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# MISSION

RTH seeks to develop, preserve and maintain safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income people of diverse backgrounds in the RTH/Mission Hill neighborhood and to improve the quality of life for its residents. We achieve this through property management, construction and rehabilitation of properties, provision of social and educational services, workforce development, and community activism. As one of the oldest grassroots, tenant organizations, we dedicate ourselves to defending the rights to quality, affordable housing for people of all races and cultures as well as promoting tenant empowerment through active tenant participation in leadership and development.

Dear RTH Residents and Friends,

The economic divide is growing, leaving the American dream out of reach for many. However here at Roxbury Tenants of Harvard we believe everyone can succeed when given the opportunity.

RTH helps people reach their full potential by connecting youth, adults, families and seniors of all backgrounds and abilities with opportunities to learn, grow and thrive. We are dedicated to helping individuals overcome obstacles so that they can accomplish their goals by offering life-changing programs, events, and services. We continue to strengthen our community by concentrating on five critical areas: **Housing, Health & Wellness, Youth, Family and Community Engagement, Education & Workforce Development and Aging Well.** We create opportunities and will continue to blaze a path for moving forward to ensure that RTH remains a special place to live, work and play.

This has been a year of exciting achievements and opportunities for RTH. One has to only read through this report to see all the opportunities that RTH provides.

- We are proud that Mosaic, our latest housing initiative, is helping to strengthen bonds between people with economic advantage and people experiencing severe poverty. RTH was presented with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Jack Kemp Excellence in Affordable and Workforce Housing award for this unique development project.
- We continue to help a large portion of our residents facing various challenges to access social services and education to stabilize their lives. We serve an average of 912 residents a month through our Resident Services department. We offered access to a wide variety of programs and \$53,000 in financial support for those seeking higher education.
- We are working proactively with our many community supporters and collaboration partners to prevent disease in our
  community by providing every man, woman, and child in the community with access to programs and services they
  need to stay healthy and connected right in their own neighborhood. We believe that preventing disease from starting
  is far more powerful than fighting it once it arrives. That is why we invite people to embark on the path to a healthier
  lifestyle.
- RTH works to develop the potential of our children, promoting health & wellness and education initiatives that help keep the community safe, strong, connected, and fun.
- Internet availability lets our residents stay connected to their community and the world around them. Our Netblazr high speed internet service to all RTH homes is 75% complete.

Our work is never done because we are an organization committed to our mission, that mission never changes, even if the world around us does. We look forward to building on our existing partnerships and continuing our important work to bring opportunity home for our residents.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to all the dedicated volunteers, staff, community organizations and institutions who have helped and supported RTH, to bring opportunity to further our mission and impact; and look forward to your continued involvement. We hope you see the impact RTH is making in people's lives and realize how important you are to our mission

Warm Regards,

Karen T. Gately

Carol Menton







#### **NetBlzar Internet Wiring**

Purpose is to provide and enhance the internet speed to all RTH residents at free or minimal cost. Design for the old neighborhood in progress.

