

## HCA's Annual Meeting: Highlighted Achievements and Decade of Growth

On January 17<sup>th</sup> nearly 70 HCA supporters gathered for the Annual Meeting at Arlington's Tango restaurant. The morning was filled with tenants' personal stories of success and triumph, HCA's achievements, and awards.

For over ten years, HCA's Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) has worked to keep families in their homes and out of the shelter system. HPP protects the most vulnerable in our community from becoming homeless or without safe or long-term housing options. **A recent program analysis found that of 18% of respondents, 95% are still housed and 65% continue to live in the same homes that our grants supported.** Pam Hallett, HCA's Executive Director, and Paul Parravano, HCA's past Board President, spoke of HCA's achievements as an



organization and prospective developments in Arlington. A program participant shared, "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the program. I couldn't pay the security deposit, and I don't know where me and my son would be if it wasn't for you guys." Since 2001, HCA's Homelessness Prevention Program has had remarkable success, thanks to generous support from Arlington residents and businesses who donate to the fall's Annual HPP Appeal.

The continuing need for HCA's services is remarkable. Today, HCA's waitlist for affordable housing rises above 1,000 house-

holds. Just last year, Arlington's rental rates rose 14.6% forcing many families to seek alternative housing options. A tenant spoke of his experience and stated "HCA provides invaluable support in the Arlington community, exactly the kind of support I needed. It gave me hope and courage...if you believe in a miracle, it is HCA." HCA is committed to meeting the demands of the community's affordable housing by pursuing opportunities to increase its 90 unit housing portfolio.



At every Annual Meeting, HCA honors the memory of the late Deacon Frank Mandosa from St. Agnes Parish with an annual community service award. Recipients of the **Deacon Frank Mandosa Community Service Award** possess a commitment to unite the community around affordable housing issues. This year's Annual Meeting ended with a very special tribute to Mary Doyle and Bob Murray, who were selected as the honored annual award winners. Mary Doyle was committed to ending homelessness and serving the community, seen through her leadership at Homes for Families and her work with the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. Mary was a devoted member of HCA's Board of Directors who passed last year. Bob Murray, who also passed last year, was the founder of the Falmouth Housing Corporation and 16-year executive director of the Falmouth Housing Authority. It was Bob's idea to create HCA's successful Homelessness Prevention Program. He was well known and respected as a long time advocate of affordable housing in the community.

### HCA Receives a \$50,000 CITC Award

In March, HCA was one of 38 nonprofits awarded Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC). This new state tax credit program allows community development corporations (CDCs) such as HCA to partner with donors, raising funds to support a broad array of community development efforts. Donors with gifts above \$1,000 will be able to deduct 50% of their gift from their Massachusetts state income taxes for 2014. The end result will be \$100,000 in funding to fill a growing need for affordable housing in the community. A win win for everyone! **Call now to make your contribution and utilize state tax credits on your Massachusetts state income tax return for 2014!**

### Pass the Community Preservation Act (CPA)

The CPA provides funds for open spaces and conservation, outdoor recreation resources, historic preservation and community housing (affordable housing). It is already adopted by 155 cities and towns. **Make sure to vote YES this Fall 2014!**

# HCA's Annual Walk a Huge Success!

HCA had an amazing turnout for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Affordable Housing in Memory of Mary E. Doyle on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 150 community members and business supporters took part in the Annual Walk to fight homelessness and advocate for affordable housing.

Thank you to all the community members and businesses who donated items, time and money. So far, HCA has **raised over \$37,000** and that figure continues to increase as more donations come in the door. There were some amazing **raffle prizes**, such as an autographed photo of Rex Sox pitcher Junichi Tazawa, entertaining music from **The Hot Tamale Brass Band** and performances from **Molly the Clown**, as well as a variety of activities for kids.

*Thank you to all our supporters for your generosity and donations!*



## A Big THANK YOU to our 2014 Walk for Affordable Housing Contributors!

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# New Happenings at HCA

## First Public Forum - Ending Homelessness: What You Can Do!

On Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Arlington Senior Center, **HCA** joined local organizations - Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, Arlington's Calvary Church (United Methodist), Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, Somerville Homeless Coalition, and Promise the Children (Unitarian Universalist) to provide a wealth of information about homelessness in the community and across the region.

