Hearth Celebration & Award Gala

October 16, 2017, Monday 6:30 PM
Fairmont Copley Hotel

Years Ending Elder Homelessness
Hearth's newest project, a 54 unit building is comprised of 52 one-bedroom units and two studios. Seven of these units are set aside for homeless individuals. It will provide affordable, service enriched housing designed to meet current market standards and the unique needs of elderly residents. Scheduled to open in 2019.

Hearth at Four Corners, 16 Ronald Street Dorchester, MA

Coming Soon

Congratulations to
Mayor Martin J. Walsh
and
Hearth

Both individually and together, you've shown what compassion and commitment can do to improve the lives of seniors and people in Boston who suffered from chronic homelessness. We applaud and share your values of doing whatever can be done to help those who are most vulnerable to misfortune or abuse.

New England Regional Council of Carpenters

NERCC.org
Celebration and Award Gala
25 years ending elder homelessness

WELCOME
Robert Wadsworth | Chairman of the Board, Hearth
Mark Hinderlie | President and CEO, Hearth

Dinner

AWARD PRESENTATION
Thomas Flynn | Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Carpenters Local 67, New England Regional Council of Carpenters

AWARD PRESENTERS
Sandy Albright, Anna Bissonnette, Ellen Feingold | Founders of Hearth

2017 ANNA BISSONNETTE AWARD RECIPIENT
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Dessert

CELEBRATION PRESENTATION
Ellen Feingold | Hearth Founder
Barney Frank | Former U.S. Representative
Anna Bissonnette | Hearth Founder

HOUSEWARMING
Bob Halloran | WCVB
Donald Wilkins | Former Hearth Client and Board of Director
ABOUT HEARTH: Hearth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving a community of men and women in the Greater Boston area who are at least 50 years old and homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Hearth’s mission to eliminate elder homelessness is accomplished through a unique blend of prevention, placement, and housing programs all designed to help elders find and succeed in homes of their own.

To this end, all housing operated by Hearth provides a creative array of supportive services that assist residents to age with dignity regardless of their special medical, mental health, or social needs. Hearth’s comprehensive program of services addresses the needs of vulnerable older adults so that they can live with relative independence in community settings, as they continue to age.

Hearth’s primary programs are service-enriched, affordable housing for low income and formerly homeless elders, and outreach and housing search assistance for homeless and at-risk older adults. Hearth’s Outreach Program provides housing search and stabilization services to homeless older adults and homelessness prevention services to those facing housing instability.

Hearth currently owns or operates 188 units of permanent, service-enriched housing in seven locations within the Greater Boston area and in 2019 we will open our eighth site, Hearth at Four Corners and add an additional 54 units.
Welcome to Hearth’s Celebration and Award Gala!

We’re so excited to celebrate our 25th year of bringing seniors home and we are especially excited to be sharing this celebration with you. This evening’s event allows us to recognize our seven founders, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and also gives us the opportunity to highlight the critical importance of Hearth’s mission to end elder homelessness.

Hearth would not be possible without the vision, determination, and compassion of seven incredible women: Sandra Albright, Anna Bissonnette, Joanne Bluestone, Ruth Cowin, Ellen Feingold, Elsie Frank, and Diana Laskin Siegal. Their mission to house homeless elders and provide them with supportive services to allow them to age safely and with dignity has brought us to where we are in our amazing 25-year history.

What makes this day so exciting, to me, is that we are beginning to see our way to the finish line. We know housing first ends homelessness and our team of social workers, nurses, substance abuse counselors, program managers, personal homecare assistants, and administrative staff work tirelessly to ensure that our clients and residents find safe and affordable housing and maintain that housing. Furthermore, our accomplishments are made possible by the many partner agencies we work with on a local and national level.

Our strongest partner in ending homelessness is the City of Boston and we are honored to present Mayor Martin J. Walsh with the Anna Bissonnette Award for his work to create more affordable housing and to end all chronic homelessness with Boston’s Way Home. Mayor, your work is having a profound and direct impact on changing the lives of Boston’s most vulnerable populations. From all of us here tonight, thank you.