# **Trinity Management Company**

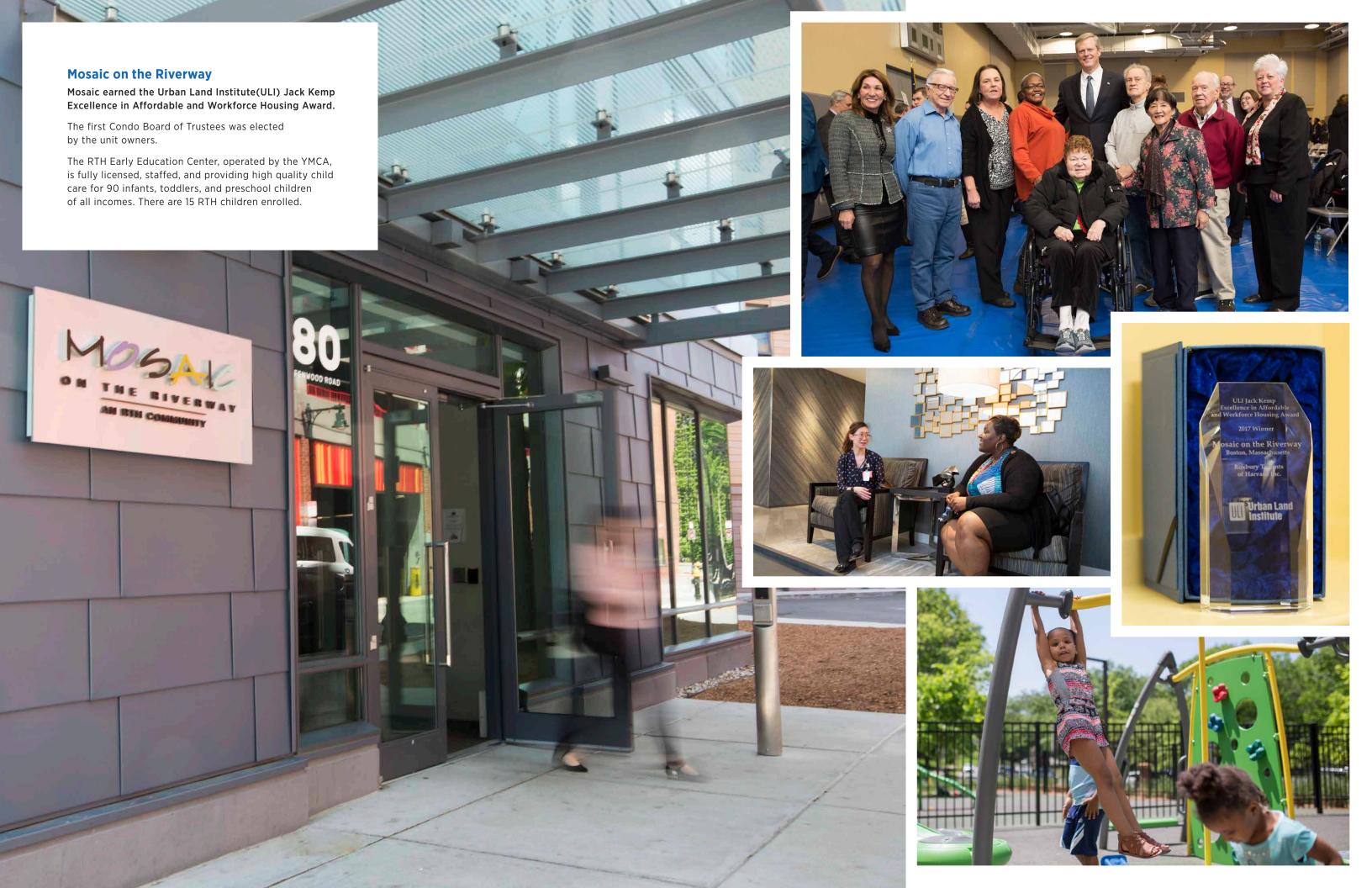
RTH engaged Trinity Management Company as the new Managing Agent for the Old Neighborhood properties and Mosaic. Trinity is working diligently to bring these properties up to the high standards expected by our residents.

#### **RTH Community Apartments**

Buildings on Fenwood Road and Francis Street will receive acoustic-grade windows, funded by Brigham & Women's Hospital, negotiated as part of their Helipad Relocation Project.

## **RTH Community Housing**

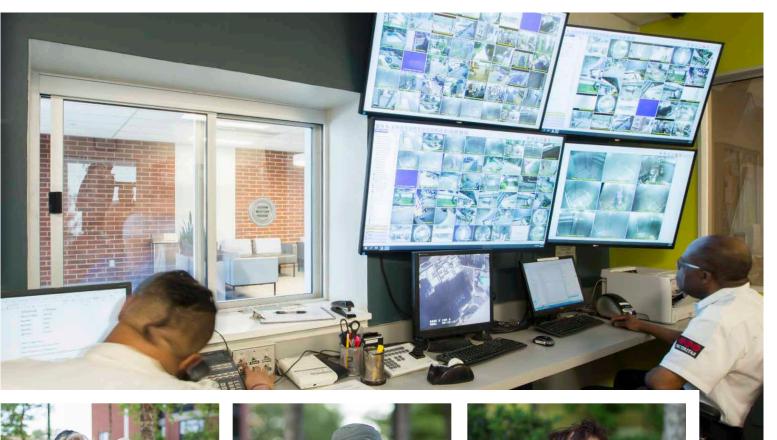
Davis Square Architects was hired to perform a Capital Needs Assessment to assist with planning for a large-scale renovation of apartments, common areas, and building exteriors.



















# **Mission Park**

**Renovated 5 HP units** with new ADA modifications with enhanced features; new kitchen design with a cook top stove and wall oven for easy access, a redesign of roll in shower, and larger Master Bedroom.

**New Variable Frequency Drives** (VFD's) were installed in all townhouses to control fan speeds resulting in Energy Conservation and a large energy savings.











# **Mission Park**

**Levinson, Duggan, Flynn and Neville, Stairwells** and common hallways were repainted.

Mary T. Clifford Pool Upgrades include a New Liner and Pool Cover, extension to the height of the fence, addition of motion sensors and upgrades to camera coverage.

**REAC Inspection resulted in a high score of 94b;** with no health or safety deficiencies noted which added an extra year between inspections.

**Repaired** walkways, driveways, and townhouse facades, conducted roof inspections and spruced up the landscaping.

Flynn Drive Site Improvements: The renovation of Flynn Way was approved and began May 2018. It will allow additional seating areas by the entrance as well as by the Ellen T. 'Nana' Daley Park. The design also includes a new brick wall and landscaping along Huntington Avenue. The Project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.





# **Nutritional Workshops**

A unique partnership with BWH that provides information on nutrition topics, such as label reading, caloric intake, sugar intake, shopping on a budget and more. 11 workshops were held with 110 participants.

# Reflexology

Applies pressure points to reflex zones on the feet that affects your entire body. Provided 300 sessions.

