

From the CEO
March, 2010

NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

17 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108 617-371-1800 www.nechv.org
PROVIDING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH THE TOOLS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



MARCH ... What Makes Us Different?



NECHV President and CEO, Larry Fitzmaurice

There are many competent and caring service providers addressing the needs of homeless veterans in Massachusetts and elsewhere. We all have our similarities as well as our unique approaches to our missions.

At the **New England Center for Homeless Veterans** we think that we offer the widest and deepest array of services that truly takes us beyond a **SHELTER** to a **CENTER**.

We are particularly proud of our Post-detox Stabilization and Relapse Prevention Programs which involve intensive 180-days of clinical and peer-to-peer support with therapy and counseling to clients. These clients have their own separate sleeping area which adds to the peer support aspect of the program. For the first half of the program, concentration is on therapy and long-term sustainable recovery.

Then, the program participants integrate into our full program of education in our **Veterans Training School** and work with our **Job and Housing Acquisition and Retention Specialists**. These specialists provide assistance with the transition to independent living outside of the Center, or to one of our 59 units of **Single Residence Occupancy (SRO)** units within our building.

Our goal as a **transitional** facility is to rapidly re-house veterans who have benefitted from our programs here. Our programs are designed to increase the probability of stable employment and housing and to avoid a return to homelessness and need for shelters. Therefore, in addition to our shelter activities we also provide:

- **A Model apartment** - This three-month program provides an opportunity for two of our clients to live in a fully equipped two bedroom apartment within our facility where they receive intensive independent living skills training by staff and volunteers.
- **Rental assistance** - This is a one time grant for first and last month's rental payments. These payments are made directly to the landlord and require no repayment from our clients, who are capable of making ongoing monthly lease payments. This grant is funded by private donations.
- **A Veterans' Training School** – Our Training School has a Dean, Registrar and a faculty that offers a full array of curricula. These courses include: *life skills, pre-vocational courses and vocational courses* that result in actual jobs. We host major job fairs here and we are affiliated with Bunker Hill Community College, Wentworth Institute of Technology and UMass Boston for expanded educational offerings.
- **Job placement training and job acquisition**
- **Housing specialists** – These specialists assist our clients in overcoming barriers to housing, identifying housing opportunities and providing strategies for maintaining stability in the new housing environment.

We have the expertise to provide **wrap around** education and clinical services in support of the **Housing First** initiative to veterans who may live outside of our facility.

Please note: All funds are raised internally by our Development staff. No outside companies are used.

AND ...

Thanks, as always, to our Board for their support, the Gold Star Mothers, staff, volunteers and our generous benefactors. And, to our respected clients, **keep up the good work that you are doing and take advantage of what is offered here including the training programs. Stay strong and persevere!**

Larry

Laurence D. Fitzmaurice
President and CEO