

HALEY HOUSE

Annual Newsletter

Bay
Village



Mel King
Academy
Garden



John
Leary
House

Huntington Ave

Columbus Ave

Tremont Street

INTERFAITH
APARTMENTS



Washington Street



Nubian
Square

South
End

COMING SOON!



New Haley House
Bakery Café



Haley House
Bakery Café

Massachusetts Ave



Thornton Street Farm

2023



Dear Friends,

Haley House serves some of the most under-resourced populations in Greater Boston, including the unhoused, recent immigrants, those formerly incarcerated, youth and seniors.

In the last year, we have taken the time to reexamine our

programming and to look for ways in which we can become more inclusive and equitable in how we deliver it.

We expanded our Take Back the Kitchen program to serve youth in the juvenile justice system. We want to ensure that all youth have a positive adult in their lives, opportunities to build positive social networks, and food education. Take Back the Kitchen imparts cooking skills and the knowledge to make healthier food choices, and can open doors to job opportunities. These tools discourage delinquency, substance abuse, violence, and school dropout. The goal is to get all of our young people on the right path.

In the spring, we hosted a conversation with other community leaders about the challenges facing our neighbors coming home from incarceration and the resources that exist to support them. We understand that these issues may be challenging to discuss but believe that creating a safe space for our community to learn from one another is an important part of our role.

Next year, we will begin an occupied rehab on the four family housing buildings known as the Interfaith Apartments. This project will be financed through energy credits, grants, and capital reserves. In addition to upgrading bathrooms, kitchens, and mechanicals, we will perform a Comprehensive Energy Assessment in line with Boston's Building Green Energy Retrofits program. This rehab will help us provide quality affordable housing to those who need it.

We know that our neighbors in the community need our services and we must deliver on our mission. We cannot do this work alone, and are grateful for the partners that work alongside us. Thank you for your continued support of Haley House and for helping us build a more just community for all.

Reggie Jean

Executive Director at Haley House



353 volunteers
gave **4,632** hours
of service

The Soup Kitchen
served **28,000** breakfasts



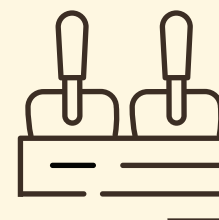
The Food Pantry served
177 households/week (average)

40

students

visited the

Mel King Garden

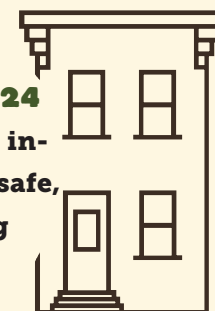


LIFT distributed **\$20,000**
in cash assistance to **62**
returning citizens



Take Back the Kitchen
held **178** classes, serving
775 students

78 families and **24**
formerly homeless in-
dividuals enjoyed safe,
affordable housing



Breakfast Is Back!

Haley House Soup Kitchen



Learn more!

**or apply to volunteer at
haleyhouse.org/volunteer.**

Work included safety updates, like new gas, electric, and fire suppression systems, repaired flooring, and carbon monoxide detectors; improvements to guest comfort, like better ventilation, upgraded lighting, and new toilet rooms, one of which is now fully accessible; and new kitchen equipment, including a long-dreamed-of dishwasher. The soup kitchen is once again serving breakfast five days a week. Volunteer shifts run from 6–10:30 am Monday–Friday at 23 Dartmouth St.

At long last, the renovations to the Soup Kitchen at 23 Dartmouth Street are complete. When work began in February, the Live-In Community packed up their pots and pans, their spices and spatulas and settled into the kitchen at 12 Dade Street. For five months (!) our already hard-working Live In volunteers shuttled back and forth, cooking breakfast at 12 Dade, then schlepping it over to 23 Dartmouth to be served out of what long-term Haley Housers know as the “corner store” space.

What was planned to be a 6–8 week construction project stretched to five months. Finally, in late July, the work was completed, and the Soup Kitchen re-opened.

Current and former Live-Ins gathered in July to share a meal in the renovated Soup Kitchen

The Heart of Haley House The Live-In Community

Haley House took shape when founders Kathe and John McKenna invited their homeless neighbors inside to share a hot meal and sleep in their South End home. This act of simple but radical hospitality became the blueprint for Haley House as we know it today.

