

# CHAF REPORTS

## OPEN DOORS FOR THE HOMELESS

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND'S 19TH ANNUAL BENEFIT WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT THE REGATTABAR IN CAMBRIDGE



Former CHAF client Yamaris, back left, with Open Doors 2016 guests.

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) is proud to announce its 19th annual fundraiser, **Open Doors for the Homeless**, on **Thursday, November 16, 2017** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the **Regattabar** in the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. There will be live music, networking, pasta bar and carving stations, cocktails, and a silent auction! All proceeds from Open Doors for the Homeless support CHAF's mission of ending and preventing homelessness in our community.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear the story of a formerly homeless client, whose life was transformed for the better thanks to CHAF funds, and the support services of our agency partner HomeStart, Inc. We are so grateful to our sponsors and guests, as this event would not be possible without their support. Until October 16th, the price will be \$65. After that, the price per ticket is raised to \$75. Interested sponsors or attendees can visit our website, [www.chafund.org/opendoors](http://www.chafund.org/opendoors), or contact **Carrie Neff**, Special Events Coordinator, at [neff@homestart.org](mailto:neff@homestart.org).

We encourage local businesses who are interested in supporting our mission of ending homelessness in Cambridge to become a sponsor. Sponsors receive publicity at the event, ad space in the program book, listing on the event website, and social media recognition.

## Cambridge Savings Bank pledges to help raise \$150,000 for CHAF FUNDS WILL SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

“For 183 years, Cambridge Savings Bank’s dedication to the members of its communities has been strong. In 2017, we are proud to once again partner with the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF). In the communities we serve, CHAF makes a significant difference in the lives of families in need,” commented **Wayne Patenaude, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank**. Since 1999, CHAF’s fundraising efforts have raised more than \$2.4 million and helped to change the lives of over 2,000 individuals and families. The average amount of CHAF assistance a client receives is \$1,250, which prevents an entire family from losing their home, while the average cost of housing a homeless family in an emergency shelter is approximately \$30,000 per year. Funds from CHAF coupled with the services provided by their agency partners, HomeStart and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center for the Homeless, save the state valuable taxpayer dollars while saving individuals and families from the crisis of homelessness. The generous support of our local businesses as well as the contributions made by individual donors is the reason CHAF can and will assist more than 90 families this year. “As CHAF’s 2017 Benefit Chair, Cambridge Savings Bank has donated \$20,000. Cambridge Savings Bank has made a strong commitment to make a difference in the markets we serve by raising another \$150,000 in 2017,” said Wayne Patenaude.



Wayne Patenaude



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CHAF NEWSLETTER COMPILED  
AND EDITED BY CARRIE NEFF,  
SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR  
FOR CHAF AND HOMESTART

## Message from the CHAF Board



**David Pap, Chair**

On the night of January 27, 2016, staff from the Department of Human Service Programs, partner agencies, and community volunteers completed the annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. On that night, Cambridge counted 517 persons experiencing homelessness. Included in that number were 46 families, mothers and fathers sleeping in an emergency shelter or transitional housing with their children. Of the 517 homeless, 69 were unsheltered individuals, sleeping in the subway or on the street in the freezing cold of a New England January.

The good news is, because of CHAF and your generous support that number would have been higher. In 2016, CHAF opened doors for 63 individuals and 14 families including 20 children.

This year, in addition to providing financial assistance to those in need, CHAF is helping to close the gap by providing advocacy within the office of our partner organization, HomeStart. Should a family need assistance getting off the streets or out of a shelter and back into an apartment of their own, they can access the vital support they need to make this happen by meeting with a HomeStart advocate at the Cambridge Multiservice Center.

Advocates provide a variety of services, such as housing search, coordination with landlords and movers, homelessness prevention, and stabilization and budget help once the client is housed. These services help permanently break the cycle of homelessness. This is why we ask that you give generously to support CHAF's mission. Whether you are a business that wants to sponsor the event, or a concerned individual who wants to help a family, every gift helps us pull together to uplift our community, and assist those in need. We hope to see you at **Open Doors for the Homeless!**

For more info on how to sponsor, donate, advertise or attend, please contact **Carrie Neff**, Special Events Coordinator, at [neff@homestart.org](mailto:neff@homestart.org) or visit our website, [www.chafund.org/opendoors](http://www.chafund.org/opendoors).

