



HEARTH

ENDING ELDER HOMELESSNESS | SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



You're invited!
October 19, 2023
Hearth's Annual Celebration
featuring Jim O'Connell

Outreach on the move

Ever wondered how our outreach and prevention teams end elder homelessness? Read to find out.



Words of Gratitude

Dear Friends of Hearth,

This CEO letter will be my last as CEO of Hearth, as I am stepping down this autumn. It has been the most satisfying professional experience of my life, and please indulge me if I look back a little at where this little organization has arrived in the last seventeen years. But what I'm truly excited about is what lies ahead for Hearth.

First, the backwards glance -we've grown to 228 units of housing from 117 including our two largest projects, Hearth at Olmsted Green and Hearth at Four Corners. Our Outreach program has housed nearly 3,000 formerly homeless or at-risk seniors, and preserved tenancies for hundreds more. We created and inspired the development of the National Leadership Initiative to End Elder Homelessness, which focused our national partners on an almost neglected aspect of homelessness, resulting in the development of thousands of units across the country, from LA to Columbus to Dallas to Philadelphia.

But seniors still sleep in shelters or on the street, and I know those of you who read these words understand that, while we have made real progress, the challenges have continued and require our continued focus on ending the shameful reality of old people living without housing, insecure, at risk, and often frail. So, we continue to develop a strategy to finish the job. We will develop a more robust real estate development department to speed up the process of developing new housing. We will continue to work on the expansion of our Outreach efforts. We are bolstering our Research & Advocacy efforts to spread the word that the Hearth model works, and ultimately, that we will succeed in ending elder homelessness. I hope that you continue to support our mission as well as welcome our next CEO. Thank you all for staying the course.

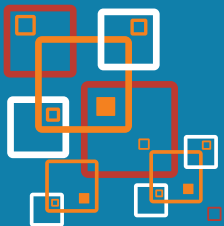
With gratitude,

MARK HINDERLIE
President & CEO

Welcome Hearth's new Chief Program Officer



Casi Rich joined the Hearth staff as Chief Program Officer in July of 2023. She brings over twenty years of experience in the human services sector, most recently as Executive Director of The Arbors, an assisted living community. She has also worked in various settings to provide services for people with mental illness and those with intellectual disabilities. She is a certified Dementia Practitioner. Her key responsibilities at Hearth are to oversee the staff who provide for the health and quality of life at our 228 units. Casi, along with her spouse Matthew and son Matty, loves Boston sports, traveling and going to the beach.



More than just housing: Outreach and Prevention are Crucial

Thirty-two years ago, Hearth started with the purchase of a home in Dorchester to provide housing for nine older women. We're best known for the supportive housing we've built and acquired since then, now 228 units strong.

But it's not enough to make housing available, since demand far exceeds supply. Hearth works hard to reach out to seniors who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to assess their housing and service needs and to formulate individualized housing plans. This is the work of our Outreach team, pictured below.

Five of our Outreach staff work with people who are already homeless, providing assistance through the application process to get housed, whether it's Hearth housing or provided by another housing organization.

Hearth staff visit shelters to identify homeless older adults and also responds to referrals from other agencies. This summer, nine of our Outreach clients have been sustainably housed in Newton at a 2Life residential community.

Other Hearth clients have been housed in Cambridge and any other community that can provide supportive housing. Hearth will continue to provide services to these newly housed clients for as long as necessary to help them adjust.

Hearth donors generously provided funds for these newly housed people to have furnishings appropriate for their mobility and space needs.

Two other members of the Outreach team focus on our prevention work: the most efficient way to end elder homelessness is to prevent homelessness in the first place.

Our approach has been affirmed by research: Dr. Thomas Byrne, Hearth Board member and Boston University Associate Professor found in a recent study that preventing homelessness is a humane and cost-effective strategy to address this issue (“Predictors of Nursing Home Admission Among a Cohort of Homeless Older Adults Entering Emergency Shelter”, 2022). Some of our clients are behind on rent or utility bills, and other need supportive services to stay in their homes. Hearth has found that well-timed and comprehensive support can allow our clients to stay in their homes, which is where they want to be.

THANK YOU!

Hearth's success would not be possible without generous funders. One of our most steadfast sources of support for our Outreach program is the ***Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund***. Supporters since 1995, this fund has bolstered our capacity to reach vulnerable elders in the shelter system and get them sustainably housed. All of us at Hearth are grateful.



The Outreach Team at the Rise Up Luncheon

More than just housing: Outreach and Prevention are Crucial cont.



Leander and Cecilia at the Outreach Rise Up Luncheon

Cecilia stood with her through it all, and now Leander has her own apartment. In June, Leander thanked Cecilia at our annual Outreach luncheon at Franklin Park, which celebrates the transformative impact that being housed can have on our clients.

Did you know?

In 2022, Hearth served 249 seniors with tenancy preservation and stabilization services, including 81 who were prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance.

Leander, (pictured above in the black hat) is a Hearth Outreach client. Cecilia, Hearth's longest serving Outreach team member, worked with Leander to get housed this past year. Even as Leander was dealing with the challenges of homelessness, she was also battling cancer and other health concerns.

Help our nine residents!

Great news! Hearth's Outreach team is finalizing arrangements for nine older adults to be sustainably housed at newly built units in Newton. Here's how you can play an instrumental role: our clients, who are all chronically homeless, need new furnishings. We are asking you for funding to respond to this time-urgent project.