Since the beginning, living among the community we serve has been a unique and powerful tool for forging bonds between volunteers and guests. Staff have observed that Haley House seems to have a more peaceful meal service than other soup kitchens in Boston. If that's true, all credit

goes to the Live-In Community and the incredible heart they bring to this work.

The pandemic was a grueling challenge for this community, affecting meal service, the experience of living in community, and of course recruitment. In truth, the LIC is still reeling from the trauma of working through the pandemic.

Fast on the heels of those challenges was the renovation noted above. While ultimately positive, it was a long and difficult process, which added considerably to the Live-Ins' workload. Today's LIC continues to work hard, as they strive to bring back the quality of care that Haley House guests have come to expect and rely on.

In July, we celebrated the Live In Community, inviting current and former members to gather for a one-night reunion. About 30 people attended, including ten LIC alumni. They shared a meal, reconnected with old friends, and decorated plates for the soup-kitchen walls.



**Intrigued? Learn more about
the Live-In Community
at [haleyhouse.org/
live-in-community](https://haleyhouse.org/live-in-community).**



Thriving Teens at Thornton Street Farm



In 2012, Hawthorne Youth and Community Center asked for Haley House's help in stewarding land in Highland Park when development was pushing long-term residents out. Farming this land was a way to ensure community members would benefit from it.

Thornton Street Farm holds the farm as undeveloped green space for the benefit of the Highland Park neighborhood, while expanding community access to fresh, local food, supporting Roxbury teens in becoming leaders in their local food system, and sup-

porting intergenerational connections in the neighborhood.

This beautiful, lush, green space is home to meditation events, herbalism workshops, elementary school field trips, and free, family-friendly community events.

The Teen Farmers program employs local youth to work the land and lead programming on the farm. The teens learn about crop selection, cultivation, soil health, and land stewardship. They also learn about the history of the land they're on, and about issues of food access and (in)justice in their community.

This growth in knowledge builds confidence, as they gain experience co-teaching workshops, explaining farm chores to volunteers, and talking about what they've learned with their peers, families, and community.

These teens take a leadership role in the Senior Produce Distribution, which serves 50 local seniors each summer. As beautiful as the fresh veggies are, perhaps even more beautiful are the intergenerational relationships this program supports.

Community & Justice Mel King Academy Garden

The Melvin H. King South End Academy, formerly the McKinley School, is a public inclusion school for students from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Mel King Garden was founded by a group of teachers 10 years ago. After five years of managing this garden on top of their work as educators, these teachers reached out to Haley House for support. Since 2018, Haley House has employed a part-time Garden Coordinator to care for this space and provide youth programming in the garden.

Haley House is one of several non-profit organizations providing enrichment programming to students at Mel King Academy. The Garden Coordinator partners with art teachers, science teachers, principals, and counselors to bring students to the garden to augment their classroom experiences. In the garden, students may learn gardening skills, the science of botany, the community impacts and politics of food, world culture and heritage.

When asked what community means to them, the teens offered: "When people come together to do things together", "Creating alliances", and "Boston".

Perhaps most important is the role of the garden is supporting students' emotional wellness. Elementary students at Mel King have no playground, a reflection of inequalities around access to play and to outdoor experiences for urban youth. The garden is the only on-site location where students can access outdoor recreation.



This summer, a group of students at Mel King were paid to work in the garden, in an experience that was for most students their first job. The Mel King teens tended to the garden and harvested fresh herbs and vegetables for guests of Haley House's soup kitchen and food pantry. They explored the meaning of community through topics like food justice, empowerment through land, and the contributions of Mel King, Haley House, Villa Victoria and other South End institutions.

TAKE BACK the Kitchen

Take Back the Kitchen

(TBK) is a series of cooking classes aimed at youth, families, and seniors that teaches basic cooking skills and nutrition concepts while encouraging students to try new foods and to eat more mindfully.

In the last year, TBK held 178 classes, reaching 775 participants. That is twice the number of students as the previous year!

91% of students reported that the class "contributed to their understanding of diverse cultural traditions and cooking styles," while 79% felt "more confident and comfortable cooking in a group setting."

About a year ago as part of our commitment to equity in our programming, Haley House decided to expand Take Back the Kitchen, with the goal of better serving youth whose lives have been impacted by the justice system.

