

**From the CEO  
February, 2009**

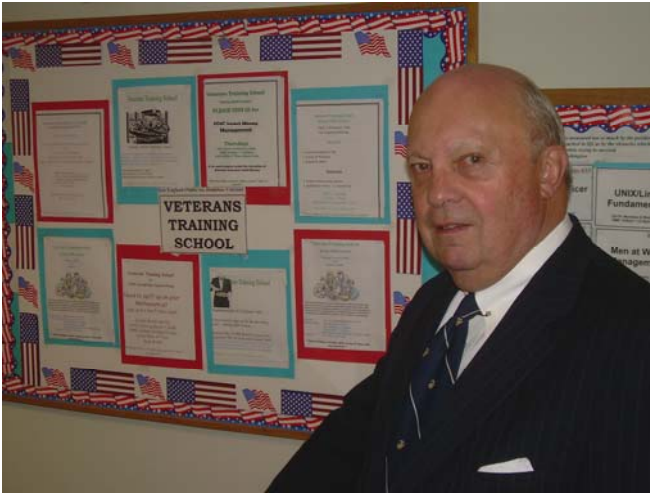


## **NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

17 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108 617-371-1800 [www.nechv.org](http://www.nechv.org)

**PROVIDING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH THE TOOLS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

## **VALENTINE GREETINGS ... There is cheery news !**



In keeping with our Mission of providing transitional facilities and services, the **CENTER** will now provide another innovative opportunity to our Veterans. We are preparing to open a new **MODEL APARTMENT** here at Court Street which will provide three-month adaptive living skills training in preparation for transition to independent living in the outside community.

This in-house training and trial living arrangement has been created as a ***Bridge to HOUSING FIRST Permanent Housing, Complete with Ongoing On-Site Supportive Services.***

In order to better serve our clients in their search to find and retain permanent housing, the NECHV has recently completed renovations of 1,040 square feet of space within our facility into a two-bedroom, four-person Model Apartment, where clients preparing for the transition into permanent housing can be trained in the adaptive living skills needed to function independently in the community.

The life-skills curriculum, taught by instructors from our on-site Veterans Training School, will include money management and budgeting, basic cooking, house cleaning and laundry, getting around on public transportation, and other basic competencies required for independent living. Four groups of homeless clients per year will move from the model apartment into independent living.

Selection for suitable clients will be conducted by onsite clinicians and case managers, and they will move as a group of four into the model apartment for a three-month period of life-skills training. They will then move as a group into an apartment in the community, where they can continue to help and support one another, with the assistance of the *Transitional Housing Program (THP) Housing Retention Specialist.*



Newly renovated kitchenette within the apartment



New onsite two-bedroom, four-person Model Apartment, where clients preparing for the transition into permanent housing can be trained in the adaptive living skills

The apartment is set to open in early March, 2009. NECHV is currently raising funds to furnish and equip the apartment for its new guests. For information on how to help, please contact Dr. Dennis Upper at: 617-371-1706 or by email to: [dennis.upper@nechv.org](mailto:dennis.upper@nechv.org).



We are also pleased to report that:

- Our census has risen to 92%
- Our donations have remained strong
- President Obama has stated that Veterans' issues, including housing and homelessness, will be a priority of his administration
- Governor Patrick and Secretary Kelley of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Affairs have also made Veterans' issues a priority

We view these facts as testimony to both the ongoing and increasing need for the services provided by NECHV and to donors' loyalty to the need to support our programs as a priority in their giving plans. And, even in uncertain economic times and with a country at war, many donors feel strongly about supporting Veterans currently serving, as well as those who have returned and seek our services.

**Sincere thanks to our current and past donors and, please, keep us as a priority in your future plans.**

**Please note: None of our endowment funds are invested with investment advisors. Our modest endowment is invested in CDs and all are covered by FDIC insurance.**

**AND ...**

Thanks, as always, to our Board for their support, the Gold Star Mothers, staff, volunteers and all of 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**