

CAN-DO
1075 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02465

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 869

Upcoming Fundraising Events

August 27th

Macy's Shop for CAN-DO

September 16th—17th

Eat at Uno's at Newton Corner

March 4, 2012

CAN-DO's 9th Annual

YIMBY Celebration

CAN-DO



Summer-Fall 2011 Newsletter

News from the President



BOARD

Jane Eisenstark

President

Kenneth J. Sinclair

Treasurer

Deanna Reid

Clerk

Lonna J. Carter

Michelle Hayes

Cindy Kane

Sean Jordan

Nina LeDoyt

James M. Thompson

Josephine McNeil

Executive Director

Much has happened since our Fall-Winter 2010 newsletter.

We completed our Veteran House project and in the fall renovations will begin at 61 Pearl Street. We had a successful Annual YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) Celebration thanks to Co-Chairs Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz. Thanks also to the members of the event committee; we have been blessed by a committed group of volunteers who continue to say "yes" year after year when asked if they would serve.

We were most touched by local support that helped to turn a beautiful apartment at Veteran House into a lovely, warm home for our newest tenant as she moved with her daughter out of a shelter for women veterans in Worcester. Our CAN-DO Board Members have brought energy, interests and skills. Their support, and the support of the many members of the Newton community have ensured the continuation of CAN-DO's important work. Together we are in the process of proving that affordable housing in Newton is NOT an oxymoron.

After 17 years of serving on CAN-DO's Board, I continue to be impressed by and grateful for Executive Director Josephine McNeil's persistence, and the opportunity we have to improve the lives of others.

- Jane Eisenstark

Open House at Veteran House

Veteran House is the most recently completed development by CAN-DO. It is a lovely two family home located on Commonwealth Avenue. These units have been developed specifically for homeless veterans and their families. An Iraq War veteran moved into one of the affordable units with her three year old daughter on June 1st. She is absolutely thrilled with this opportunity and her beautiful home. The second floor unit is still available for rent.

Working on cosmetic improvements, which had not been included in the construction budget at the Veteran House, proved to be a wonderful opportunity for CAN-DO's new and old board members to get to know each other during the fall and winter. Spouses and children were included in the volunteer effort. There were many "working sessions" where everything was freshly painted and cleaned. In the spring, Veteran House was one of the sites for Newton Serves Volunteer Day. Yard clean-up and the installation of new landscaping was done by volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of CAN-DO Board of Advisors member, Bill McLaughlin, a new wooden fence has been added to the rear yard.

The Open House was held on a beautiful morning in May. Those elected and appointed officials who



Phil Herr, Charlie Shapiro and Mitchell Fischman, Judi Lipton, David Gaeto, Josephine McNeil, Nina LeDoyt, Kenneth Sinclair, David Fitzsimmons, Michelle Hayes, and Deanna Reid.

had provided funding for the project had the opportunity to see what had been made possible due to their efforts and to say thank you. In attendance were members of the Board of Aldermen, the Planning Department, the Community Preservation Committee and the Planning and Development Board. Also present were representatives from the Office of Veteran Affairs. The City of Newton should take pride in its united effort to say "Thank You" to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our well being.

A few weeks after the Open House, a house-warming shower was held for our veteran and her child. A bounty of gifts, including kitchen items, bathroom and bedroom linens, items for her little girl and gift cards were given by congregants from the United Parish of Auburndale, Temple Shalom, and The Eliot Church of Newton. Furniture was donated by Sleepy's, Boston Interiors and a gift certificate from Bob's Furniture.

- Michelle Hayes

Garfield House Renovation



Citizens for Affordable Housing
in Newton Development Organization, Inc.

(617) 964-3527 Jam_cando@msn.com www.newtoncando.org

Renovations at Garfield House, CAN DO's first undertaking, were completed this past Spring. Soil removal and redistribution including new drainage systems is complete. A new heating system and insulation have been installed to help with fuel costs and occupant comfort. In addition, the house has been painted and work has been done on the front porch.

The park across from Garfield House is in the final phase of renovations as well. A completely new climbing structure and swings, as well as a picnic area and new benches and greenery help to make the neighborhood very inviting.

- Nina LeDoyt