Bay Cove and Commonwealth Care Alliance Partner on New Respite House

On Tuesday, June 2, members of the provider community from all across the Boston area gathered for the ribbon-cutting for Marie’s Place, a new community respite program for individuals with acute behavioral health situations.

The program—a collaboration between Bay Cove and Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA)—is located on Cambridge Street in Brighton, and is a voluntary residential diversionary facility licensed by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) as a respite program for individuals experiencing behavioral crises deemed not severe enough to require hospitalization. Marie’s Place has a 14-bed capacity, and is staffed 24 hours a day by a team that includes licensed social workers, registered nurses, mental health workers, attending psychiatrists and nurse practitioners. Referrals to the program come from CCA internal licensed behavioral health clinicians, emergency service programs or behavioral health clinicians at hospital ERs.

Marie’s Place fills a distinct gap that exists in the treatment of individuals with acute behavioral health crises. Currently, there are few options for acute onset crises that don’t involve hospitalization. Marie’s Place offers stabilization and a variety of therapeutic groups, such as exercise, cooking, coping skills, mindfulness and meditation. Continuity of care includes connecting clients with CCA outpatient managers who conduct home visits once the client transitions back into his or her community. The respite center’s average stay of 10-11 days also allows clients time to recompense and actively participate in discharge planning. And, all of this comes with a significantly lower price tag than hospitalization.

Addressing the crowd of representatives from CCA, Bay Cove, DMH, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and others, Bay Cove President & CEO Bill Sprague lauded the collaboration with CCA, saying, “I’m thrilled with the partnership we’ve developed. This is the first program we’ve worked on together, and it’s been phenomenal to be working with a group so focused on solutions, and so open-minded to whatever approaches are most successful.”

Lauren Easton, Director of Behavioral Health for CCA, was equally effusive in her praise of Bay Cove, saying, “Bay Cove has been fully onboard with this project since Day 1, and totally on top of all the day-to-day stuff—from furnishing the home to hiring the staff. We couldn’t be more pleased with the expertise they bring to the table.”
Just a few weeks ago, Bay Cove opened its newest program, in partnership with Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA). Marie’s Place in Brighton (which you’ll read about on page 1) is a hospital diversion program designed to meet the needs of individuals in psychiatric crisis whose needs can be better addressed in a residential, community-based environment. Bay Cove staff in the Mental Health Division, as well as many in administrative roles, have worked closely with CCA for many months to create this special program that will help meet a very crucial need.

Marie’s Place is just the latest in a number of efforts involving Bay Cove in which we’ve partnered with others to offer crucial services in our community. Earlier this year, Bay Cove and CCA opened a crisis program at Carney Hospital. Previously, we teamed with Boston Medical Center on crisis programs at the Fuller Mental Health Center and at Mass. Mental Health Center. Bay Cove is also working with Tufts Medical Center Department of Psychiatry to develop a training program in Mental Health Services for second-year residents.

Bay Cove works to deliver new and innovative services in collaboration with a wide array of partners throughout the area. In addition to CCA, Boston Medical Center and Tufts Medical Center, we partner with VinFen, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Mass. General Hospital, South End Health Center, Pine Street Inn, Brookline Mental Health Center, Dartmouth College, Boston University and Microsoft Corporation, just to name a few.

We’ve always stressed our partnerships with state funders, community organizations, elected officials, corporations, foundations and our many individual donors, as we work together to deliver services to the most challenged members of our community. The initiatives I’ve highlighted above take “partnerships” to the next level. We strongly believe that partnering with others to combine resources and complementary skills helps us develop the strongest array of services to meet and further our mission. It’s our contention that, in the future, establishing more and more partnership efforts will be key to our growth, and to fulfilling our commitment to delivering the highest quality service to those with the greatest need.

