

Open House at Veteran House

Veteran House is the most recently completed development by CAN-DO. It is a lovely two family home located on Commonwealth Avenue. These units have been developed specifically for homeless veterans and their families. An Iraq War veteran moved into one of the affordable units with her three year old daughter on June 1st. She is absolutely thrilled with this opportunity and her beautiful home. The second floor unit is still available for rent.

Working on cosmetic improvements, which had not been included in the construction budget at the Veteran House, proved to be a wonderful opportunity for CAN-DO's new and old board members to get to know each other during the fall and winter. Spouses and children were included in the volunteer effort. There were many "working sessions" where everything was freshly painted and cleaned. In the spring, Veteran House was one of the sites for Newton Serves Volunteer Day. Yard clean-up and the installation of new landscaping was done by volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of CAN-DO Board of Advisors member, Bill McLaughlin, a new wooden fence has been added to the rear yard.

The Open House was held on a beautiful morning in May. Those elected and appointed officials who



Phil Herr, Charlie Shapiro and Mitchell Fischman, Judi Lipton, David Gaeto, Josephine McNeil, Nina LeDoyt, Kenneth Sinclair, David Fitzsimmons, Michelle Hayes, and Deanna Reid.

had provided funding for the project had the opportunity to see what had been made possible due to their efforts and to say thank you. In attendance were members of the Board of Aldermen, the Planning Department, the Community Preservation Committee and the Planning and Development Board. Also present were representatives from the Office of Veteran Affairs. The City of Newton should take pride in its united effort to say "Thank You" to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our well being.

A few weeks after the Open House, a house-warming shower was held for our veteran and her child. A bounty of gifts, including kitchen items, bathroom and bedroom linens, items for her little girl and gift cards were given by congregants from the United Parish of Auburndale, Temple Shalom, and The Eliot Church of Newton. Furniture was donated by Sleepy's, Boston Interiors and a gift certificate from Bob's Furniture. - Michelle Hayes

Garfield House Renovation



Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization, Inc.

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Renovations at Garfield House, CAN DO's first undertaking, were completed this past Spring. Soil removal and redistribution including new drainage systems is complete. A new heating system and insulation have been installed to help with fuel costs and occupant comfort. In addition, the house has been painted and work has been done on the front porch.

The park across from Garfield House is in the final phase of renovations as well. A completely new climbing structure and swings, as well as a picnic area and new benches and greenery help to make the neighborhood very inviting. - Nina LeDoyt

CAN-DO
1075 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Upcoming Fundraising Events

August 27th

Macy's Shop for CAN-DO

September 16th—17th

Eat at Uno's at Newton Corner

March 4, 2012

CAN-DO's 9th Annual

YIMBY Celebration

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News from the President



Much has happened since our Fall-Winter 2010 newsletter. We completed our Veteran House project and in the fall renovations will begin at 61 Pearl Street. We had a successful Annual YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) Celebration thanks to Co-Chairs Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz. Thanks also to the members of the event committee; we have been blessed by a committed group of volunteers who continue to say "yes" year after year when asked if they would serve.

We were most touched by local support that helped to turn a beautiful apartment at Veteran House into a lovely, warm home for our newest tenant as she moved with her daughter out of a shelter for women veterans in Worcester. Our CAN-DO Board Members have brought energy, interests and skills. Their support, and the support of the many members of the Newton community have ensured the continuation of CAN-DO's important work. Together we are in the process of proving that affordable housing in Newton is NOT an oxymoron.

After 17 years of serving on CAN-DO's Board, I continue to be impressed by and grateful for Executive Director Josephine McNeil's persistence, and the opportunity we have to improve the lives of others.

- Jane Eisenstark

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Executive Director

CAN-DO Residents Express "Thanks"

Board Members Deanna Reid and Michelle Hayes went visiting and received feedback from several CAN-DO property residents:

"[Newton] is a great place to live. I am grateful that my parents have a place they love." - P.S.

"Great to be in a terrific school system. The community is beautiful. The grounds are very green" - X.H.A.

"We Love the location of our home. The community is very multicultural. The neighbors are great, very helpful." - M.H.

"Our lives have been gratefully changed for the better. My children have been able to live and grow as themselves, not having to worry about what color they are wearing, or what area they are walking into... The children are productive members of a community... I have become a successful business owner helping other families in the community... Most of all I feel a sense of peace that is priceless. I am forever grateful to Josephine and CAN-DO for developing affordable housing in the city of Newton for families because I think all children should be able to live in peace." - D.G.R.

