



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

What a year 2017 has been! With staggering human and natural catastrophes on the global stage, the breakdown of public discourse and systematic attacks on the value of the diversity within our country, taking the time to share meals with neighbors, to offer the dignity of housing, and to build community has never felt more important.

We ended last year on a high: what a joy it was to gather with so many friends, including many of you, to celebrate all that has been Haley House for the past 50 years!

In January, we kicked off a strategic planning process, and the ensuing months were busy with conversation and debate. The most significant challenges to emerge were the need to clarify our core mission and programs, and to build infrastructure to support our growth.

These challenges were put to our thoughtful board of directors and a committee of community stakeholders. This fall, the board reached a difficult consensus that we would need to close Dudley Dough (which after two years was far from break-even) to ensure our ability to support our core mission and programs, and to allow us to be open to future innovation and opportunity.

What continues to guide us is our core conviction: we believe in food with purpose and the power of community. Every morning at Haley House, volunteers open the doors of the soup kitchen to welcome guests to share a meal and conversation - it is the heart and root of our work. We have never been more convinced of the power of shared meals like these to build a better world for all. We thank you for the ways you have reminded us of the extraordinary power of community this past year, and we look forward to the ways we, as a community, will find to build a better world, meal by meal, conversation by conversation, together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bing' followed by a stylized 'B' and 'g'.

Bing Broderick, Executive Director

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Average years of tenancy for our Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing, where all residents were previously homeless.

8.7

20

Community organizations partnered with for "Take Back the Kitchen," a cooking and nutrition program for urban youth and families.

Average # of volunteers who help prepare 1095+ meals from scratch each week in our soup kitchen at 23 Dartmouth Street.

45

50+

Different crops harvested this year at our Roxbury urban farm (5+ lbs arugula and 2+ lbs basil for Dudley Dough weekly; 2000+ lbs collards for HHBC this season).

Guests who enjoyed a meal at our Saturday evening pay-what you can Community Tables dinner this year.

1,516

11,550

Chocolate chip cookies baked at Haley House Bakery Cafe this year for our cafe, catering, and wholesale operations.

TRANSLATIONS & MUSIC:

UNTOLD STORIES FROM COLUMBUS AVENUE

Former Haley House Director of Housing, Noreen Manzo, reflects on the lives of two recently deceased tenants of our SRO Housing. Their names have been changed to honor their privacy.

Dan first came to Haley House accompanying a friend applying for housing. The next day he returned, hesitant. He had been living under a bridge because it was the only place he felt safe. He moved in and resided with us for 22 years until his death. During that time he gradually let us come to know him.

Dan was clinically paranoid and excruciatingly aware of it. He had chronic health issues and several health emergencies that required extended hospitalizations. We visited him daily, worked with hospital staff to make sure they understood his fears, and tried to get him to inform his family of his condition, but he refused. Over the years he came to trust us; we became as close to family as he could manage. He knew we respected his privacy, could be counted on in an emergency, and cared for him.

We gave him a safe place to go about his life's dream of translating an ancient piece of literature from Greek into Latin. Dan was highly educated. He set up a large desk in the center of his room, surrounded by hundreds of books. For hours each day he worked on the translation, sometimes sharing drafts with us.

It was there that we found him. He died doing what he loved, where he was safe and respected. We reached out to his family after his death. They

loved him, understood his illness and were glad knowing that he died at home, not on the streets as they had feared.

Hidden away in an old coffee cup in Dan's room were hundreds of twenty dollar bills which his family used to bury him with the dignity he so well deserved.



Gus was a musician with a big heart and great smile, and in recovery. He also could turn criticism into a personal affront in which he was the innocent victim. Until one day, exasperated, I called his bluff. Silence. Then a hearty laugh. From then on, truth played a major part in our relationship.

Before we knew him, he taught music in a high school. He also sold drugs and saw his wife killed in a deal gone bad. After that he spiraled further into a life of drugs, alcohol, and manipulation. He became estranged from his family and moved from shelter to shelter until he found Haley House.



SRO Housing on Columbus Avenue

When Gus was sober he was enthusiastic and helpful. He saved for a long time to buy a keyboard. Perched on his stool, earphones in place, he spent hours getting a tune just right.

When he wasn't sober he was a problem for himself and everyone around him. He once became so drunk he hallucinated and trashed his room. We found him on the floor, disoriented, and called an ambulance. Emergency surgery relieved a blood clot in his brain. His recovery was complicated because he was simultaneously detoxing. But when he set his mind to something, Gus was a force to contend with; recover he did.

Gus had friends, but wouldn't identify family. He struggled mightily with addictions, sometimes successfully, other times not, and wavered between denial and embarrassment. But he always managed to pick himself up and see a new day as a new opportunity. With time, he came to recognize goodness in himself and people around him. That softened him.