Besides being a day of celebration, let’s join together to make it even more profoundly a day of recommitment and reengagement in this work, and bring us to that day when all of our seniors don’t have to worry about where they will sleep because beyond just a house, they have a home.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and most importantly, our older adults, thank you for joining us this evening. Tonight, would not be possible without our sponsors and supporters, led by Tom Flynn and the New England Carpenters Labor Management Program and New England Regional Council of Carpenters, and Greg Ansin. In addition, we would like to thank Eastern Bank and Edrington American for their leading gifts and to our Silver and Bronze Sponsors for creating a broad foundation on which we have built a successful event. Thanks to you all! Together we can end elder homelessness.

Sincerely,
Mark Hinderlie, President and CEO
The Committee to End Elder Homelessness is a coalition of activists and service providers in Boston dedicated to planning solutions for vulnerable homeless elders. The Committee coalesced following a Massachusetts Public Health Association sponsored conference organized in Fall 1990 to develop a five year plan to eliminate homelessness among the elderly. The Committee has crafted three fold mission:

- to publicize the problem of homelessness among the elderly;
- to promote early identification of elderly at risk of becoming homeless;
- to develop a variety of housing and social service options to suit the varying needs of the elderly who are at risk of homelessness or presently without housing.

With leadership from Anna Bissonnette, advocate and Director of a publicly and privately funded transitional program for homeless elders in Boston, the Committee has initiated its first project: permanent housing for 10 elder women in a shared living program with support services. Additional first year activities include identification of and case management services to 40 elder homeless men and women with the goal of placement in vacant low income elder housing.

A Boston Globe article last winter estimated “800 to 1,000 elders living in shelter, on the street or in temporary housing because of federal cuts in housing and gentrification of parts of the city where many elders lived in boarding houses or other low-income homes. Ten years ago, only 300 elders were counted among Boston’s homeless.” Increasing the City’s supply of congregate housing units (private bedrooms with shared kitchens and living rooms and supportive services) has been initiated through Mayor Flynn’s 1,000 Rooms Campaign. The Committee to End Elder Homelessness has set a goal of placing 500 homeless elders in safe, affordable housing in five years.

The Committee to End Elder Homelessness, Inc., a non-profit charitable and educational corporation, was created by several members of the larger coalition to govern the programs and financial affairs of the organization, including ownership and management of the shared living program at 4 Bishop Street in Jamaica Plain. The Board of Directors of the corporation have assembled a team of professionals to assist them in developing permanent housing and support services. The team includes pro bono legal services from Roche, Carens & DeGiacomo and fee for service contracts with the Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development, Renwood Companies, and Buck, Smith, & McAvoy Architects, Inc.

The Committee to End Elder Homelessness is seeking financial support from private and public sources to acquire and renovate the shared living residence located at 4 Bishop Street in Jamaica Plain and to develop effective social services for the residents and other homeless elders. These first year activities require a total budget of $546,000. To date the organization has commitments of $468,000 from public and private sources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1991-1992

ANNA BISSONNETTE is Associate Director of the University Hospital Home Medical Service, an Associate Professor at the Boston University School of Medicine, and Assistant Director, Boston University Gerontology Center. She is also Director of the Elders Living at Home Program (a multi-agency program working to serve homeless or potentially homeless elders), and serves on the board or as a committee member of a number of other Boston area organizations concerned with elder housing and health issues. Her current activities focus on advocacy for the elderly, on health care for the elderly and community activism on quality of life of aging people. Ms. Bissonnette received her diploma from St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing in Kankakee, Illinois in 1955; a B.S. degree in Nursing from Boston College in 1966; and a M.S. degree in Community Health Nursing—Gerontology from Boston University in 1969.

