

CHAF Basics

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is operated by the Cambridge Community of Real Estate Professionals in a public/private partnership with the Cambridge banking community, 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 initial costs of renting an apartment and providing one time assistance grants to families at risk of becoming homeless.

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 more than \$1.7 million - enough to open doors for more than 1,600 households.

Home Sweet Home raises \$172,000
120+ homeless and near homeless to be assisted

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund held its 13th annual fundraiser on October 22, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Home Sweet Home was a huge success and capped off a year of fundraising in which over \$172,000 was raised to open doors for more than 120 homeless and near homeless families and individuals in Cambridge. "The event was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our participating supporters, vendors, sponsors and guests," said David Pap, CHAF Board Chair. "This was another challenging year for fundraising, and I'd like to thank the many businesses and individuals who have helped us to continue our efforts."

As Host Chef Robert Dougherty and the Hyatt 'rolled out the red carpet' for CHAF and Event Host, Billy Costa (NECN's TV Diner); Celebrity Judges Jill Epstein (Publisher of Where to



Cambridge School of Culinary Arts Dessert Chefs

Eat Boston), Amy Traverso (Senior Editor, Yankee Magazine), Andrew Rimas (Editor, Improper Bostonian and Annie Capps (Co-host WGBH's "Daily Dish") sampled an illustrious array of top pastry chefs from the greater Boston

area who competed with tasty treats for the coveted Yummy Awards.

The nearly 500 guests and volunteers checked their diets at the door, and while sampling sumptuous and sweet concoctions, also bid on fabulous auction items. The awesome Love Dogs kept the dance floor hopping with their rockabilly sounds; and Cort Furniture and Pure Energy Entertainment provided a comfortable lounge-style setting. The VIP room featured a pasta bar and turkey carving station from the Hyatt's Zephyr Restaurant and a variety of local wines and drinks from Westport River Vineyard and Winery, Still River Winery, The Wine Connexion and Dylan Black of Green Street. We hope that you will support all of our incredible vendors throughout the year and please let them know you are a friend of CHAF's.

Cambridge Savings Bank leads CHAF to EXCEED its 2011 Goal

CHAF is proud to report that under the committed leadership of Robert M. Wilson, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank, CHAF exceeded its goal of \$150,000, and raised \$172,000 in 2011.



Kevin Barbosa, Jasmin Lucci, David Pap, Robert Wilson, Susan Lapierre, Jean LeVaux, & Paul Turcotte

"Cambridge Savings Bank was pleased to lead CHAF's efforts during 2011 as major sponsor and benefit chair of Home Sweet Home. Once again, the chefs did a fantastic job, and we were able to raise a lot of money to help those in need," commented Wilson. "Cambridge

Savings has been a substantial contributor to CHAF since it was founded in 1999, and we were happy in 2011 to have raised enough funding to help another 120+ households break the cycle

of homelessness. We recognize that these are challenging times and we are truly inspired by the generosity of all sponsors, donors and volunteers. CHAF couldn't have done it without you!"

CSB Jeans Day

Cambridge Savings Bank employees donated \$840 to the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund. The money was raised through an employee jeans day in which an employee could wear jeans to work for a day if they made a donation. Additionally, the Bank matched the employee donations for a total donation of \$1,680.

Kendrick Ellison

Giving Back to the Community after 20 years on the streets



Kendrick Ellison with his son Kenaalli

by Doug Wood-Boyle

Members and friends of the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) recently learned that a neighbor and youth football coach was formerly homeless and wants to spend his life “paying back the community.”

Cambridge resident Kendrick Ellison, 41, with his six year-old son Kenaalli by his side, told Cambridge business and community leaders his inspiring story of recovery at CHAF’s recent Home Sweet Home fundraiser. After

living on the streets for over 20 years, Kendrick, with assistance from CHAF, now has his own apartment along with his son Kendrick, Jr., 16, and Kenaalli with a chance to get full custody of his other two sons: Kumani, 15; and Kenei, 13.

In an interview, Ellison said that coaching football was a good bonding experience with his children. “It gives me a feeling of

togetherness and love. I do it for my son and the other kids on the team. It gives me a sense of giving back to the community.”

He is also giving back in another sense while he is on the road to bettering himself. Through CHAF’s partner agency, HomeStart, Ellison was able to take part in the Boston University sponsored study, “Life Skills: Transitioning from Homelessness and Isolation to Housing Stability and Community Integration,” funded by The National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

Elizabeth Auth, a research fellow

and interventionist with the Life Skills program explained, “Kendrick has completed the entire program, all four modules, and is now taking on a different role.” Ellison is now a peer-leader in the program and co-facilitates the sessions with other HomeStart clients. He is also consulting with staff on the recruitment process to bring more people into the program.

