

St.  
Francis  
House  
*Rebuilding Lives.*

# PATHWAYS

*A Comprehensive Campaign*



*Complex problems such as homelessness, trauma, injustice and addiction cannot be met with simple or isolated solutions.*

*As you will see throughout this document, the resources we raise through the **Pathways Comprehensive Campaign** – investments in spaces, programs, and people – will allow us to meet needs, help our guests imagine a better life, and move more people to make positive and sustainable changes toward housing, income, and behavioral health stability.*

*Driven by compassion and respect since opening our doors in 1984, we support our guests through responsive programs and services. The coronavirus pandemic, increasing feelings of uncertainty, discord among people and within communities, and myriad racial and economic injustices directly impact all of us, but they take their toll most on those who are most vulnerable.*

*The men and women who walk through our doors every day need us more than ever – to meet their needs and help them forge new pathways for their futures, while also understanding and responding to the trauma and diverse personal experiences they carry with them every day. St. Francis House believes that in order to do this well, we must double down on our commitment to dignity and respect for all, while we listen intently, learn from their voices, and continue to evolve.*

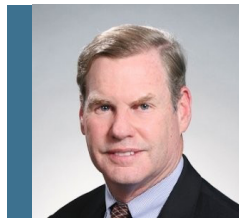
*Located in the heart of the city of Boston, St. Francis House is proud to be the premier provider of integrated, holistic and effective services to people experiencing and vulnerable to homelessness and poverty.*

*Thank you for your support of the St. Francis House community.*



*Karen LaFrazia*

**KAREN LAFRAZIA, MSW**  
President and CEO



*Timothy S. Egan*

**TIMOTHY S. EGAN, ESQ.**  
Chair, Board of Directors

Each year, 6,000 people cross our threshold and enter through our front doors.

Many carry bags overstuffed with their only belongings; some clutch the wool blanket they were sleeping on just a couple of hours before. But, intangibly, most of the people who visit St. Francis House are carrying the heavy weight of **trauma**.

At St. Francis House, we recognize the effects trauma has had on the lives of our **guests**. Trauma contributes significantly to each and every experience they have, often leading to mental illness and substance use disorders.

There is so much more to each individual beyond what they are presenting today. This approach to our guests is referred to as **Trauma-Informed**.

## Why do people become *homeless*?

Individuals become homeless for many different reasons, primarily:



**lack of affordable  
housing**



**job or  
income loss**



**mental  
illness**



**substance use  
disorders**

Where is the *solution*?

Where are the *pathways to recovery*?

**All under one roof.**



**St.  
Francis  
House**  
*Rebuilding Lives.*

## *For over 36 years, we've been here.*

*The Franciscan friars of St. Anthony's Shrine opened a bread line in 1981 to feed the homeless on Arch street in downtown Boston.*

*The deinstitutionalization of patients with mental illnesses contributed to the area's need, and soon the line grew to 200 people a day. Seeing the need, Father Louis Canino organized the purchase and renovation of an old building on Boylston Street.*

### **1984**

***St. Francis House*** was founded through community action and the spirit of St. Francis. The nonprofit, nonsectarian day shelter provided emergency services such as hot meals, clean clothing, and counseling.

A year later, ***Boston's Healthcare for the Homeless Program*** begins offering primary care and dental services at St. Francis House as one of their first pilot programs.

### **1989**

***The shelter expands*** in response to a growing need and the unique complexity of homelessness.

More common space is established and the art studio opens. Two more floors are refurbished as we add an entire mental health department.

### **1994**

***Recognized nationally*** as a model program by the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker's Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. St. Francis House has since also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Social Security Administration.

### **1995**

***Employment support*** and job training programs are established at St. Francis House. This includes ***the Moving Ahead Program***, a comprehensive, 14-week employment readiness and life skills program.

### **1997**

***42 units*** of affordable, supportive housing units open on the top 3 floors of St. Francis House.

In 2007, we add another floor, totaling 56 units of affordable housing dedicated to individuals experiencing homelessness at 39 Boylston Street.

### **2001**

***The Atrium*** is built, providing space for an additional 80 guests who once had to wait on the street for

### **2004**

***The Women's Center*** is dedicated, serving the unique needs of our female guests.



## 2007-2012

### *Embarked on a capital campaign*

to raise critical funding to strengthen and enrich core services, enroll more students each year through our successful workforce program, open more affordable housing units, and make crucial repairs on the exterior of our 100 year-old building.

## 2010

*Celebrated* the 100th graduation of the Moving Ahead Program.

## 2016

*Began formal strategic plan* to ensure our resources were aligned to support our aspirations and vision for expanding our impact on the lives of our guests.

## 2017

*Designated “Access Point”* by MassHire, the State of Massachusetts Career Center system.

We begin to directly connect our guests to a robust system of mainstream employment opportunities and job training benefits, supporting their transition back to work and into a career.

## 2018-2019

*The Union at 48 Boylston* is born.

Two years after the initial purchase with the Planning Office of Urban Affairs, construction of 46 units of affordable housing begins at 48 Boylston Street.