## **Orientations & Health Coaching**

Conducted 480 orientation appointments to help you get started and provided 600 coaching and small group coaching sessions to help you stay on the road to a healthier you.

## **CPR/First Aid & AED**

An ongoing quarterly program to keep all staff certified, and is also open to residents. Provided certifications for 80 staff and residents.

## Spinathon

Held our first outdoor spinathon on the plaza where residents could rotate in and try spinning to the music.

# 12 Week Transformation & Football Challenge

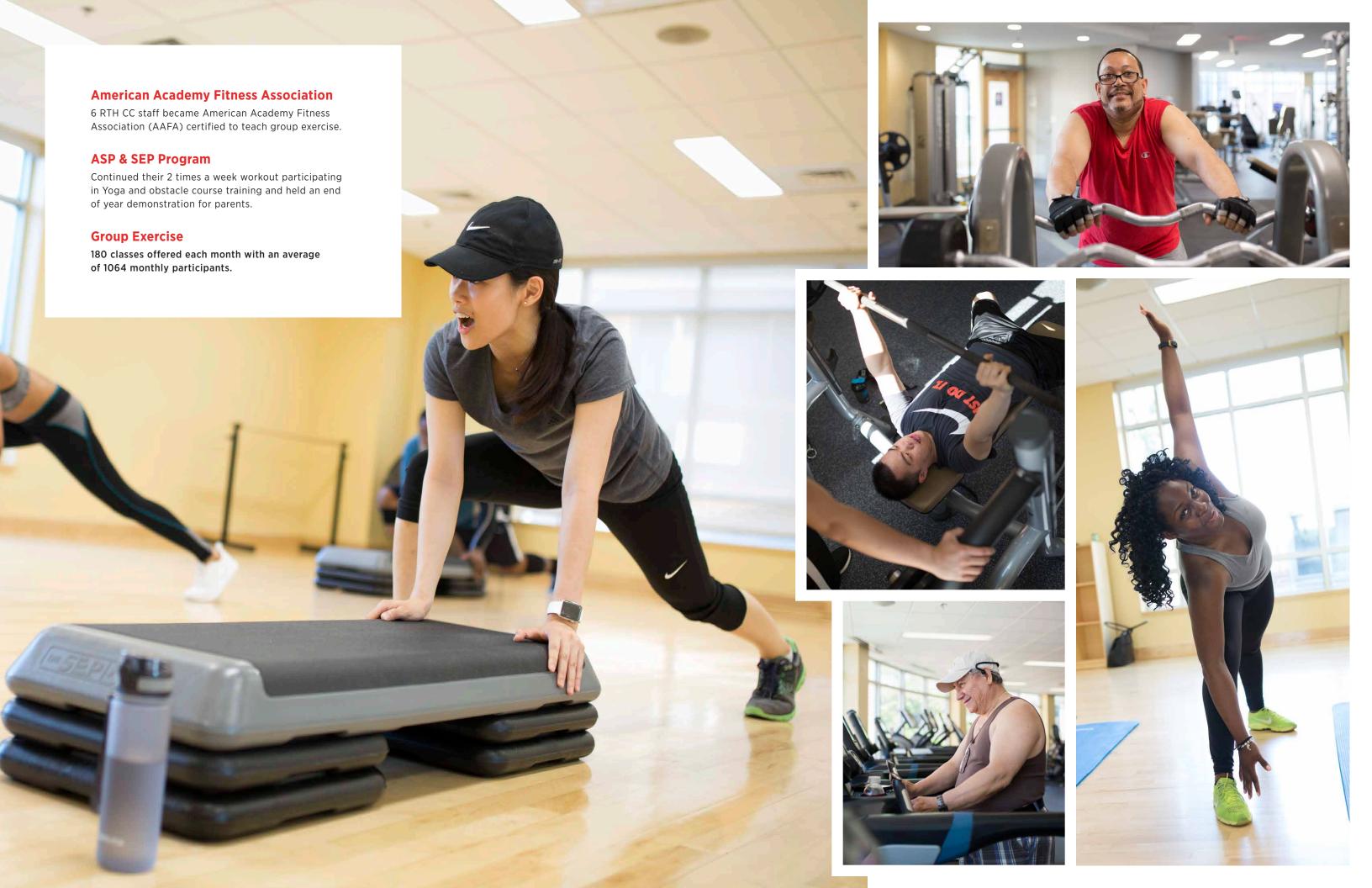
80 residents participated in the 2 challenges that were held to motivate members to reach their workout goals in a fun competition.

#### **East Steps**

18 seniors participated in Introductory exercise class offered once a week for seniors that are not physically active. At the graduation each participated received a certificate.

