Homeward Bound:
From Homelessness to A Home of Their Own
Homelessness & Housing Insecurity

30% of homeless are 50+

31% staying in shelters 180+ days are 50+

Homeless @ 55 = Healthy at 70

Life Expectancy w/o housing = 42 – 52

Death from acute/chronic medical condition aggravated by homeless life, not substance use/mental illness
Errol

- Age 70
- Native of Chicago
- Part of our community for 15+ years
- Quick sense of humor
- Hard-working, helpful spirit
- Veteran
- Struggles with chronic homelessness & addiction
- Has faced medical issues over the last decade, including deteriorating cognitive ability
- Multiple unsuccessful attempts at permanent housing
Seniors & Homelessness:
A Growing Population

47-52 years
Average Life Expectancy

Baby Boomers
An Aging Generation

17%
of Room In The Inn’s population is 60+

98
Age of the oldest person to use our services

A volunteer with Ms. Dot, 85

Johnny, 88
Seniors & Homelessness: Barriers to Care

Dementia / Cognitive Issues

Medicaid Expansion

Homelessness Causes More Rapid Deterioration

Availability of Affordable Long-Term Care

Melvin, Passed away at 65

Tom, 74 and Jack, 60 in their new home
Ways We Respond

The Power of Community

Transitional Living

Advocacy

Developing Relationships with Community Resources

Educating Volunteers & Shelter Partners
Life is Better When It’s Lived in Community

60th Birthday

68th Birthday

70th Birthday

I AM THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME

#thankfulNashville
Emergency Services, Transitional Programs, and Long-Term Solutions for those who call the streets of Nashville home.

Learn more at roomintheinn.org
Target Population: Individuals 50+ who are homeless or have unstable housing

Core Service: Intensive Case Management and Community Wellness Service

Goal: Stabilize housing to improve health outcomes and maximize independence
“CHARLES” HOUSING RX PATIENT

- Age 65, had never had stable housing on his own
- Chronic SUD
- CHF, CAD, Aortic Stenosis, Hep C, Diabetes, HTN, Depression, Gout
- Significant History in the Corrections System
- Applied to Boston Housing Authority through Housing Prescriptions
- Housed January 2018 in Elderly/Disabled Development close to support network
HOUSING RX FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS

- Serves top 2% of health care utilizers identified by MassHealth
- ELAHP Housing Specialist embedded in Care Management Team
- Stabilize housing and community supports for BeingWell patients who are housing insecure
- Measure housing stability and health care utilization
- Demonstrate that stable housing leads to better health outcomes and decreased utilization
- Stabilize 65-70 vulnerable patients over the course of 12 months
- Integration of health and housing services improves outcomes and satisfaction
AGING RIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

- Lawyer embedded in Case Management team to provide consultation and capacity building
  - Goal is to prevent homelessness
- 60-75 elders served annually and 98% do not become homeless
- Initially funded by philanthropy, but currently funded by contracts with the City of Boston’s Office of Housing Stability and the MA Office of Elder Affairs
• Boston Housing Authority offers “red carpet” access to elders and high health care utilizers

• MA Adult Protective Service reviewing guidelines to increase effectiveness at homelessness prevention

• Addressing lack of housing priorities for victims of elder abuse
The U.S. Prison Population is Aging

NY State

58% all ages remain at liberty

90% 65+ remain at liberty

Challenges

Housing: In 2016, 1,198 people aged 50+ in NYS released directly from prison to a homeless shelter.

Benefits/Entitlements such as Social Security & SSI suspended during incarceration.

No Medicare access for those on parole.

Technology: It’s a new world.

Employment: Lack of work history and limited options.
Program Components

**Conduct:**
- Geriatric Assessments
- Transitional Planning
- Parole Hearing Prep/Assistance
- Parole Liaison

**Assist with Immediate Needs:**
- Liberation Day
- Care Management
- Basic Needs
- Parole Liaison

**Coordinate:**
- Financial Assistance
- Employment Training
- Medical Services
- In-Home Services
- Housing Placement
- Transportation
- Legal Services
Next Steps

New grants, including a federal Second Chance Grant for 2018-2021 as well as the Weinberg Foundation, launching important new changes:

• Expansion of ERI to twice its size, serving at least 160 older people per year

• Addition of a housing specialist and mentoring program

• Cognitive Behavioral Therapy groups in prison/jail/community

• Support Cafe in community

• Creating transitional housing for people leaving jail and prison
The Real Results...
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