Completion of *The Union* increases St. Francis House portfolio of affordable, permanent leased housing units to 102 units.

Guests moved into their new apartments spring 2019, giving safe and comfortable homes to 46 low-income and previously homeless tenants.

The construction also allowed the opportunity to create space for recovery programming at St. Francis House day shelter.

## 2020 AND BEYOND

*Although the coronavirus pandemic has altered our approach, we continue to persevere.*

We will expand and deepen our services in addiction treatment and recovery and in employment and training, while adding vitality to our neighborhood.

Plans include a peer support center for addiction recovery, a street-level dog care business venture with a job training academy, and new ways for people of all backgrounds and experiences to interact positively in the heart of downtown.





*“Of course food is essential... However, even more importantly, we offer our guests respect. Everyone is treated like a human being.”*

Peri, St. Francis House volunteer

# *\$34,000,000 for Current Programming*

*\$34,000,000 will fund five years of operating costs for all programs and services.*

Our services, identified as **Refuge, Readiness, and Recovery**, build on one another to provide our guests with a continuum of support:

## **Refuge: Shelter, Food, and Clothing**

Our Refuge services are our most basic services. 500 people a day, 365 days a year, come through our doors for a warm meal, a shower, a change of clothes, receive their mail, make phone calls, and access computers in our computer center.

The Pathways Comprehensive Campaign will **increase the number of guests taking part in programs beyond Refuge services by 30%, transitioning an additional 1,000 individuals each year** into our Readiness programs.

## **Readiness: Drop-in and Group Services**

In our Readiness services, guests begin exploring their options. These include support groups and workshops, expressive and creative therapy, a resource center, and a women's center. In these programs, guests "come as they are" and over time, develop a stronger sense of hope and connection.

The Pathways Comprehensive Campaign will **ensure an additional 300 guests each year take positive and planful steps** and move into our Recovery programs.

## **Recovery: Individualized and Goal-focused Employment, Housing, and Addiction Treatment Services**

Our Recovery programs include teams of clinicians, case managers, housing specialists, and a myriad of employment services. As part of these programs, we use personalized case management to support our guests as they identify goals and chart a unique path to housing, income, and behavioral health stability.

The Pathways Comprehensive Campaign will allow us to double the number of guests who achieve housing, income, and behavioral health stability outcomes each year—**from 200 to 400—a 100% increase.**



*“St. Francis House is a champion in combating homelessness and they need our support now more than ever.”*

-Former Mayor of Boston Martin J. Walsh



## *\$8,000,000 for New and Enhanced Programming*

In an effort to create a stronger bridge for our guests between addressing their most present needs of today to imagining a brighter future tomorrow, \$8,000,000 will support new programs and enhance our current programming.

Basic services such as a warm meal, fresh clothing, and access to medical care are essential, but alone, they can't help someone find housing, increase income, or stay sober. However, building trust and encouraging individuals through the continuum of engagement in our programs will.

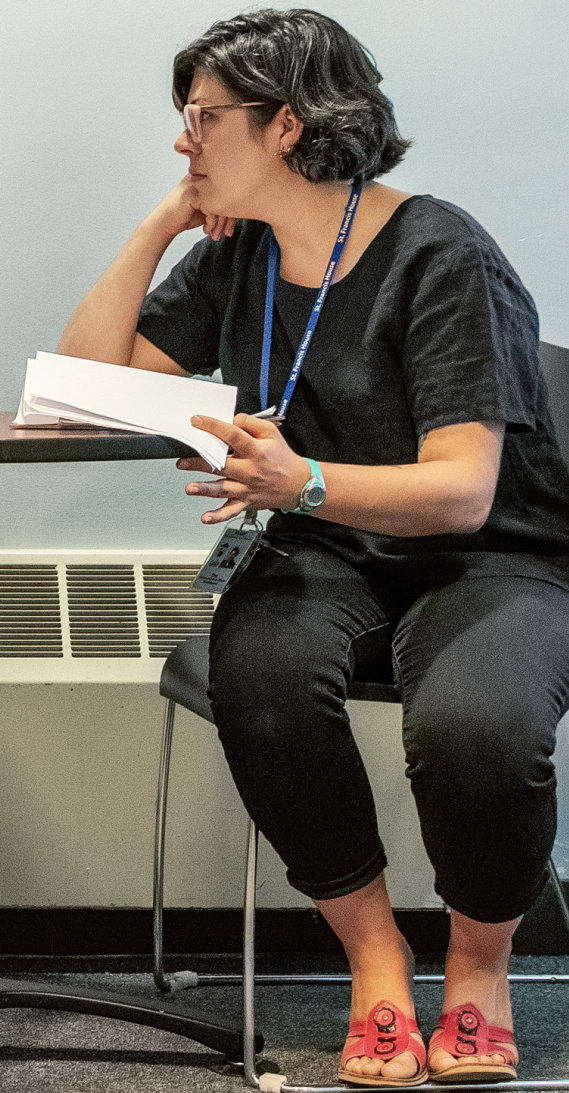
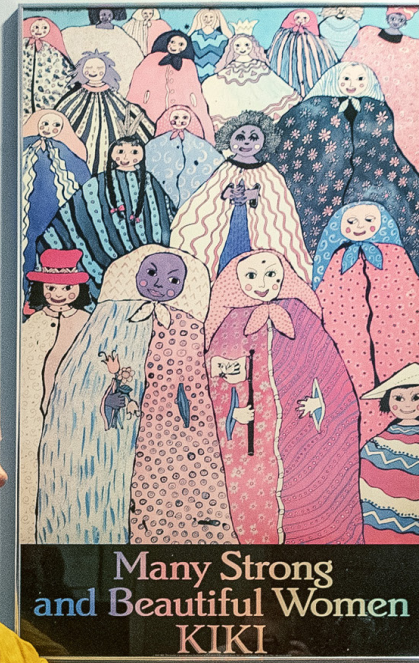
- **Expand the Women's Center** and enhance the model — serve an additional 250 women per year and add two additional staff in order to strengthen our ability to ensure safety and target support services for women who are particularly vulnerable.
- **Create new opportunities** for productive engagement — enroll 500 guests per year in workshops, activities, and opportunities that help contribute to their own growth and connection to the community.
- **Expand the Expressive Therapy program** to include new mediums and practices, enhance the overall therapeutic model of care to include more outreach, and strengthen the linkage to our traditional clinical services and case management.
- **Create and implement a new outpatient substance use disorder clinic** and day treatment program to provide immediate clinical interventions for those struggling with addiction.
- **Embed a Recovery Support Center**, a member-driven community designed to support sobriety for people experiencing homelessness, in the heart of the day shelter.
- **Launch a social business venture** to provide individuals direct, hands-on experience in specific industries, while simultaneously attending employment readiness classes. This innovative model leverages expertise and community commitment from for-profit businesses. *Our first venture with this model, The Dog Care Academy, prepares our guests for work in the growing pet care industry. (Temporarily on hold due to COVID-19.)*