June 30 brings to a close our Fiscal Year 2015. It has been a year marked by tremendous challenges, such as our Andrew House detox being forced to close in conjunction with the closure of the Long Island Bridge. While we haven’t yet reopened those lost detox beds, we continue to work closely with city and state officials to get Andrew House up and running, and once again delivering services that are essential to getting people started in recovery. FY15 also saw our combined effort, with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, that resulted in opening the Boston Night Center at the start of January and providing a safe location for 80+ homeless people each night during the worst winter on record. (See page 3 for more about the Night Center)

As we begin FY16, we look forward to strengthening existing partnerships and creating new ones, while we work to develop services that expand our reach or that fill gaps in our existing array of programming. I am proud to continue the legacy started by Dan Boynton in 1974, and furthered by Stan Connors after Dan retired in 2001, that has positioned Bay Cove as a premier agency in the Commonwealth—and one regarded as an effective and desirable partner by Massachusetts’ other prestigious and well-respected human service organizations. Of course, everyone reading this Bay Cove News is a partner with us in some way, and we all work hard every day to ensure that each of you are proud of your association with us and the great things we accomplish together. Together, we can continue to “serve thousands of people, one person at a time.”
Speaking Up for Bay Cove!

Hundreds of human services workers and supporters filled the Great Hall at the Massachusetts State House on April 7, as part of a special legislative rally organized by human services advocacy group The Caring Force. Bay Cove’s own Carolyn Walker (pictured, right), a member of Center Club, was among the chosen advocate speakers, and it was there that she eloquently shared her story, and the ways in which Center Club has been instrumental in her professional and personal advancements in life as an individual with schizophrenia.

Carolyn’s speech—which was heard by elected officials, service providers, those receiving services from organizations statewide and their families—represented the kind of firsthand advocacy and personal storytelling that is one of the most effective ways of sharing Bay Cove’s mission with new audiences of potential supporters.

These are the sorts of opportunities that The Bay Cove Speakers’ Bureau—a group comprised of agency staff who go out into the community to share information about the services Bay Cove provides—are always looking to find. So, if you have an audience that would be interested in learning more about Bay Cove and its programs, or other topics related to services for individuals with mental illness, addictions and/or developmental disabilities, please visit www.baycove.org and check out the “Request A Speaker” page under the website’s Advocacy section. Or, for more information about the Speakers’ Bureau, contact Director of Advocacy Charles Hollins at 617-788-1746.

Night Center Operations Extended

The Boston Night Center—an overnight shelter for the homeless opened by Bay Cove in January—served as a truly vital resource to Boston’s homeless community throughout the brutal winter of 2014-15. Now, the agency is pleased to announce that the Night Center, which was initially only funded as a short-term program through May, has had its operations extended for three months, through the end of August.

Bay Cove, in collaboration with the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, made the decision to extend funding and operations of the Night Center after it proved to be such a lifesaving resource at a time when the homeless population was surging—due, in part, to the closure of the shelter on Long Island last October.

Keeping the Night Center open into the summer is of crucial importance, because during this season, the number of homeless individuals seeking shelter can be even higher than usual, due to a lack of available options—like emergency shelters and subway stations, which only open up in the winter.

The Night Center operates from 8 p.m.-6 a.m. nightly (utilizing space that is used during daytime hours by our Center Club program) at 31 Bowker St., Boston. (pictured, left)
On Thursday, May 7, more than 300 of Bay Cove’s dedicated supporters and special guests gathered at the Seaport Hotel Plaza Ballroom for the 2015 Changing Lives Gala. This event—Bay Cove’s largest annual fundraiser—was an amazing evening celebrating the men, women and children served by Bay Cove, as well as the hard-working staff who serve them, and the generous donors who help make our exceptional brand of individualized services possible.

