



PROJECT PLACE

opening doors to opportunity

October 2011

Paying it forward and giving it back

Project Place programs instill and revive a sense of community among clients and grads

Themes this year at Project Place, the words “pay it forward” and “give it back” are often heard from graduates who discuss their goals and plans for the future. Some become involved in giving in a very direct way by obtaining employment in Human Services, but many others do it in subtler, but just as meaningful ways; reuniting with children, being positive influences in others’ lives, volunteering to mentor individuals experiencing obstacles similar to the ones they have overcome, or becoming active in their churches or community organizations. The women chosen as the Clients of the Quarter over the course of this year each pay it forward or give it back in their own way. •



Client of the Quarter, FY2011 Q2

Understanding the importance of putting your all into what you do, Jessica Alvarez is always on time for all her case management meetings and works hard to accomplish her individual goals, which included obtaining permanent employment. Her genuine desire to live a positive lifestyle and looking to build a brighter future contributed to her success. She came to the agency through Betty's Place, then completed the Work Ready and HomePlate programs. She secured a job at a bakery with limited hours but wanted more, and was recently hired into a permanent position in the janitorial arm of Clean Corners... Bright Hopes. •



Client of the Quarter, FY2011 Q3

Tanisha Meranda’s work ethic and professionalism are just two of the qualities that have made her a stand-out. Outreach Coordinator Rickey Simmons, says she “worked very hard to achieve all of her goals, and always handled her job responsibilities with a smile on her face while maintaining the highest level of professionalism.” A HomePlate employee, she provides excellent customer service and is always upbeat which is demonstrated by her everlasting smile. She will complete her HomePlate training shortly and actively job searches with her career coach. Tanisha gives back by being a loving and responsible model for her child. •



Client of the Quarter, FY2011 Q4

Vanessa Charity came to Project Place in April and has flourished since. She was chosen for her commitment to herself. It’s not just about her own progress, however. Vanessa “pays it forward” to her classmates. Says her Case Manager Breanne Krantz, “Vanessa’s friendly, positive, and motivated attitude has been encouragement for her fellow peers.” Since completing the Project 90 job training program, Vanessa has been enrolled in school and it is rare not to see her in the computer lab daily working on job search. It’s almost as rare as not seeing a smile on her face. •

Agency, Suzanne Kenney announced winner of 2011 award

Project Place and Executive Director Suzanne Kenney have been announced as the winner of the **2011 Wainwright Social Justice Award**, presented by **Eastern Bank**. The honor, initiated in 1989 by then Wainwright Bank, recognizes nonprofits and affiliated people who have achieved outstanding success in addressing issues of social justice and is accompanied by a \$25,000 grant from Eastern Bank. The award will be presented at a reception on November 9 from 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m. at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. All are welcome: We hope you can join us in celebrating! •

Project Place honors partners

State Representative Aaron Michlewitz celebrates 44th Annual Meeting with staff & supporters



LtoR: Michael Lee, Massachusetts Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Rosemarie Sansone and Tony Gerena

This past June Project Place was pleased to welcome **Massachusetts Rep. Aaron Michlewitz** as our honored guest and speaker at our 44rd Annual

Meeting and **Partners-at-Work Awards**. He spoke about his connection to and support of the mission of Project Place and its importance to the South End

neighborhood and the City of Boston.

Following the address, clients, staff, board members, colleagues and peers viewed a new Project Place video. The short documentary featured Ruth Rollins, Regina , Carol Glass-Hampton and Tony Gerena, all graduates of Project Place job training programs. The film discussed what homelessness really means to an individual and their family members- what it feels like- and shared the

successes they've achieved since graduation. All are now years from their programs and gainfully employed, "paying it forward" or "giving it back" in their own lives through their professional work, volunteerism, or in their own homes with their children. Ruth now owns her own home, and Carol is supporting her daughter while she attends college full-time. The interviews in the film highlighted just how Project

'Thank God for Project Place...'
-Tony,
Honored Graduate

(Continued on page 5)

IN THE NEWS...