JOANNE B. BLUESTONE has worked in Boston’s health care field for 45 years. Currently she is Vice-President for Operations at the Hebrew Rehabilitation
Center for the Aged, which provides care for chronically ill elderly people, operates elderly housing facilities and is building a continuing care retirement community. Prior to her present position, she was the Associate Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare. She has also been a Senior Research Associate at the Brandeis University Health Policy Center, Associate Director for Patient and Clinical Services at Boston’s Children’s Hospital, Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Executive Director of the Health Planning Council for Greater Boston. Mrs Bluestone has served on many boards, committees and commissions and has received numerous awards and honors for her service in the health care community.

DIANA LASKIN is a co-author of *Ourselves, Growing Older: Women Aging with Knowledge and Power*, a best selling book on midlife and older women’s health and living issues published by Simon & Schuster in 1987. For 25 years she has worked in health planning and public health program development. Currently, she is Director of Education for the Massachusetts Public Health Associates and serves as a consumer representative on the Special Commission on the Practice of Nursing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She started the Cancer Information Service in Massachusetts and has served on many local and state committees. Ms. Siegal has done graduate work and research in clinical psychology and holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration.

ELLEN FEINGOLD is President, Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, a non-sectarian non-profit organization which develops, owns and manages 934 units of housing for low-income elderly in Boston and Newton. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Low Income Housing Coalition and is chair of the Legislative Committee of the New England Elderly Housing Association and of the Public Policy Committee of the North American Association of Jewish Homes and Housing for the Aged. Her previous positions include the University of Massachusetts, Harvard and Radcliffe, the U.S. Department of Transportation, a private planning/architecture firm, and with various civil rights and housing groups. She has been appointed to many national, state and local advisory committees, has published in scholarly journals and delivered speeches at elderly housing conferences.

SANDRA ALBRIGHT is Executive Director, Kit Clark Senior House, a voluntary, community-based, long term care agency serving more than one-third of Boston’s elderly residents. Her administrative responsibilities include nutrition, transportation, home care, adult day health, social day care, community mental health, alcoholism, senior center, home repair, housing, Alzheimers, and homeless programs. Prior to her present position she has held management jobs with Medical East Community Health Plan and at the Little House, FDNH, Inc., Dorchester. She holds a Certificate of Advanced Study from the Radcliffe Management Program and a M.S.W. from the University of Michigan and has taught at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston University School of Social Work and the Boston City Hospital Alcoholism Program.

RUTH COWIN has had wide experience as a social worker and administrator of social service departments in several teaching hospitals. She also developed the social work program at the Martha Eliot Family Health Center. Mrs. Cowin has been associated with the Harvard School of Public Health and the Boston University School of Social Work where she helped develop a dual degree program in social work and public health and where, for the past fifteen years, has been a faculty advisor to students. She has a B.S. from Simmons College and a M.S. from the Simmons College School of Social Work.

ELSIE FRANK is a longtime community activist presently serving as President of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans and as President of the Advisory council to the Commission of Affairs of the Elderly of Boston. In addition, she is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. She is also a Board Member of Operations ABLE, the Urban Medical Group, Massachusetts Council of Homemakers/Home Health Aides, Boston Aging Concerns-YOU and the Elderly Task Force, Jewish Community Relations Council. Mrs. Frank regularly writes a column for *The Older American*, published by the Massachusetts Association of the Older Americans. She has received numerous awards for her advocacy on behalf of the elderly, including a Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Massachusetts Gerontology Center.
Hearth is proud to honor Mayor Martin J. Walsh as the first ever recipient of the Anna Bissonnette Award for his countless efforts to make Boston the best city and place to live for our growing population of older adults and for his efforts to end chronic homelessness.

A proud product of the City of Boston, Mayor Walsh is an ardent advocate for all its citizens, especially its seniors. Prior to becoming Boston’s 54th Mayor, Mayor Walsh was a labor organizer and served 17 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. His commitments to creating more affordable housing, the Age-Friendly Boston Initiative, and ending chronic homelessness with Boston’s Way Home, has made the Mayor a champion for Boston’s seniors ensuring they live their lives safely and with dignity.

