

CHAF REPORTS



CHAF Basics

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is operated by the Cambridge Community of Realtors in a public/private partnership with the Cambridge banking community, HomeStart, the Cambridge Multi-Service Center for the Homeless, the Cambridge Housing Authority and CASCAP. CHAF provides a bridge to housing for homeless and near homeless families and individuals by assisting with the startup costs of renting an apartment and by helping families avoid eviction.

CHAF is a broad-based community coalition of Realtors, civic and business leaders, universities and local banks pulling together to break the cycle of homelessness. Since its inception in 1999, CHAF has raised over \$1,000,000, enough to open doors for more than 1,000 households.

Kevin Mahogany Returns with Friends for 9th Annual Benefit on September 28th



Kevin Mahogany

“Nature unleashes a gale force voice,” said the New York Times about Kevin Mahogany, the man with the golden throated baritone who sings bebop, ballads, blues, soul and swinging jazz. “The standout vocalist of his generation”

(Newsweek) returns to the Sanders Theatre stage for CHAF’s 9th Homeless Benefit on Friday, September 28th, at 8 PM. CHAF’s 2007 goal is to raise \$175,000 to assist nearly 200 homeless and near homeless families and individuals to break the cycle of homelessness. “I’m looking forward to helping CHAF raise funds to help homeless people find homes,” said Mahogany. “It’s only right that everyone should have a home.”

Since performing for CHAF in 2001, Mahogany has performed to rave reviews around the globe. This year, Kevin is joined by Detroit Diva Kathy Kosins and legendary soul sax player Red

Holloway to perform “Kevin by Request.”

The first set will be a mix of our favorite standards of soul, jazz and blues, from the legendary Big Joe Turner to Joe Williams,



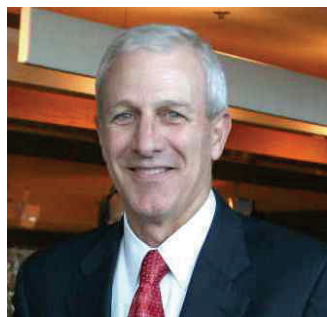
Kathy Kosins
Photo by Lisa Spindler

- continued on page 6

Cambridge Trust To Lead CHAF In 2007

Cambridge Trust is proud to once again be lead sponsor for CHAF’s 9th Annual Benefit Concert. “With the help of the Cambridge community and beyond,” said Joseph V. Roller II, President and CEO of Cambridge Trust, “CHAF hopes to reach its 2007 goal of raising \$175,000 which will assist more than 200 homeless or near homeless families in securing a place to live.”

“Each of us has opportunities to support various non-profits that are targeted to



Joseph V. Roller II

address the needs of the community,” said Roller. “Because of the work that CHAF does, it is inspiring to hear the exultation of parents, who no longer have

to move their families from shelter to shelter, but who now have a place they can call home. Together with CHAF’s partner, Homestart, and with our support, CHAF is able to provide the logistical and financial resources to identify affordable rental properties and to help meet some of the financial challenges in securing them for homeless families.

The Cambridge community has embraced CHAF’s good work. While the local banks

- continued on page 6

SAVE THE DATE!

CHAF Concert and Reception set for September 28th

CHAF’s 9th Annual Benefit Concert for the Homeless featuring Kevin Mahogany and Friends on Friday, September 28th, at 8 PM at Sanders Theatre, Harvard Square.

Reception from 5:30 – 7:30PM at the Sheraton Commander Hotel.

Concert Tickets: \$18/\$23, \$10 students & seniors. Reception \$75.

Tickets on sale August 1st at 617-496-2222, www.CHAFund.org, or the Harvard Box Office, Holyoke Center, Harvard Square.

April 3, 2007

Dear Supporters of CHAF:

My name is Barbara Ruffin-Wallace, and I am a 40-year-old woman who has found her way out of homelessness thanks to CHAF and the people who make it possible. I became homeless when I was 25 years old, and lost my children to DSS. In the last fifteen years, I have never had a real place to call home. I have lived with relatives, friends, in shelters, programs, and even motels. Having that kind of instability in your life, and sometimes not knowing where you will be from one day to the next is one of the most terrible feelings in the world, and is something that no one should have to experience. I have also struggled with sobriety in the past, and I am proud to say that I am now celebrating being clean and sober for almost a year. Along the way, I tried on many occasions to obtain housing, and I lived briefly in some rooming houses. I left one SRO situation to live in a market-rate apartment, because I wanted to have my own space, but due to the fact that it was unaffordable for me, I was forced to leave after two months. I finally decided in June of 2006 that I needed help finding affordable housing, and I went to HomeStart and asked for help. I met with my HomeStart worker every week and applied for lots of different housing opportunities. My advocate and I worked very well together, and I always felt supported and encouraged by her throughout my housing search. Thanks to my involvement with HomeStart, and after plugging away at housing applications for months, I finally got a Section 8 voucher and found my own apartment. For those of you who don't know what a Section 8 voucher is, it means that I can keep this subsidy forever, even if I move to a new place or a new area. My apartment is lovely, and has two bedrooms so that even my 18-year-old son can come visit me on the weekends. I have not had a place where my son could come visit me for fifteen years. Being in and out of shelters made it difficult for me to see my son and spend time with him in a safe and comfortable environment. Now we finally have a place where we can be together and talk, or cook, or just watch a movie. The fact that he can say that he is going to his mom's house to visit means the world to me. I would not have been able to move into my new home without the help of CHAF, because I would not otherwise have been able to pay for the security deposit. There were no other funds available to me, and CHAF was literally a life saver. I owe so much to CHAF, and I just wanted to express my gratitude by writing this letter. I wanted to give something back by letting everyone know that a fund like CHAF really does make a huge difference in people's lives, and it has made a huge difference in my life. Thank you so much for making it possible for me to finally have a home.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ruffin-Wallace



Barbara Wallace,
formerly homeless

CHAF Supporters at the Spring Reception at the Hyatt Regency Hotel



Amy Tighe and Lois Brunet of Coldwell Banker with Belinda Watt of Watt O'Keefe Architects



Joe Lopisi of Lopisi Law, Sharon Turcotte of ReMAX Destiny and Jesse Stein of Summit Mortgage



Rob Siegrist of Cambridge Trust Company, Barbara Ford of Coldwell Banker and Brian Kelley of Cambridge Trust



David and Fay Hannon bid on silent auction items with JoAnne Stanway of Stanway Public Relations and Spencer Lane of Coldwell Banker in background.



Jean LeVaux of Coldwell Banker and Kate Rivera, Executive Life Coach



CHAF board members, back row: Dan Malis, Tony Troiano, Susan Wayne, Lois Brunet, David Pap, Rob Siegrist and Joseph Roller; front row: Jean LeVaux, Susan Lapierre, and Barbara Ford

Stories From Lives That CHAF Has Touched

Excerpts from Samara Grossman's Speech at CHAF's Spring Reception

At HomeStart, I have the privilege of meeting daily with the people that CHAF helps. I jumped at the chance to speak to you today, because I wanted to be an emissary and voice for the many people that are helped through CHAF. I want you to really know that your presence tonight has so much impact on the lives of others....Tonight I am sent out on a mission, to brave this lovely evening with a task: to express gratitude. Let me weave together some stories from lives that the CHAF fund has touched:

Thank you from the woman who worked two jobs trying to save enough to leave the shelter she was in, only to find that the security deposit alone would mean another year of work before she could move into her own home.

Thank you from the family that thought they would have to live in their small car if they couldn't find a way to pay rent in the next fifteen days.

Thank you from the man who used to live on the street, maybe even around the corner from the store you always go to – he says thank you as he makes his coffee in his apartment in the morning before he heads out to his new job.

Thank you from the child who has a room all to herself, one that even comes with a special shelf where she can put her favorite doll.

Thank you from the young woman who has so much more energy for her children now that she doesn't have to worry about whether she can afford medicine or rent this month. The list goes on....

We all have the same basic (human) needs: food, water, safety, and security. When these are met we can begin to focus on meeting other human needs – self-esteem, connection, belonging and love..... By being here tonight, you are.....helping others gain safe and secure housing--one of the most basic human needs.



Samara Grossman

You are also helping others open up their lives for further growth and change.

Your support of CHAF allows those that have been patient, diligent, scared, or even terrified to have hope and more than hope. You have offered the best gift – the practical means by which people can find relief and safety and dignity. This is profound, and should not be underestimated. We are all on the same path together. Tonight, through your commitment to CHAF, we are helping each other reach our fullest potential.

Samara Grossman is a social worker and the Program Director of the Cambridge Resource Team at Homestart.

Please help CHAF keep 200 families in their homes this year.

You can prevent one family from becoming homeless with a \$670 donation.

Send your donation to CHAF
PO Box 381332
Cambridge, MA 02238

Thank You To Whole Foods For Donating \$11,675

On Tuesday, January 9th, Cambridge Whole Foods Markets showed their support to help break the cycle of homelessness in our community. As part of Whole Foods' mission to support the local community, a 5% Day – where 5% of the day's sales is contributed to a local organiza-

tion – was held to benefit CHAF. All three Whole Foods Markets in Cambridge participated in 5% day which resulted in a donation of \$11,675, which will allow CHAF to prevent eleven families from falling into homelessness.



