

Caritas Communities - *Stories of Success*

“Donna came to us after years of being homeless. She also had a history of addiction. Frankly, her first try at living in one of our houses with its rules and expectations didn’t work and she had to go into a treatment program for six months. We then gave her a second chance. She started going to recovery meetings and has been clean and sober for over a year now. She pays her rent on time and is a model tenant; I’m glad we gave her another chance.” -Caritas Property Manager, 2010 Annual Report

“I’ve been a resident of (a Caritas house) for two years now. Before I moved in here, I was homeless and this is a nice step up from living in a shelter. I work at night and I am able to sleep during the day now.” - Caritas Resident

“One of our residents was using a bicycle to commute to work. He was hit by a car and was out of work for almost two months. He fell behind on his rent and was worried. Because of Caritas’ excellent reputation in our community, a local organization gave him a grant to cover his rent. The accident caused him hardship, but it didn’t result in his losing his home.” -Caritas House Manager, 2009 Annual Report

“I had no other place to go.... I lived there (at one of the Dorchester houses) for 15 years; the subsidy was a lifeline, especially times when I didn’t have work.” -Former resident who has moved to an elderly apartment building.

“There are 3 or 4 rooming houses in this city but the environment is not conducive to people who are dealing with other issues as well. Your environment is warm and inviting, like a home. It’s not dark and dingy like the others. I like the idea that you have live-in managers.” Case Manager who has referred several residents to Caritas.

“He was living in his car, even though he was in the National Guard, had served in Iraq and had a job. When he got back from Iraq he ran into some bad luck. It wasn’t right. When he applied here we housed him right away.” -Caritas Site Manager, 2008 Annual Report

John, homeless, in his fifties, moved into Caritas Housing this winter through the “Home and Healthy for Good” Program. He had lived on the streets and had been in and out of shelters for 10 years. The Caritas Communities room was his first real home in all that time. At the end of the meeting with the site manager to sign his lease, he was given the keys to his single room. He started to cry and said *“we often talk about this in the shelter – how nobody ever has keys. You have no idea how much this means to me, to have keys to my own place.”*

Ralph, who works in a customer service job, had to give up his apartment when he could no longer afford to pay for both child support and rent. He went into a transitional housing program where his counselor put him in touch with Caritas. Over a year ago, Ralph signed a lease for a room in Arlington and since then has been able to pay child support on time and also keep up with his rent.

Roslyn had been living in one of the Boston properties for several years. The site manager was promoted to a new and larger site and Roslyn was thrilled to be asked to fill his position. She is one of a number of women, who make up 26% of Caritas’ population, to become managers of our houses. Our best employees come from our residents. -2007 Annual Report