*“St. Francis House taught me how to face my fears and discover a whole new world.”*

-Gina, former St. Francis House guest.

Gina now works for a nonprofit helping men and women experiencing homelessness find housing

# CAROLYN CONNORS WOMEN'S CENTER



## **\$18,000,000** for Renovations and Capital Improvements

Long before COVID-19 created a crisis like never experienced before, we knew changes to our building were inevitable. The jarring experience of walking into our lobby and our vision of hope and healing do not match, and now we are faced with a new challenge brought to the forefront by the coronavirus global pandemic.

Designed by award-winning trauma-informed architects Mass Design, \$18,000,000 will fund a major renovation of our first three floors of our day shelter ensuring a calming ambience of recovery from the moment a guest crosses our threshold. When complete, guests will enter a building that reflects their hope for the future, not the challenges of the present.

Originally an office tower built over a century ago, walls literally stand in our way. This keeps us from doing our best work with the people who need us most.

- We will **identify and remove triggers** that keep our guests from moving through our continuum of services, such as a confusing layout and cramped elevators, which make navigating our building stressful, and almost impossible for guests with disabilities.
  - We will **renovate, centralize, and de-institutionalize** our kitchen and dining area, another triggering element, to create natural meeting places where people can make positive and productive connections with each other and staff.
  - To inspire personal choice and individuality, we will **build out our clothing distribution space**, and redesign the model; expand our Women's Center and Expressive Therapies program.
- In addition, we will:**
- *Build out a commercial space locally to create a social business venture to provide on the job training.*
  - *Complete renovations at our second location across the street and relocate administrative staff to allow for program expansion.*



# *“How can I help?”*

Investing in the St. Francis House **Pathways Comprehensive Campaign** means investing in our most vulnerable neighbors. Together, we can continue to rebuild lives for years to come.

## **GIVE**

Support this critical work by contributing financially to our campaign.

- **Online:** [www.stfrancishouse.org/give](http://www.stfrancishouse.org/give)
- **By mail:** St. Francis House, P.O. Box 120499 Essex Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02112-0499

St. Francis House also accepts philanthropic gifts through Donor Advised Funds, bequests, IRA Charitable Rollover and stock or securities.

## **VOLUNTEER**

Either on your own, through your workplace or community group, we invite you to spend a few hours serving in our kitchen or distributing clean clothing to our guests!

## **ADVOCATE**

Spreading the word about what we do and why we do it helps build a stronger foundation of understanding and support for the people we serve.

## **GET CONNECTED**

St. Francis House is on social media @sfhboston. Your likes, shares, and comments boost our engagement, getting more eyes on our content - and our needs.

## **LEARN MORE**

Our development team would love to talk with you about how your gift can make a difference: let's talk!

*Reach out:* [info@stfrancishouse.org](mailto:info@stfrancishouse.org).

*“As it does for its guests, St. Francis House allows me to have hope, that in some small way I may be part of providing opportunity to those in need.”*

-Jeff Sanford, St. Francis House supporter

## *Our Mission Statement*

St. Francis House rebuilds lives by providing refuge and pathways to stability for adults experiencing homelessness and poverty.

We commit ourselves to helping those we serve achieve renewed lives of dignity and self-determination.

