

We Need Each Other



Photo by Vivian Su

"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
~ Philippians 1:4b-5



Kevin Baird

Volunteers of all ages help create change

"I love walking around the neighborhood and seeing how it has changed. How much it's improved. I always know Boston Project is having an impact," shares Kevin Baird, a pastor at Hamilton Congregational Church. Kevin first visited The Boston Project ten years ago. "I remember sitting around this big long table with Paul and Keith, back in the day, and just catching the vision!"

Ten years later, we are still dreaming together over a cup of coffee. However, the people around the table have changed. Now Liz and Ben Cressy are talking with Kevin. Liz first met Kevin when she was a teenager at Hamilton Congregational. It was during her teenage years at this church that Liz made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Today, she is serving full-time with The Boston Project in part because of the relationship this church had with the ministry.

After catching up with Liz and Ben, Kevin asked his big question; **"What's next for The Boston Project Ministries, and how can we be involved?"**

What a great question! We love it *because* it is a relational question. How can we support one another? How might we serve together? What work is God already doing that we can join?

Kevin recounted the first time he brought his youth group to our Summer Mission Program. It was a little risky because his church had a short history with us. There were some challenging external circumstances we faced in that first week. "But we handled it well together, and I appreciated the strong leadership and wisdom Boston Project staff provided," said Kevin. **After seeing the positive impact on his youth that first summer, he and Hamilton's youth have returned every year.**

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**Happy Thanksgiving.
We are so thankful for you!**



Hamilton students help paint the brand new BP house in 2003 (top). Raking at Being Thankful for My Community Day (bottom).



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Kevin has even learned the BP language (BP = Boston Project). "Yeah, whenever you say 'TNT' I know you mean Talbot-Norfolk Triangle, the neighborhood where Boston Project serves. **I want everyone to know what TNT is all about.**" What began as a summer youth trip has expanded to Saturday service days, an annual spring missions trip, and church members of all ages volunteering, praying, and giving.

We love partnerships. Partnerships are key because we know BP cannot do this work alone. *We need each other.* There is joy in putting all our gifts and talents on the table and asking God to multiply our offering into something great for Him.

This fall we added two new members to The Boston Project team, Damaris Taylor and Kristi Ellens (pictured right). Their work under **Volunteer Engagement** is to strengthen relationships with new and long-term church partners and interested individuals and families. Contact them at volunteer@tbpm.org if you would like to learn more.

This past spring, Kevin and teenagers from Hamilton were serving with The Boston Project during their school's spring break. On Monday, teenagers were at sites throughout Dorchester when the bombs detonated downtown at the Boston Marathon. The shock and uncertainty settled in quickly. Everything paused. But as Kevin recalls, "**the first thing our students did after the act was serve the city. This was a powerful reminder for me of our purpose in God's kingdom.**"

"Thanks" to the 100+ volunteers from the following churches who served with us this fall:
Beautiful Church (Newton, MA); Sojourn Ministry (Northeastern & UMass); Grace Chapel (multi-site, MA); Bethany Presbyterian Church (Brookline, MA); First Congregational Church (Hamilton, MA)



New Boston Project Staff (top, from left): Brandon, Damaris, Sherimon, Kristi. Noreen and Carol cook up a storm at Being Thankful Day (bottom).



news around the block



JOHN PERKINS (CCDA) VISITS DORCHESTER

In late October, John Perkins, founder of the *Christian Community Development Association* and long-time civil rights activist, visited our neighborhood to encourage local faith-based leaders in their work, and to say "Thank You" for their support over the years.

2013-14 TNT YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCHES

Now in our second year, a group of 8 teenagers with great potential were selected as our next cohort of emerging young leaders for community transformation.



IT'S OFFICIAL - GREEN SPACE PURCHASE FINAL

The Boston Project Properties completed the purchase of two vacant lots from the City of Boston for long-term greenspace use: the Children's Community Learning Garden and the Garden of Peace. Total cost: \$200. With the purchase, we can now make more permanent and substantial improvements to the sites. Thanks to all who helped plan, build, buy, and maintain these properties over the last 5 years. Our work together has paid off!



10TH ANNUAL BEING THANKFUL DAY A HIT

Over 100 volunteers from our neighborhood and Grace Chapel came together for a day of celebration this fall. Leaf-raking at seniors' homes and public greenspaces was followed by a giant pot-luck lunch and a thankful program by our TNT Youth Council.

MAKE A YEAR-END GIFT WITH IMPACT

Please help us finish 2013 strong with a year-end gift. The General Operating (GO) Fund, with a remaining need of \$38,700, is our greatest need. The GO Fund is critical for our day-to-day ministry, covering youth programs, staff costs, and more. Your gift will impact many children, youth, and families in our neighborhood. Thank you!

...around the block again

Want to stay up-to-date with what's happening at The Boston Project? Follow us on [facebook](#) or [twitter](#) for frequent updates.



He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
~ Psalm 46:10

God Working in the Silence

The room was silent. *The room is never silent.*

The night began with a homemade chicken Caesar salad dinner and then a few rounds of the game *Taboo*. There is always a sense of family and community here. As we moved to our Bible study, we were investigating the Creation story from Genesis. Our teenagers have many questions about God, and the tension between Creation and evolution.

Seated around the couches, we began to read and discuss God's Word. However, it wasn't going well. Students were asking how all of this could be true when they had been taught so differently throughout their time in school. They were even becoming more frustrated with the concept of God. As staff, we felt like we were confusing them even more.

