



MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home

Dennis Baker
President
American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts
The Engineering Center
One Walnut Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and thousands of men, women, youth, and children who we assist annually, I want to thank American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts for the overwhelming support we have received. The outpouring of generosity that members of American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts have given over the past month has been amazing and has raised nearly \$40,000.

Coretta Scott King once said, “the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members”. There is no doubt that members of American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts are some of the most compassionate members in taking action to help those who are less fortunate within our communities.

Having a place to call home has possibly an even greater meaning now due to COVID-19. Sadly, due to the pandemic, the number of families and individuals who are at risk of homelessness are at a level the Coalition has never experienced before.

The Coalition approaches its work on a systemic change level and meeting the immediate needs of the community. Since March, the Coalition’s Casa Project, which has been partnering with community health centers and public schools to offer their patients, students, and their families assistance with housing instability, began working remotely due to COVID-19. At that time, like so many others, we thought it would be for two weeks. Now going on a year, our Casa Advocates have assisted over 5,200 low-income households, a 75% increase from the year prior. Many of the heads of households assisted were women and with schools now remote and no way of affording daycare, they have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The struggles of these women to keep food on the table and a roof over their children’s heads has left many in despair.

Over the past year, the Coalition has been at the forefront advocating on behalf of those who are currently experiencing homelessness. Our advocacy has been instrumental in shaping a statewide plan to increase housing and shelter space to allow people to be safe during these uncertain times. The Coalition’s leadership on the issue of youth homelessness has allowed us to convene a statewide strategy throughout the pandemic to create housing, services, and case management for this young population.

Over the past twelve months, the Coalition has also continued to pivot to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve. A Bed for Every Child’s truck hit the road again in April and began delivering beds just like Domino’s does with a pizza, with no contact, to ensure the safety of the families and our

staff. A Bed for Every Child delivered hundreds of beds to children growing up in poverty throughout the Commonwealth. Each year, A Bed for Every Child partner with over 100 school districts across the Commonwealth to identify low-income students who need a bed. In August, many of these school districts began reaching out to see if they could receive help in getting desks. The Coalition took on the challenge and designed a desk and began building them for students like Alexandra, an 8th grader in Salem who was using the floor as her desk, and Jorge, a 5th grader in Springfield who was using an ironing board, and Farah, a 2nd grader in Framingham, who had been using her bed as a desk. A desk is an important staple in a child's education and creates an environment conducive to studying. It all begins with having that desk. To date, we have delivered over 700 desks to future engineers, scientists, doctors, teachers, or even the future President of United States who now have a place to study at home.

On behalf of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, I am so appreciative of your support at this time of great need. I can truly say that it is this type of support that allows our Advocates to meet the growing needs for the lowest income men, women, youth, and children of our communities. The compassionate actions of the members of American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts will be put into action by the Coalition in helping those in communities from Springfield to Cape Cod to receive the supports they need over the coming months.

With gratitude and many thanks,

Robyn Frost
Executive Director

The Coalition is a non-profit and is recognized as a tax-exempt organization (Tax ID 222-599-662).
No goods or services were received.