

550 DUDLEY STREET . ROXBURY, MA 02119

Dear Friends,

Seeds of hope planted so long ago are coming to fruition at each of Project Hope's sites; in the new Community Building at 550 Dudley Street in Roxbury and at our original Victorian home on Magnolia Street in Dorchester. We want to share the wonderful harvest with you, so you can see with your own eyes what you have supported and helped to grow.

Margaret A. Leonard

550 Dudley Earns Silver Status

Our one year anniversary of moving to our new center of operations was marked with excitement: we have been awarded "LEED" Silver status for showing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It's the first environmentally friendly building in Roxbury!



The new community building on 550 Dudley Street has space for collaborative gatherings like this one, pictured below, on homelessness prevention.

Hundreds celebrated our Open House with us last October. Now, one year later, the striking external appearance of "550" has visually transformed the neighborhood; its internal design has enhanced our operations; and expanded program offerings have already transformed the lives of families we serve. ☘



Learn more...

On our website www.prohope.org, we now have podcasts, broadcast stories of our families moving up and out of poverty. You will know if you are on the right site when you see Briana, pictured here recording her family's story.



To join our e-newsletter list, select "Contact" on our website.

Housing First

Project Hope implements a homelessness prevention initiative called Housing First. In this approach, landlords and management companies become community partners. Agencies bring their housing support services to the fore as soon as neighbors start to fall behind on rent to stabilize the endangered families. This eliminates the need for both housing courts and shelters. Housing First saves the families from the trauma of homelessness and enables the state to invest in education and training instead of homeless shelters. ☘

Challenge Grant

If we raise \$25,000 to support our Housing First Initiative, a philanthropic family will match the money raised. If you would like to help us reach our goal, please contact Elizabeth Zarrella at 617-442-1880 x203 or <ezarrella@prohope.org>.



Alicia Candelaria, a home-based provider in the Project Hope network, encourages the children at dramatic play, a daily activity that stimulates the imagination, social interaction and language skills.

Family Child Care Business Enterprise

Project Hope prepares low-income individuals to run their own family child care businesses or pursue other careers in the child care field.

In our new community building with classroom space available day, evening and weekends, we are able to offer classes leading to national certification. Credit bearing college courses in early education are offered by Cambridge College, a new collaborative partner and effective agent of community change. Providers and trainees were very grateful for the opportunity to advance professionally, so they enrolled with enthusiasm in our "neighborhood college" and they attend classes faithfully. ☘

Employer Partnerships

A newly named endeavor that is already growing success for our families is the Employer Partnership program. Case managers and instructors at Project Hope prepare low-income community members for entry level jobs with career ladders at Partners HealthCare hospitals, including Brigham & Women's, Mass. General, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Many initial positions are in the Medical Administrative Support field, e.g. medical records clerk, unit coordinator, or patient service coordinator. These positions pay a living wage, offer benefits, and provide career coaching for other opportunities in the hospital of choice. Our mission is to partner with families as they move up and out of poverty, so this program is a wonderful addition to our career development and job training initiatives. ☘



Monique Chambers (forefront) and Sonya Austin are shown here celebrating the completion of their 5 week pre-employment training program. Both are now employed within the Partners HealthCare system.

Bright lights, camera crews, makeup artists and TV stars descended on our doorstep to film the completed Makeover. Natalie Jacobson (2nd from left) posed with the Team Leaders: (l-r) Robyn Eastwood, Elizabeth Zarrella, Rosa Almanzar.



Family Shelter Makeover

Because the majority of staff and programs moved from our original site at 45 Magnolia Street to the new building at 550 Dudley, we were able to completely refresh and renew our old Victorian home and enlarge its capacity to shelter families.

After we were selected by WCVB-TV for a Makeover, hundreds of volunteers and many generous sponsors made it happen. It was magic. ☘



Newsbrief, produced by Patricia Curran, SND, Communications Manager at Project Hope, is printed with earth friendly materials; renewable paper and soy based inks.