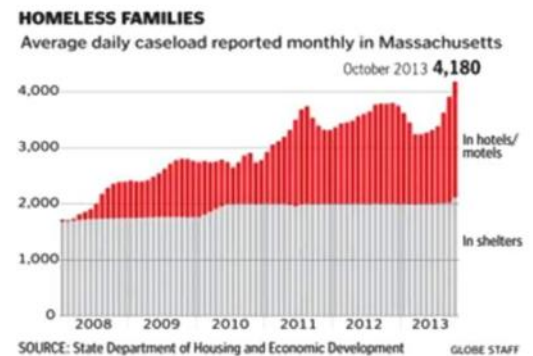
Pam Hallett, Executive Director of HCA, was quoted by the Arlington Advocate as saying, "We're hoping to teach people how to advocate for legislation designed to end homelessness. There are a number of bills pending in the legislature and a number of other bills being drafted that would effectively change the way homelessness is being addressed in the state." The main purpose of the forum was to inform the public on the current state of homelessness and to teach effective strategies when contacting legislators and advocating for bills that will end homelessness.

The room was packed with so many new faces. There were 75 attendees, comprised of expert speakers and concerned community members. Speakers included State Rep. Byron Rushing, Co-Chair of the Commission to End Homelessness, Diane Sullivan, Policy Director for Homes for Families, Danny LeBlanc, CEO of the Somerville Community Corporation, State Senator Patricia Jehlan from Somerville, several state representatives such as Carl Sciortino (Medford), David Rogers (Cambridge/Belmont/Arlington), Sean Garballey (Arlington), and leaders from other local organizations.

Attendees received a wealth of information, which included packets with contact information and key priorities addressing homelessness issues. Speakers presented information that touched upon several topics from heartfelt personal stories of endurance and perseverance to past and present policies which have increased homelessness including housing policies, urban renewal, deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, and gentrification. The speakers gave feedback, advice, and strategies on how to effectively contact legislators and advocate for initiatives that will help to end homelessness.

## HCA Receives a \$20,000 Grant from The Catalyst Fund

HCA received a \$20,000 grant from the Catalyst Fund in December 2013. The project will study a collaborative partnership between HCA and Towards Independent Living and Learning (TILL). The partnership will positively impact Arlington residents by providing increased access to social services. TILL provides residential, clinical and family support services as well as day and vocational programs for individuals and families with disabilities.



### Homelessness in Massachusetts

Homelessness has reached record levels due to the economic recession, federal budget cuts, low wage jobs and the shortage of affordable rental housing. Over 2,000 families are in shelters and 2,100 more families are in motels each night, increasing risks to the health and development of children at significant costs.

## HCA Acquires New Property in Arlington!

HCA is excited to share great news! In March, HCA purchased property at **20 Westminster Ave.** We are happy to share that the New Convent School will continue to lease in the building. HCA now owns 24 properties across Arlington with 90 affordable rental units.

Brenda Malatesta, acting as HCA's broker and owner of Metro Properties donated a portion of her commission to HCA. Thank you, Brenda!



## HCA's New Fundraising and Communications Manager

Laura O'Rourke joined HCA in April 2014. She received her BA in Psychology from Boston University and her Master in Social Work from University of New Hampshire. Laura started her career in direct services, working with children and families. In 2001 she shifted gears and entered the field of fundraising, tapping into her experiences and passion to help struggling children and families. Since then she has been assisting nonprofits to enhance their capacity to provide direct services through a variety of fundraising strategies, which include foundation/corporate grant writing, event planning, annual appeals as well as increasing awareness of services through a variety of media and communication strategies. When she is not busy at work, Laura enjoys spending time in Belmont with her three children, husband, and chocolate Lab, attending her children's sporting activities, traveling and running.

# Please Help Support the Arlington Community by Joining HCA

**GO Green** by renewing your membership and making a contribution online today at [www.housingcorporarlington.org](http://www.housingcorporarlington.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Contribution:**

Membership: \$35 \$50 \$100 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional contribution to the Homelessness Prevention Fund: \_\_\_\_\_  
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