#### **Wellness Day**

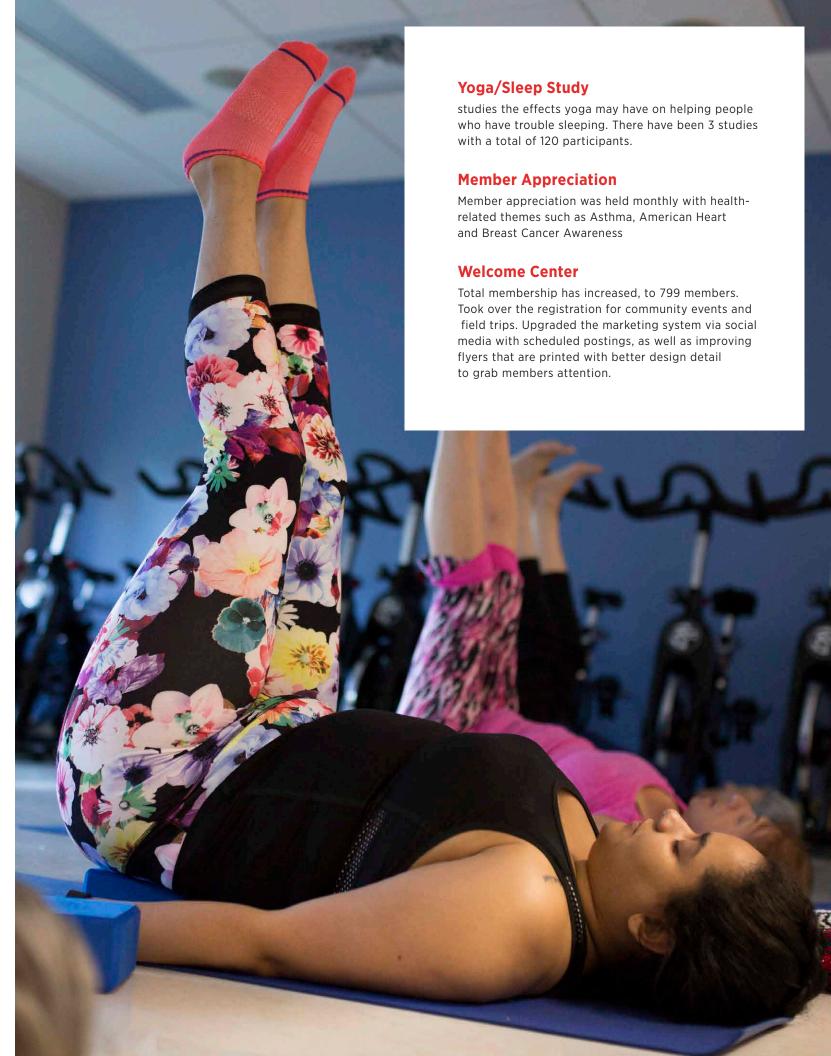
Back by popular demand. 115 residents attended third annual Resident Wellness Day at RTH. Event included blood pressure screening, free haircuts make your own stress balls, chair massage, reiki, nails, DIY body lotions, refreshments. Provided information on the Aging Well and wellness programs at RTH. Gift bags were distributed to the first 50 residents.



