



Concord and Sudbury Residents Volunteer to Move Homeless Families into Permanent Housing through Heading Home's Up & Out Program

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – November 16, 2011 – [Heading Home, Inc.](#), one of the Boston area's largest agencies devoted to helping the homeless, announced today that volunteers from the towns of Concord and Sudbury generously donated their time to move two formerly homeless families into new apartments. The groups 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 moves of both families from start to finish, supplying the new homes with household items and furniture for the kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms, and helping to physically move the families into their new homes. The Up & Out moves were spearheaded by the Ewing and Solomon families with assistance from more than 70 volunteers from Concord and Sudbury. Both moves occurred on November 6th and helped families move to new apartments in Jamaica Plain and Boston, Massachusetts.

"Up & Out moves require a dedicated approach to helping local families get on their feet, as volunteers clean, furnish, and decorate an apartment prior to a family's move," said Wendy Jacobs, deputy executive director/chief development officer at Heading Home. "We appreciate the enthusiasm of the Ewing and Solomon families, and the volunteers that supported them. Their efforts have truly improved the lives of two formerly homeless families."

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 in 2010 and at least that many will be coordinated in 2011, 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, 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. 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>.

Media Contact:

Jeff Lavery
Rhino Public Relations
(508) 361-7539
headinghome@rhinopr.com

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