



Finding Freedom: Rebecca's Journey from Hardship to Hope

Rebecca has her own room for the first time since 1991. After decades of navigating life's hardships—domestic violence, addiction, incarceration, homelessness—she is excited to embrace her newfound independence. “I’ve been a mom since I was 15, so I’ve always shared a room with a child or a man,” she reflects. “Now, I finally have a space that’s just for me. Do you know how liberating that is?”

Rebecca's journey has been long and arduous. Her mother, herself a survivor of abuse, struggled in her role as a parent, leaving Rebecca caught in cycles of abuse and instability. Barely into her teenage years, Rebecca became pregnant and eventually homeless, fleeing a violent home life after her mother pushed her down a flight of stairs at eight months pregnant. Determined to keep her baby safe, Rebecca found refuge in a shelter before securing safe, stable housing.

Despite the early challenges, Rebecca persevered and fought to care for her children. By age 24, she was a mother of three, a certified nursing assistant, gainfully employed helping others, and living with her then-boyfriend.

However, everything shifted when the relationship turned abusive. He introduced her to crack cocaine, and his violent attacks left her with life-altering injuries. “He beat me so badly, you couldn’t recognize my face. I lost all of my front teeth, he broke my nose, and I have permanent brain damage because of him,” she says.

Her story took an even darker turn when she was incarcerated for a crime her abuser led her into. “I had to give my babies to my mom,” she shares, tears welling up in her eyes. “I’ve been through a lot of stuff, but that was the worst thing that has ever happened.”

Behind bars, Rebecca fought to rise above her circumstances. She joined the prison choir, immersed herself in the law library, worked in the garden and kitchen, and participated in the TV mommy program, recording herself reading children's books that were then sent home for her kids. “I wasn’t going to sit in my cell and do nothing. I had to prove myself.”

After an early release for good behavior, Rebecca immediately sought to reunite with her children, regaining custody of her two youngest. With years of sobriety behind her and a second chance at life, she dedicated herself to being a strong mother. Rebecca beamed with pride as she told us how she homeschooled her youngest daughter, who has developmental disabilities, and enrolled her in equine therapy. She



For Rebecca, this new chapter is about finding herself and living on her own terms. “I needed to find myself. I couldn’t be what others wanted me to be anymore. Now, I’m finally being me,” she says, smiling.

watched her son graduate high school with high honors and go on to become a bioengineer and proudly shared that her two oldest daughters are now a nurse and an architect. **But her battles continued.**

Breast and ovarian cancer, multiple surgeries, and another abusive relationship drained Rebecca emotionally and physically. By 2023, she had reached her breaking point. “I had everything I needed—a house, my kids—but what I didn’t have was happiness,” she reflects. “I felt so alone, and the abuse was too much. I had to leave.”

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“I was so excited to move into this place. Then, I was in shock when they gave me my own room! It’s stability. It gives me hope.”

(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Each year, Victory Programs continues to grow and evolve, ensuring we meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve, whether they're new clients or long-standing members of our community. In FY24, we broadened our impact—welcoming more individuals to programs like the Boston Living Center (BLC) and Victory Connector while launching new initiatives across our continuum of care. These efforts have allowed us to provide vital resources and fill crucial gaps in support systems.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. Your belief in our mission empowers Victory Programs to adapt, respond, and innovate in the face of growing challenges and complex needs. Together, we are not just offering help, but building pathways to hope, healing, and lasting stability for individuals and families. Your partnership in this journey is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

Total number of adults and children served: 5,252



3,010 individuals were assisted by the Mobile Prevention Team (street outreach) – an increase of 11% over FY23.



886 individuals accessed critical services at the Victory Connector – an increase of 39% over FY23.



117 individuals transitioned from shelter into safe, stable, and permanent supportive housing.



1,065 adults and children received shelter and essential needs, including 33 families who were served in our new Emergency Assistance Family Shelter.



556 individuals received critical recovery services and support at one of our six residential recovery homes.



3 new permanent housing programs and a peer-led recovery center were added to Victory Programs' expansive portfolio of services.

At the Boston Living Center:



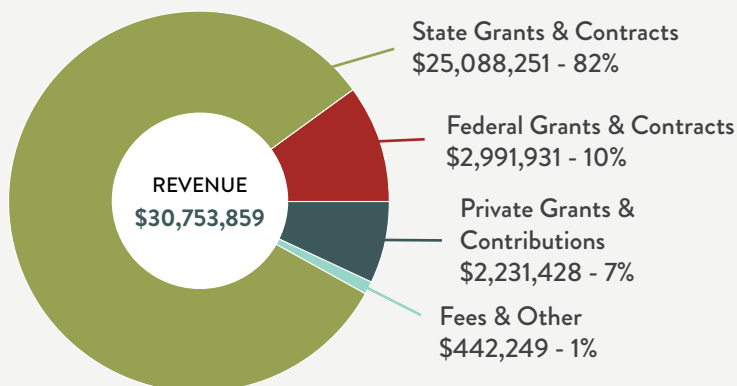
911 members accessed BLC services, including meals, groups, and referrals.