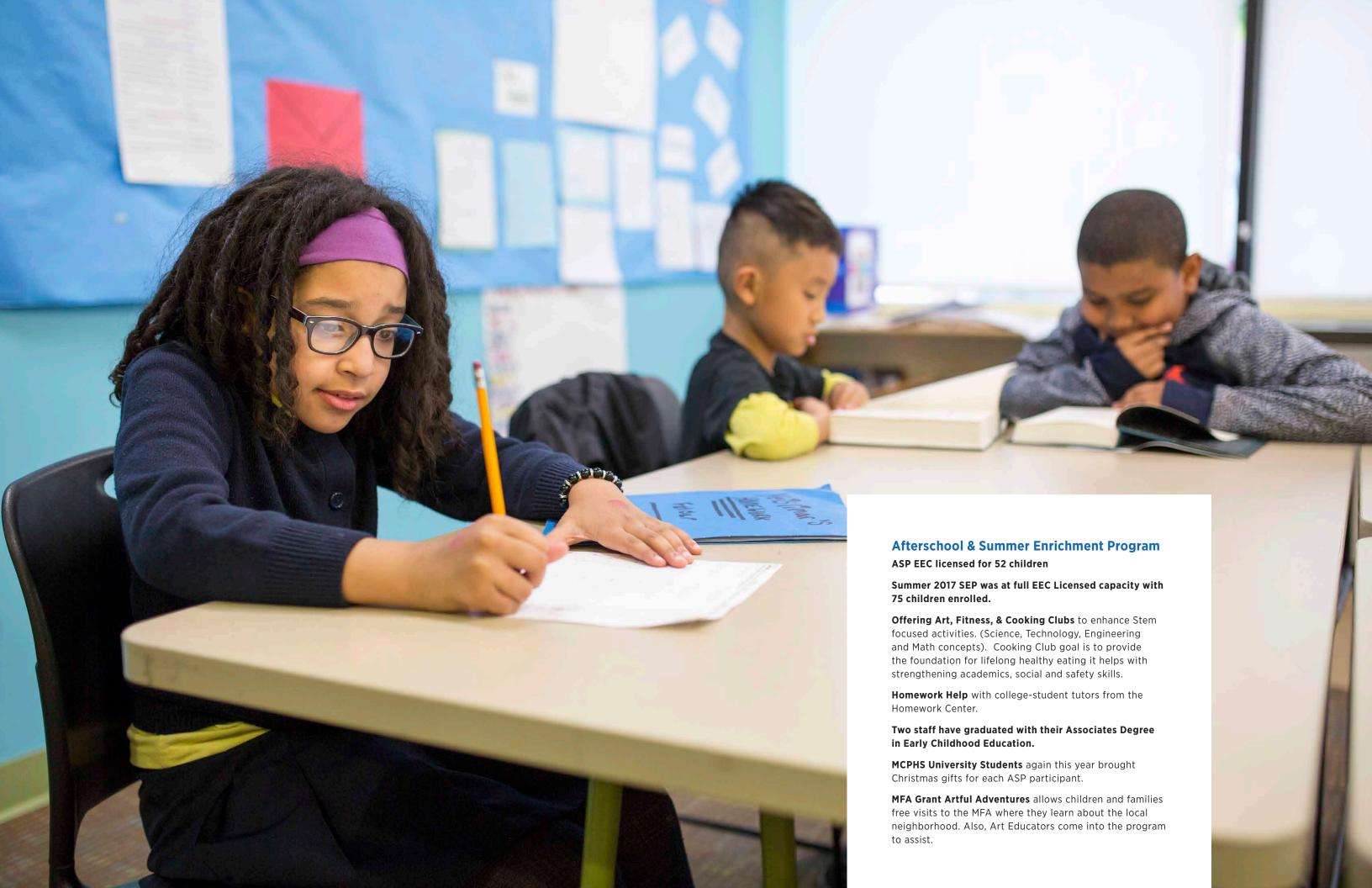


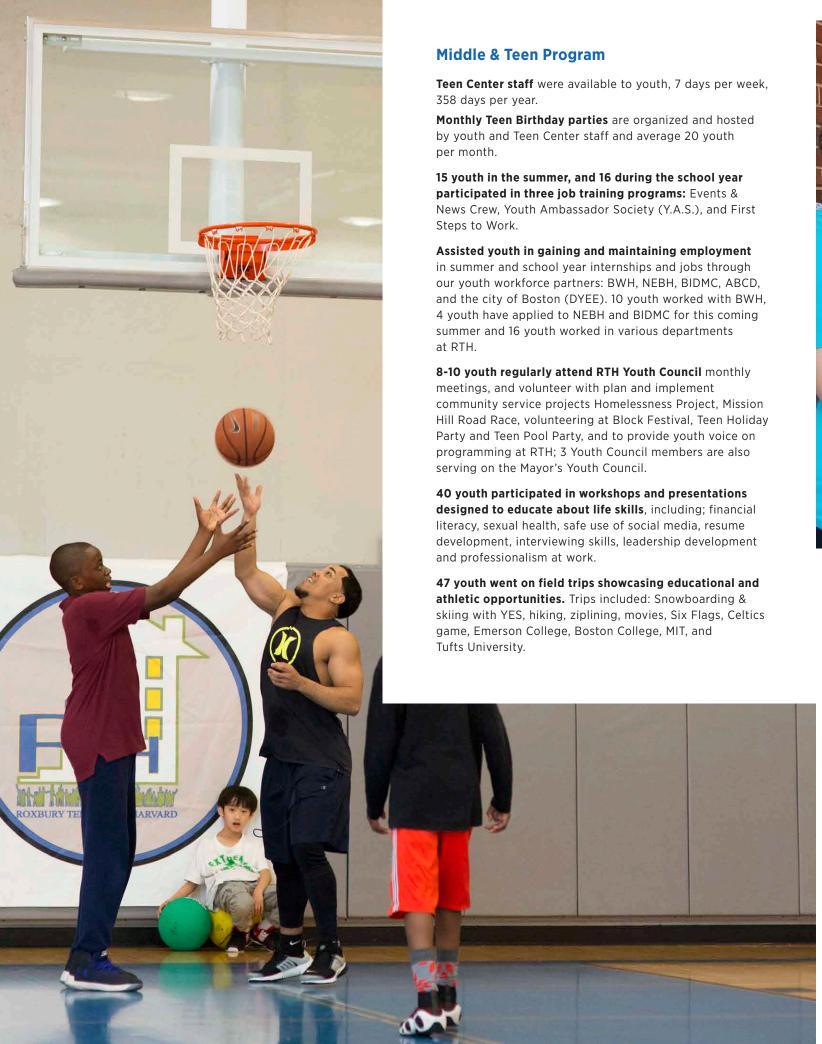














# **Mary T. Clifford Pool**

**Swim Lessons** have averaged 90 participants per week, furthering our effort to help drown proof all RTH youth.

**5th year that Quick Check Safety Checklist** was utilized. We performed 827 Quick Checks. Includes opportunity for resident involvement in ensuring safety.

#### **Child Watch**

**Child Watch serviced 35 families with a total of 675 child visits**. Provided babysitting for families participating in RTH classes, workshops wellness programming and community events.