He died near his keyboard due to a heart attack. We tracked down his family, who were glad to know he had been safe for so many years. Sometimes when I am walking around Boston, I still expect to run into him. I miss him.

*25 years ago Haley House took a risk and bought two residential buildings on Columbus Ave. But that risk palls by comparison with the risk taken by our residents who get up each morning and try, again, to stay sober or seek medical attention. They taught me resilience, honesty, generosity of spirit, and the truth that **"in giving, we receive."***

RETURNING HOME

On a hot August day, the Transitional Employment Program's new coordinator, Jerome Pitts, sat down with Joe Bartley, one of TEP's first graduates, to discuss their experiences returning from incarceration to their communities. Today, Joe Bartley is the manager of three Tasty Burger sites at Fenway Park. Below are some excerpts from their conversation.

Joe Bartley: These seven years home have been tough, not easy, with ups and downs. I've struggled on every level, but I learned that I want to be out here. Your past can affect your future if you are trying to go somewhere, especially if you are in the same town, same environment.

Jerome Pitts: Yeah, everybody showing you a mirror of the old you, looking at the old you instead of who you are today.

Joe: Exactly. So that's what I had to struggle with alone: a new identity for myself.

Everything's going to hurt in the beginning of your transition, because whatever you were doing wasn't you. I'm just saying, you're home, and you're just trying to stay focused. I know you are writing, and that is really good. If you were writing while you were away, all that you were writing is coming into existence now. Like you willed it into existence. For me, just being here and doing what I am doing is enough. Trying to be a father, a friend to my kid, a grandfather, a cool old man, trying to stand up...That's a lot!

Jerome: The more work we put into fixing ourselves, the more work we put into changing ourselves. But it's easy to fall back.

Joe: Just be ready for these new TEP guys – tell them: don't run from help! We show them how to use the smartphones, how to use a computer. They've been set back and there's a lot to catch up on. I've had obstacles all my life, but I'm a solver...



*Jerome Pitts (left) and Joe Bartley (right) outside the cafe
Photo: Rachel Rimm*

For me, just being here and doing what I am doing is enough.

mistakes my parents did. I'm trying to guide her and help her grow, but at the same time, I'm trying to keep my emotions at bay.

Joe: Don't keep hitting yourself over the head. I kept doing that to myself when it wasn't working out. When it works out, it will work out. I had that problem with my son. I left when he was only six months. He was really mad when I came home. I had to transition back into the game.

Jerome: When I have [my daughter] for the day, I take her to get her hair done or to buy her some clothes, and then we run into everybody, coming up saying "Yo, what's up?" and she's like "Daddy, who's that?" All she's heard are stories about me, and when she sees me I have to be like "That's an old friend of mine." But it's also good when I bring her places to see different people, to be like "This is what it is." I do beat myself up a little bit sometimes, I'm not gonna lie...it still hurts. I know I can't take that time back.

Joe: A time will come when they reach a certain age, they will start to put it together in their understanding of life. More conversations.

Jerome: Because those are lessons. You learned from it, because you're not doing the same thing – your relationship grew.

Joe: What I'm trying to say is: embrace what you have, man... keep doing what you're doing...staying positive. Your positive energy always creates elevation. Elevate on every level, I try to accomplish. I try to do everything wholeheartedly, from beginning to end.

Jerome: That's what matters every day. You can't control then, you can only control now. And now is your future.

Jerome: I get mad at myself for not being patient with my daughter – she's 11. I bought her a phone but she doesn't pick up when I call. I get mad at myself for not being patient enough. I don't want to repeat the same



Jerome leads a cookie bake

Visit www.haleyhouse.org/tep to see a new video produced by Meghan McDonough and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute, featuring Jerome.

THANK YOU, CAROL KONG

Ten years ago, Carol Kong arrived at Haley House as a volunteer for our Take Back the Kitchen youth cooking program. She approached teaching with enthusiasm and humble confidence. Before long, she jumped in as the Thursday night manager for the Art is Life itself! performance series, and before we knew it, she had quit her day job and was running the entire Bakery Café operation.



Photo: Jared Leeds

Carol has given ten years of her life, and so much of her heart. During her tenure, the cafe's overall business has nearly doubled. So many of our signature programs - the House Slam, Community Tables, A Sweeter Life - emerged under Carol's leadership. She also oversaw the transformation of our bakery training program into the "Transitional Employment Program," in order to be able to offer deeper support for returning citizens. But Carol's greatest gift has been her ability to support our staff, while holding the bar high for them (and us all). We wish her all the best, and we will miss her!

