

CHAF REPORTS



CHAF Basics

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is operated by the Cambridge Community of Realtors in a public/private partnership with Cambridge banks, HomeStart, and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center for the Homeless. 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 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 \$1,300,000, enough to open doors for nearly 1,400 households.

www.CHAFund.org

CHAF Presents "Home Sweet Home II" Taste Delectable Desserts & Port Wines, Boogie to The Love Dogs and Help the Homeless!



Nicole Coody
Finale Desserterie

Kick off your Halloween weekend off with a sweet treat, Port wine and dancing to the Love Dogs at Home Sweet Home. CHAF's second annual dessert tasting competition at the Hyatt

Regency Cambridge. Hosted by TV Diner's Billy Costa; Celebrity Chefs Nicole Coody of Finale Desserterie, Michael Klug of Burdick Handmade Chocolates, Host Chef Robert Daugherty of the Hyatt's Zephyr on the Charles and many of the area's finest dessert, pastry and ice cream chefs will present a delectable evening of fantastic desserts. Proceeds from CHAF's event help the homeless and near homeless in Cambridge cover the startup costs of moving into permanent housing.

Wine enthusiasts purchase separate Passports to the VIP Room where they can dine on hors d'oeuvres and separate port, champagne, and

dessert wines. Guests will vote on the best desserts of the evening to determine recipients of CHAF "Yummy Awards!" And there will be an award for the most original Halloween costume.



Michael Klug
Burdick Chocolates

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East Cambridge Savings Bank To Lead CHAF

"East Cambridge Savings Bank is pleased to lead CHAF's Home Sweet Home Fundraising Campaign," said Arthur C. Spears, President and CEO. "Our goal is to raise \$150,000, which will help more than 125 families and individuals to obtain housing or remain in their homes." He noted that CHAF has helped many homeless and near homeless families and individuals since its inception in 1999.

"CHAF is a great organization. Over the last eleven years, CHAF's good works have been performed by



Arthur Spears
President and CEO
East Cambridge Savings Bank

volunteers from local realtors, community banks and attorneys" said Spears.

Also joining Mr. Spears on the CHAF Planning Board

from the Bank is Community Relations Officer Janine M. Mahoney. "Home Sweet Home 2008 was the first CHAF event I attended. I was impressed by the event and the many people there to help prevent homelessness. The Cambridge community is very generous in its support to prevent homelessness and Mr. Spears and I are hoping new members of the community will join in supporting CHAF's mission," said Mahoney.

SAVE THE DATE!

Home Sweet Home October 30th

Join CHAF's 11th Anniversary Benefit for the Homeless, "Home Sweet Home" from 7:00-11:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30th at the Hyatt Regency, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge.

**President's Ballroom Pass
Dessert & Dancing: \$50**

**VIP Passport: \$75
Dessert/Port Wine Tasting
& Hors d'Oeuvres in
VIP Room including
President's Pass**

Tickets available on our website, www.CHAFund.org, and at participating vendors after Labor Day.

20% discount for President's Pass tickets ordered online before October 20th.

Aviva Helps the Homeless

We all remember being asked, in school, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" How many of us responded with simple clarity: "I want to help people!"

Some don't wait until they are grown up: Aviva Jobin-Leeds, for example. As she was preparing for her Bat Mitzvah last year, she read the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund newsletter, which compared CHAF's cost of helping a family get into an apartment, (one-time average then of \$670) to the state's **annual** cost of \$37,000 to keep them in a shelter! Aviva decided she wanted to help four families stay out of shelters and get into apartments.

So she asked her family and friends to donate to CHAF instead of giving her Bat Mitzvah gifts. She received almost \$3,000 in checks, which she promptly forwarded to CHAF!

We asked Aviva if we could interview her. David Pap and

Jean LeVaux from CHAF enjoyed an afternoon's discussion:

D&J: What made you think of doing this?

AJL: Seeing homeless people on the streets, and some of my friends, and even some people in my school.

D&J: Many of us see homeless people, but what made you want to help?