Ellison has an interesting story. Although he comes from a loving family and has a good relationship with his mother and grandmother, in his youth he bounced back and forth between both homes. “I grew up in Boston and Cambridge,” he said. “My mother, Helen, lived in Cambridge and my grandmother, Helen, lived in Boston.

Despite the turmoil, he managed to get his high school diploma. However, he went to four different high schools, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, Jamaica Plain, Brighton and South Boston before graduating.

At 15, Ellison made the decision that he could live on his own. “My mother said ‘you’ll be back.’ I never came back, but I went through a lot of rough things on my own.” He found the streets full of challenges and he started to hang with the wrong crowd. However, he is proud of the fact that he has not had a problem with drugs or alcohol.

Hanging with the wrong crowd did land Ellison in jail. However, he is now working to clear his record and wants the story told so that others might learn from it. “I was in the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said. “At the time, I didn’t know how to fight for myself. Now that I’m older I’m trying to straighten it out.”

According to Ellison, having kids was the start of his recovery. He noted that with kids he realized that it was time to slow down. “After I had kids I was running into problems,” Ellison recalled. “I found myself living with friends and realized I needed a place of my own.”

After that realization, Ellison found himself at the Pilgrim Homeless Shelter, then the Long Island Shelter and St. Francis House. A councilor at St. Francis House connected him with many support services, including HomeStart and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (Mass Rehab). Working with HomeStart since 2007, he was able to find his current apartment, and through CHAF he was able to secure the funding for his security deposit and first month’s rent.

Through Mass Rehab, Ellison is now enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College where he will be studying in their culinary arts program.

East Cambridge Savings Bank to lead CHAF’s Fundraising Drive in 2012



Art Spears, President & CEO of ECSB

“East Cambridge Savings Bank is pleased to lead CHAF’s Annual Fundraising Campaign,” said Arthur C. Spears, President and CEO. “Our goal is to help as many families and individuals as possible to obtain housing or remain in their homes.” He noted that CHAF has helped more than 1,600 homeless

and near homeless families and individuals since its inception in 1999.

“CHAF is a great organization. For many years, CHAF’s good works have been performed by volunteers from local real estate agencies, banks, lawyers and many

others. The Cambridge community and beyond has been very generous in the past and we hope that you will continue to be so in the future. We know these are trying times, but your donations do make a difference in the lives of many. We hope to see you at the annual event!” said Spears.

Why Leza Volunteers



Leza Peard

I've lived in Boston over four years, first as a student and now as a young professional.

My idea of homelessness was the man who sat in front of my dorm panhandling for money. What I learned through CHAF is that the homeless are people just like me who fell upon hard times.

A lot of people who receive CHAF assistance I mistake for visitors at HomeStart's office, not clients needing help.

I quickly realized these are the people on the T with you, the people in front of you in the grocery store. They aren't looking for handouts, they're looking for help.

I first learned about HomeStart and CHAF after becoming an intern for the Home Sweet Home event in 2010. I was excited to work on a large charity event, something I had done on a smaller scale before in student groups at Boston University and throughout high school. I was nervous leading up to it; I have never worked on an event that had so much media coverage, so many influential guests, and so much food!

It was a great time and when asked if I would work it again the next year, I had no hesitations.

After another great time I knew I had to get more involved. I met Anthony, the Development Director for HomeStart. I told him about my interest in public relations and how

I was doing some writing for another company in Boston and we discussed how I could help out HomeStart.

Two months later, and I'm volunteering in the Boston office!

When I started at HomeStart, I was excited for the challenges this new job would present. Helping with fundraising, events and being able to work on my writing skills has been a great opportunity. While I've worked on events, I've never done any sort of fundraising before and being able to expand my skill-set was my main objective, as it was at my first Home Sweet Home. But like my first Home Sweet Home, I didn't expect I'd be so moved or feel so lucky to come in to the office three days a week.

Although I'm still new to the organization, I have such respect for the advocates who work here and the amazing things they do.

Last week was the HomeStart's Winter Celebration and I got to meet many formerly homeless individuals who are now in their homes because of CHAF & HomeStart. Hearing them talk about how thankful they are for not only the help in finding and staying in housing, but the emotional support they received from their advocates was really inspiring.

One man said that his advocate was more than just a case worker; they were friends.

One woman choked up talking about how lucky she feels to be living in an apartment and how she couldn't have done it without our help.

That pan-handler, that person with severe mental deficiencies or addiction issues, he or she makes up only 10% of the homeless population. The rest can make it on their own; they just need a helping hand. Lucky for them, an organization like CHAF is there to give them that hand.

