save lives while saving money for the Commonwealth**."

Pioneer Institute presented the award to MBHP and MHSA in front of an audience of elected officials, policy leaders and the business community at its annual **Better Government Competition Awards Dinner** on June 18. For more information about the award and event, visit www.mhsa.net.

May 26, 2010: MHSA's Seventh Annual Spring Fundraising Event

On **May 26**, more than 300 MHSA members, friends and supporters gathered in the Rooftop Ballroom of the Omni Parker House Hotel for **Home for Good: Join the Housing Revolution**, the seventh annual MHSA awards and fundraising event.

This year, MHSA honored **David Begelfer of NAIOP, Representative Byron Rushing and Victory Programs, Inc.** for their outstanding work in ending homelessness.

"I am humbled by the commitment to ending homelessness shown by this outstanding group of honorees," said **MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn**. "It was an honor to congratulate our awardees and celebrate strides made in ending homelessness in the Commonwealth."

Honorees mingled throughout the crowd conversing with friends, constituents, community leaders and other individuals committed to ending homelessness in the Commonwealth. Banners with inspirational quotes from Housing First tenants filled the ballroom and reminded guests of the MHSA message: **keys cure homelessness**.

The awards presentation was kicked off with a short film entitled "**Keys Cure Homelessness**" produced and edited by **Chris Goff**. With interviews from various stakeholders such as MHSA board members, executive directors of member agencies, funders and elected officials, it conveys reasons to support MHSA and encourages all to **join the housing revolution**.



Left to Right: Honoree David Begelfer with Heading Home Executive Director Tom Lorello and MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn

David Begelfer of NAIOP Massachusetts received the **Bob Ray Partnership Award**. Begelfer has been actively involved in the struggle to end homelessness for more than twenty years.

MHSA is a non-profit public policy advocacy alliance with the singular mission of ending homelessness in the Commonwealth.

Through strategic partnerships formed with government, private philanthropy, business leaders, homeless individuals and service providers, MHSA works to ensure that homelessness does not become a permanent part of the social landscape.

Joe Finn, President and Executive Director

Tom Brigham, Housing First Coordinator

Erin Donohue, Development and Communications Director

Dr. Jessie Gaeta, Physician Advocate

Caitlin Golden, Outreach Coordinator

Nicole Kachinski, Development and Communications Associate

Doug Tetrault, Program Manager

Patrick Walsh, Policy and Advocacy Director

Janice Whalen, Financial Assistant

Kaye Wild, Vice President

Tom Yotts, Director of Finance and Administration

Contributing to MHSA

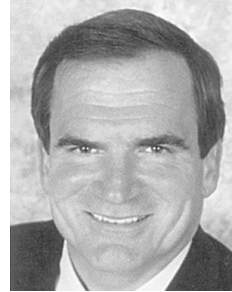
Today there is an unprecedented consensus on our shared capacity to end homelessness. State and local governments are taking an interagency approach to the problem, plans to end homelessness are being enacted, and corporate and community partners are joining forces to create systemic change. Action is producing visible outcomes in Massachusetts.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your tax-deductible contribution today and be a part of this revolution.

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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOE FINN

Recently I received a handwritten note from a tenant in MHSA's *Journey to Success* permanent housing program. After moving out of shelter and into a home of her own, she was finally able to start working after years of homelessness. She took the time to send a quick update and say thank you. She wrote, "There are some of us that really do just need the right opportunity and chance at life. Thank you. I really, really appreciate MHSA for giving me a chance at life."



The sociologist Max Weber once wrote that human beings are driven by wealth, power or status. It may be naïve, but I'd like to think that we are driven by a deeper motive: the goodness of life itself. A respect for life helps us see the importance of such basic needs as a stable home, work and the ability to live one's life with a measurable degree of quality and self-sufficiency.

At MHSA, where we examine facts and figures about approaches to homelessness, letters like this remind us of the heart and soul behind our advocacy: people.

I am so often occupied by policy development and advocacy for resources that I sometimes feel removed from those who are most harshly affected by the reality of homelessness. It is especially moving to hear from a person who was directly impacted by our advocacy and who appreciates the significance of MHSA's work to transform the homeless services system into one focused on permanent solutions. For me, that is all the inspiration and justification I need to continue working for a world where homeless shelters are a thing of the past.

I hope the readers of this newsletter take great satisfaction in this letter, too. The success we achieve at MHSA is due in great part to the generous support and efforts of remarkable people like you. You understand that we are called to more than simply providing a meal and a cot and instead must create a system that meets the true need of our homeless neighbors: a home.

Thank you for giving so many individuals a new "chance at life."

JULY 28: MHSA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENT



MHSA Young Professionals Emily Cohen and Ezra Sykes with Liz Curtis of the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness at Home for Good: Join the Housing Revolution.

Join young professionals from the Boston and Greater Boston area at Lir Restaurant in Boston for a social and networking fundraiser to help END homelessness!

