

CHAF reports

www.CHAFund.org
SUMMER 2014

Thursday, November 13: Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund presents

Open Doors for the homeless

OUR 16TH ANNIVERSARY FUND RAISER AT THE REGATTABAR

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) is proud to announce our annual “Open Doors for the Homeless” event on Thursday, November 13, 2014. The event will be held from 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm at the Regattabar in the Charles Hotel at 1 Bennett Street in Harvard Square. In keeping with the theme of the Regattabar, we will have the pleasure of experiencing a live musical performance by the Bertram

Lehmann Jazz Quartet. Bertram Lehmann is also a professor at the Berklee College of Music. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided, as well as a silent auction! Sporting event tickets, restaurant gift certificates, hotel stays and more will be up for auction, all to support CHAF's mission of ending and preventing homelessness in our community.

We 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 partners, HomeStart, Inc. and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center. As always,

we are grateful to our sponsors and guests, and this event would not be possible without their support. If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor or even just simply purchasing a ticket, please visit our website, www.chafund.org. Or, email Director of Development Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org.

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■ Bertram Lehmann Jazz Quartet

▶ CHAF Basics:

The Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund is a broad based community coalition of realtors, local banks, 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 \$1.9M, enough to open doors for more than 1,700 households.

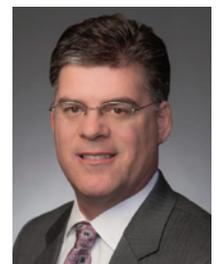
Cambridge Savings Bank committed to making a difference

DEDICATED TO HELP RAISE \$150,000 ON BEHALF OF CHAF IN 2014

“For 180 years, Cambridge Savings Bank has been dedicated to the members of its communities. For 2014, we are proud to once again partner with CHAF — a charity that makes a significant difference in the lives of families in need in our local communities,” commented Wayne Patenaude, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank.

Since 1999, CHAF's fundraising activities have raised more than \$1.9 million and helped to change the lives of over 1,700 individuals and families. The average amount of CHAF assistance a client receives is \$730, while the average cost of housing a homeless family in an emergency shelter is approximately \$30,000. CHAF funds coupled with the services provided by their agency partners, saves the state valuable taxpayer dollars, and saves individuals and families from the crisis of homelessness.

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Wayne Patenaude,
President & CEO
of Cambridge
Savings Bank



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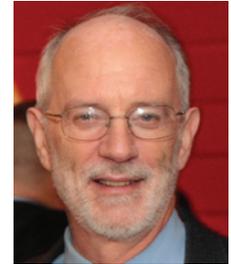
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From the CHAF Board

CHAF is proud to invite you to our 16th annual event: **Open Doors for the Homeless**. Open Doors will be held from 5:30 – 8:30 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Regattabar in the Charles Hotel at 1 Bennett Street in Harvard Square, Cambridge. We bring you this reception-style event as a way for our supporters to network with others in their local community while supporting CHAF’s worthy mission of ending and preventing homelessness. We hope you will join us for a variety of hors d’oeuvres, cocktails, and live piano jazz from the Bertram Lehmann Band. Our past events have been a great success, and we are looking forward to an even livelier evening this year!



David Pap,
CHAF Board Chair

According to the City of Cambridge, homelessness is on the rise. In January of this year, the city counted 551 persons experiencing homelessness, compared to 537 this time last year. 137 of the people counted were children under the age of 24.

These statistics are heartbreaking, and they are the reason CHAF continues its efforts. Since its founding in 1999, CHAF has raised more than \$1.9M to assist more than 1,700 at-risk households. **Our goal this year is to raise \$150,000, which is enough to assist 125 people off the streets and into safe, permanent housing, or to help them retain the housing they already have.** This is why we ask that you to 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 CHAF Director of Development Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org or visit our website, www.chafund.org.**

Cambridge Trust leads CHAF to 2013 success



Joe Roller,
President & CEO of Cambridge Trust Company

CHAF, along with 2013 lead fundraising chair Cambridge Trust Company, is proud to announce they exceeded their 2013 fundraising campaign goal by raising more than \$160,000. “Through the generosity and hard work of CHAF’s volunteers, donors, and sponsors, we beat our fundraising goal of \$150,000,” said Joe Roller, president and CEO of Cambridge Trust. “These funds will assist more than 125 homeless or near-homeless families in securing a place to live.” Roller 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 1,700 families and individuals here in Cambridge.”

Open Doors for the Homeless 2014 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tickets for the event will be \$75 each, or \$65 if purchased before October 15. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org or at www.CHAFund.org, or at the door.

We especially encourage local businesses who are interested in supporting our mission of ending homelessness to become a sponsor. Sponsors enjoy acknowledgment at the event, ad space in our program book, and advertisements in other various local print. CHAF’s 2014 goal is to raise \$150,000, enough to help 125 homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless families and individuals escape or avoid homelessness. **Did you know? It costs CHAF, on average, \$730 to prevent a family from losing their home. It costs the state of Massachusetts approximately \$30,000 per year to provide emergency shelter to that same family. Prevention works!**

The clients find themselves, CHAF finds the housing

Eugene lived on the streets for more than two decades, but after suffering a stroke, he was ready to make a change. Harnessing his inner strength, he reconnected with his brother, and was able to find permanent housing with help of staff at the Cambridge Office of HomeStart, and the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF).