- ... **Mercantile Bank's** involvement in the purchase of a new van to support the recently launched Janitorial Services arm of Clean Corners...Bright Hopes was featured in the **Boston Business Journal**. Thanks to our friends at **Fidelity Management Trust Company** and **Mercantile Bank** for helping us acquire this new vehicle, which will further expand the capacity of this social enterprise, enabling us to serve more individuals!
- ... The **Boston Globe** recently profiled Katie Maraqa, a Project Place graduate and ambassador at the Boston **Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)**, the first organization of its kind in Boston with an aim to make the neighborhood cleaner and more welcoming to visitors by collaborating with the police, the **Boston Redevelopment Authority**, the **Inspectional Services Department** and the **Public Works Department**. Clean Corners...Bright Hopes has a long-standing relationship cleaning the Downtown and the BID and other graduates like Katie have been hired in permanent jobs working in the BID as ambassadors, cleaning store fronts and streets, and maintaining landscaping.
- ... Clean Corners...Bright Hopes was also featured in the **Boston Courant** for the work they do for the **Beacon Hill Civic Association** cleaning and removing snow on Charles Street. The association reported how pleased they have been with the service, and their intention to continue to hire our crews to maintain the area.

PROJECT PLACE HAPPENINGS...

- ... Project Place is pleased to welcome **Aaryn Manning**, Instructor and Case Manager, **Crystal Galvin**, Employment Specialist, and **Sarah Argeropoulos**, Development Associate. Congratulations to all on joining the Project Place team!
- ... This month we also said good-bye to **Allison Ertl**, Development Associate, who will begin a new career as a therapist, **Hardeep Jassal**, Employment Specialist, who has started a position with the Natick Public Schools and **Kendra Bradner**, Instructor and Case Manager, who is pursuing a Masters degree in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School John F. Kennedy School of Government. Good Luck, Allison, Hardeep and Kendra!

Project Place 13th annual CHARITY golf tournament

PICTURED:

1. From winning team and lead sponsor Eastern Bank: Bill Feingold, Co-Chair Pam Feingold, Jan Miller & Nick Moise
2. Co-Chair Pam Feingold thanks participants
3. HomePlate supervisor Gene Murphy helps employee Tanya Allen serve Gelato to eager golfers.
4. HomePlate grad and Client of the Quarter, Tanisha Meranda, reflects on why she came to Project Place.
5. Skip Shimer, Sheryl Brown-Shimer & Bob Lathrop pause during play
6. Volunteers Kristen Fontaine and Ceantel Braithwaite handle game entries
7. Last year's winners Chris Cochis, Char Smith, Nancy Smith and Beth Peterson take a quick break with PP Executive Director, Suzanne Kenney (second from left).
8. Moriarty Associates sponsor team Bill Snyder, Josh Snyder, Tom Scannel and Rich Dalton
9. The Mt. Washington Bank team includes Oscar Moreno, Jim Morgan, John McCabe & Ed Merritt
10. Eastern Bank's second team, Patrick Cadigan, Kevin Cadigan, Dan Sullivan and Chris Scoville
11. Courier Corp.'s Group Peter Conway, Kathy Curley, Tournament Co-Chair Rajeev Balakrishna, and Michael Shea.
12. Gelato from HomePlate kept everyone cool.



Project Place's Lucky Thirteenth Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held July 22 at the **Bay Club** in Mattapoisett, MA was a warm but fun-filled day of golf and games. The gang from lead sponsor **Eastern Bank** took first place, but each team was treated to a challenging round at this new location complete with contest holes, games and prizes, followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the staff at the Golf House restaurant. **Thank you** to our enthusiastic sponsors, players, and auction item donors for helping us to raise \$30,000 to support vital Project Place programming! •

Sponsored by:



Volunteers:

Joe Amerema
Ceantel Braithwaite

Kristen Fontaine
Eric Mauro

Elizabeth Pohorilak
Michelle Pyne
Patricia Sweeney

Program Book Donors

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Chris Cochis

John Ryan
Michael Schwartz & Pam Goodman
David Lapidus

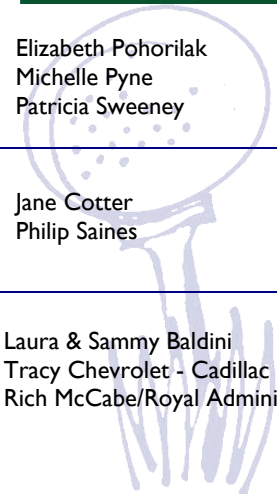
Jane Cotter
Philip Saines

Prize Donors

Patricia Curnan, Century 21
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Roland & Joseph Beaulieu