Justice-involved youth face particular health and social challenges. They are less likely than their peers to receive preventive health care, and more likely to have unmet emotional health needs and untreated addictions. By some estimates, up to 90% have trauma histories and 70% have mental health disorders.

With the help of new Program Manager David Delvalle, Take Back the Kitchen has added a specialized curriculum for justice-involved youth.

In addition to the cooking skills that form the bases of all TBK classes, these series also focus on adaptability, self awareness, and communication.

Following the 8 week class series, 91% of students reported that the class "contributed to their understanding of diverse cultural traditions and cooking styles," while 79% felt "more confident and comfortable cooking in a group setting."

With more partners returning to TBK year after year, and several bringing their students multiple times a year, we are confronting a new challenge. Some students are already familiar with the course material and may have more advanced kitchen skills than their peers who are in class for the first time. As a result, we are having to adapt the course content to keep these returning students engaged. What a great problem to have!

One Student's Story

One of the schools served by Take Back the Kitchen is Fenway High School, one of Boston's six original pilot schools. Last fall, we hosted a class of 18 to 22-year-olds, all with autism. Some of these students are nonverbal. Many have sensory issues.

One of the goals for Allison, their teacher, is to identify strengths and areas of interest for each student, with an eye toward helping them find jobs post-graduation.

K. is a nonverbal student in Allison's class. Prior to Take Back the Kitchen, Allison really wasn't sure where to look for a meaningful work opportunity for him. But during his time at Take Back the Kitchen, he took so naturally to the work, showing both skill and enthusiasm, that Allison and his other teachers are going to help him explore cooking as a possible career path.

Speaking to the value of the hands-on learning experience that Take Back the Kitchen provides, K's teacher Allison said "I was able to give them the experience that I wanted, and that I couldn't in a school setting. It's so important!"

Chef Erma preparing fruit salad during a TBK class.



LiFT

Life Foundations Training

For the last year, Haley House has been offering LiFT, a drop-in re-entry program where returning citizens and their families can find resources and support.

LiFT offers returning citizens a safe space to build relationships with peers and allies and to learn from community partners about resources to support their entrance back into society. Twice a month, LiFT participants meet to learn about community resources, share struggles and successes, and prepare and enjoy a meal together.

"I know that when I come to a LiFT program I'm coming into a warm and supportive environment"

—A LiFT Participant

This spring, Haley House received a grant from the City of Boston Office of Returning Citizens that made it possible for us to distribute \$20,000 to 62 LiFT participants to help with expenses like court fees, IDs, and rent.

Said one participant: "LiFT created a sense of community in everything that we did. What really blew me away was people sharing food is always a community builder, but cooking and eating together was deep. It intensified that feeling of closeness. In the middle of cooking we were all laughing and sitting down knowing we all had a part of it was really meaningful."



This year, LiFT was supported by Tisch Scholar Carolina Hidalgo-McCabe, who shared this about the experience:

"More importantly, the space and the act of breaking bread with one another bring about vulnerability, a skill that is so often overlooked or denied by many. One night, Solange, a Haitian woman who is a survivor of domestic violence and spent nearly two decades in prison, shared with us about her challenges returning to Roxbury, finding work, and holding a job. While she shared about her struggles, Richie, another man who was released 12 years before, jumped to action, offering advice and support as they related to each other about recovery. LiFT is a space where connections are formed and deepened."

Haley House Bakery Café

It's the question we hear most often: When will the cafe re-open? Construction at 2147 Washington Street—the new home of the Haley House Bakery Café—continues, with completion currently scheduled for late 2024. The project is owned and managed by Dream Collaborative and New Atlantic Development.

In June, staff and Board were treated to a tour by New Atlantic Development's Brian Goldson. It was thrilling to see how far the work has come, and to imagine the Bakery Café in its new home.

2147 Washington Street will also provide Nubian Square with much-needed housing—74 residential units with a wide range of affordability, including 62 apartments for households with incomes from below 30% Area Median Income (AMI) up to 80% AMI.

