



## 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

**From the CEO  
June, 2009**

### JUNE ... Challenges and Opportunities



CEO, Larry Fitzmaurice in the newly furnished Model Apartment, set to open on June 24<sup>th</sup>

A particular challenge will be sorting out our Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which provides for over one third of our annual revenue. The process has moved through the House and the Senate and will now be deliberated by the joint Conference Committee where we expect that cuts made in the Senate will be restored in whole or in part due to new Sales Tax revenue measures recently enacted into law. We will stay on top of these proceedings.

One of our key opportunities will be to continue to manage to a tight budget in the current economic environment.

We will seek to preserve all of our current services by innovative management and greater use of qualified volunteers. We will also selectively offer our clinical and training support services to veterans who may live in other shelters in Massachusetts in an effort to encourage efficiencies in those areas.

However, if the current Senate budget cut were to prevail, service delivery would be impacted.

The **Model Apartment** opening is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> and this presents a real opportunity for the New England Center for Homeless Veterans to participate in a unique way with Housing First initiatives sponsored by the Governor.

We are a transitional facility that offers steps along the way from:

- Homelessness to
- Emergency Shelter to
- Transitional Housing with Clinical and Training Support Services to
- In-house Single Residence Occupancy (59 SRO units) to
- **Model Apartment** experience to
- Outside totally independent living

#### About the Model Apartment

The following link provides photographs of the fully furnished Model Apartment [View Photos](#) and the concept is explained below in more detail. This apartment has been designed to provide a solid bridge to sustainable independent living in support of the spirit of the national and Massachusetts **Housing First** programs.

In order to better serve our clients in their search to find and retain permanent housing, the NECHV has renovated over 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.

Selection for suitable clients is presently being 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 Housing Retention Specialist.

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.

This model apartment project is based on a similar, very successful skill-training program developed by Dr. Dennis Upper, NECHV's Vice President of Clinical Strategic Initiatives, while he was Coordinator of Behavior Therapy at the Brockton (MA) V.A. Medical Center.

**Your financial support is more critical than ever and I hope that you will continue to consider us one of your giving priorities.**

**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**