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Golfers Warehouse of Braintree
GolfSmith.com
Wentworth by the Sea Country
Club

Laura & Sammy Baldini
Tracy Chevrolet - Cadillac
Rich McCabe/Royal Administration



Outstanding 'Stand Down'

As part of our outreach efforts for the veterans' services at Project Place, staff attended the Massachusetts session of **Stand Down** on August 26 and 27 at IBEW 103 in Dorchester. The event, a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Volunteers of America - who was a co-host for the second year - and community agencies like Project Place, offers homeless and at-risk veterans everything they need: basics like food, shelter and clothing, and less accessible services such as health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits, counseling, and referrals to human services agencies like Project Place, which can offer veterans employment and housing search support.

Ed DeBity, Project Place Director of Veteran Services and a veteran himself, and Rickey Simmons, Outreach Coordinator, were on hand at the event to talk to veterans about the job-training, employment placement and housing assistance available at the agency. They offered applications, referrals, and water bottles to veterans and conducted intakes and assessments for interested and qualified veterans. Twenty five potential clients were identified.

For more information or if you know a veteran or family member in need of services contact Ed DeBity at ebityedebity@projectplace.org or 617-542-3740 x433. •

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Project Place has a full calendar of events this fall and winter. For more information visit www.projectplace.org or contact the Project Place development office. info@projectplace.org 617-542-3740

October

Circle of Champions Open House -TBA

Open Door Network **Halloween Howl**, featuring Spooky World's "The Fear at Fenway" - Oct. 28

November

Wainwright Social Justice Award Presentation- Nov. 9
Enrichment Series Event - PTSD and Homeless Vets- TBA
Project Place Thanksgiving Celebration - Nov. 23

December

Open Door Network 'Ugly Sweater' Holiday Party -TBA

February

Ninth Annual Valentine Gospel Brunch- Feb. 12

Not a 'Trivial Pursuit'



Ceantel Braithwaite, Marjorie Bell, Carolyn Bell, & Brian Weeks

Project Place's Young Supporters Group, the **Open Door Network**, hosted it's most recent networking event July 21: Trivia Night at the **GreenBriar Irish Pub** in Brighton. The evening brought more than 40 members old and new out for a night of fun and raised about \$1,000 for Project Place programs and services. Thanks to the agency's friends at **Stump! Trivia** for facilitating a seriously challenging and fun-filled "competition" and to **Charles River Boat Tours, Best Buy, TOMB 5 Wits, DeCordova Museum & Sculpture Park, the Museum of Science and Sunny Hill Resort and Golf Course** for providing great prizes to up the stakes!

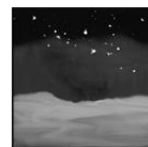
The group will hold a series of entertainment and networking events this fall and winter. For more information or to join the Open Door Network email info@projectplace.org or check out our Facebook page! •

Project Place Holiday Cards Now on Sale!

Our greeting cards feature colorful original works of art by Boston artist Eric Mauro and can be purchased blank inside, containing inspirational sentiments written by Project Place clients, or as **Season Greetings** cards.

Holiday orders (Starry Night) can be fully customized for you or your family or business!

To purchase a gift pack containing five cards for just \$10 (discounts available for bulk orders), call 617-542-3740 or email info@projectplace.org. Order yours today!



Annual Meeting,

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Place helped them change their lives, and what struggles and joys they encounter now as they move through their daily routines.



Rosemarie Sansone, President of the Boston Downtown BID

Partner was Rosemarie Sansone, President of the **Boston Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)**. Sansone was commended for the support she has shown the agency over the years and in particular for being an advocate for our social enterprises and the clients they serve. **Michael Lee**, who has developed and produced four emotional and mission-driven videos for Project Place was named **Volunteer of the Year** for the many long hours he has put into telling our story so well and in so many ways. Always humble and generous, Michael asked to share the honor with his colleague **Rick DeGregorio**, who directed the video produced this year and shown at both the **8th Annual Valentine Gospel Brunch** and this awards ceremony.