Mayor Walsh’s goal to end all chronic homelessness with Boston’s Way Home serves as a model for other cities across America and gives hope to those in Boston that they will find a home in the very near future. Since the plan’s inception in 2014, Mayor Walsh has helped over 1,000 formerly homeless individuals find homes of their own and has effectively ended chronic veteran homelessness in Boston.

The Mayor’s compassion, dedication, and determination are changing the lives of Boston’s senior citizens. It is with great hope and pride we honor him tonight with this distinguished award. Thank you for being their number one advocate and for creating a better and safer place for them to live.

This award is named after founder, Anna Bissonnette, a remarkable woman and former Boston Medical Center nurse, who recognized that elder homelessness was not understood as a distinct problem requiring tailored solutions. In keeping with Anna’s spirit and belief in helping this often-forgotten population, the award is bestowed upon an individual that has had a profound and direct impact on changing the lives of Boston’s homeless and at-risk populations.
CELEBRATION & AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michealle Larkins, Co-Chair
Thomas Flynn, Co-Chair
Anna Bissonnette
Catherine Dunham
Ellen Feingold

Pamela Feingold
Linda Dorcena Forry
Angela Menino
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This event is made possible through the generous donations and support of our sponsors. We extend our most heartfelt appreciation to the following.

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Hearth Celebration & Award Gala 2017
LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

When I came to Hearth at Olmsted almost two years ago, my health was poor. Everybody, including myself, thought my time had come. I could hardly walk. For this reason, one day I accidentally fell in my apartment and while lying immobile on the floor had to pull the emergency cord to call for help. The staff at Hearth quickly responded, and with care and efficiency dispatched me to Brigham and Women’s Hospital where I underwent hip surgery.

During my one month rehab at the Spaulding Hospital in Charlestown, the staff and top management of Hearth kept constant contact with encouraging words of support.

You should see me now.

I can ambulate, sometimes audaciously without a cane! I look forward to the lunches at the dining room, sharing a wholesome meal with my fellow residents, from all walks of life. I must say that from the start of my stay in this residence the staff and top management of Hearth have never failed to be very caring and kind. I have nothing but praise and thanks for the way they try to make things pleasant and trouble-free. It is obvious that they make every effort to give us residents many opportunities, through programmed activities, to be more human, busy and entertained. It enables us to feel we belong to a community despite our relative isolation. No matter how different we are from each other, my fellow residents have been good neighbors. For this, smiles and laughter are better than anything else. As the sole Asian and Pacific Islander on board, it has contributed much of the feeling of living among good friends in a live, multi-cultural and multi-racial community. If I had my way I’d like to stay much longer, but that is not for me to say, except that I will tell everyone that while I shall soon be 90, my aim is to reach 100! One secret is to leave the reaper in stitches, distracted, unable to do his job. Everyday I count my blessings for the opportunity of living in a safe, respectful, and welcoming place I now call HOME.

Ruben S. Cuyugan, Hearth at Olmsted Green
In Memory of Joanne B. Bluestone
1925–2012

As a Founder of Hearth,
Joanne would have loved being here tonight
to celebrate Hearth,
to honor Mayor Martin J. Walsh,
and to see her wonderful friends and colleagues.

Joanne spent her career helping people less fortunate than herself. She worked tirelessly as a Boston Children’s Hospital administrator, Director of the Massachusetts Medicaid Department, Researcher and Instructor of healthcare policy for the aged at Brandeis University, Heller school of Public Policy, and as a Vice President at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center.

In the final chapter of her work life she became interested in the elderly homeless population and worked with the other Founders to create Hearth. She would have been so proud to see the scope, legacy, and future of this fine organization.

Deborah Bluestone and Rebecca Epstein
and family
During her long career as a social worker, Ruth Cowin did many things — practitioner in hospital settings, administrator, teacher. But the creation of Hearth, then the Committee to End Elder Homelessness, and the work of this organization to which she contributed into her nineties, represented the kind of cause to which she was most committed: the development and use of resources targeted at those in a vulnerable population who can make effective use of those resources. Her insistence that funds raised to help others be expended in intelligent ways that produce a desirable result never wavered, and she would be proud of the accomplishments of this organization and its leadership.