Whole Foods Check Presentation

Back row: CHAF Board members Lois Brunet, Susan Lapierre, Barbara Ford, David Pap and Susan Wayne; Lynay Smith, Serena Hsu and Molly Paxson from Whole Foods; front row: CHAF Board Member Jean LeVaux and Sal Savarese of Cambridge Trust Company

Spring Reception Helps 9 Families

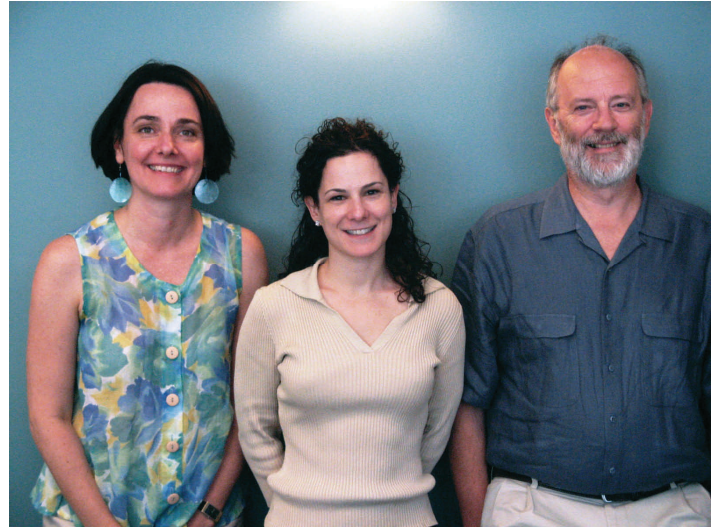
On the rainy evening of April 12th, a festive crowd gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, with its dramatic views of the Charles River and Back Bay, to celebrate the 9th Annual CHAF Spring Reception. Welcoming remarks by event chair Joe Roller of Cambridge Trust Company, and Director David Pap began the evening and reminded the group of the CHAF mission and accomplishments to date. One of Homestart's program directors, Samara Grossman, explained the ways in which CHAF assistance contributes to growth

and change in the lives of homeless families. Barbara Ruffin-Wallace, a CHAF recipient, spoke very personally of her experiences and her letter is excerpted on page 2 of this newsletter.

Throughout the evening, guests bid on silent auction items featuring gift certificates from fine restaurants, theatres, and other establishments in the Boston area. Live auction items included a week in Provence, France and a week in St. Kitts, in addi-

- continued on page 6

Welcome To CHAF's New Assistant Director



Welcome to Gabrielle Stone, CHAF's new Assistant Director. Gabrielle has extensive fundraising, event planning, and consulting experience with nonprofit organizations to CHAF. She received a Certificate of Special Studies and Administration focusing on nonprofit management from Harvard Extension School and owns Stone Event Planning. "We look forward to working with Gabrielle," said David Pap, CHAF's Volunteer Director, "She brings a lot of experience to CHAF's mission.

"I am very excited to begin work as the new Assistant Director of CHAF," said Gabrielle. "The job combines my love of nonprofit work with my skills as an event planner. I look forward to working with CHAF's board and volunteers to make that happen!" "I'd like to thank Lois Brunet, CHAF's former Assistant Director," said David Pap. Lois is transitioning to the CHAF board, while starting her new career as a Cambridge Realtor. "Lois

brought a new dimension to CHAF," said Pap, "and demonstrated her passion and commitment to helping the homeless. In her 2.5 years, she helped CHAF expand its fundraising operations, especially with her outreach to individual donors. We wish Lois luck with her new endeavors."

"CHAF always brings to mind two words for me," said Lois. "The first is luck and the second is solidarity. CHAF is about people looking out for people, because we are all in this life together, and for every one of us, there are good times and bad. This organization exemplifies the old-fashioned value of solidarity, where people help one another within the community because it's the right thing to do. Nobody should be without a home and nobody should stand by while his or her neighbor loses theirs. It's been a privilege to serve as CHAF's Assistant Director. I look forward to new successes with Gabrielle and our wonderful board."

Gabrielle can be reached at: stone_gabrielle@hotmail.com



PO Box 381332
Cambridge, MA 02238
Phone: 617-354-5678

2007 Benefit Chair

Joseph V. Roller II, President & CEO
Cambridge Trust Company

Honorary Committee

Kenneth E. Reeves
Mayor

Francis H. Duehay
Former Mayor

Jarrett T. Barrios
State Representative

Alice K. Wolf
State Representative

Henrietta Davis
City Councilor

Marjorie C. Decker
City Councilor

Anthony D. Galluccio
City Councilor

Michael A. Sullivan
City Councilor

Alan Stone
Harvard University

Arthur C. Spears, President & CEO
East Cambridge Savings Bank

Robert M. Wilson, President & CEO
Cambridge Savings Bank

Norm McIver
Cambridge Trust Company

Julie Connelly
Citizens Bank

John M. Angier, SVP
Coldwell Banker Mass. Ave.

