

VOCATIONAL REHAB: SULLIVAN FAMILY MOVING AHEAD PROGRAM



The St. Francis House Sullivan Family Moving Ahead Program (MAP) is a unique, holistic, vocational rehabilitation program that prepares adults with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness and/or incarceration to find and maintain employment.

More than a job-skills training program, MAP supports students in addressing the many facets of self-sufficiency and well-being necessary to lead fulfilling lives.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- 14 weeks employment-readiness curriculum that builds and expands on students' previous work experience
- 16 weeks of transitional housing provided in community based sober living residences
- Employment Services team provides 1:1 job coach support and internship opportunities
- Weekly stipend and an MBTA T-pass
- Case Management: individualized counseling, referrals and legal support
- Clothing and image consultation program through Studio Shine
- Alumni Program that is 1,500 strong with lifetime access to St. Francis House services

OUTCOMES

In FY16, MAP served **162** students on a rolling basis, achieving a **graduation rate of 55%**.

To best understand our impact, it is important to recognize some of the characteristics of those we serve through this 14-week Moving Ahead Program.

100% of our students are currently homeless or in unstable/unsafe housing situations, *having experienced homelessness 4 times* on average. 92% of our students have been in detox, with our average student having been in detox *11 times*. 82% of our students have been incarcerated, averaging 3 jail sentences per student.

In FY16, **63%** of all our graduates were sober and employed at the time of graduation, holding an average hourly wage of **\$11.59**, higher than the \$10/hour Massachusetts minimum wage.

THE MOVING AHEAD PROGRAM: OUR STUDENTS



“Before doing the Moving Ahead Program I thought I was damaged goods with no self-worth and no belief in a life without drugs. I never thought I could hold a position for more than a few weeks, with my addiction destroying any and all dreams of living clean. Life is so much better today for me because of MAP.”

- Sheila, Class 126

GRADUATE PROFILE



John started drinking at age 13, then escalated to hard drugs. *“I always said I would never stick a needle in my arm, but eventually did when I was 34. My life quickly spiraled out of control, and I was living on the streets in Lowell. Extremely desperate, I robbed a bank.”*

After serving his sentence, John joined the Moving Ahead Program while in his halfway house.

“MAP helped change my life and gave me a second chance. I have come a long way from living under that bridge and quite frankly would be dead if I hadn’t made the choices I did when I got released from prison and joined MAP.”

Once graduating the program, he started college at Salem State, and has now been a member of LABORERS Union for 9 years. John celebrated a decade of sobriety in April 2015.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 48% of students are female
- 50% of students are male
- 2% of students are transgender/unknown
- 68% students identify as Caucasian
- 26% students identify as African American
- 6% identify as Hispanic, Asian, Multiple
- **35%** of our students are **under age 35**
- Approximately 100% report being homeless at time of entry into the Moving Ahead Program
- Our students have experienced **homelessness an average of 4 times** in their lives