The event concluded with a financial report from the agency's officers who noted that despite the uncertain economic climate the organization weathered the year well and in fact, grew in some areas. A final address by Executive Director Suzanne Kenney thanked all of our Partners-At-Work for their tremendous efforts in supporting our mission to offer hope and opportunity to those who need it most. •

Tony Gerena was also acknowledged as **Project Place Honored Graduate**, recognized for his perseverance and positivism, and the inspiration he is to others.

Acknowledged as our **Community**



Catering requests or questions?

Please contact:

Paul Szafranski

Food & Beverage Manager,

617.542.3740 x 351

pszafranski@projectplace.org

*Funders compiled 5/1/11-9/14/11. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us if you would prefer to be listed differently in future publications.

Where do you pay it forward?

Where do you take Project Place? Where do you pay it forward or give it back? Send us a picture of yourself in an exotic local or while volunteering in your community while wearing your Project Place 'pay it forward, give it back' tee-shirt! Entries will be featured in upcoming Project Place materials and one lucky winner will be selected to receive a **FREE** ticket to the Gospel Brunch this February!

If you haven't already purchased your shirt (graduates may get a complimentary shirt from their case manager) contact info@projectplace.org. •

Entries should be submitted by November 30th to:

Meghan Beaulieu

Development Associate

Project Place

mbeaulieu@projectplace.org

1145 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118



Director of Development, Marcie Laden, in Sandia Park, NM.

RECENT FUNDING...

We thank our funders and their generous trustees for the most recent awards supporting our programs and daily operations.*

The Baupost Group

General Operating

Bank of New York Mellon

Work Skills and Employment Training

Flour Bakery + Café

General Operating

The TJX Foundation

Betty's Transitional Housing

Beatrice Fox Auerbach Fund at the Hartford

Foundation for Public Giving

Career Services

Project Bread

Homeless Resource Center

Saquis Foundation

General Operating

Friends and Family of Harriet Jennings

In Memoriam - General Operating

Thank you!

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Opening Doors to Opportunity...

Our Place

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Director of Finance

Frank Woods

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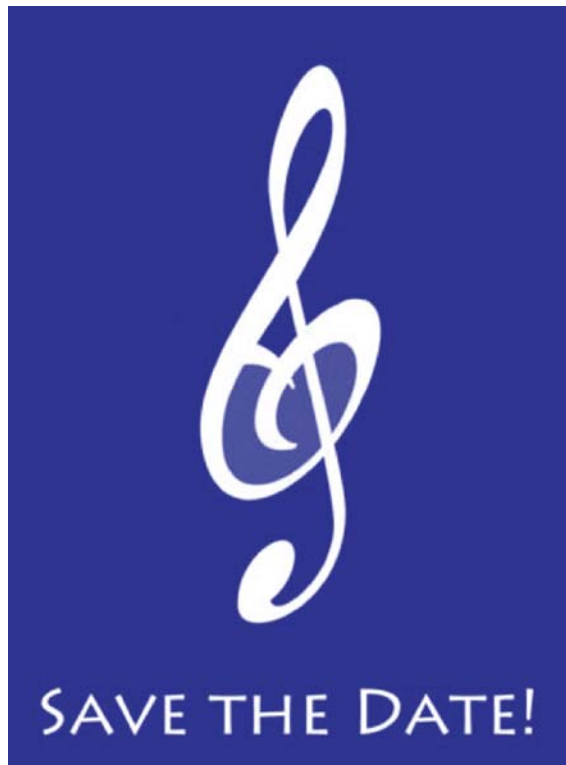
Email: info@projectplace.org

Your Place

We welcome readers' questions and comments & are grateful for your interest and support. Letters may be submitted to: Newsletter@projectplace.org

Project Place

Project Place is a supportive community that promotes hope and opportunity for homeless and low-income individuals by providing the skills, education and resources needed to obtain stable employment and housing.



February 12, 2012

11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
The Boston Park Plaza Hotel

LIVE Gospel Music

Delicious Brunch

*Hear from graduates of
our programs*

Once-in-a-lifetime items:

Trips

Sports

Arts

Food & Wine

GAMES & MORE!

For information on becoming a sponsor, auction item donor, or to become a table host or planning committee member, contact:

Meghan Beaulieu

mbeaulieu@projectplace.org

617-542-3740 x421