Our thanks and congratulations to Mayor Walsh and to all who have made Hearth’s success possible.

William and Judith Cowin and family
The Red Sox Foundation is proud to support The 25th Anniversary of Hearth

Vinfen proudly supports Hearth

Mary Byrne and Mark Hinderlie congratulate Hearth on 25 years and counting of housing homeless seniors, Mayor Walsh for his passionate commitment to our work, and to Hearth’s founders, especially Anna Bissonnette and Ellen Feingold for showing us the way.

Vinfen transforms lives by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to learn, thrive, and achieve their goals. Our services and advocacy promote the recovery, resiliency, habilitation and self-determination of the people we serve. As a human services leader, we strive to be the provider, employer, and partner of choice.

www.vinfen.org
We have been on the journey for 20 of them, and what an enjoyable, gratifying and productive journey it has been.

We are so proud & grateful for everyone who participated along the way.

Congratulations to all!

-Sue Forti & Bob Houlihan

We proudly celebrate 25 years of Hearth, Inc. and congratulate Mayor Martin J. Walsh on receiving the Anna Bissonnette Award!

Doug Poutasse and Bentall Kennedy thank Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston for their support in ending homelessness.
A reason to celebrate

Thank you for 25 years of dedication, commitment and compassion.

Gratitude and appreciation to founders
Anna Bissonnette, Ellen Feingold, Elsie Frank,
Diana Laskin Siegal, Sandra Albright, Joanne Bluestone and Ruth Cowin

Congratulations to Anna Bissonnette
Award recipient Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of HEARTH.

We proudly support the 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration.

Congratulations to THE HONORABLE MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH and HEARTH’S FOUNDERS.
Blue Hills Bank is proud to support Hearth and their mission to end elder homelessness.

Heartfelt thanks to the founders, and to all who have followed in their footsteps to champion, house, and care for our vulnerable elders.

Congratulations to Hearth on twenty-five magnificent years!

Marilyn Miller

Morgan Brown & Joy Congratulates Hearth on 25 Years of Amazing Work!
Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers for 25 years of faithful service.

We could not have accomplished this without a great team; from our seven dynamic founders to all our Board members through the years, thank you.

And thank you Mayor Walsh for supporting Hearth and caring for our seniors.

Love
Anna Bissonnette
and
Marion Kenneally

AARP is in Massachusetts creating real, meaningful change. We’re proud to help all our communities become the best they can be. Like providing family caregivers with tips to take care of loved ones, helping to make our communities more livable and hosting fun, informative events all across the state.

If you don’t think Real Possibilities when you think AARP, then you don’t know “aarp.”

Get to know us at aarp.org/ma
We are so proud to partner with Hearth in creating the best senior housing for our precious elders.

Making Community, Dignity, and Independence Affordable for All

Happy 25th Anniversary Celebration!
Congratulations to the honorees
MAYOR WALSH
and
THE FOUNDERS OF HEARTH.

Louisa and Kevin McCall and Paradigm Properties are proud to support Hearth and its commitment to ending elder homelessness.

Paradigm Properties
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Investing in Community, Building on Value:
Congratulations Hearth on 25 years of exceptional service and compassion for our elders.

From Dr. Jennifer Bottomley, Associate Professor, Simmons College, School of Physical Therapy

Salutes Hearth, Its Seven Founders and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh

2017 Anna Bissonnette Award Recipient

csh.org
Edrington Americas thanks, Hearth and Hearth Shares for their hard work and dedication to eliminating homelessness in the Greater Boston area.

We share in your commitment to support our local community.

For more information please go to edrington.com

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I am so proud of Hearth and what together we have accomplished in these 25 years.

Congratulations to everyone who has supported this wonderful endeavor — starting with the RESIDENTS who give life to the buildings, to the STAFF who do the incredible work of making Hearth buildings true communities, to the ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS, BUILDERS, and other PROFESSIONALS who have helped create these unique places, and to the BOARD and the leadership it has provided.

Every one of us can be proud of Hearth tonight!

Ellen Feingold