AJL: I want to share what we have with others so they can have nice things like we do. When you have so much extra, you want other people to have things they need too. And I have more opportunity to help than some other kids - my parents help me when I want to do things in the community and make the world a better place. We have projects every year in our 8th grade class at Amigos. This year we did clothing drives and food drives, and raised money for Heifer Interna-



Aviva Jobin-Leeds

tional. At this point, her father chimed in.

GJL: Remember what you said you would do if you were designing the world? How would you fix it?

AJL: I would make it so everyone would have a house. And I would have a homeless tax so everyone who had a house could pay a little tax to help the ones who don't.

D&J: So often, when I'm with people who could help, it

makes me uncomfortable to ask, so I don't. What advice do you have for ME?

AJL: A little uncomfortableness is not so bad when you think of what it must be like for a homeless person to ask for help and feel like they're losing their honor and dignity!"

D&J: Thank you. I will remember that. Is that the reason people should give?

AJL: There's no real reason to give except it's the right thing to do.

What would it would be like if we adults reconnected with that early impulse to help others? In this economy especially, we often feel that there is hardly enough for ourselves, let alone to share. As I recall, however, even the poor kids in school wanted to help people. Does poverty or plenty really have anything to do with it?

Maybe it is time for all of us to revisit those early values.

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CHAF Presents "Home Sweet Home"

"Last year's inaugural Home Sweet Home event was so successful that many more award-winning restaurants have signed on for our second year," said David Pap, CHAF Board Chair. "Our goal is to raise \$150,000 to help 125 'at risk' families and individuals to avoid or escape from homelessness."

Besides the great food and entertainment, there will be a silent and live auction. If you are interested in donating an item for the auction, or would like to contribute in some other way to Home Sweet Home, please contact Carolyn Oliveri, the Event Manager, at ceo@coolcatedevents.com, or call 781-806-5350.

Tickets, priced at \$50 for the Presidents Ballroom and \$75 for a VIP Passport will be available online after Labor Day at www.CHAFund.org. President's Ballroom tickets ordered online before October 20th will receive a 20% discount. Remember to enter code NL22 when purchasing tickets to be entered in a raffle for great prizes at the event. Tickets are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

For updates, check the CHAF website at www.CHAFund.org!

CHAF Blog Up and Running

Please visit our new blog at
www.cambridgehomeless.blogspot.com

CHAF's new blog is a discussion forum about ending homelessness in Cambridge. All are invited to participate and contribute. Whether you are homeless, a provider of services, a funder, fundraiser, donor, sponsor, volunteer, politician or concerned citizen,

we want to hear from you.

To make a comment, just click on "comments" at the bottom of each posting. To receive email alerts of new postings, click below where it says "Followers."



**You can help CHAF keep
200 families in their homes this year.**

**You can prevent one family from
becoming homeless with a \$830 donation.**

Donate online at www.CHAFund.org or, send your donation to
CHAF

678 Mass Ave, Suite 502
Cambridge, MA 02139

As Goes the Economy, Worse Go the Homeless

As the jobless rate surged and the Dow plunged 40% between September 2008 and March 2009, it was enough for most people to recalibrate their own economic standing to understand the wide-ranging personal effects of the international economic reset.

To be concerned about people falling off the edge and not making it becomes a painful process when tough economic realities are hitting so close to home.

In the midst of such a powerful economic crisis, the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund faces a huge challenge to maintain the generous support it has received from corporate sponsors and individual givers.

The numbers of families and individuals on the edge is at crisis levels. At the beginning of 2005, 1150 families in Massachusetts used emergency state shelter resources to survive. By the end of 2008, that number reached 2540 families, more than doubling the number in a short three-year window when the recession was at its height.

Threatened cuts to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) were alleviated recently when

the Massachusetts House and Senate voted to secure outside funding. MRVP currently provides housing subsidies for 5200 low-income families. While this vote will help tenants currently using a rental voucher, the funding voted for MRVP will not sustain all the vouchers currently in use.

Where will families go if they lose their vouchers? Roughly half of the affected households have children under the age of eighteen. The average household income of the people supported in the program is less than \$11,000 a year.

