



From the CEO  
April, 2009

## 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

### SPRING .... New Beginnings



President Obama has made veterans one of his early on stated priorities and his selection of General Ric Shinseki as Veterans' Affairs Secretary is confirmation of that. The Secretary has promised to lead "outside of the box." He follows Dr. (former Lieutenant General) Jim Peake who was also breaking new ground for veterans.

Seven new initiatives at the CENTER are exciting for us and add to the many achievements over our twenty year history, which have contributed both to the depth and diversity of our support services and to the quality of life here. Stay tuned for information on dedications in later CEO letters.

- We are pleased to be the beneficiary of a grant received by **Rebuilding Together Boston (RTB)** from **Sears Holdings** through its *Heroes at Home* program. This grant, along with a contribution from **Grand Circle Corporation** will support RTB's activities to improve energy efficiency and other needed upgrades at NECHV. Work will be completed this month.
- Our Model Apartment is coming along nicely and should be ready for occupancy in late Spring. This initiative can be viewed as a "bridge" from our transitional program to Housing First independent living complete with clinical support services at the new permanent residences
- The **Bernard and Sophia Gordon Gateway to the Veterans' Training School** was made possible by a significant endowment by the Gordon Foundation and we look forward to the official dedication soon.
- The newly renovated **Information Resource Center (IRC)** is now in full swing allowing clients and other veterans to perform online employment and housing searches which we support with one-on-one computer training. We utilize a Dell computer lab, a UNIX workstation and supportive software from **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**.
- We are entering an Articulation Agreement with **Bunker Hill Community College** furthering our existing relationship by certifying our Veterans' Training School as a **CISCO Academy**.
- Furthering our partnerships with **Bunker Hill Community College** and the **UMass Boston Upward Bound** program, we are looking to continuing our dialogue with **Wentworth Institute of Technology** on a collegial approach to Workforce Training and Development which will expand our offerings to clients for meaningful jobs.
- Building upon our cooperative relationship with the **Boston VA**, we are currently working together to provide another layer of trauma informed and trauma sensitive services for our returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with PTSD including suicide prevention training for our staff.

We strive to be witness to high quality, best practices service delivery for the benefit of our formerly homeless veterans desiring to return to the greater community with jobs and independent housing. We view our program as a “**bridge**” from homelessness to responsible independence.

**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**