## Cambridge Trust Company assists CHAF in exceeding our 2016 fundraising goal!



**Denise Sheahan with Nicole Hicks of HomeStart at last year's Open Doors fundraiser.**

CHAF, along with 2016 Open Doors for the Homeless chair **Denis K. Sheahan**, President & CEO of **Cambridge Trust Company**, is proud to announce they exceeded their fundraising campaign goal by raising more than \$185,000. "Through the generosity and hard work of CHAF's volunteers, donors, and sponsors, we beat our fundraising goal of \$150,000," said Sheahan. "These funds will assist more than 90 homeless or near-homeless families in securing a place to live." Sheahan went on to say, "The personal stories of CHAF recipients overcoming some difficult challenges are

heartwarming and prove how meaningful CHAF's impact is on the Cambridge community. Through their work, CHAF has made a very real difference in the lives of more than 2,000 families and individuals here in Cambridge."

# Open doors, open arms at HomeStart

## A CHAF CLIENT SHARES HIS STORY

**K**elby J. found CHAF partner organization, HomeStart, through the Salvation Army in the middle of May 2016, and he was extremely grateful when they helped him fill out a large amount of his paperwork to become eligible for housing. "They had open arms for me and really came through," he says. Through CHAF funds, partner organization HomeStart helped pay some of his back rent owed to the Boston Housing Authority, allowing him to become qualified for placement in an available housing unit.

Kelby remarks that his life felt "chaotic and all over the place" before he found HomeStart in Cambridge which helped him "get it together." He is extremely appreciative of the help he has received and says if it wasn't for the advocates listening to him he doesn't know what he would have done and is now willing and excited to "give back and do my part." Kelby continues to work hard towards his goal of having a stable home to alleviate the struggles of a sporadic life moving from place to place.

## News from our agency partners

### HOMESTART AND CAMBRIDGE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

**H**omeStart, Inc. has been ending and preventing homelessness in the Greater Boston Area for more than 20 years, and by collaborating with HomeStart, CHAF has been able to have a greater impact on the City of Cambridge. Since 1994, HomeStart has moved over 7,000 clients into permanent housing with their innovative programs (Homelessness Prevention, Housing Search, and Stabilization).

Homelessness Prevention advocates attend housing court with households who live at or below the poverty line that are on the verge of being evicted. With a one-time assistance grant and negotiation with the Landlord these vulnerable individuals remain in their homes, avoiding the trauma of homelessness. Housing Search advocates navigate the housing market with their clients to find a safe, affordable home of their own. Once clients are housed, HomeStart's Stabilization Program helps clients reintegrate into their communities and stay on a successful track, effectively breaking the cycle of homelessness. In fact, 95% of clients receiving stabilizations services remain housed when tracked one year later.

CHAF's other partner in the fight against homelessness is the **Cambridge Multi-Service Center** (MSC). The MSC provides a wealth of services to the most vulnerable members of our community, such as assistance in applying for public benefits, financial counseling, legal services, and access to mental health and substance abuse services. With the help of CHAF funds, the MSC is also able to provide affordable housing search assistance with their team of dedicated advocates, directly helping us to stop homelessness in Cambridge.

**CHAF Basics** ▶ The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is a broad-based community coalition of Realtors, local banks, lawyers, universities, and civic and business leaders working together to break the cycle of homelessness. CHAF operates as a public/private partnership with HomeStart and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center. CHAF funds provide 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. Since its inception in 1999, CHAF has raised more than \$2.4 million, enough to open doors for more than 2,000 households.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS

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# OPEN DOORS FOR THE HOMELESS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 | 5:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THE REGATTABAR, CHARLES HOTEL | ONE BENNETT STREET, CAMBRIDGE

Join us for an evening of live music, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, storytelling, networking, and working together to end and prevent homelessness in our neighborhood.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SPONSOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT — THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 27, 2017!  
CONTACT CARRIE NEFF AT NEFF@HOMESTART.ORG OR VISIT WWW.CHAF.ORG/OPENDOORS.

## A LOOK BACK AT OPEN DOORS 2016

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN MACLONE



**LEFT:** CHAF Board Chair David Pap toasts supporters with Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons at the 18th Annual Open Doors for the Homeless benefit. **CENTER:** CHAF Advisory Board Member Rob Siegrist, left, and Honorary Event Chair Denis Sheahan, second from left, with event guests from Cambridge Trust Company. **RIGHT:** The silent auction included an impressive number of packages, thanks to our generous donors, raising important funds for CHAF.



A caricaturist amused attendees with personalized drawings, including Cambridge Vice Mayor Marc McGovern and Gisela Margotta from East Cambridge Savings Bank, and guests enjoyed sharing selfies and good company, all in support of CHAF.