"I was homeless for several years. I was addicted to drugs and alcohol. I was living in abandoned houses. Then I had a stroke and I spent two weeks in the hospital," he recalled. "When I had the stroke, my brother brought me [here] for medical services," Eugene said. After his recovery, Eugene explains, "I lived with him, but after a while, found it necessary to move." His first stop was the Salvation Army in Cambridge, where he stayed for over a year. During that period he recovered from his stroke and the ensuing paralysis. However, it was during this period that Eugene was diagnosed with diabetes. "I never knew I had diabetes," he said. "I wasn't eating right or taking my medications, and that led to my stroke." Eugene abused drugs and alcohol for 25 years on the streets before getting clean and sober. He credits the Salvation Army in Cambridge for keeping him sober for the last eight years.

And, it was through the Salvation Army that he was referred to HomeStart, where a Housing Search advocate helped him with the process of finding permanent housing;

"I worked with my housing advocate and then found a place." Eugene added, "After more than a year of seeking housing with HomeStart, I received [a] housing voucher, and my advocate helped me find an apartment. When I moved to my apartment, I needed help with some of the move-in costs. That's where CHAF saved the day. Those funds broke down the final barrier of me being homeless, to being in my own home." Finally, Eugene was on track to a better way of life.

Since finding a permanent home, Eugene has been able to rebuild his relationship with his family, including his two adult children, now 33 and 21. He has also been maintaining his recovery from drugs and alcohol. Eugene, who is known for putting a positive light on most everything, said, "I believe (my kids) have learned, from my experiences, to stay away from drugs and alcohol. My youngest is now going to college for social work." Of his experience with CHAF and HomeStart, Eugene said they "not only helped me get off the streets, but to get the streets off my mind." He added, "I am so thankful for HomeStart and CHAF for opening the door for me to be in my own home, and sober." Illustrating why CHAF funds and HomeStart programs are so vital to uplifting our community, Eugene notes, "I ended up on the streets from neglect of responsibility and addiction for 25 years. Now HomeStart has taught me how to be responsible and accountable." That life-al-



■ Eugene, CHAF client, sharing his story.

tering lesson never would have been possible without the boost from CHAF. As part of his learning process, Eugene is also now giving back to the community; he volunteers with the local Food Pantry on a weekly basis.

CHAF is a coalition of local business professionals committed to preventing and ending homelessness in our community by raising funds to assist with startup costs of securing permanent housing. In 2013, the \$168,457 raised was enough to assist 125 individuals and families in keeping or moving into their apartments. And, with stabilization services provided by HomeStart, 96% of these clients remain housed when tracked one year later. For more information please go to www.chafund.org.

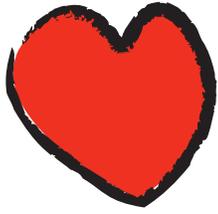
Doug Wood-Boyle is a free-lance feature writer whose stories have appeared in several Greater Boston publications. He volunteers his services to HomeStart and CHAF.

News from our agency partners

HomeStart, Inc., is now entering its 20th year of ending and preventing homelessness in the Greater Boston Area. Since 1994, they have moved over 6,000 clients into permanent housing with their innovative programs. The majority of homeless shelters in Boston are now covered by HomeStart's team of expert housing search advocates, who help veterans, single mothers, victims of domestic violence, and individuals with disabilities obtain affordable, permanent housing. 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, 96% of clients receiving stabilizations services remain housed when tracked one year later. By partnering with HomeStart and supporting their models, CHAF has reached an even greater level of success.

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.

Open Doors for the homeless



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014 | 5:30-8:30 PM

THE REGATTA BAR AT THE CHARLES HOTEL
ONE BENNETT STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Join us for an evening of *live music, hors d'oeuvres, storytelling, networking, and working together to end and prevent homelessness... featuring the Bertram Lehmann Band!*

VISIT CHAFUND.ORG TO PURCHASE A SPONSORSHIP, TICKETS OR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE EVENT PROGRAM, OR CALL JESSICA LANGER (617) 542.0338, EXT. 275



AT CHAF OPEN DOORS 2013:

Top, left: Lisa Drapkin, Lori and Pete Cote from Coldwell Banker and Rachel Burger from ePlace Homes. Top, right: Terrie Hayden of ReMax Destiny, Kate and Ron Rivera and guest. At far left, Paul Turcotte of ReMAX Destiny. At left, Norm McGiver and Joe Roller from Cambridge Trust Company with Lauren Holleran from Hammond Real Estate. PHOTOS BY STEPHEN MACLONE

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Cambridge Savings committed to 2014 event

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The generous support of our local businesses as well as the contributions made by individual donors is the reason CHAF can and will assist approximately 125 families this year. "As CHAF's 2014 Benefit Chair, Cambridge Savings Bank has donated \$20,000. Cambridge Savings Bank has a strong commitment to make a difference in the areas we serve and is dedicated to help with raising another \$150,000 in 2014," said Wayne Patenaude, President and CEO of Cambridge Savings Bank.

It is not too late to sponsor this year's event! Please contact Jessica Langer at langer@homestart.org or visit chafund.org to submit your sponsorship!