In April 2018, Brookview broke ground on its third affordable housing development. “Brookview III” will include 12 units of two- and three-bedroom apartments with ground floor space for community services. Brookview will help even more families each year in addressing the trauma of homelessness and position them for long-term stability.
Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

To say that family homelessness is a multi-faceted issue is an understatement—homelessness, domestic violence, trauma and poverty intersect. But we know our formula—safe affordable housing with onsite programs and services addressing the root causes of family homelessness—helps women, children and youth build the foundation for moving beyond homelessness.

As we near completion of Brookview III, our third affordable housing development, we are excited about the possibilities. In addition to new apartments, Brookview III has a tech center, two youth development programs, classrooms for education and training, meeting space and offices for case management.

We are booming with activity so we desperately need this additional space. In collaboration with our strategic partners, we host city council hearings on childcare, community career nights, press briefings to highlight new research on alternatives to women’s incarceration, and leadership development events for women of color in the nonprofit sector. Our strategic partnerships are strong, advancing our practice in fresh ways. In this issue you will read about our collaborations preventing and ending domestic violence with Bobbi Kristina Serenity House, addressing trauma through writing with Grub Street, and confronting the child care crisis in Massachusetts with the Care That Works Coalition.

We are grateful to our supporters and partners and filled with optimism about what the future holds for the mothers and children of Brookview.

Thank you for supporting Brookview families!

Deborah Hughes
CEO & President
Brookview CEO Receives Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Achievement in Nonprofit Management

Deborah Hughes, President & CEO, named a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce 2019 Pinnacle Awards honoree for outstanding achievement in Management – Nonprofit. The Chamber honors eight women annually for outstanding achievement in business and management.

“Deborah Hughes, and the work she leads at Brookview House, exemplifies the heart of the Pinnacle Awards,” said James E. Rooney, president & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber. “She is an outstanding woman leader in her own right, but more importantly, she is paving the way for future leaders by providing resources, support, and hope to women and children across our region. We couldn’t be prouder to present her with a Pinnacle Award at our 25th Anniversary celebration.”

HUGUENS, age 18

As an immigrant from Haiti, I struggled this past year contemplating what I was going to do after high school, and the rest of my life in America, my new home.

I graduated from Community Academy of Science and Health June 2018. Now, I am happily studying health careers at Roxbury Community College.

I was 14 when my family moved to Brookview after the earthquake in Haiti. I remember attending the Teen Visionaries program for the first time. Staff got me to feel comfortable, they were like family, and I learned a lot. I learned life skills and financial literacy from being in the program. During my transition from high school to college, Brookview’s Teen Coordinator guided me through my journey.

My mother is a strong Haitian woman and my most significant support and advocate. I was unable to receive federal financial aid for college, but my mom was able to work hard and scraped up most of the funds. I paid some from all my community work cleaning yards in summer, raking leaves in the fall and shoveling snow in the winter.

I’m glad that my life crossed paths with the Brookview program.
Child care is an economic necessity for working families, employs a large workforce of women, and provides a critical environment for child development.

Care That Works, a new coalition convened by Community Labor United, includes community-based organizations, labor unions, working families, and child care providers coming together to confront the child care crisis in Massachusetts.

The Coalition is preparing a long-term campaign to transform the provision of child care in Massachusetts in a way that meets families’ needs as well as the child care workforce.

Read more at: CareThatWorks.org

Child care in Massachusetts is among the most expensive in the country and wages of childcare providers are low.
Brookview participated in the 3rd annual Winter Walk held February 10th, 2019. Our team walked shoulder to shoulder as a housed and unhoused community through the streets of Boston during the coldest month of the year to raise awareness and funds towards ending homelessness.
On February 27, 2019, the Bobbi Kristina Serenity House ("BKSH"), a nonprofit founded by singer Bobby Brown and his wife Alicia Etheredge-Brown to support victims of domestic violence, and Brookview House announced a partnership to jointly combat domestic violence in Massachusetts. Brookview will respond to all Massachusetts inquiries connected through the BKSH hotline from victims of domestic violence seeking assistance and resources and BKSH will provide fundraising and publicity support to Brookview.

