



# Craig's Doors - A Home Association, Inc.

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## THROUGH OUR DOOR

“Because everyone deserves a door of their own”

Year 2014

### Craig's Place

22 bed shelter

Breakfast & Dinner

Showers

Medical Clinic

Resource Advocacy

Case Management

### Board Members

Jan Dizard

Jerry Gates

Andrea Lorraine

Jim Lumley

Sarah Marshall

Marion Rosenau

Gerry Weiss

## Thank You Town Meeting Members!

### Dining Common

The Craig's Place Dining Common finally opened its doors on April 5th, just in time for Easter Dinner.



The transformed 12x60 office trailer became a hub of activity—

### Extremely Cold Winter



It was a cold and harsh winter for everyone this year, but especially for those without a home. We ran at expanded capacity for **50** nights this winter and sheltered **169** individuals. In the bleakness of this winter, we offered hope.

### This year, we:

- ◆ Helped a 21 year old reconnect with his mother after 15 years of separation.
- ◆ Pulled together resources for a transgender female veteran—she found permanent housing!
- ◆ Gave out 700 bus passes to help guests get to appointments with therapists, doctors, jobs, and other services
- ◆ Sent 16 guests to Detox. Five went on to intensive treatment services!

*"It's good that we at least have this place, we are safe."  
~ Craig's Place Guest*



### **Resource Advocacy**

Craig's Doors Resource Advocacy program became the service learning portion of a new 3 credit public policy class at UMass Amherst—*Homelessness and Shelter*. The class is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about local homelessness in both an academic context and



within the nonprofit field. The class also provides further training for the students on the nuts and bolts of advocacy.

The student Resource Advocates from last year work alongside advocates from the class to provide our guests with resources such as housing, healthcare, and food assistance. They are supervised on site by our Case Manager—a new employee position at Craig's Place.

### **Dining Common Continued...**



each night from 7:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m., as guests ate dinner, met with Student Resource Advocates, and began to unwind from the long day.

The trailer changed the shelter environment, with most guests in bed and sleep by 10:30 p.m. each night. The women are most thankful, as they no longer share their bedroom with dinner services.

### **A Better Solution**

The shelter was granted expanded capacity the night of November 11th, with temperatures dropping below 20 degrees. Despite our empty beds, one guest never made it to our doors that night. Robert Sherman, a much beloved chronically homeless guest who suffered from alcoholism, died that night in his tent. He fell asleep, not knowing he was in danger.

Sherman is a strong reminder to us all, that Permanent Supportive Housing, with no hoops to jump through, is the best solution to saving the lives of those who struggle with addiction and mental illness.



Robert Sherman—January 2013  
Picture by JERREY ROBERTS  
at the Hampshire Gazette