

A Home & Community

FOR EVERYONE



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness



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For most of us, our home is a safe haven, a refuge where we go to relax and reflect. It is where we share our lives with our family and friends.

Our larger community connects us to something beyond ourselves. Our communities may take the form of a school, religious organization, workplace, team or club. These connections help shape who we are and answer our need for belonging.

When men and women are homeless, they have not only lost a place to live, they have also lost that critical connection to family, friends and the community. They feel isolated and alone.

At Pine Street, our vision and our goal are to assist people in rebuilding their lives. We not only provide the physical structure of a home, but also the support necessary to connect back to a community.

Nearly 900 tenants in Pine Street's 39 residences in Greater Boston, who were once homeless, are now back in a home...and a community. The following are stories of residents in one of these homes.



Flowers planted outside the house help provide a welcoming environment.



A Community COMING TOGETHER



Jewelry-making is one of the activities that brings people together and helps build community.



Tenants participate in monthly community meetings led by a case manager, where they discuss house news.



Residents gather together throughout the year to celebrate their birthdays.



A decorated door reflects a resident's life philosophy and love of home.



ELROY

Getting One's Dignity Back

"Now that I have a home, I take care of my health. I'm responsible and I have my dignity back," says Elroy. "I cherish having that peace of mind—waking up and hearing the birds chirp in the morning—it's the little things that I really appreciate."

These words of wisdom come from Elroy, who has lived at Pine Street's Tuttle Street residence for six years. Originally from North Carolina, Boston has been his home for more than 40 years.

Prior to becoming homeless, Elroy lived in an apartment in Somerville. His building was sold, and that, combined with substance abuse, caused him to become homeless.

"I had to put aside my pride to get the help I needed. I tried to deal with my addiction on my own, but I knew I needed help."

That help came once he arrived at Pine Street Inn. "If it wasn't for Pine Street, I don't know where I'd be today," says Elroy.

After staying in a Pine Street shelter for seven months, Elroy moved to Tuttle Street.

Now, he is able to explore his interests, including jazz, R&B and classical music, as well as photography, reading, fishing and playing chess. He especially likes to get up early in the morning and go for walks. "I really enjoy the quiet at that time of day."

As for the future, Elroy says, "I'm hoping to get my own place again, so I can live my final days in peace."





BECKY

A Safe Home, a Quiet Neighborhood

“I’ve always loved to garden,” says Becky as she picks a few ripe cherry tomatoes. “I grew up in New York State, and my parents had a big garden—I started helping them when I was a young girl.”

Becky came to Boston in 1975, when “rents were low.” She worked in various administrative jobs and raised two children.

Then rents started to rise quickly. She was laid off from a job during an economic downturn and was unable to find work. “I was already struggling because of the high cost of living in Boston—it was hard to save money.” Eventually, after exhausting her unemployment benefits, Becky became homeless.

She started drinking and wound up on the streets for several years. She remembers those years as being really tough. “I would never want to go through that again,” she says.

Becky has been sober and living at Tuttle Street for six years now. “I am so grateful to be living in a safe home in a nice, quiet neighborhood,” she says.

Each year, she has slowly expanded the garden. “This summer I grew kale, tomatoes, zucchini, peppers and tomatillos,” she says. “I love to cook with the vegetables from the garden.”

“Gardening is a nice way to spend time outside, and it’s something that gets results. Lots of people from the neighborhood come by and watch me work—and offer advice.”

Now Becky has something else to be grateful for. She recently became a first-time grandmother and looks forward to getting to know her new granddaughter.



LARRY

Living a Good Life

“Being part of the community here, it’s like being family,” says Larry with a big smile on his face. For Larry, that pretty much says it all.

A 74-year-old Vietnam veteran, Larry came back from the war “without a scratch,” only to face some serious challenges stateside: first, he was involved in a serious car accident, and later he was stabbed.

Originally from Louisiana, Larry had worked on oil rigs for many years. But as rigs started shutting down and laying people off, he decided to move north and eventually settled in Boston.

With his health beginning to deteriorate, Larry was unable to work, and found himself homeless.

He stayed at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans for a while, but his goal was to find a permanent residence where he could better take care of himself and his health issues.

Larry has lived at Pine Street’s home on Tuttle Street for more than 16 years. “My life is great now,” he says. “I’ve been here so long I’m growing cobwebs,” he adds with a chuckle.

“My goal is to stay healthy. I want to live a good life and live to be 100. My mother and grandmother both lived to 86—if I get that far, I’ll be happy.”



THERESA

Give Respect, Get Respect

“I love the tenants and neighbors here,” Theresa says with a big smile. “I have friends in the house and up and down the street. We always say ‘hi’ and have good conversations.”

Originally from Boston, Theresa had been living in western Massachusetts, but came back to Boston to help care for a family member. When that family member suddenly asked her to move out, Theresa was left with nowhere to go.