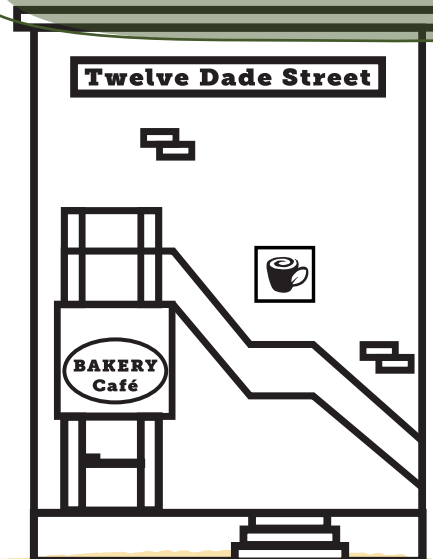
The Bakery Café will also be surrounded by retail and arts spaces intended to support economic development in the neighborhood and re-establish it as a cultural destination. Staff and Board alike were ex-

cited at the prospect of being neighbors with a dance studio and "maker space."

A public courtyard will connect the new building to 12 Dade Street, where the old cafe space will become a catering and production kitchen for Haley House.

Once open the new Bakery Café will once again be the centerpiece of Haley House's re-entry programming, offering returning citizens who already have some culinary skills with a soft landing place as their first job. Haley House is exploring a partnership with NECAT to place their graduates in jobs at the cafe while providing additional job-readiness skills and coaching to help them launch their new careers.

When will the café re-open?



Housing

Less well-known than either the Soup Kitchen or the Bakery Cafe, affordable housing is a big part of Haley House's programming. Haley House provides over 100 units of affordable housing in Roxbury and the South End.

Interfaith Apartments

In 2022, Haley House became the sole owner of four residential buildings, known collectively as the Interfaith Apartments. Haley House had for many years been a part-owner, in partnership with Madison Park Development Corporation.

The Interfaith Apartments include 69 subsidized family units, with addresses on Columbus., Mass. Ave., and West Concord Street. All are managed for Haley House by Maloney Properties and supported by "Section 8" vouchers through the Boston Housing Authority.

Ownership of these apartments is a win-win for Haley House and the community. We get to provide safe, affordable housing, in line with our mission, and the buildings are revenue-positive for the organization.

Haley House plans to rehab every unit within these buildings over the next 2-3 years, in collaboration with Joy Street Design. The remodel will improve both tenant comfort and the environmental impact of these buildings.

Single-Room Occupancy Residences

Since 1993, Haley House has offered 24 units of single-room occupancy housing in two buildings on Columbus. Our residents are low-income and formerly homeless. Many are also returning citizens.

In the last year, we repointed the front facade of both buildings. Next up are renovations of the shared kitchens and bathrooms. Maintaining safe and comfortable residences is part of Haley House's commitment to equitable housing for our communities.

John Leary House

A gift from a Haley House supporter, John Leary House offers 9 units of affordable family housing. We recently replaced the boilers in this building, and—happily—no additional work is currently needed.

Interested in supporting this work? Please reach out to Reggie or Michelle.