**Child Watch and Sports Department** staff ran an eight-week program for 12 children ages 10 to 12 on Friday evenings.

#### **Sports**

Sports Department offers year-round basketball leagues, instructional sports classes, and community game nights for all ages and abilities; 144 residents participated in the various leagues; and 55 residents participated in instructional classes.







### Over the past year, RTH hosted 24 social and cultural events for 3,325 residents:

National Night Out 95 participants

**Block Festival** 700 participants

Music on the Plaza (3 times) 375 participants

Ice Cream Social with Trinity/

**Roxbury Jazz Collaboration** 400 participants

Family Pool Party 41 participants

**Teen Pool Party** 35 participants

Adult Pool Party 200 participants

Mission Hill Senior Prom 240 participants

Latin Night 75 participants

Thanksgiving Dinner (seniors) 112 meals were served

**Christmas Caroling and Trolley tour** 20 participants

Cookies with Santa 80 participants

Holiday party (adult) 120 participants

Holiday party (family) 165 participants

Chinese New Year Performance and Celebration 200 participants

Black History Family Night and Unity Event 225 participants

St. Patrick's Day 89 participants

Visit with the Easter Bunny 120 participants

Victory Day 110 participants

Special Needs and Differently
Abled Resources Fair 150 participants

Wellness Day 115 participants

Candidate Night 18 participants

## Field trips included 372 free or reduced tickets to:

Canobie Lake 45 tickets

**Disney on Ice** 31 tickets

Apple Picking 59 tickets

Basketball Hall of Fame 20 tickets

Paw Patrol 8 tickets

Supreme Air Party (at Skyzone) 35 tickets

Senior Day Trip to Tanglewood 11 tickets

**Senior Trip Spirit of Boston** 14 tickets

Other Senior 'Mystery Trips" 79 tickets

Sesame Street Live 7 tickets

6 Flags New England 57 tickets

Hip Hop Nutcracker 6 tickets









BRIDGE GAPS AND OVERCOME OBSTACLES.



Awarded 35 BWH/RTH "Believe and Achieve" scholarships, of up to \$4,000 per resident, for a total amount of \$53,000 to RTH resident students pursuing post-secondary education and job training.

**3 residents were hired at area hospitals**; BWH, Beth Israel, and Spalding Rehabilitation.

3 residents are currently working on, or recently completed, their RTH sponsored group exercise fitness training courses and are training to become group exercise leaders.

**32** residents completed Jazz Up Your Vegetables, a 6-week vegan cooking course provided through from a Harvard Pilgrim grant, part of RTH's heart healthy nutrition education initiative. 1 teen who was trained as a kitchen assistants and sous chef intern for the 2016 class returned to work in the 2017 Jazz Up Your Vegetables intergenerational class.

Part of the heart healthy nutrition education initiative.

101 adults attended Anatomy of a Chicken cooking class learning from professional chefs how to cut up and prepare a whole chicken and make four heart healthy dishes for their families. Classes were held in English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

112 residents learned to prepare low cost, heart healthy dishes for their families in a series of cooking demonstrations including Indian Cooking, Family-friendly Seafood Dinner Everyone Will Eat; How to use a pressure Cooker to Make One Pot Meals; Lucky Noodles with Vegetables, and a Taste of Tuscany vegan cooking class.

**15 school aged children participated in "Kids in the Kitchen"** cooking workshop, a school vacation week cooking and nutrition class led by a professional chef.

In support of promoting seafood as a healthy choice, the Seafood Club sold an average of 85 pounds of sustainably sourced seafood, straight from the fish pier, at deeply discounted prices.

#### 10 teens completed a six-week Financial Literacy.

38 students in grades 3-6 are learning to use Microsoft Word, Excel. PowerPoint and Photoshop.