All proceeds will benefit MHSA. The MHSA Young Professionals Group offers social, networking and educational opportunities

DETAILS:
July 28, 2010
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Lir Restaurant
903 Boylston St
Boston, MA
\$15 per ticket
Two tickets for \$20 if purchased before July 25!

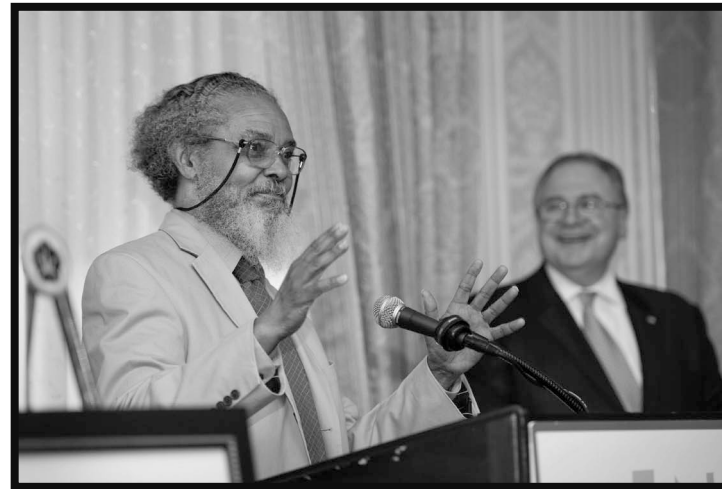
for young leaders to become involved in ending homelessness.

To purchase tickets, visit www.mhsa.net and click MHSA Young Professionals Group under "Get Involved."

Learn how you can help end homelessness while having a great time!

For more information, contact Outreach Coordinator Caitlin Golden at cgolden@mhsa.net or (617) 367-6447.

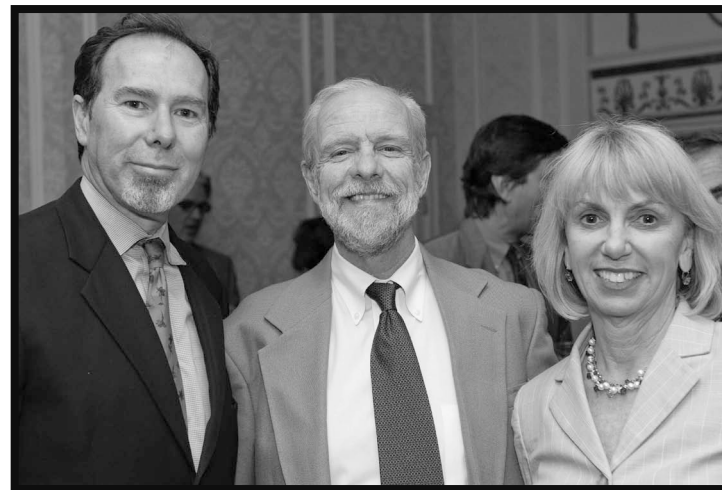
HOME FOR GOOD: JOIN THE HOUSING REVOLUTION



Representative Byron Rushing and Speaker Robert DeLeo share a laugh at the podium. Speaker DeLeo presented Rep. Rushing with the Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award, which he received from MHSA in 2008.



MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn with Victory Programs, Inc. President and CEO Jonathan Scott (center) and Co-Chairman of Wainwright Bank Bob Glassman, who presented the award to VPI.



Bob Pulster of the Department of Housing and Community Development, Jerry Desilets of SMOC and Cheryl Bartlett of the Department of Public Health



Left to Right: Nancy Israel, Lonnie Powers, Mark Sokoll of Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston, David Begelfer of NAIOP and Rick Kaitz of Sherin and Lodgen, LLP

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Through David's leadership, the annual NAIOP golf tournament has raised over a million dollars to support MHSA Member Agency **Heading Home**. Named in honor of the late Robert E. Ray, former vice president at The Gillette Company, the award recognizes the commitment of individuals in the private sector who work to end homelessness. Past recipients include Bob Glassman, Co-Chairman of Wainwright Bank, and Marc and Anne Margulies, all in attendance.

Victory Programs, Inc. (VPI), a Boston-based non-profit, was honored with the MHSA Cornerstone Award. Under the leadership of President and CEO Jonathan Scott, VPI provides housing and innovative care services to individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction or other chronic illnesses. VPI has become a leader in the Housing First movement

and a pioneer in low-threshold housing for some of the poorest and most disabled people in the Commonwealth.

Representative Byron Rushing received the Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award, established in 1992 to honor individuals and institutions who have contributed to ending homelessness in the Commonwealth. Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, presented the award to him with amusing banter. Canon Brian S. Kelley was also on stage as Representative Rushing received the award in his honor.

MHSA also recognized Jim Cuddy of SMOC for his years of dedicated service as chairperson of the MHSA Board of Directors.

MHSA is grateful to our event sponsors, private donors and attendees. MHSA would like to especially thank our presenters and Chris Goff, who spent months working on "Keys Cure Homelessness," which we hope will inspire more people to join the housing revolution.

To view more event photos, visit:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/jointhehousingrevolution>