At The Changing Lives Gala, Bay Cove was proud to present the second annual Changing Lives Award to Attorney General Maura Healey, in honor of her dedication to the people we serve and to those who face similar challenges. Our guests enjoyed sumptuous cuisine courtesy of our guest chef, Andy Husbands of the acclaimed and venerable South End eateries Tremont 647 and Sister Sorel. They were moved by the exquisite musical stylings of jazz vocalist Rebecca Parris and The Brad Hatfield Trio, whose stirring rendition of “Over the Rainbow” provided the perfect accompaniment to an inspiring video presentation spotlighting the individuals Bay Cove serves every day. And they gave generously, bidding on an array of spectacular silent auction items and raising their paddles during the live auction, led expertly by our celebrity guest auctioneer, Boston broadcast news legend Susan Wornick. When the final auction item was won, and tallied up with sponsorships and ticket sales, the end result was a phenomenal $325,000 raised in just one night for Bay Cove’s vital services!

Our profound thanks to all of our 2015 Changing Lives Gala sponsors, including lead sponsor Liberty Mutual Insurance; Gala co-chairs Bob Thomas and Eric Wetlaufer, and our entire Gala Planning Committee; Attorney General Maura Healey; Chef Andy Husbands; Rebecca Parris and The Brad Hatfield Trio; Susan Wornick; filmmakers Dan and Janet Boynton; all our Bay Cove staff and volunteers who helped make the event possible; and, of course, all our generous supporters who attended the Gala. The 2015 Changing Lives Gala was a massive success and a grand time was had by all! Hope to see you all again in 2016! (To see more Gala photos, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/baycovehumanservicesinc, and “like” us)
On Saturday, May 30, hundreds of supporters of Kit Clark Senior Services gathered at DCR’s Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester for the ninth annual Elsie Frank 5K. Some came to run, some to walk; some came to cheer their young children on in the first-ever Elsie’s Kids Fun Run; and some came with their senior family members who receive vital services each day from Kit Clark Senior Services in homes all across Boston. All were treated to a beautiful sun-drenched summer day, as they laced up their sneakers and helped raise more than $30,000 to support Kit Clark’s vision of long, healthy and independent lives for seniors.

Each year, Kit Clark and Bay Cove pay tribute to Elsie Frank, beloved and inspirational mother of former Congressman Barney Frank, and a passionate champion for elders. Mrs. Frank served as President of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans and was a delegate to President Clinton’s White House Council on Aging. The annual Elsie Frank 5K celebrates her work on behalf of all seniors, with all proceeds benefiting Kit Clark Senior Services.

Our sincerest thanks to the sponsors of the 2015 Elsie Frank 5K: Senior Whole Health, the City of Boston Credit Union, ADJ Signs, Walgreens, Alice Lwin Family Dentistry, Fantini Baking Company Inc., St. Joseph Rehabilitation & Nursing Care Center, Cambridge Packing Company, Members Plus Credit Union, Codman Square Health Center, Goldman Paper Company, Inc., Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center and Dorchester Tire Service, Inc. Their help was instrumental in making the event such a great success!
A Big Spring for CASPAR Includes “Strengthening Our Community” Fundraiser and Receipt of $100,000 Grant

On April 9, “Strengthening Our Community,” the annual fundraiser for CASPAR (The Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation), raised $91,000 for our Cambridge and Somerville-based homelessness and addiction service programs. Supporters of CASPAR were treated to a welcoming reception; enthusiastically participated in a live auction led by Jeff Lockwood of Novartis and Ray Magliozzi of NPR’s popular “Car Talk” program (pictured, top right); and had the chance to hear inspiring stories from individuals who have battled against homelessness and addiction.

CASPAR also paid tribute to two dedicated supporters of the agency—Stephen J. Seiner, MD, and Tiziana C. Dearing, both of Newton (pictured, middle right)—honoring them with the Carl F. Barron Catalyst for Change Award. The delightful evening concluded with a show of appreciation to CASPAR’s Carol Nickerson, retiring this year after 34 years with the organization.

Then, in June, CASPAR was selected as one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “$100K for 100” program. The organization was chosen from more than 350 applicants during a very competitive review process, and joins a diverse group of grant recipients representing a wide variety of causes, including mental health, STEM education, veterans’ services, healthcare, hunger relief, and homelessness prevention. The grant will provide CASPAR with more than $33,000 in operating funding over each of the next three years.