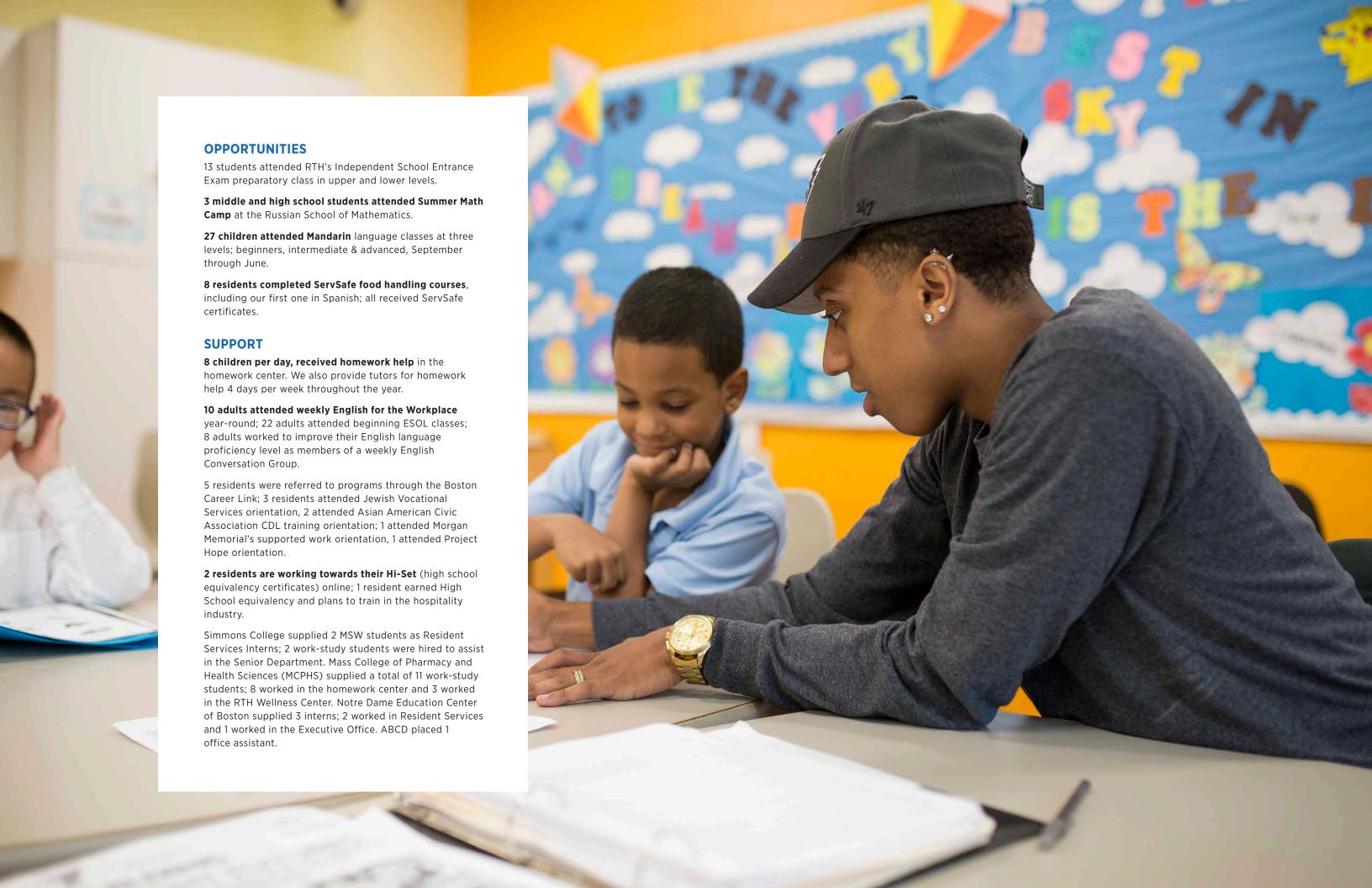
Recurring cycles of computer classes include Intro to Computers, Computer Basics (offered in three languages), Word, Excel PowerPoint, and Photoshop.

Assistive Technology in Computer Center: Dragon Speaks speech recognition software; JAWS screen reader for users with vision loss; large print keyboards for the visually impaired.

#### 35 Residents completed the Tech Goes Home program,

which provides under-served residents access to technology skills required for 21st century. Upon completion of 15-hour course; participants have an opportunity to purchase a new Chromebook computer for a reduced price of \$50, which typically sells for \$350.

**225 Residents participated in Netblazr Info sessions**; a more in depth 4-session training series to optimize the use of the new service, Cut the Cord and Save Money has been designed.





**Da Jia Le** A drop-in group for the Chinese community, known as Da Jia Le (Happy Together). It is held twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm, on the seventh floor of Flynn Building (Senior Center). The

residents play Mah Jong and chess, and/or simply socialized there. To date we held 44 gathering times with a total of 690 residents attending with an average of 53 residents at the weekly gatherings.

**Tuesday Translation Service** Held every Tuesday, from 9:00am to 11:00am. Translation is offered in Russian, Spanish, and Chinese in Cantonese Mandarin and Taiwanese. We served a total of 478 residents, Chinese Cantonese 454, Mandarin 22, Taiwanese 0, Russian 1, Spanish 0 and English 1.

**Department Translation Services** Residents Services documents translation of RTH's main publications monthly Senior Calendar and the quarterly What's Up. Translations were also provided to Trinity Management. Other translations were provided for Community Events and program flyers. We currently have the ability to translate documents in Spanish, Chinese and Russian.

**Coffee Hours** Continues to run our coffee hour at different locations throughout RTH. This an opportunity for residents to meet the Resident Services staff, ask questions and pick up information about services.

**Workshops** Cleaning Workshop Series: Back by popular demand, workshops are designed to take some of the stress and confusion out of the cleaning process. Topics included, how to clean on a budget, how to identify the best products, how to prepare your home for an upcoming inspection, how to involve the whole family. Last year we had 45 participants.











**Senior Drop-in Center:** We continue to have over 300 visits per month to the Senior Center to socialize, play bingo, watch a movie, show off their creativity in the Arts and Crafts class, attend workshops, get their blood pressure check, discuss current events, and to have a cup of coffee among friends.

