



**Fenn School and Nashoba Brooks School Volunteers Move Homeless Families into Permanent Housing Through Heading Home's Up & Out Program**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – March 2, 2011** – Heading Home, Inc., one of the Boston area's largest agencies devoted to helping the homeless, announced today that volunteers from the Fenn School and the Nashoba Brooks School, both in Concord, Massachusetts, generously donated their time to move two formerly homeless families into new apartments. The groups recently participated in Heading Home's signature volunteer program, "Up & Out," where groups of volunteers help formerly homeless families make the milestone move from shelter to a permanent home.

Up & Out volunteers coordinate the move of their assigned family from start to finish, supplying the new home with basic household items for the kitchen, bathroom and bedrooms, putting furniture together, and helping to physically move the family into their new home. The Ewing and Solomon families, both of Sudbury, spearheaded the Fenn School Up & Out, which occurred on February 5th. Jamie Dorsey of Sudbury and Monica O'Neil of Belmont spearheaded the Nashoba Brooks School move, which occurred on February 6th.

The Fenn School is an independent day school for boys, grades 4-9. The Nashoba Brooks School is an independent day school for boys and girls, age 3 to grade 3, and girls, grades 4-8.

"Participating in an Up & Out move is a significant undertaking," said Wendy Jacobs, chief development officer at Heading Home. "Volunteers clean, furnish, and decorate an apartment prior to a family's move. We appreciate the commitment to community service that the Fenn School and the Nashoba Brooks School have shown. The results of their efforts were seen in the joy and pride the families exhibited while moving into their new homes."

A non-profit organization, Heading Home's mission is to end homelessness of individuals and families in Greater Boston by providing housing in conjunction with effective support services to

help change the conditions that create homelessness. The number of volunteers who gave their time to Heading Home has tripled over the last year, due in large part to the overwhelming success of the Up & Out program. More than 17 Up & Out moves were conducted in 2010, which not only speaks to the depth of the homeless problem in Greater Boston but to the depth of Heading Home's committed volunteers.

The perilous housing market and wave of foreclosures have displaced many people, and the issue of homelessness has become absolutely critical in the Greater Boston community. On any given night, there are more than 7,000 homeless people in Greater Boston, and the average age of a homeless person – and Heading Home client – is just eight years old. Sadly, not since the Great Depression have so many families been homeless. The number of homeless families is staggering and offers a glimpse into the depth of the affordable housing conundrum. In 2010, Heading Home helped more than 2,000 homeless families and individuals in Greater Boston by providing them a place to call home and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

**About Heading Home**

Heading Home, formerly Shelter Inc., is a non-profit whose mission is to end homelessness in Greater Boston by providing housing in conjunction with effective support services to help change the conditions that create homelessness. Founded in 1974 by a small group of concerned citizens in Cambridge, Heading Home today operates programs focused on smaller home-like settings with individualized attention in the communities of Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Malden, Medford, Everett and Quincy. For more information, visit <http://headinghomeinc.org>.

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