



Equity Office Properties Supports Heading Home to Fight Family Homelessness

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – March 31, 2011 – [Heading Home](#), Inc., one of the Boston area's largest agencies devoted to helping the homeless, is pleased to announce that Equity Office Properties, one of the largest and most respected commercial real estate firms in the nation, has supported the organization through dedicated volunteer efforts and generous monetary donations. The Boston office of Equity Office Properties recently donated to support the homelessness programs and services of Heading Home, and additionally help underwrite Heading Home's Annual Meeting.

In February, volunteers from Equity Office Properties generously donated their time to move a formerly homeless family into a new apartment. The group 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. As Up & Out volunteers, Equity Office Properties coordinated 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.

During the holidays, the Equity Office Properties team volunteered at one of Heading Home's shelters for homeless women, bringing presents, dinner and holiday cheer to the residents. The visit was the second year that Equity Office has volunteered at Heading Home's shelter for homeless women during the holiday season. Along with the firm participating in numerous volunteer opportunities, Equity Office Properties' executive Andrew Maher also serves on Heading Home's Annual Gala committee.

"Equity Office Properties wanted to serve where the need was the greatest," said Wendy Jacobs, chief development officer at Heading Home. "We are so appreciative of their time and commitment to our organization and the families and individuals we serve. Not only are their contributions generous, but they consistently donate their time and energy to improve the lives of homeless people."

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 20 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://www.headinghomeinc.org>.

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