

# Shaping Community Transformation

FOR 40 YEARS

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Our Dorchester and Roxbury community of the 70s and 80s looked vastly different than it does today. There were frequent fires, a lack of safe housing and no understanding of family homelessness. Seeing the challenges before the community, Sister Margaret Leonard and the Little Sisters of the Assumption opened the doors of their convent and shared their home with women and families who had nowhere else to go. The sisters knew that only from the safety of shelter could the women then tap the capacity within themselves to take their next step forward. Living side by side and experiencing each woman's personal journey germinated the seed that became Project Hope Boston.



## PROJECT HOPE THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1947–1979**  
 The Little Sisters of the Assumption assist families in crisis.
- 1980**  
**1980–1989**  
 The Sisters open their doors to women and children experiencing homelessness. Project HOPE—House Open People Enter is founded.
- 1990**  
**1990–1994**  
 Education, affordable childcare programs are established.
- 1995–1999**  
 Career exploration, job development, and continuing education programs added.
- 2000**  
**2000–2006**  
 Expansion of collaborative partnerships and advocacy networks.
- 2006–2008**  
 Built community building from the ground up.
- 2010**  
**2008–PRESENT**  
 Ambassador's Bureau created among program participants. New housing programs developed including eviction prevention work in partnership with area schools and hospitals.
- 2020**  
**2021–2022**  
 40th Anniversary Campaign to expand the Family Shelter's capacity to serve more families.



# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Thousands of women and children have found hope, peace and the ability to transform their lives since we opened our doors 40 years ago. While our family shelter was one of the first in Massachusetts, our organization has evolved over time to provide additional programs that support women to secure and stabilize housing, reach educational goals, seek employment, and so much more.

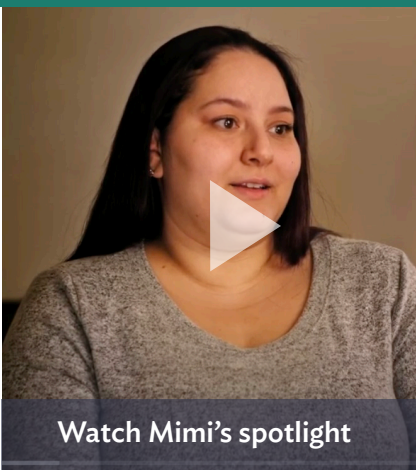
As we **celebrate 40 years of service** in Boston's Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhood, we are inspired by the collaboration and resilience we see in our community each and every day—but know that our work addressing homelessness and economic mobility is far from over.

Our 2021 Annual Report celebrates our legacy in this community and shares the collective progress we have made together. We are grateful to the enduring commitment of our donors, volunteers, and partners who make it all possible.

**Maureen Pompeo**

BOARD CHAIR

## Success spotlight: Mimi



Watch Mimi's spotlight

Mimi made the courageous decision to take her kids and leave an unhealthy living situation. With two small children, she knew she had to do whatever it took to find stability for her family. When Mimi walked through the doors at Project Hope Boston's Family Shelter in Dorchester, she immediately felt a sense of peace and security. From there, she was able to focus on her goals and participate in programs that helped her acquire new skills, seek employment and find permanent housing for her family.

*“I felt safe and at home at Project Hope and from there, I found the confidence to take the next step.”*

## Who we serve



**65%**

of our families live in  
Dorchester or Roxbury



**2,237**

individuals  
*1,828 of whom are families*



**75%**

of the heads of household  
are single women



**52%**

of our families earn an annual  
income of \$20,000 or less



## Our Program Impact



### Housing

**1,345 families**

received community housing support

**684 families**

avoided homelessness due to the  
Rental Relief fund in partnership with  
the City of Boston

**60% increase**

over 2020 in support to prevent  
eviction

**69 families**

received guidance that resulted in  
secured housing

**86 families**

received housing consultations that  
prevented homelessness



### Workforce & Education

**126 children**

enrolled in our Family Childcare  
Network

**150 students**

attended our workforce  
education and ESOL classes

### Investment

in technology, equipment and  
training to transition to a virtual  
classroom model and remote  
learning capabilities



### Family Shelter

**100% capacity**

**26 mothers**

**37 children**





# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

FITNESS FOR  
H--PE

Project Hope's Fitness  
Fundraising Campaign

## Increased collaboration with the City of Boston

In 2021 Project Hope Boston increased its collaboration with the City of Boston by administering Rental Relief funds to help Boston residents who had difficulty paying their rent because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rental Relief Fund provided up to \$15,000 in assistance for income eligible households for up to 12 months for arrears, current rent, and future rent, as well as up to \$1,500 of past due utilities. As a result of this partnership, Project Hope's eviction preventions were 365% higher than we projected that year. We were able to help 684 families avoid eviction and remain in their homes during such a challenging time.