**Senior Dept. Evening Activities:** Evening activities becoming more popular with Bingo Nights, Game Nights and Live entertainment.

**Fall Safety Presentation:** 78 seniors attended this Workshop presented NEBH

**Food Dollar Program:** 12 Seniors attended this 6-week ABCD program focused on the benefits of healthy eating habits on a modest budget.

Mystery Trips: Mystery trips add adventure to the offerings in the Senior Department. Seniors are given clues and told how to dress, but they do not know where they are going. 115 seniors have gone on 7 Trips (Hampton Beach, Spirit of Boston, Tanglewood, Lunch in Gloucester, play at Huntington Theatre, Bruch at Inn at Bay Pointe, and buffet at Flaming in Roslindale.)

Senior Celtic Program: In collaboration with New England Baptist Hospital, the proud sponsor of the Senior Celtics exercise program. There were 2 events 95 seniors attended RTH Community Center with on Halloween with current player, Aron Baynes, Legend Satch Sanders and Lucky, Celtic mascot. The Celtic players and therapist from NEBH showed our seniors exercises they can do at home to be more active. 50 RTH seniors participated at the event at Tobin Gym.















## **Seniors/Aging Well At RTH**

Mission Hill Birthday Parties: As a partner of the Mission Hill Senior Legacy Project, New England Baptist Hospital sponsors birthday celebrations quarterly for seniors living in Mission Hill Lunch, cake and gifts are provided for birthday honorees. 97 RTH seniors participated

**City of Boston Elderly Affairs:** 31 Seniors attended the City of Boston New Years Eve party at the Seaport Hotel. 25 seniors attended Picnic in the Park at Malcolm X Park in Roxbury, MA.

Fair foods; \$2.00 a bag program: The Fair food program at RTH enables residents to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for \$2.00. It is held every fourth Friday in the Parks Community Building. There were 1,532 bags of fresh fruits and vegetables were purchased this year

**Mission Nutrition:** A monthly nutrition class brought to us by Jewish Family and Children Services. Chef Reva Haselkorn demonstrates how to prepare the healthy dish at home. An average of 7 seniors attend monthly.

Mission Hill Senior Prom: 225 Seniors attended the prom hosted by Harvard T.C. Chan Public Health. They got dressed up, had a delicious sit-down meal, dancing and had their picture taken. It was a night that the seniors will remember for a very long time. This prom was a collaboration of several Mission Hill Community partners: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard T.H. School of Public Health, Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Mission Hill Health Movement, Mission Hill Legacy Project, Northeastern University, New England Baptist Hospital, Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, Trinity Management, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wingate Management and the Tobin Community Center.











# OUR VALUED COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS & COLLABORATION PARTNERS

In addition to providing safe affordable housing, we establish collaborative partnerships to expand & support the programs and services we offer residents

**ABCD** 

Agassi Village Camp

Asian Women for Health

Autism Eats

Bank of America

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

Boston Asthma Initiative

**Boston College EMS** 

Boston Department of Neighborhood Development

Boston Housing Authority (BHA)

**Boston Medical Center** 

Boston Public Health Commission-Emergency Preparedness,

Boston Public Library, Parker Hill Library

**Boston Youth Collaborative** 

Brigham & Women's Hospital

**Central Boston Elder Services** 

City of Boston Camp Joy

Children Hospital

Department of Children and Family Services (DFC)

Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Enhance Asian Community on Health

**ETHOS** 

Fair Foods

**Family First** 

Family Nurturing Center

Global Health Services

**Greater Boston Legal Services** 

Harvard Pilgrim Foundation

Harvard School of Public Health

**Huntington Theatre** 

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Jewish Family & Children's Service

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Mass Art

Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS)

Mass Department of Housing and Community Development

Massachusetts Eye and Ear

Mass Housing Investment Corp.

Mass Housing Partnership

Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) Mission Hill Health Movement

Mission Hill Senior Legacy Project

Mission Hill Youth Collaborative

Museum of Fine Arts

National Afterschool Association

New England Baptist Hospital

Northeastern University

Notre Dame Education Center of Boston

Read Boston

Salvation Army Camp Wonderland

Samaritans

SHINE (Serving the Health & Information Needs of the Elderly)

Simmons College

Sociedad Latina

Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center

TILL Services (Autism Support Center)

**Tobin Community Center** 

**Trinity Management** 

**UMass Boston** 

United Health Care

Wentworth Institute of Technology

**YMCA of Greater Boston** 

# **OUR CONSULTANTS**

During the year, we have been greatly assisted by several consultants in the implementation of the work of the organization.

American Association of Service

Coordinators

Beverly Pacheco

Boehm Architecture

Core Communications

Diane Gordon Consulting

**Munkenbeck Consulting** 

Massachusetts Association of Resident Service Coordinators (MARSCH)

Netblazr

Sara Schnorr, Locke, Lord

Simmons College School of Social Work

Rebecca Lee, Mintz Levin
Teresa Santalucia, Klein Horning
Terminal Exchange
Traggorth Companies