8th Annual YIMBY Celebration

CAN-DO held its eighth annual fundraiser, on Sunday, March 6th at the Newton Marriott. The sold-out event, chaired by Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz, (to the right) was attended by over 200 people. Included among the guests were elected officials: Mayor Setti Warren, State Treasurer, Steve Grossman, State legislators Cindy Creem, Ruth Balsler, and Kay Khan. Also in attendance were several Newton Aldermen.

The evening festivities started with a reception and silent auction of items and services that were donated by local businesses and individuals, as well as regional cultural institutions. The variety of items available to the highest bidders was impressive - everything from dinners at local restaurants, to vacation hot spots on the beach and in the mountains, to some hotly contested Boston sports team tickets. Kenneth Jafee of Eastern Bank served as the auctioneer.

Event Emcee, Robin Young of WBUR, formally opened the evening program with introducing Board President Jane Eisenstark who gave welcoming remarks. CAN-DO's Pillar Award recipient was The Village Bank's President and CEO Kenneth Brennan (above right). The award was presented by former award recipient Jason Rosenberg, Esq.



Paul and Laure Gershkowitz, Josephine McNeil, and Kenneth Brennan

The Pillar Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated his/her support for affordable housing in Newton over many years.

Ken and The Village Bank have supported CAN-DO since its inception in 1994 when they funded our very first project, the "Louis Garfield House." Several citations were presented to Ken by the state legislators, and the City of Newton's Board of Aldermen.

During the program, Mayor Setti Warren introduced Congressman Barney Frank who, as he has done in past years, lauded CAN-DO's efforts to increase affordable housing locally. Congressman Frank discussed the need for affordable housing and provided his insights into how affordable housing is important- not just for the recipients of the housing, but for the whole society and economy.

Pearl Street Project Creates Accessible Unit!

CAN-DO's most recent purchase on Pearl Street in Newton Corner is a multi-family wood-frame residence constructed in the 1870's. It is located adjacent to a pocket park on Carleton Street. Renovations will re-configure the dwelling into three two-bedroom units. One of these apartments will be fully accessible for a person with mobility impairment. This unit will include entry and exit ramps, accessible kitchen, bath and closets, meeting current accessibility requirements. Other renovations will include new exit doors, fire shutters, roofing, attic and basement insulation, paving, landscaping, fences, as well as structural and mechanical improvements.



For the first time, CAN-DO is creating units that will be affordable to low-income families who may not have a Section 8 voucher. Construction is expected to commence in October and we are hoping for occupancy early in 2012.

- Jane Eisenstark

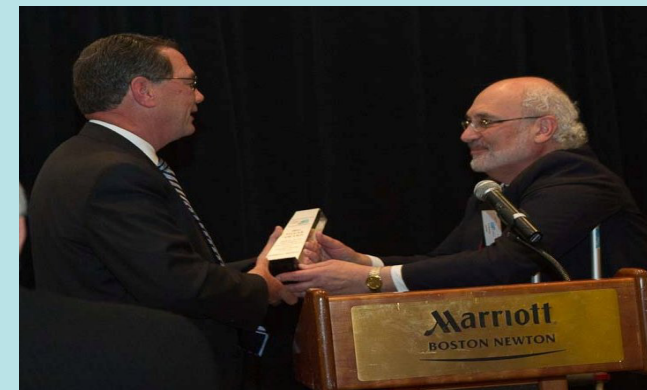
Shop, Dine & Raise Funds for CAN-DO

On August 27th CAN-DO will participate in Macy's 6th Annual "Shop for a Cause" event. We will be selling \$5 "Shop for a Cause" tickets, which entitle the holder to 25% off of purchases on this date at the Macy's Store Natick Collection. You can obtain a ticket by calling Cindy Kane at (617) 610-2291 or by e-mail: CindyKane.Newton@gmail.com.

In September we will be hosting a fund-raising event at Uno's Chicago Grill in Newton Corner. Make sure you get a chance to stop in to eat on Friday, September 16 or Saturday, September 17. You will be able to download the certificate from our web site for your server. The organization will receive 20% of sales made by CAN-DO supporters. You can obtain tickets by calling Cindy Kane at (617) 610-2291 or via e-mail at CindyKane.Newton@gmail.com.

So save the dates and plan to eat & shop in next couple of months and support CAN-DO at the same time.

-Cindy Kane



Kenneth Brennan Receiving Award from Jason Rosenberg

Alan Khazei, Senatorial candidate, author, cofounder of City Year, CEO, and founder of Be the Change, Inc., served as the keynote speaker for the event. He encouraged audience members to be "Big Citizens" by supporting charitable organizations that serve our communities.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Celebration our biggest ever both in numbers in attendance and funds raised. Together we raised approximately \$92,000! We hope that you will join us for the Ninth Annual YIMBY Celebration next year on Sunday March 4th!

-Deanna Reid

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