



WHO IS THE GREATER BOSTON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®?

The Greater Boston Association of Realtors® (GBAR) represents over 5,000 real estate professionals throughout the Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts area and is one of the local boards of the National Association of REALTORS® – the largest trade association in America. GBAR provides professional development courses, standard forms, legal reports and updates, brokerage counseling, legislative and regulatory representation, ethics, mediation and arbitration services, as well as industry news and market data to its members. REALTORS® are regulated by state law, but also adhere to the strict Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS®, a distinction that sets REALTORS® apart from non-member real estate licensees.



GBAR

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The 2009 Greater Boston Association of Realtors® Community Service Committee is aligned with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. The Committee's mission is to increase membership awareness of housing issues that impact our community and mobilize our general membership to volunteer and provide financial support.

GBAR
11 Beacon Street, 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-423-8700
www.gbar.org



Raising Awareness For
**The Massachusetts Coalition
For The Homeless**

WHAT IS THE MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS?

Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless is committed to ensuring that everyone has a place to call home. The Coalition works to eradicate homelessness by addressing its root causes and advocating for long term solutions in: preventing homelessness; safeguarding critical safety net programs; accessing needed services; and creating and preserving affordable housing for low-income households.

First Stop Initiative

In 2004, the Coalition created the First Stop Initiative, a Health Center Homeless Prevention Collaborative, to offer on-site homelessness prevention services to consumers and to assist them in obtaining and maintaining affordable, stable housing. The program operates in five different health centers located in Brockton, Dorchester, Lawrence, Lynn, and Revere. In 2007, the program will expand again to include services at the Boston Public Schools.

Facts About Homelessness In MA

The average age of a homeless person in Massachusetts is eight years old.

Last year alone, over ten thousand families and thirty-five thousand individuals lost their housing leaving them homeless.

40,800 School aged children are experiencing homelessness on any given day.

The number of children experiencing homelessness is more than five times the number of children presently in the state's emergency shelter system.

At least fifty-percent of these children are in pre-school and primary grades (up to third grade).*

DONATE YOUR EXTRA FURNITURE TO A WORTHY CAUSE!

The Furniture Bank helps to furnish the future for thousand of formerly homeless individuals and families making their transition from homelessness to a home of their own, with out any cost. You can give new life to old furniture by donating it to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. The Coalition can work with you or your business to remove any usable furniture. All donations are fully tax-deductible!

Here is a list of Items that the Furniture Bank is currently seeking:

- Desks, Vanity Desks
- Head-Footboards, Bed Frames
- Entertainment Centers, Cabinets
- Chest Drawers/Dressers
- Bookcase/Shelves, Nightstands
- Rugs, Lamps
- Sleeper/Sofas Bed, Recliners, Chairs, Ottomans
- Kitchen/Dining Tables, Coffee/End Tables
- Buffets/ Sideboards, Hutches
- Stereos/Radios/Televisions
- Flat Ware/ Dishes/ Kitchen Items

For more information about you can donate household items to the Furniture Bank, contact:

THE MASSACHUSETTS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS FURNITURE BANK

15 Bubier Street, Lynn, MA 01901

Phone: 781-595-7570 x.13

www.mahomeless.org/programs/donatefurniture.html



WHAT IS THE FURNITURE BANK?

In 1985 the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless created the Furniture Bank, which collects donated furniture and household items and distributes them to households as they transitioning from a homeless shelter to a home of their own.

The Furniture Bank works very similarly to the food bank concept. It solicits donations of beds, couches, chairs, tables, and other household essentials; picks them up from donors; and distributes them free of cost to those in need. The Coalition's Furniture Bank is one of the largest programs of its kind in the nation and in Massachusetts. The program operates from its 40,000 square foot warehouse on the North Shore. During the year, on average over 3.5 million dollars worth of furniture and household goods are collected and distributed to over 3,000 households making the transition out of homelessness.

The sheer scale of the Furniture Bank enables the program to be cost effective and efficient in its operation. In its twenty plus years of operation, the Furniture Bank has established relationships with hundreds of businesses that have been willing to donate needed items. The nature of these relationships and donations vary, but they all share the common goal of helping to provide the essential building blocks for a family's