While staying at the Women’s Inn for seven months, Theresa focused on moving forward, participating in Pine Street’s housekeeping and food services training programs, all the time committed to finding housing.

Theresa has lived at Tuttle Street for three years. Her room is covered with family photos, drawings by her grand niece and nephew, and inspirational quotes of all kinds. Her favorite saying is “You give respect, you get respect,” something she lives by.

She has many interests: “I do abstract oil paintings—I sold a couple of my paintings at South End Open Studios,” she says proudly. “I also love poetry, creative writing and cooking. I’m always doing something.”

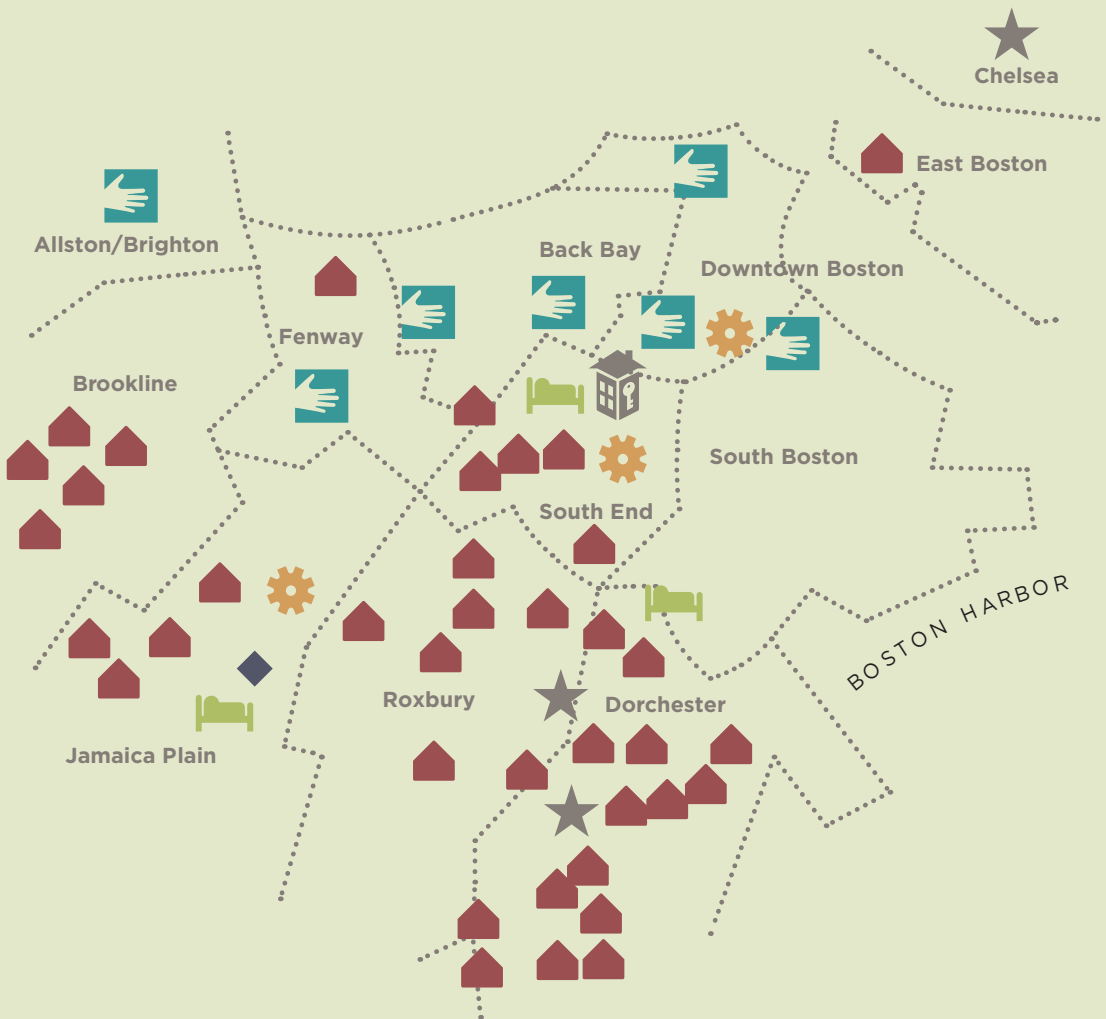
Theresa’s goal is to get her own apartment and be independent again. “Pine Street Inn did a lot for me, and I appreciate everything. It’s all about respect, good conversations, good advice.”

“I’ve been on the path to getting my life back; it’s one step at a time. I’m a very positive person—I know I’m going to make it!”



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Our Impact ON THE COMMUNITY



1,600 individuals daily/9,000 individuals annually



Pine Street Inn Headquarters,
444 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA



Permanent Supportive Housing



Emergency Shelter



Street Outreach



Job Training & Placement



Recovery Program



Veterans' Program