FAREWELL, MIGUEL DEJESUS

(November 2, 1960- May 7, 2017)

On May 7, beloved Haley House Bakery Café employee and jack-of-all-trades, Miguel DeJesus, passed away. We first met Miguel while he was the building manager for the previous owner of our cafe building. When we discovered that he was no longer working for our landlord, we immediately offered him a job in catering production.



Photo: Marilyn Humphries

Miguel had an uncanny ability to notice what needed to be done, always going above and beyond, and he made a mean empanada. He left behind twin 13-year old daughters, three older children, his wife Eva, and many friends and family. He was a devoted father and husband, and friend to so many people and he is deeply missed.

Rest in peace, Miguel. 🌿

DUDLEY DOUGH

Like many initiatives at Haley House, Dudley Dough developed organically. Initially, we explored a replicable model inspired by Haley House Bakery Café. When offered an opportunity to open in the newly renovated Bolling Building in Dudley, we jumped on it. After years of making pizza dough for Veggie Planet in Harvard Square, we had a product for our new venture, and determined fair wages and worker empowerment to be the central mission. In October 2015, Dudley Dough opened, serving Pizza with Purpose.



All who came through our doors each day found inspiration, and many wonderful programs took root at Dudley Dough, including Pie-R-Squared, where dozens of students receive math tutoring and an after-school snack four afternoons a week.

Over many months, our board and staff engaged in a thoughtful analysis of business operations and trends in the context of our overall resources and mission. After two years, sales at Dudley Dough were not approaching original projections; there simply was not enough traffic for the many businesses in the area. To keep Dudley Dough afloat would require long-term subsidies which would place an unsustainable strain on Haley House's resources and ultimately jeopardize the organization as a whole. In October, our board made the painful but necessary decision to close Dudley Dough by year's end.

Supporting the staff through the closing has been a priority and we are grateful to have been able to help many of them achieve some of their personal goals. Those who stay until the end have been offered positions at HHBC.

Special thanks are due to the dedicated staff, Team Leader Luther Pinckney and Project Manager Kathe McKenna, and our loyal customers and partners, all of whom invested a lot into this project. As Haley House looks to the future, we will continue to incorporate Dudley Dough's vision for economic justice throughout our organization.

Pie-R-Squared will continue to operate, and we encourage you to support their incredible work: www.piersquared.org.

For our public letter, visit www.haleyhouse.org/ddnews.

HALEY HOUSE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

Project Summary: In January 2017, Haley House began a Strategic Planning process to look ahead for the next three years. Over several months, 9 focus groups were held, each focusing on a particular program area, and more than 30 interviews were conducted with internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, organizations undertaking similar work across the country were studied. A small group of representatives from across the organization gathered to consider the findings of the study and work with our consultant to prepare a plan for review by the board.

GOALS:

1. Haley House offers innovative models of service and programs that foster authentic relationships and build community among community members, residents, guests, employees, and volunteers of varied backgrounds.

2. Keeping in mind the ideals of sustainability and fiscal health to support growth and innovation, Haley House will continue to nurture and grow its diversified funding streams, including continued development and expansion of fundraising infrastructure and systems.

3. Haley House will continue to pursue economic development and housing opportunities, with an initial focus on seeking partners to expand the Bakery Café for continued growth.

4. Haley House, having experienced rapid growth, will evaluate and improve systems of communication throughout the organization and with the greater community.

The final plan was approved by the board in September 2017. A more detailed version can be found at www.haleyhouse.org/strategicplan2017

23 DARTMOUTH STREET

Since 1967, the 5-story historic brick row house at the corner of Dartmouth and Montgomery Streets has been the site of all of Haley House's direct services. It's housed hundreds of iterations of the live-in community, hosted weddings and funerals, and been the site of an infinite number of debates and meaningful conversations, ranging from what it means to be community to the best recipe for soup.

A few years ago, we started to chip away at the most urgent repairs needed to secure the exterior of the building and to address other deferred maintenance, and we've made significant progress to date. Thanks to many generous funders and supporters, we've been able to repoint the brickwork, seal much of the basement, and begin the installation of a new sprinkler system. But there is still work to be done. If you're interested in learning more about how you might be able to help care for this special place, contact mlbozza@haleyhouse.org.



BE A PART OF HALEY HOUSE

Haley House would not exist without the steady support of people like you, who so generously give of themselves and their resources. However you are able, we invite you to consider getting more involved in the coming year in one of the following ways:

- Volunteer with one of our programs
- Organize a clothing or toiletries drive for our guests
- Make a Donation
- Visit Haley House Bakery Cafe or use our catering services
- Sign up for our newsletter

For more information about how to get involved, contact Mary Lou (mlbozza@haleyhouse.org).



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HALEY HOUSE



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SAVE THE DATES!

SOUPER BOWL X SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

MORE INFO + TICKETS: WWW.SOUPERBOWL10.BPT.ME

15TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018