## Expanding the Family Shelter

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, we embarked on a mission to expand and renovate the shelter where the journey began. We set an ambitious goal of raising \$1,000,000 to renovate the shelter in order to serve even more families and provide much-needed upgrades and accommodations for families with special needs. With an architectural plan in hand, a contractor selected, and permits finalized in 2021, the work began in early 2022. Once complete, the shelter's first floor will have four ADA accessible family bedrooms, two ADA-accessible bathrooms, a new accessible kitchenette/lounge for gatherings and children's play and many other updates and repairs to the original space.



## Virtual fundraiser

Like many organizations, Project Hope Boston could not host our signature fundraising event and Boston Marathon team in 2021. But that did not stop us from mobilizing hundreds of people in support of our families. Our Fitness for HOPE virtual fundraiser brought together teams from among our corporate partners and individual donors to collectively raise thousands of dollars for the programs and services our families rely upon.

## Investment in technology

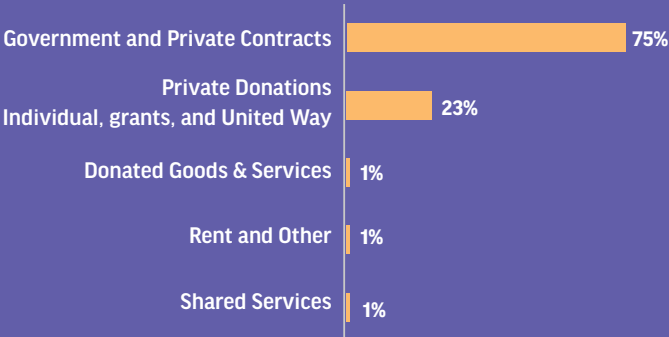
While our initial shift to online programming was in response to the pandemic, we have continued to invest in technology that helps us increase efficiency, measure data and better serve program participants. Recent investments include:

- More flexible, online programming allowing more people to attend and watch "on demand" as needed
- Distribution of laptop donations to address "technology gap"
- Technical support to provide trouble-shooting with new computers, remote access, and online resources
- New best practices (Zoom, Google Classroom, etc) have enhanced our education and workforce programming and the skills of our educators and mentors
- Advanced digital data collection platforms allow us to easily receive feedback from program participants, record case notes, and capture essential data to inform our programmatic enhancements.
- Ongoing investment in recruiting and training best practices

# FINANCIALS

## OPERATING REVENUE

Total revenue: **\$9,667,552**

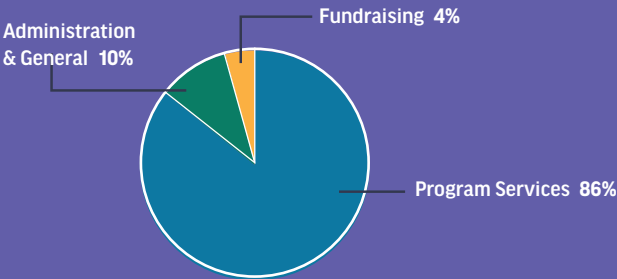


## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
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| Adelene Perkins     |                     |

## OPERATING EXPENSE

Total expenses: **\$9,629,179**



## GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS CONTRACTS

Boston Children’s Hospital Accountable Care Organization  
*funding originates from Mass Health*

Continuum of Care Rapid Rehousing

Childcare Choices of Boston

Community Development Block Grant 

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Department of Housing and Community Development

Department of Early Education and Care

Department of Neighborhood Development

Department of Public Health Accountable Care Organization

Department of Transitional Assistance Emergency Food & Shelter Program

City of Boston Emergency Solutions Grant Prevention 

Mass General Brigham

Neighborhood Jobs Trust

Accountable Care Organization SSO Prep Fund

Rental Relief Fund

**50K+ DONORS**

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**PROJECT  
HOPE**  
BOSTON

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**40** YEARS  
PROJECT HOPE BOSTON