As our youth got ready to leave, partly in frustration, I asked them to sit for a few more minutes. Nudged by God, I began to spontaneously share my testimony; I told them about how Jesus saved me from my own history of drug abuse and depression. As I continued, the room got quieter. The more I talked, the more aware I became that they were listening.

When I finished, no one moved. We dismissed, but the room remained silent. Finally, the teens asked if we could pray. One of our youth prayed that hearts would be stirred by what was shared.

Honestly, we weren't sure if any of the teens would return the following Thursday. **However, early the next week four of them chose to commit or re-commit their lives to Jesus Christ** after a conversation with a Boston Project volunteer. We are so excited and praise God for how He was working in the silence.

~ by Brandon Eloy

Fall Photos



Neighbors share their ideas for affordable home ownership at a special community meeting.



Volunteers put a fresh coat of paint on the BP living room.



Under the direction of local landscaper Al, volunteers move the tool shed to its new location in the Community Garden.



Homework Center is up and running with 15-20 students daily!

Please Pray

Ways You Can Pray For The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for church partners and their gift of volunteering, teenagers who recently committed themselves to following Jesus Christ, national attention on TNT neighborhood as a new Eco-Innovation District, purchase of land for community gardens, Damaris and Kristi - our new volunteer engagement team, neighbor leaders, the donation of knit winter hats for children, and for all our praying partners.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS. 2014 will be an important year as we cultivate deeper relationships with church partners, local stakeholders, and individuals/families. Ask God for fruitful partnerships.

INCREASED SPIRITUAL OUTREACH. Pray for staff and new volunteers as we transition leadership over our teen Bible Study; and as we launch a mid-week Bible study group for adult neighbors this winter.

SHALOM FOR FAMILIES. Pray for God's peace and presence in the lives of our families. The holidays can be a difficult season and violence has recently impacted our neighborhood again.

FUTURE PLANNING. Ask God to guide us as we listen to Him and neighbors about how to best serve our neighborhood in the next 5 years.



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Updates from...

The Boston Project Staff Team

God is on the move! As new staff arrive and other staff step into new ministry opportunities, we know “*there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1) We believe that the best days for our neighborhood are still ahead of us, and we invite you to partner with us today. You may not live in Dorchester, but you are a very important Boston Project family member as you pray, volunteer, and give. *Thank you!*



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director

Living in The Boston Project’s *Neighborhood Ministry House* affects our entire family. As you may guess, there is little separation between where we live, work, play, and worship. **We recognize that God has wired “serving” into our family’s DNA – even our kids.** Watching our daughter Megan serve (more than 25 hours in November), inspires us. It’s a journey. The truth is we learn a lot by watching our children.



Damaris Taylor - Director of Volunteer Engagement

This fall has been a fun combination of service days, youth council, and deepening relationships with our church partners. I’m excited and ready for winter! I’ll get to play in the snow, shovel snow, drink lots of hot chocolate, but most importantly spend more intentional time in prayer and preparation for our spring and summer mission trips. And in all the busyness I will find time to joyfully assist my fiancé, Cherish, with wedding planning. We have much to do before the wedding on July 19, 2014. Good times ahead!



Liz & Ben Cressy - Director of Finance; Community Development

(by Ben) It was a cold November night when I awoke to neighbors shouting. The house next to ours was engulfed in flames, and in just a matter of minutes, our 13 next-door neighbors (including 6 children) had lost everything. Witnessing the fire and the aftermath has been difficult. Realizing that we might never again get to connect with the families next door is renewing our zeal to daily invest in the lives of our neighbors.



Kristi Ellens - Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

The decision to move from Michigan and start a new life here in Boston was certainly a scary one. However, now I can say that I am glad God brought me to this place. My main role is connecting volunteers and church partners with The Boston Project, and I also help with Homework Center and Real Life, our teen bible study. When I get to the end of the week, I’m absolutely exhausted, but my days are filled with crazy kids, a lovely staff, and work that I believe in. I feel very blessed to work for a ministry that inspires me every day.



Percy & Katie Ballah - Children & Youth Outreach Worker

(by Percy) A wise man once told me that God’s timing is always perfect. When we came to Boston, we had no idea what God had in store for us. We faced many challenges, but also experienced personal growth, made life-long friends, and had two beautiful children. **I am so thankful for the many ways God has used The Boston Project to transform my life.** God has now opened the door for us to serve with an Assemblies of God church in Southern New England.



Sherimon Harris - Youth Leadership Coordinator

Transition to a full-time staff role has been very natural. I have always considered BP as family, and now I get to work towards helping my family fulfill their vision for this neighborhood. My main focus at The Boston Project is working with our high school youth. It has been both a blessing and a challenge. God is showing me how to have lots of patience and grace while giving me joy in the process. He has blessed me with a very unique group of youth and I’m excited to see the end result of this journey!



Keith & Sarah Riddle - Homework Center Director

(by Keith) This fall, we have experienced God’s presence in the midst of many expected and unexpected challenges. I started seminary this fall, and am finding my classes challenging, but also practical. We have also seen God’s provision in meeting our support-raising goal for the year, and a donation of a laptop for school. The boys continue to grow and be a joy in so many ways. Over the next few months, they will all have birthdays - Joseph (9), Tim (7), and Aaron (4).

Fall 2013



Neighborhood Ministry House



A great big “Thanks” to Brandon Eloy, a Northeastern student who is finishing a 6-month internship with BP.



1) Paul speaks about “Loving the Lost” at an Advent Christian denominational gathering. 2) Moustaches at Homework Center. 3) Ben facilitates discussion at a community meeting.

Financial Update

59% Given to date

General Operating Goal:
\$93,500

We invite you to
give a year-end
gift towards our
\$38,700 need.

