

MHIC News

MHIC Presents Excellence in Community Development Awards at Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting

June 7, 2017, Boston – At its twenty sixth annual meeting and awards ceremony, Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC) presented **Excellence In Community Development** awards to individuals and organizations for their vision and innovation, commitment to the community, perseverance, and results.”

The meeting was held at the Omni Parker House in downtown Boston and attended by more than 250 people.

While presenting the awards, MHIC President Joe Flatley said, “This is the best part of our annual meeting because we have the chance to publicly recognize and thank our partners. Today’s awardees have demonstrated leadership, commitment, and work that positively impacts the lives of many people and their communities. Their work sets the bar high for community development.



I-r: Joe Flatley, Derek Farias, Jason Barbosa, Kevin Barbosa, Eileen Hayeas, James Hagerty, Dennis Leary, Jr., Chris Davies, Bill Caselden

Awards were presented to:

Amos House and Eileen Hayes, President/CEO, Providence, Rhode Island, for their “vision in transforming a grass-roots soup kitchen into a leading social service agency, innovation in addressing the issues of hunger, homelessness and poverty, and commitment to meeting the needs of the community by ‘helping more people help themselves.’”

Amos House provides direct support for persons in Rhode Island who are hungry, homeless or in crisis, and operates the largest soup kitchen in the state. With New Markets Tax Credit financing, the nonprofit built a new facility to expand its dining area, add classrooms,

community rooms and training centers, consolidate staff offices, and create additional housing.

The training and education programs offered by Amos House offer individuals and families a fresh start and new opportunity by giving them skills, real life experience, and job placement assistance. Through all of its services, Amos House gives formerly homeless people or those struggling with unemployment the support and tools they need to be stronger and healthier, to give them confidence, and to become part of the greater community.

Presenting the award, Andrea Daskalakis, MHIC chief investment officer, said, "Amos House transforms lives by providing the tools and means for a pathway out of poverty."

Vicente's Supermarket, Brockton, Mass. and its owners, for "the family values guiding their focus, embracing innovation, bringing new opportunity to the Brockton area's burgeoning immigrant community with jobs, affordable healthy food and added vibrancy."

The Vicente's family has operated a full-service grocery store that has been a Brockton staple for more than 20 years. In September 2015, with New Markets Tax Credit financing, the family opened a new store built on a long-vacant former supermarket site. The new store brings healthy food choices to a neighborhood adjacent to a federally-designated "food desert" and transforms an underutilized property just blocks from downtown.

The supermarket also has teamed up with Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, a nonprofit community health center, which built and opened a satellite facility adjacent to Vicente's. Together, they offer programs to provide food-related education classes, nutrition lessons, guided shopping, cooking classes, and a rewards program for healthy purchases.

Deb Favreau, MHIC chief development officer, presented the award. She said, "Vicente's collaboration with Brockton Community Health Center is a model for how community facilities and health care organizations can work together to prevent health problems and build healthy communities."

Great Bridge Properties and its principals, Bill Caselden and Chris Davies, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for their commitment to building quality affordable housing, stewardship of public resources, and ingenuity in working with minority-owned businesses."

Great Bridge Properties, LLC has been providing housing for working families and seniors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire since 2000 and has been MHIC's partner since 2002. The company develops high quality rental housing communities and provides development consulting services to nonprofits. To date, they have developed 503 units of housing in 12 low-income housing tax credit properties in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Christine Vincente, MHIC senior investment officer, presented the award. She said that, "In all its projects, Great Bridge works closely with local government and community leaders to build support and ensure that all the housing they build will address the most pressing community housing needs."

#