



THE BOSTON HOME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Speaker of the House Thomas M. Finneran presents proclamation to Marva Serotkin, CEO of The Boston Home.

Finneran Speaks Out For The Boston Home

Dorchester, Mass.—Speaker of the House Thomas M. Finneran recently presented a proclamation from the House of Representatives to The Boston Home in Dorchester in recognition of its “Outstanding care to adults with disabilities.” The speaker was honored during a “Celebration with Community Leaders,” a special event that attracted more than 100 guests and marked several new milestones at The Boston Home. Finneran praised the work of The Boston Home and addressed the need for people in the field to work together to realize the greater good. Gay Vernon of Magic 106.7 FM served as Emcee for the event. CEO Marva Serotkin recognized Speaker Finneran as a tireless advocate for TBH and nursing homes.

The Boston Home recently completed a 30,000-square-foot building expansion and modernization project to reduce its waiting list for admission. Improvements include 12 new resident rooms (boosting capacity from 84 to 96), a new Activities Center, an expanded and more-accessible outdoor terrace-garden, an expanded dining room, and renovated resident rooms with advanced technology features.

Another milestone is The Boston Home's new Spirituality and Wellness Program, which helps adults with disabilities "live well and find meaning in life," according to Sister Bridget Haase, program coordinator. The unique program encompasses relaxation-meditation groups led by staff and residents, wheelchair yoga classes, a spirituality-themed discussion group called "Life's Questions," on-site spirituality retreats, a seminar on death and dying, groups for residents who can't communicate verbally, and many other initiatives.

The Boston Home also introduced its Technology Center and advanced adaptive equipment, which "make the resident's wish technology's command," according to Don Fredette, adaptive equipment technician. Technological innovations such as voice and chin activation, wireless technology, radio-frequency signals, and infrared waves give residents hands-free control of their environment and access to computers. Residents now enjoy more independence with hands-free wheelchairs, phones, TVs, lights, adjustable beds, call buttons, doors, and elevators. They are also broadening their educational, recreational, and communications horizons with e-mail, the web, desktop publishing, video conferencing, and computer games.

The only facility of its kind in New England and one of a few in the United States, The Boston Home has assumed a leadership role—on a local, national, and international level—in advocating for affordable, high-quality, age-appropriate care for adults with MS and other progressive neurological diseases. This year, staff, volunteers, and residents have addressed state legislators, health care organizations, and health care facilities about insufficient community resources, residential facilities, and funding for this underserved population.

Concerned about its own waiting list, The Boston Home established the Bridges program, which provides outreach to people with disabilities who live at home. Holly Burnes, President of the Board, said, "There are too many individuals beyond the borders of our campus who are not getting the care they need, and we are taking the initiative to help find solutions. We are also working to foster greater independence for Boston Home residents.

“As we showcase our building renovations and launch new programs, we are excited to bring our friends, neighbors and collaborators behind the scenes at our ‘home on the hill,’ said Marva Serotkin, CEO of TBH. “We look forward to strengthening our partnerships and our continuum of care for adults with disabilities.”

Founded in 1881, The Boston Home is a 96-bed, not-for-profit, long-term-care facility that serves adults of all ages with multiple sclerosis and other progressive neurological diseases. It has earned a national reputation for providing progressive long-term care. The Boston Home’s philosophy of empowering residents, its “wheelchair community” model, and its innovative programs shatter stereotypes about long-term care.

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