CHAF 2012 Benefit Chair

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

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David P. Maher
Mayor

Francis H. Duehay
Former Mayor

Alice K. Wolf
State Representative

Henrietta Davis
Marjorie C. Decker
Denise Simmons
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Mary Power
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Robert M. Wilson, *President & CEO*
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Linda Wood-Boyle
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Carol Kelly
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Barbara Broussard, *President*
East Cambridge Planning Team

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Warmest Thanks to our Celebrity Judges, Chefs, Vineyards & Emcee

Home Sweet Home "Yummy Award" Winners

Blue Tierra of South Boston was a triple crown winner with their Vermont Maple Opera Cake with edible chocolate maple leaf. This dessert won three People's Choice awards for Most Decadent, Best Chocolate, and Most Creative.

Sofra Bakery & Café in Cambridge won People's Choice award for best non-chocolate of the night with their pumpkin jam flutes with crème and pumpkin seeds.

Henrietta's Table in Cambridge won Judge's Choice for "Best Edible Art" for a taza chocolate cheesecake with a cocoa bean crust, chocolate ganache, and fresh raspberries.

Harvest Restaurant in Cambridge won the Judge's Choice for the "Best in Show" dessert with a chocolate flourless pate with a salted caramel center and a roasted white chocolate cremeux topping.

Dessert Competitors

Amelia's Trattoria – Nutella Panna Cotta • **Blue On Highland** – Cake Lollipops • **Blue Tierra Chocolate Cafe** – Vermont Maple Opera Cake • **Butters Café & Bakery** – Danish Ice Cream Cone • **Cambridge School Of Culinary Arts** – Croquem-bouche De Vit Raus Jam & Cream Filled Profiterols in Stained Glass • **Chocolate Therapy** – "Oro Calor" Spicy Chocolate Gold Bar With Pumpkin Seed Brittle • **The Chocolate Tarte** – Raspberry Tartes • **City Table at The Lenox Hotel** – Granny Smith Bread Pudding with Quince Carmel Sauce • **Finale Desserterie** – Pumpkin Cheesecake • **The Fireplace** – Butterscotch Bread Pudding with Rum Drunken Raisins • **Harvest Restaurant** – Chocolate Flourless with Salted Caramel Center and Roasted White Chocolate Cremeux • **Henrietta's Table** – Taza Chocolate Cheesecake • **Kickass Cupcakes** – Mini-Cupcakes • **Russell House Tavern** – Apple Cake with Caramel Center and a Vanilla Cinamon Cookie • **Showcase Live** – Spiced Pear Tartlett With Honey Lavender Gelato and Di Saronno Caramel • **Sofra Bakery & Cafe** – Pumpkin Jam Flutes with Crème & Pepitas • **South End Buttery** – Bee's Knees Cupcakes • **Sweet Pastry Shop & Dessert Bar** – Pumpkin Panna Cotta, Pumpkin Whoopie Pie, Pumpkin Seed Brittle • **Toscanini's Ice Cream** – Ice Cream • **Zephyr On The Charles** – Apple Ginger Mosaic with Fresh White Chi Ice Cream

Celebrity Judges

Jill Epstein
Publisher
Where to Eat Boston

Andrew Rimas
Editor
The Improper Bostonian

Amy Traverso
Senior Lifestyle Editor
Yankee Magazine

Annie Copps
Co-host
WGBH's "Daily Dish"

Home Sweet Home Amateur Bake-off Winners

Best Pie/Tart: *Chocolate Raspberry Goodness* - **Lily Phipps**

Best Cookie: *White Chocolate Biscoff-Filled Cookies* - **Dani Stephens**

Best Chocolate: *Cadence Cake Bar* - **Maribe Macaissa**

Best Cake/Cupcake: *Pina Colada Pund Cake* - **Cand Gold**

Best Local Ingredient: **Sonia Segal Smith**

Grand Prize: *White Chocolate Biscoff-Filled Cookies* - **Dani Stephens**

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Cambridge School of Culinary Arts

KitchenWares by Blackstones of Boston

Celebrity Amateur Bake-off Judges

Lee Napoli, *Chocolee Chocolates*

Clara Silverstein, *food writer & author of three cookbooks, The Boston Chefs Table, The New England Soup Factory and A White House Garden Cookbook*

Lynne Viera, *President & CEO, how2heroes*

Food Blogger Preliminary Judges

Megan Chromik | www.megan-deliciousdishings.blogspot.com

Chelsee Adams & Susie Anderson | www.wearenotmartha.com

Jennifer Che | www.tinyurbankitchen.com

Jessie Zubatkin | www.myuncleskitchen.com

Meghan McGarry | www.butcreamblondi.blogspot.com