Tod Beaty, President
Hammond GMAC Real Estate

Robert S. Hurlbut
Cambridge Community Foundation

Iona Kuphal, Manager
One First Condominiums

Teddy Arvanites

Planning Board

David Pap, Volunteer Director
Gabrielle Stone, Assistant Director
Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund

Susan Lapiere
East Cambridge Savings Bank

Robert Siegrist
Cambridge Trust Company

Eugene Foley
Harvard Employees Credit Union

Paul Turcotte
RE/MAX Destiny

Linda Wood Boyle

Naomi Sweitzer
HomeStart

Carol Kelly
Hammond GMAC Real Estate

Daniel Malis
Malislaw.com

Bill Scott

Jean Levaux
Lois Brunet
Coldwell Banker Huron Ave.

Barbara Ford
Coldwell Banker Mass. Ave.

Frances Pierce

www.CHAFund.org

9th Annual Benefit

- continued from page 1

Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Johnny Hartman, Van Morrison and more. For the second set, Kevin will take requests from the audience, almost unheard of for a performer of his caliber, so be ready with your favorite song.

Kathy Kosins is "one of the most alluring voices in jazz" (Chicago Tribune). She is expressive and sexy, with a tinge of soul around the edges and performs great vintage songs with swing and sensuality. Kosins has "a voice that can conjure both the girl next door and her older wiser sister" (Chicago Reader), and has taken the jazz world by

storm.

Red Holloway plays a "gritty, sweat-streaked, bluesy tenor sax" (Chicago Reader). During the 1950's, Holloway's sax ruled the riotous Chicago blues and jazz scenes. It's hard to imagine a soul/jazz saxophonist whose sound springs from a deeper well of profound, style-forging musical experience. From Muddy Waters to Lester Young, Holloway has played with them all, in blues bars and jazz joints across America, for *six decades*.

Help us raise the roof to help the homeless on Friday, September 28th, at 8 PM at Sanders Theatre, Harvard Square.

Cambridge Trust

- continued from page 1

and Realtors were the principal drivers behind establishing CHAF nine years ago, it continues to be the individual contributors, the

business community in Cambridge, and nearby communities that make a difference. CHAF is grateful for the support and anticipates another successful fundraiser this fall."

Spring Reception

- continued from page 5

tion to Red Sox tickets and other items. Dinner was generously catered by the Hyatt and the evening con-

cluded with the lively music of Mofongo Latin Jazz Quintet and dancing.

This year's reception brought in \$9,196 for CHAF to assist nine families from homelessness.

Harvard University Sponsors Concert and Reception

Harvard University has once again generously offered to sponsor CHAF's fall events. In what is now a grand tradition, Sanders Theatre at Harvard's Memorial Hall will welcome the Benefit Concert. The Reception will take place at the Sheraton

Commander Hotel.

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund extends its warmest thanks to Alan Stone, Mary Ann Jarvis and Mary Power in the Office of Community Affairs for their continued support.

Please Support CHAF's SPONSORS

Cambridge Trust Company
Coldwell Banker Cares

Whole Foods
East Cambridge Savings Bank
Harvard University

Sheraton Commander
Cambridge Savings Bank
Citizens Bank
Hyatt Regency

CambridgeSide Galleria
Hammond Residential Real Estate
Cambridge Community of Realtors
Rubin, Weisman, Colasanti, Kajko & Stein, LLP
Caru Retail, LLC / Caru Associates
Craig and Macauley P.C.
Federal Home Loan Bank
Houghton Place / 1008 Massachusetts Ave

Leader Bank
MIT Federal Credit Union
Novartis
RE/MAX Destiny
Ruberto, Israel & Weiner, P.C.
WTPhelan Insurance
Wyeth

Central Bank
Chestnut Hill Realty
Harvard U. Employees Credit Union
Malis Law
MIT / Gov't & Community Relations
Sovereign Bank
The Law Offices of Anthony Troiano III
Wainwright Bank
Clark, Hunt and Embry
Ambit Press
Anna's Taqueria
Boston Private Bank & Trust Co.
Draper Laboratory
Gentle Giant Moving Company
Lopisi Law Offices
Mount Auburn Hospital
N Star Services Company
Philip Johnson Associates
Shippen L. Page, Esq
Summit Mortgage
TAGS Hardware
Trinity Realty Property Management

**Breaking The Cycle
of Homelessness**