Cynthia was the first to move in. While staying at Rosie's Place, she bonded with Lisa, her Hearth case manager. Lisa identified Cynthia's housing eligibility and navigated each step of the housing journey. "Being homeless was a huge deal for me. It brought me to a very low place, especially after losing my husband. I was very depressed and felt alone and not seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I now see this experience as a blessing because I learned so much about treating others with respect and kindness."

For more information about the furnishings fund go to www.hearth-home.org/furnishingsfund



Cynthia at the Anna Bissonnette House



In Memory of Dawn Matchett

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of our cherished and beloved colleague Dawn Matchett, who was a dedicated member of our Hearth, Inc. community as the Chief Program Officer, who touched the lives of many residents and staff for over 22 years. Her unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of care and support was evident in everything she did.

Her kind words of encouragement, and unwavering positivity were a constant source of inspiration to us all. Dawn's amazing work ethic and passion for helping others and to our mission of ending elder homelessness will always be remembered and cherished. Her spirit will continue to live on in the lives she touched, and we will forever be grateful for the impact she had on our community.



Dawn with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley

Dr. LaTanya Wright , Director of Outreach perspective



When did you begin your journey with Hearth's Outreach team? I have been with Hearth for 10 years, since October 2013.

What is your favorite part about your role as Director of Outreach?

Being able to direct and engage the department in a path of success is important. Having a voice on the senior management team is imperative for the Outreach Department.

The networking in the community, with the City of Boston, and other agencies (in and out of the service area) has been rewarding and a huge part to this role. The fact that I can engage with and supervise staff that express and demonstrate they are here for the mission of the agency is important.

How does Outreach reach out to the community?

There is a lot of networking that goes on in the community with various partners. Outreach is all about connecting with the community. Whether it is reaching out to the local health centers, hospitals, churches, and other agencies, we let them know we are available to help.

The case managers, who collectively speak five languages, are in the community for a variety of reasons. We serve a vulnerable population that is often overlooked. The team demonstrates that they work with compassion and the ability to empathize, outstanding people skills, excellent communication skills, including listening ability.

There are specific days case managers will visit the shelters (Pine Street Men's Inn, Pine Street Women's Inn, 112 Southampton, Woods Mullen, Women's Luncheon Place, Rosie's Place, Cardinal Medeiros) in the Greater Boston area to support individuals searching for a permanent home.

Volunteering Impact

Since the beginning of this calendar year, volunteers have provided numerous visits and programs to our residents at all sites.



Food

- *People making a Difference* provides an annual BBQ for residents at Anna Bissonnette House.
- *Emmanuel Lutheran Church* in Boston provided a cookout on Juneteenth.
- *Community Cooks* provides weekly hot meals to our Elsie Frank and Burroughs residents.

Connections Across Generations

- *Girl Scout Troop #62575* painted painted clay pots with the residents one weekend, then returned the following weekend to plant herbs in these pots. The Girl Scouts provided all the materials and their time. The residents were thrilled to interact with the Girl Scouts and to have their very own herb plant.
- In February, *Rocketbook*, and *The Croft School* worked with *Hearth* to provide individual Valentines Day Cards for all *Hearth* residents.
- *The Orchard Gardens K-8 Schools* has a pen pal program where they write notes and cards to residents at *Ruggles Assisted Living*.
- Through *Northeastern University's* chapter of *Perfect Pair*, we match *NU* sophomores with a *Ruggles* resident for a mutually rewarding relationship based on shared interests. Activities include chatting, playing games, neighborhood walks and just spending time together.



Skill-Building

- *Silver Tech at the Green*, a six-week technology course offered through the Boston Public Library, was offered this year to the residents at *Olmsted Green*. The BPL loaned computers to residents for the class. Due to its popularity, the BPL has agreed to host another upcoming class.



Art, Music, Gardening

- *The Goddard House* provides classes in art, gardening and music for residents at all Hearth sites. Each class is taught by a professional volunteer with a hands-on orientation. Our residents create beautiful art work, make a meal from harvested vegetables and herbs, and play music with others and make recordings of their work.

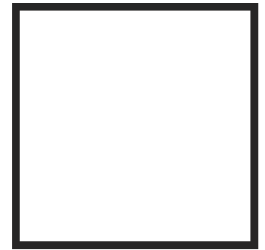


Activities Update



Activities at Hearth are crucial to providing sustainable and supportive housing. Recently, we welcomed in May 2023 Erin Milliron as the new activities coordinator for Ruggles Assisted Living and the Anna Bissonnette House. Meanwhile in our other sites, Program Managers oversee the activities. She has a bachelors degree in Psychology from Temple University. The activities that our residents engage with include Bingo, Movies, and Karaoke.

"Activities are important because they support the social lives, intellectual and physical, creative and spiritual growth of the residents. I am excited to be at Hearth to enrich our residents lives." says Erin. Welcome Erin to Hearth!



Mission Statement

Hearth is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of homelessness among the elderly.

This mission is accomplished through a unique blend of prevention, placement, and housing programs all designed to help elders find and succeed in homes of their own.



**Save
the
Date**



Hearth's Annual Celebration
featuring keynote speaker
Jim O'Connell, President
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Thursday, October 19, 2023
Hotel Commonwealth
Kenmore Square, Boston

Jim is featured in Tracy Kidder's 2023 NYT
Best Seller
Rough Sleepers

Invitations to follow