Affordable Housing



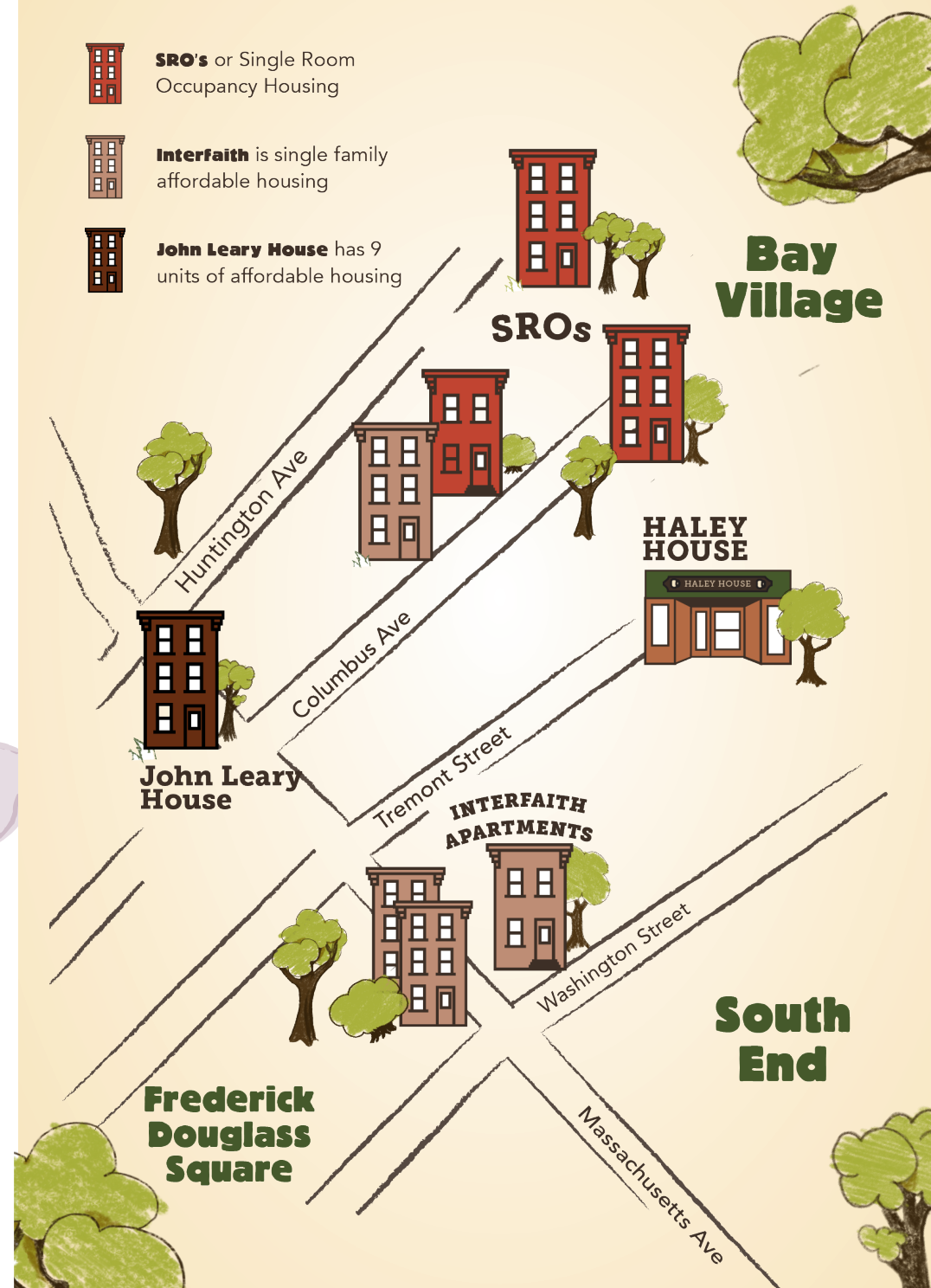
SRO's or Single Room Occupancy Housing



Interfaith is single family affordable housing



John Leary House has 9 units of affordable housing



Returning Citizens



Unhoused



BIPOC

Get Involved

No matter who you are and what you have on your plate, there's always a seat at our table.

Fund our Impact

MAKE A DONATION

online at haleyhouse.org/donate or by check with the enclosed envelope.

MONTHLY GIFTS

ensure we can sustain our programming throughout the year. Visit haleyhouse.org/donate

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT;

ask your employer about a Matching Gifts Program

PLANNED GIFTS

Ensure you leave a legacy of service in your will. Talk to your estate planner or email Michelle at mholcomb@haleyhouse.org if you have questions

GIVE THROUGH A DONOR-ADVISED FUND

If you use Fidelity, Schwab, or BNY Mellon, you can designate a gift right from haleyhouse.org/donate

SUPPORT HALEY HOUSE

Enjoy tax benefits by donating appreciated securities you've held for over a year.

Visit haleyhouse.org/donate or contact Michelle at mholcomb@haleyhouse.org

Lend a Hand

Organize an in-kind donation drive for our most-needed items



haleyhouse.org/goods

Join us for a volunteer shift!



haleyhouse.org/volunteer

Shifts Available:

Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry:
Weekday mornings year round

Mel King Academy Garden:
Weekdays fall/spring

Take Back the Kitchen Shifts:
Weekdays year-round in
Roxbury & Dorchester

Bring a group! Both the Mel King Garden and the Soup Kitchen can accommodate small groups





HALEY HOUSE

23 Dartmouth Street, Boston, MA 02116

SAVE THE DATE
SOUPER BOWL XVI
February 18, 2024

