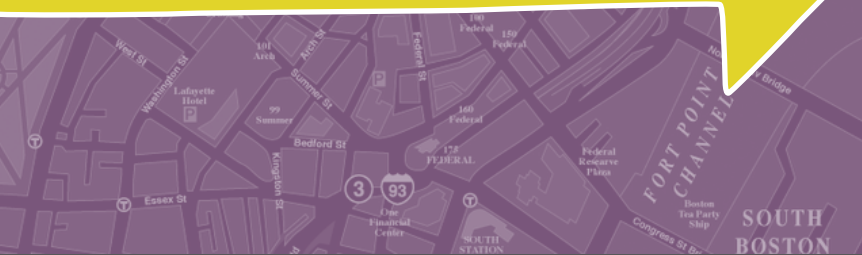




MANY ROADS HOME



Pine Street Inn
Ending Homelessness



How and why do people become homeless? This is a complex question with no single, simple answer.

One major factor is the lack of affordable housing, particularly in an expensive area like Greater Boston. Other factors include loss of a job, medical issues, mental illness or addiction. Often, it is a combination of these. No one plans to be homeless; most people think it will never happen to them.

Each individual has his or her own set of circumstances and unique journey. At Pine Street, our staff works with each man and woman, helping them find their own road home. It takes patience, persistence, commitment and hard work, both on the part of staff and guests to find their way home.



EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STORIES DEMONSTRATES THAT THERE ARE “MANY ROADS HOME.”



JOSE

Jose expresses his deep gratitude as he shows off his new home. **“I love my place. I used to feel stranded and stigmatized,”** he says. **“Now I feel safe and welcome.”**

Once married with a son who died in an accident in 1987, Jose fell into a deep depression and his life started to spiral downward. Divorce and loss of his home then followed.

Disabled with mental health challenges since then, he has also coped with cancer and will soon need a liver transplant.

In and out of shelters over the years, Jose came to Pine Street, where he says staff **“helped me out and showed me the way.”**

Now that Jose no longer has to worry about where he will sleep at night, he can focus on his health.

The case managers and the other tenants have provided Jose with a sense of community – and hope.

MICHELE



Before Michele moved into housing, she cycled between various shelters and friends' houses. She had worked as a hairdresser for 33 years, which led to problems with her back, then surgery, then painkillers – then homelessness.

Now that she has a place to call home, Michele is at peace. **“I can stay in during the cold winter months, I can eat when I want, I can reflect,”** she says.

Michele considers herself a creative person, and she has taken up drawing, although she misses the creativity of hairstyling. **“I would rather be able to work.”**

She is truly thankful for all she has, and has a message for the donors and all those who made her housing possible. **“I know this was done out of love,”** Michele says with a smile.

VICTOR

Victor sits on the couch in his apartment and talks as he crochets a green and white afghan.

“Crocheting helps me relax,” he says. **“I have been busy making gifts for some of the other tenants here.”**

Victor worked in restaurants for many years, but was hit by a trolley in 2006, which left him disabled and unable to work.

Then the building he lived in was turned into a condominium, and that is when he landed on the street.

He was homeless and struggling for six years. Now, with the stability of housing, Victor is able to take better care of himself. **“I can make regular medical appointments and stay on top of my health.”**

Along with crocheting, cooking remains a favorite pastime. **“I like to cook,”** he says. **“My specialties are chili and tuna noodle casserole – sometimes I share with the other tenants here.”**





ELIZABETH

Homeless for four years, Elizabeth was in and out of shelters and hospitals. Prior to that, she had lived in Cambridge, but lost her place when her medical and mental health issues made it impossible for her to work.

Life was challenging, going from place to place, with no stability. Elizabeth's life began to change for the better when she began working with Pine Street staff. They helped her apply for disability benefits and find a place to live.

She is thrilled to finally have a place to call home. **"My jaw dropped when I saw this place,"** she says. **"I couldn't believe how wonderful it was."**

"Now I have a roof over my head and my own bathroom. I love it here." Sometimes it's the little things that mean so much: **"I am excited just to be able to buy my own toilet paper,"** she says, laughing.

DONALD

Donald grew up in Boston, and had a full life: he was an Army veteran, then he married and had two children. He worked as a truck driver, doing long hauls.

He started doing drugs to combat the boredom of the road and became addicted. Then he got divorced. He also developed serious diabetes and other health issues. His downward slide continued and he wound up homeless.

"I never thought I would be homeless, but I basically brought my situation on myself," he reflects.

Donald's health problems caused him to wind up in respite care, and then he was given a medical bed at Pine Street. But he and his case manager knew that housing would be the best place for him to address his health issues.

Now that he has a place to live, Donald is content.

"I love living here,"

he says with a smile.

"And I am feeling so much better."

"Everyone gets along and the staff is just great. They go out of their way to help you."



HELPING MEN AND WOMEN NAVIGATE THE WAY



Staff at Pine Street help men and women navigate the road home. Case managers work closely with tenants, connecting them with resources in the community like healthcare, counseling, job training and volunteer opportunities. Their goal is to help tenants build stability and become part of the community again.



MELODY

Melody (on the right) considers herself a champion of people who are facing major life challenges. **“Those are the people who need love and support the most,”** she says.

Sometimes it can be very difficult for people to move forward. **“So many of the people we work with have experienced such trauma in their lives,”** she adds.

