



# HomeStart

## **Fall 2022 | Celebrating New Beginnings**

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### **FROM HERE TO OHIO: HOMESTART PARTNERS WITH GREENLIGHT FUND TO REPLICATE "RENEW COLLABORATIVE" EVICTION PREVENTION INITIATIVE IN CINCINNATI**

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The Greenlight Fund's approach to making change is unique- It partners with a city's residents to learn what their most pressing concern is, then investigates what other cities are doing across the country in an effort to find and then replicate the most effective solution.

For the City of Cincinnati, that issue has been the impact of evictions on their community. Before the pandemic, the local eviction filing rate was higher than the national average and it is now steadily rising back to pre-pandemic levels, due in part to Federal COVID emergency rental assistance ending. If a household has an emergency that causes them to miss even one month's rent, they are vulnerable to nonpayment eviction and the ensuing avalanche of

negative repercussions that can follow- trauma, interrupted employment, and long-lasting impacts on children's learning, health and mental well-being.

When Greenlight searched the country for the most effective way to prevent evictions, they found HomeStart. HomeStart's "**Renew Collaborative**" eviction prevention model helps tenants facing eviction to develop a financial blueprint that identifies the driver of back-rent, while also paying back a portion of the debt to the property provider.

"Evictions are a stain on a tenant's record that is nearly impossible to erase, even if a tenant made good on the obligations. Supporting the expansion of HomeStart's Renew Collaborative was simple because it addresses the needs of the tenants and the needs of the property owners. HomeStart will build an economically sustainable and scalable initiative to keep more Hamilton County families housed," said Pavan Parikh, Clerk of Courts for Hamilton County, which operates the Help Center for Hamilton County Municipal Court.



*Kelly Mulligan, HomeStart's Chief Programs Officer (fourth from right), and Maggie Howard, Director of Program Design and Evaluation (third from right) join local leaders in Cincinnati at the launch of the Renew Collaborative's expansion to the region.*

The Renew Collaborative came about as a result of HomeStart's Eviction Prevention program's early work assisting tenants facing eviction from Boston Housing Authority (BHA) properties. Prevention advocates noticed that the expense of BHA executing a non-payment eviction is three to five times more costly than the expense of stopping the eviction and keeping the tenant housed. With the help of HomeStart's community of supporters, philanthropic grants, and the collaboration of local management companies, HomeStart was able to prove that property owners could save money by financially supporting the Renew Collaborative eviction prevention program.

Over 4,000 families have been kept safe from eviction thanks to the Eviction Prevention program and the cost savings have been calculated at over \$16M to property owners since 2008. The Renew Collaborative started in Boston and Cambridge and has already expanded to three regions across Massachusetts, with local nonprofit partners implementing the program in each region. The Renew Collaborative's replication in Ohio is a groundbreaking first step towards its nationwide expansion, which would help prevent nonpayment evictions throughout the country.

Matt Pritchard, HomeStart's Executive Director shared, "Hamilton County's non-profit, business, government, health care and community leaders want to bring an end to the nonpayment eviction crisis, creating an extraordinary opportunity to bring Renew Collaborative to the region, Ohio, and beyond. HomeStart's success has shown we can improve the lives of families in the most precarious situations."

### [Read More About the Expansion](#)

## **COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN FOR CHAF RAISES OVER \$200K FOR HELPING NEIGHBORS TRANSITION OUT OF HOMELESSNESS**

The Community Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) is a vital emergency assistance fund to help HomeStart's clients in Cambridge and Boston clear the final financial hurdles standing between homelessness and a place to live. It started in 1999 as a combined effort between local Cambridge banks, businesses, and members of the real estate community. In 2021, given the profound economic hardships brought on by COVID, a group of real estate agents envisioned a new way to raise money for CHAF, launching the Community Campaign for CHAF. Spear-headed by Debbie Lewis and Holden Lewis of Compass Real Estate's Denman/Drapkin Group, they united across companies to raise \$100,000.

This year they came back with a bigger goal- rallying to raise \$150,000 for helping neighbors in crisis move into a safe, stable home. **And they did it!!**

Combined with gifts from regional banks and local businesses, this year's Community Campaign for CHAF raised **over \$200,000!** When asked why she was driven to launch the Community Campaign for CHAF, Debbie Lewis reflected, "there are so many things we don't have control over, but CHAF is a concrete solution to a problem, which is something I can do; something that **we can all do** to help make a difference."



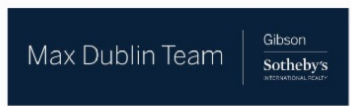


# Community Campaign for C·H·A·F

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOME-AT-LAST



## THANK YOU TO THE CAMPAIGN'S LEADING FUNDRAISERS!



Anne Fantasia



**SIGN UPS HAVE BEGUN FOR THIS YEAR'S ICYCLE!**

# Save the Dates!



Wed, 2/15/23  
@ Intl. Place  
1pm - 6pm



Thurs, 2/16/23  
@ Intl. Place  
7am - 6pm



Fri, 2/17/23  
@ Kendall Square  
12pm - 5pm

ICycle is Greater Boston's only *outdoor* winter spin-a-thon, HomeStart's biggest annual fundraiser, and a whole lot of fun!