“The Foundation is incredibly grateful to nonprofits, like CASPAR, that are working diligently for the benefit of the communities where the staff and clients of the Cummings organization live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director.

Dedicated to underserved populations, including individuals who are homeless, CASPAR reduces the harm associated with substance abuse and contributes to a healthier community. CASPAR offers a comprehensive array of services, through street outreach, emergency shelter, stabilization programs, residential care, aftercare supports and prevention programs.

Bill Sprague, President & CEO of CASPAR and Bay Cove Human Services, said, upon announcement of the grant, “All of us at CASPAR are delighted and proud to have been selected as the recipient of a ‘$100K for 100’ grant. This generous funding will help us to further CASPAR’s mission of providing support to individuals who face an ongoing battle with addiction, and all the numerous accompanying physical, psychological and social challenges that can be associated with this debilitating disease. The Cummings Foundation and CASPAR share a commitment to street-level, community-based efforts to improve the lives of men, women and children, and we are so grateful for their support of our programs in Cambridge and Somerville.”

The “$100K for 100” program supports nonprofits that are not only based in but also primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. More information about the Cummings Foundation and its $100K for 100 grant initiative can be found at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

(Pictured, bottom right): The staff of CASPAR’s Emergency Services Center celebrate the awarding of the “$100K for 100” grant.
The 2015 Bay Cove Marathon Team Sets a New Fundraising Record!

On April 20, grey and rainy skies couldn’t deter the thousands of runners, and the thousands more who came to cheer them on, as the 119th running of the Boston Marathon took place between Hopkinton and Boston’s Back Bay. Among the field of amazing athletes who took part were Bay Cove’s five dedicated runners—Bill Sprague, Jim Laprade, Dorothy Borkiewicz, Lauren Easton and Jake Sunderland—who laced ‘em up and ran 26.2 miles to raise money for Bay Cove!

This year, with the help of our generous Bay Cove supporters, our fantastic team managed to raise just over $111,000, surpassing their fundraising goal of $100,000, and achieving a new record high for Bay Cove’s Marathon fundraiser! All of us at Bay Cove offer our deepest thanks to everyone who made a donation to our Team – whether it was through the team’s fundraising page or at one of our many fundraising events.

We also could not have achieved this unprecedented fundraising success without the keystone support of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who generously offered to match every donation our runners received, dollar-for-dollar, up to $50,000!

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the folks at The John Hancock Non-Profit Marathon Program, who once again provided Bay Cove with the bib numbers needed to run in this year’s Marathon. We value this partnership, which dates back to 2008, and we thank them for providing us with this avenue for raising money for Bay Cove and awareness of the valuable services we provide.

And, of course, we salute our five runners, who sacrificed their time and their bodies and SOMEHOW found ways to train for the race during the single worst winter Boston has ever seen. Their actions mark them as true champions—not just on the Marathon course, but for some of the most challenged members of our community.

Once again, thanks to all of you for helping Bay Cove achieve another record-setting result in this year’s Boston Marathon!
Bay Cove Wish List

Often, one very simple item can make a real difference in someone’s life. Would you or someone you know be able to donate new (or, in some cases, gently used) items like:

An air conditioner for a person living in supported housing // An iPad for a person with developmental disabilities // Furniture for a formerly homeless person’s apartment // Business apparel for a job interview // Books for our Family Support and Parent Support Resource Rooms // Arts and crafts supplies for Occupational Therapy and Art Therapy programs //

If you’re able to help, please contact the Bay Cove Development Department at 617-619-5930, and thank you!

MISSION Improving the quality of the lives of individuals and their families who face the challenges of developmental disabilities, aging, mental illness, and drug and alcohol addiction. We will accomplish this mission by providing effective and compassionate services and through advocacy and leadership.

At Bay Cove Academy, students who have struggled in a traditional high school setting receive greater individualized attention in a highly-structured and supportive learning environment.