

Nashoba Brooks School Student Volunteers Lead Heading Home's First Up & Out Move of 2012

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – January 27, 2012 – [Heading Home, Inc.](#), one of the Boston area's largest agencies devoted to helping the homeless, announced today that student volunteers from the seventh grade class of the Nashoba Brooks School in Concord, Massachusetts generously donated their time to move a single mother and her daughter to a new home in Somerville, Massachusetts. The students participated in Heading Home's signature volunteer program, "Up & Out," where volunteers help homeless families make the milestone move from shelter to a permanent home.

As Up & Out volunteers, they coordinated the move of the young family from start to finish, supplying their apartment with household items and furniture for the kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms, and helping to physically move the family into their home. The Up & Out move was spearheaded by Nashoba Brooks teacher Polly Vanasse and Heading Home board member Nancy Solomon. It is the third such move performed by the school, which has been engaged with Heading Home as volunteers for more than two years. The move occurred on January 21st and offers the family their first permanent home since the mother became homeless at age 17.

"Up & Out moves represent a milestone moment in the lives of our families, many of whom are making great strides to provide for their children and plan for the future," said Wendy Jacobs, deputy executive director/chief development officer at Heading Home. "We're grateful that the students of Nashoba Brooks School are willing to donate their time to support our mission to end homelessness in greater Boston."

A non-profit organization, Heading Home's mission is to end homelessness in Greater Boston by providing a supported pathway to self-sufficiency that begins with a home, together with critical services such as life skills, financial literacy, and job training. 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. 24 Up & Out moves were completed last year and at least that many will be coordinated in 2012, which not only speaks to the extent of the homeless problem in Greater Boston but to the depth of Heading Home's committed base of 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, including 3,000 children. 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 2011, 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's mission is to end homelessness in Greater Boston by providing a supported pathway to self-sufficiency that begins with a home, together with critical services such as life skills, financial literacy, and job training. As a local pioneer of the Housing First model, they recognized years ago that when homeless people get and stay housed – as opposed to cycling in and out of shelters – their lives will improve. In 2004 they moved away from an emphasis on emergency responses to a focus on permanent housing as their strategy for ending homelessness, resulting in a name change from "Shelter Inc." to "Heading Home." They have successfully created more than 250 units of housing since 2006, and their emergency shelter and transitional programs are now focused on moving residents to permanent housing as quickly as

possible. In fy11, Heading Home successfully moved more than 100 families out of motels and into permanent housing, and in the process provided supportive services to resolve their immediate, emergency needs and work towards achieving long-term goals. Over the past 37 years, Heading Home has become the area's go-to solution provider for homeless families. For more information, visit <http://headinghomeinc.org>.

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