“We are excited to join Brookview House and combine our resources to help these families move forward with their lives,” stated Bobby Brown.
Writing as Healing with Grub Street

“I want to be safe in my mind and my body”

– Brookview resident

Brookview and Grub Street, one of the nation’s leading creative writing centers, partner to offer workshops for moms and teens. In a safe learning space, participants share life experiences while simultaneously connecting with their emotions. It’s a journey of reflection, individual growth and a path to healing. They gain the courage to share painful moments and, with support, emerge from outdated beliefs or negative patterns of thinking. Though the process can be a bit challenging at first, over time it is liberating.
Janice Goodman, founder and president of Cityscapes, and her team Give Back. They bring nature into our home with live plants inside and out. Our outdoor garden educates youths about nutrition, develops gardening skills and provides a nutritious lunch. Their floral workshops are an enjoyable family fun night bringing relaxation, comfort and beauty.
Brookview Receives “$100K for 100” Grant from the Cummings Foundation

We are grateful to the Cummings Foundation for investing in our work eradicating family homelessness in Boston and Massachusetts. Brookview House is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “$100K for 100” program. “We are indebted to the nonprofit organizations like Brookview House that have a meaningful positive impact on the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services.”

“We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services”

– Joel Swets
In Massachusetts, 94 percent more people in families experienced homelessness in 2018 than in 2007.

Data Source:
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.
YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE for the moms and children of Brookview to achieve their dreams. Thank You for your generosity!

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Children’s Investment
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City of Boston - Department of Neighborhood
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Development
Assistance
Corporation (CEDAC)
Federal Food Program
through the City of
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Massachusetts
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Massachusetts
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Massachusetts
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Noonan Memorial
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Greater Boston Council
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Gucci America, Inc.
Harvard Pilgrim Health
Care
Lawrence Model
Lodging Houses
Trust
Liberty Mutual
Foundation
Mabel Louise Riley
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Foundation Employee
Volunteer Reward
Tulgey Wood Foundation, Inc.
UPS
Webster Bank
Wellingtointon Foundation
Charitable
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Wentworth Institute of
Technology

View more financial info on our website
LUIS

I was among the thousands of people that didn’t have a home.

Homelessness is very stressful and I don’t think anyone should need to go through that experience. Around 2014, I was introduced to Brookview House and this was a totally different world. They had laundry for me, a place for me to sleep, and they even had a place for me to focus on my school work. There I was also introduced to their youth programs where I was a part of the teen group. I was able to learn and get out of my comfort zone. Today, my family and I live in our own apartment and I go to one of the best schools in Boston, the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.

WILBERT, age 16

Some of the life skills I learned at Brookview were to always work together as a team, to support one another, to have patience with your peers, and to be safe.

I attend Madison High School in the Auto Collision program. I was 13 when I moved into Brookview House. The program was safe and I met a lot of new people. I learned to always work together as a team and to be safe.

I joined the Honda Dirt Bike incentive program at Brookview. On Saturdays, we participate in the National Youth Project Using Minibikes at RFK in Lancaster. I attended for four years and learned how to ride a dirt bike professionally. Now, I am helping to teach kids at RFK how to ride a dirt bike. I make sure that we are safe and having fun at the same time. I never imagined being in this position. I do not live at Brookview House anymore, but I still go there every day to participate in the fun programs. I am very thankful.

DANA

Brookview helped me with growing up to be the young man I am today.

I graduated from New Mission High School June 2018. I now attend Framingham State University.

I started in the Brookview youth program when I was 6 years old. I remember attending the youth program and when I turned 13, they had a ‘cross over’ ceremony. I received a watch from the youth staff and when she passed me to the Teen Visionaries program I was given a notebook.

While I was in the program I learned about life. I learned how to be responsible and how to take care of myself and avoid risky behaviors. At one point in school when I was not making constructive decisions, Brookview advocated for me and I was given a second chance.

Teen Visionaries is where I learned to be mature and grow up. It also inspired me to do different things. The career exploration program was awesome. I got my first paid job.

I appreciate all the help and care Brookview gave me.