

Somerville resident, Cambridge city planner Berman honored by nonprofit



Wicked Local Somerville

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Cambridge —

Heading Home, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to end homelessness in Greater Boston, recognized five honorees for their significant efforts toward ending homelessness at its annual meeting Dec. 1.

“There are many families in our community who are very vulnerable to our current economic state,” said Tom Lorello, executive director of Heading Home. “The hard work and support of these admirable figures makes a measurable difference in our ability to help those less fortunate. We must acknowledge these five honorees as their significant contributions bring us one step closer to ending homelessness.”

The winners include Fred Berman, Cambridge city planner, who was presented with the Community Partner Award for his work in Cambridge on behalf of Heading Home.

Heading Home is an early proponent of the “Housing First” model, having recently launched an innovative new program model, the Heading Home Partnership to End Family Homelessness, which uses private donations in concert with public funding to develop a comprehensive suite of services for homeless families. Heading Home will use its resources under this model program along with recently awarded \$4.5 million in federal stimulus money to move more than 700 homeless Massachusetts families out of motels and into housing. The goal is to enable families to decrease dependence on public support over time, eventually becoming fully independent.

Heading Home, formerly Shelter Inc., is a nonprofit whose mission is to end homelessness in Greater Boston by providing housing in conjunction with effective support services to help change the conditions that create homelessness. Founded in 1974 by a small group of concerned citizens in Cambridge, Heading Home operates programs focused on smaller home-like settings with individualized attention in the communities of Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Malden, Medford, Everett and Quincy. For more information, visit www.headinghomeinc.org.