Over three days and two locations (**Wednesday 2/15 + Thursday 2/16** outside One International Place in Boston's Financial District and **Friday 2/17** outside Boston Marriott Cambridge in Kendall Square) teams will be braving 30 minute spin classes taught outside under a tent to raise money for ending and preventing homelessness.

Mascots from Boston's sports teams pay a visit, news anchors stop by to ride, and it's always a memorable, meaningful, high-energy event.

There are only a few available time-slots left, so if you're interested in riding with a team of friends or coworkers, contact Carrie Neff ([neff@homestart.org](mailto:neff@homestart.org)) to reserve a time and **[sign up today](#)**.



## Trevor Layden

"I am excited to be running my first marathon in support of an incredible non-profit, HomeStart. Over the last 25 years, HomeStart has helped over 14,000 individuals experiencing homelessness to find and move into a place of their own.

They don't stop at helping someone to get into an apartment, either. Recognizing that we all need a support network to thrive, they also provide ongoing wrap-around supportive services for clients who've experienced chronic homelessness, to help them remain stably in their homes. They also work to prevent people from ever

experiencing homelessness through their eviction prevention program, which has helped nearly 4,000 families in the Greater Boston area! If you can, please donate to my fundraising project on GivenGain!"

**Support Trevor's Boston Marathon Run for HomeStart**



## Jack Mahoney

"As someone who has always had a passion for the cause of ending homelessness, I've admired HomeStart's work to prevent homelessness for many years now. Now, I'm running the Boston Marathon® to raise money for it! I could not be more thrilled to challenge myself while raising money for an amazing cause that is near and dear to my heart.

HomeStart is a fantastic organization that my family has worked very closely with for years now. I strongly believe in their mission to not only help community members experiencing homelessness obtain and maintain housing, but to also help families avoid eviction in the first place. HomeStart's focus on preventing families and individuals from experiencing the destabilizing trauma of eviction through advocacy, financial assistance,

and ongoing supportive services is stabilizing communities and truly changing lives. It is amazing to see how many lives HomeStart has changed for the better, and hopefully with your help, we can continue that herculean effort.

This work could not be more important. Please join me in supporting HomeStart!"

**Support Jack's Boston Marathon Run for HomeStart**

## **WHAT HOME MAKES POSSIBLE: SASHA'S STORY OF A MOTHER'S UNSTOPPABLE LOVE**

Determined to never give up, Sasha had been homeless– alternating between transitional shelters and relatives' overcrowded apartments– for five years before she came to stay at Rosie's Place, where she first met her HomeStart Housing Search Advocates.

Driving her determination was a mother's love, **"I needed an apartment so that I could be reunited with my son. He's going to be ten years old this year and he lives in the state of Florida with family. He's going to school there and gets great grades. Without having a place... I'm the type of mom, I wasn't going to be selfish to keep him. He has stability. He has family there who are loving and taking care of him. I never thought it would take this long, but I remember what I prayed for. I prayed for stability. I prayed to have a place of my own."**

Together, Sasha and her advocates, Gris and Denise, created a search plan, connected to resources who could help furnish her apartment once she'd found one, and shared encouragement through the false-starts and dead-ends of reaching out to over 50 potential units.

And then it happened. She found an apartment. She immediately called her son, **"I got to tell him, 'Mommy's finally got an apartment.' He was like, 'You do?!' I got to say, 'Yeah! You can come visit and you can swim.' He loves swimming."**

As fate would have it, the apartment building that she moved into is the same one that her biological father lived

in almost 20 years ago.

**“It was a full-circle moment. I remember flying on a plane and visiting my father and having those summers with him, swimming in the pool. Knowing all these years later that I’m going to be able to make that happen for my son is very big for me. It hits home for me to know that I have a place to bring him. At the shelters I’ve stayed at you couldn’t have children visit. He wouldn’t be able to come in. So now to know that the wait is over, it’s a big thing. It makes me want to protect it, this stability.”**



*Sasha, just weeks after moving into her own apartment, at HomeStart’s Welcome Home Celebration*

**Read more about how Sasha is rebuilding stability for herself and her son, supported by the HomeStart community....**

## **News & Views:**

- [\*\*Mass. Fended Off a Feared Wave of Evictions for Two Years. But with Aid Drying Up, Some Worry It’s Coming soon\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Homelessness Surging in Many Cities Amid End to COVID Assistance\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Massachusetts Renters are Fighting for the Right to Buy Their Buildings\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Why a Critical State Voucher Program Should Go From Line Item to Law\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Report: Mass. Building 100,000 Fewer Homes Than Needed Each Year\*\*](#)



**JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
FOLLOW HOMESTART ONLINE:**



**MAKE A DONATION TO  
END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS**

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