

## Did You Know...

- The average age of a homeless adult is 24-years-old.
- The average age of a homeless child is 8-years-old.
- In 2005, the number of families living in Boston shelters increased by 24 percent.
- 50 percent of homeless adults work full-time jobs, but can't afford housing in Boston.
- Over 50 percent of homeless women and children are escaping abuse and domestic violence.
- A family or individual spends approximately 16 months in shelter before finding permanent housing.
- State government pays shelters \$106 a day per family, which translates into \$3,215 per month or \$38,500 per year.
- The median sales price for a single-family home in the Boston metropolitan area was \$430,900 at the end of 2005, according to data from the National Association of Realtors.
- According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) in no rural county or metropolitan area can a renter with a full-time, minimum wage job afford a one-bedroom unit at market rent.
- According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, the gap between the rich and poor is widening dramatically, with income inequality growing more in Massachusetts over the last 20 years than in all but two states.

**Tabitha Gaston-Clark**

Acting Director

ABCD Housing & Homelessness Prevention

**Robert M. Coard**

ABCD President/CEO

**Jeanette Boone**

ABCD Board Chair

Action for Boston Community Development

178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

617-357-6000

[www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org)

## How You Can Help



*Your contribution can make all the difference for the homeless children, families and individuals served by ABCD. The list below shows how your dollars can help.*

- \$25:** Buy stamps for mailing housing applications
- \$50:** Buy household necessities
- \$100:** Buy sheets and blankets for a family in transition from a shelter to a home
- \$250:** Feed a family of three for two weeks
- \$300:** Buy beds and mattresses for a family in transition
- \$500:** Pay for three months of utilities
- \$800:** Fill one tank with heating oil
- \$1,000:** Pay for moving expenses
- \$1,500:** Pay one month's rent
- \$5,000:** Pay first, last and security deposit on an apartment
- \$10,000:** Stabilize a family for six months or prevent a family from becoming homeless

Please call ABCD at 617-348-6347 to see how you can help or send your tax-deductible contribution today. Please make all checks payable to:

**ABCD Housing Services**

**Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.**

**178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111**

**[www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org)**



*Thank you for helping Boston's homeless children and families.*

## A ROOF OVER Their Heads



**ABCD HOUSING  
AND HOMELESSNESS  
PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

# A Community Challenge



*“Half of Boston’s homeless work full-time yet cannot afford housing. Section Eight vouchers, the main source of subsidized housing, are frozen and the waiting list for public housing can be up to 40 years long for non-priority individuals and families.”*

**T**hey live in society’s shadows, in parks, alleyways, subway tunnels and shelters. They are children, disabled persons, elderly citizens and victims of abuse. They are men, women, White, Black, Latino and Asian. Fifty percent of them work full time. They are Boston’s homeless and in December 2005, their numbers grew to an unprecedented 6,365 persons. That year also saw a 24 percent increase in Boston families living in shelters, the fastest growing group of the homeless population that now numbers 2,000. These figures do not include the hidden homeless, with families doubling or tripling up in overcrowded housing.



Lack of affordable housing, federal and state budget cuts in homeless prevention funds, record high fuel prices and Boston’s ranking as the most expensive U.S. city in which to live have left many people without a roof over their heads. Half of Boston’s homeless work full-time yet cannot afford housing. Section Eight vouchers, the main source of subsidized housing, are frozen and the waiting list for public housing can be up to 40 years long for non-priority individuals and families. And those few who do find housing are faced with often insurmountable move-in costs. Few resources are allocated for homeless individuals.

Boston’s homeless crisis is a small part of a much larger national calamity. How, in the richest nation on the earth, can so many lack the basic necessities of food and shelter? This is one of America’s most pressing challenges and a crisis that demands our immediate and unrelenting attention.

*“Lack of affordable housing, federal and state budget cuts in homeless prevention funds, record high fuel prices and Boston’s ranking as the most expensive U.S. city in which to live have left many people without a roof over their heads.”*



## ABCD Services to Prevent Homelessness and Stabilize Families



ABCD housing counselors work at homeless shelters and community sites assisting low and moderate-income homeless and at-risk families and individuals,

including the elderly, disabled, victims of domestic violence, and those with HIV to prevent them from falling into homelessness or help them move into a home they can afford. ABCD also serves walk-in customers and responds to referrals of individuals and families who are doubled up with other families, facing eviction, behind in rent or utilities, or living in substandard housing.

### ABCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### In any given year, ABCD:

- Places more than 1,000 homeless and at-risk families and individuals in permanent housing.
- Prevents more than 150 evictions in the City of Boston through landlord-tenant mediation and court intervention.
- Accompanies more than 100 at-risk Boston residents to Housing Court and intervenes on their behalf.
- Holds close to 50 community workshops on housing issues.
- Provides housing assistance and family stabilization services to almost 200 victims of domestic violence.
- Provides housing and employment for hundreds of chronically homeless and disabled individuals and families.