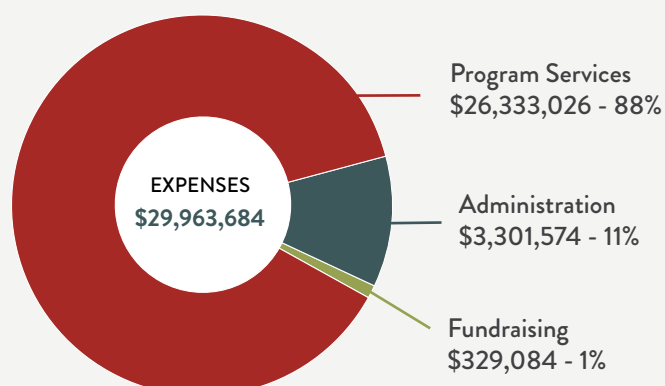
39,106 meals were served at the Boston Living Center – an increase of 45% over FY23.

Financial Summary FY 2024

REVENUE



EXPENSES



For more information on our programs and services, and to view our agency 990, visit our website.

www.vpi.org

New Program Alert! Arborway

Earlier this year, we proudly opened the doors to Arborway, our latest permanent supportive housing program in Jamaica Plain! Nestled on a quiet hillside, Arborway is now home to ten remarkable women, each beginning a new chapter filled with hope and healing.

Creating this welcoming space was a true community effort. Volunteers from EY and Reservoir Church, alongside our new neighbors, poured their time and love into preparing the home with thoughtful touches like fresh flowers, cozy furniture, fully furnished bedrooms, and well-equipped kitchens—making sure each resident feels at home.

The women who call Arborway home have overcome immense challenges, from homelessness to substance use, sexual violence, and complex trauma. This program represents more than just a new address; it's a fresh start and a powerful reminder to each woman that she matters, her dreams are valid, and that she's not alone on her journey forward.

To our compassionate staff, donors, volunteers, and neighbors—thank you. Your support helped build more than just a program; you helped build a safe haven. Here's to many more chapters of growth, resilience, and healing at Arborway.



Thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers and community, Arborway has become a welcoming home for all! Volunteers from Reservoir Church (bottom left) prepared the house to be move-in ready, while EY volunteers (top right) beautified the garden.

We're deeply grateful for the support of our Jamaica Plain neighbors, who attended our open houses and warmly embraced our mission. With convenient access to the T, our residents are now well-connected to jobs, essential services, and resources across Boston—supporting them as they embark on new journeys.



To learn more about Arborway or to visit one of our 28 programs to see your support in action, contact development@vpi.org.

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In a dazed and panicked state, Rebecca fled her quiet Maine home, leaving behind her now-grown children and the life she worked hard to rebuild. “It was either relapse or kill myself,” she says, her voice catching in her throat. “I just couldn’t take the abuse anymore. I wasn’t thinking straight. I ran away, and I relapsed.”

She spent a year struggling to break free from the grips of addiction once again. But last spring, she found refuge at Victory Programs’ Visions of Victory (formerly known as Envision)—a

transitional housing program for individuals experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental health concerns—where she’s finding her footing once more.

“I was so excited to move into this place. Then, I was in shock when they gave me my own room!” she exclaims. “It’s stability. It gives me hope.”

Though her journey is far from over, Rebecca’s time at Visions of Victory has given her a renewed sense of purpose and optimism. “I’m still working

through my bad days, and I’ve had my struggles, but I’m trying hard to do the right thing—for my kids and for me. I feel like I’m taking my life back.”

With a potential apartment on the horizon and the support of Visions of Victory, Rebecca is looking ahead. “I can’t wait to cook in my own kitchen again, to make homemade bread and pickles. I have to start all over, but I’m ready. I’m excited to create a beautiful, peaceful space where I can be myself. Finally,” she exhales.

Join Us in Changing Lives

At Victory Programs, we believe in the power of community. Together, with your support, we help individuals and families move from crisis to stability, offering them hope and opportunities for a brighter future.

CASH GIFT

Your gift, no matter the size, is a lifeline for those on the path to recovery and renewal. Every dollar you give empowers people to take those critical first steps toward rebuilding their lives. It's more than just a donation—it's a gift of possibility, resilience, and hope.

To make your gift today, scan the QR code, visit vpi.charityproud.org/Donate, or use the enclosed envelope.



DONATE NEEDED ITEMS

Donate new winter items from our wish list to help those experiencing homelessness during the winter months. Our clients are in critical need of socks, coats, and other cold-weather essentials. Each item brings comfort and warmth to someone in need.

Visit www.vpi.org/wish-list to see how you can help today.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

Victory Programs accepts donations from Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs), qualified retirement accounts, appreciated securities, employer matches, and planned giving. Your contribution, in whatever form, ensures lasting change and meaningful impact.

To learn more, visit www.vpi.org/ways-to-give or contact Kelly Whalen, Chief Development Officer, at kwhalen@vpi.org or (617) 318-3434 x148 to have a personal conversation.

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