Ironically, the state of Massachusetts and national homeless advocates recently set their sights on ending homelessness as a social problem once and for all with sturdy solutions that would reinforce safety nets and find lasting solutions. Those advocates, in the midst of the worse economic crisis in 50 years, fight on. Just 30 years ago in the United States, homelessness was not a widespread issue. Today, over a million individuals are homeless in the United States.

—**J. Kevin Sheehan**
CHAF Board Member

Give Until It Hurts—Then Give Some More



David Pap
 CHAF Board Director

In these tough economic times, our tendency is to pull back and give less to charitable organizations. After all, we have our own bills to pay and families to support. Our stock portfolio has plummeted and that favorite cause will just have to wait.

But what about the people most affected by the latest economic downturn? They don't watch the daily Dow Jones Average. Many don't even have a roof over their head, let alone a TV to watch the CNN Money Report. Many families are 'housed' by the state in a motel room, cooking dinner in a small microwave oven. Others are living on the street or even in their cars.

These are times to give more not less. Numbers of homeless and near homeless are up dramatically. It's the only growth industry! CHAF's partner HomeStart reports a 70% increase in calls from 'at risk' tenants on the verge of falling into homelessness.

It costs CHAF only \$830 to prevent a family from falling into homelessness. Once homeless it costs ~\$37,000 of our tax dollars per year for the state to house that same family in the state emergency shelter system.

Don't we feel better when we give? How often do we get the chance to make a significant difference in the life of another human being? There may not be a more important act.

CHAF needs your support more than ever this year. Please give as much as you can. Then give a little more.

—**David Pap**

THANKS TO CHAF'S GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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www.CHAFund.org

Home Sweet Home '08 Was a Smashing Success!



*Carberry's Bakery's
Krepes 'n' Kransa Lista, 2008*



*Students from the Cambridge
School of Culinary Arts show off their
Petits Fours, 2008*



*Fantasy
Henrietta's Table, 2008*

Are You Salivating Yet?

*At Home Sweet Home 2009 you will enjoy
Sweet, Sinful, Sensual, Scrumptious,
Sensational & Scandalous desserts from:*

BURDICK CHOCOLATE
CAMBRIDGE CULINARY SCHOOL
FINALE DESSERTERIE
GRAFTON STREET/TEMPLE BAR
HENRIETTA'S TABLE
HUNGRY MOTHER
KICK ASS CUPCAKES
L'ESPALIER, *at the Mandarin Oriental
Hotel*

MIDDLE EAST RESTAURANT
ROSIE'S BAKERY
SANDRINE BISTRO
SWEET BAKERY & DESSERT BAR
TREMONT 647/SISTER SOREL
TOSCANINI'S ICE CREAM
ZEPHYR ON THE CHARLES, *at the
Cambridge Hyatt Regency*
AND MANY MORE!

Introducing Home Sweet Home's Celebrity Chefs

Executive Chef **Robert Daugherty** of the *Cambridge Hyatt Regency* is serving as our Host Chef. Chef Robert attended the Culinary Institute of America at Hyde Park, New York. Chef Robert developed the famous Wampanoag Indian Clambake and Regency Caterers, Hyatt's off-premise catering division. Chef Robert was named "Chef of the Year" for Doubletree Hotels IN 2008 and is currently President of the R.I. Chapter of the American Culinary Association.

Nicole Coady is the executive pastry chef at Finale Desserterie, the country's first upscale dessert restaurant. Chef Coady is the creative force behind the award-winning Plated Dessert Menu at Finale. Her work has been featured on the Food Network's *Sugar Rush* and *Best Of* series and in *Bon Appetit*. Chef Coady is expert at marrying flavors and taste sensations to achieve perfect balance – such as making the Finale Bourbon Pecan Pie in a salt dough crust.

Michael Klug, Chocolatier and Pastry Chef at Burdick Chocolate, is the catalyst who brings to life simple ingredients, and creates the wonderful desserts that, somewhat ironically, signify the finale to an exquisite meal. "Length, body, balance: these characteristics in chocolates are elusive, yet critical to a mature taste and quality. Sugar and sweets are for children, balance and complexity are for adults," says Klug. Klug worked under Eckart Witzigmann, recently acknowledged in Germany as "Cook of the Century".