Her goal is to get to know people and to be there for them – but not to push too hard. Her training and experience help her know when people are ready to take next steps.

“I try to be a support system, to be there when they experience bumps on the road, to let them know that somebody cares. It can be challenging, but I can’t think of anything else I’d rather do.”



LARANDE

“My goal is to help people who don’t have a voice,” says Larande (on the left), who works as a case manager in Pine Street’s housing.

Larande has worked in human services for her entire career: with children, elderly people and now, homeless men and women.

Working with those who are facing major challenges in their lives has given her valuable perspective: **“You realize that homelessness can happen to anyone. People can lose a job, get divorced, have medical problems, get evicted. It’s so rewarding to help people get back on track,”** she says.

Her goal is to build relationships of trust, to support people in figuring out what they want out of life.

“It’s so exciting when someone finally has a home,” she says. **“But it can also be a struggle. When people are newly housed, they have to get used to things most of us take for granted: sleeping, cooking, taking care of their health.”**








She does everything she can to connect tenants with medical and mental health assistance, food pantries, transportation and any other supports they may need.

“I love what I do,” says Larande with a smile.

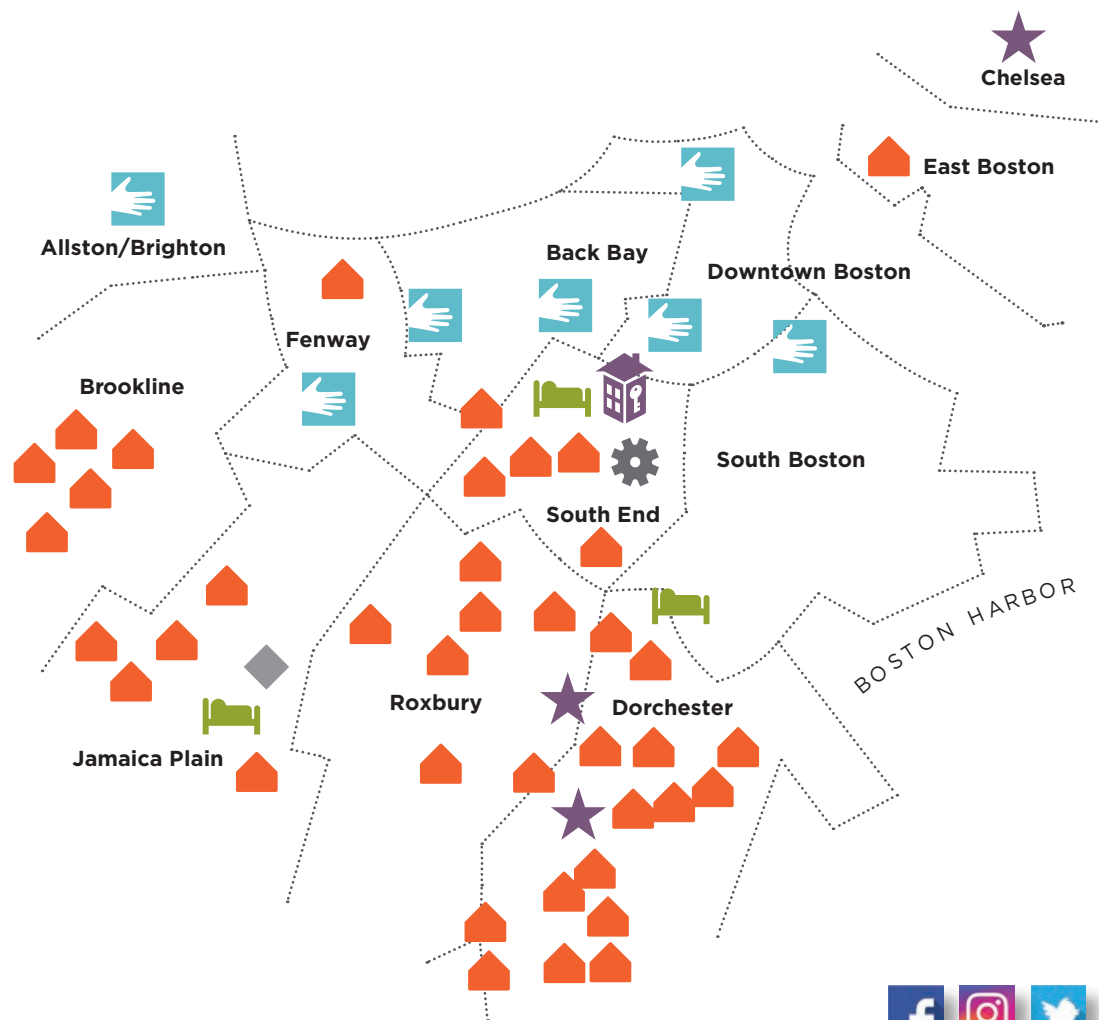
WITH THE SUPPORT OF LARANDE AND MELODY,
JOSE, MICHELE, VICTOR, ELIZABETH AND DONALD HAVE ALL FOUND THEIR ROAD HOME.





-  Pine Street Inn Headquarters, 444 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA
-  Permanent Supportive Housing
-  Emergency Shelter
-  Street Outreach
-  Job Training
-  Recovery Program
-  Veterans' Program

REACHING MORE THAN 1,900 MEN AND WOMEN EACH DAY



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