



THE BOSTON HOME

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For Immediate Release

THE BOSTON HOME EXPANDS LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN 125th YEAR

Extends MS Services to Community through Outpatient Program, Launches Institute to Promote Excellence in Long-Term Care

Dorchester, Mass., March 16, 2006 —Introducing key initiatives to mark its 125th anniversary year, The Boston Home (TBH) in Dorchester has launched a community outpatient and rehabilitation day program as well as The Boston Home Institute, which promotes education, research, and advocacy.

B.H.Fit!

With the waiting list of TBH growing significantly, TBH seven years ago introduced a community outreach and consultative service called Bridges to Care. However, the level of appropriate community-based services for adults with multiple sclerosis and other progressive neurological diseases remained inadequate—and in response, TBH recently opened B.H.Fit!, an outpatient/rehabilitation program offered at its long-term care facility.

B.H.Fit!, in partnership with the Central New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), provides therapies, assistive technology, wellness exercise programs, support, and educational activities.

“As far as we know, The Boston Home is the first long-term care facility in the country to integrate outpatients and residents in a social and rehabilitation program serving moderately to severely disabled adults,” said Marva Serotkin, President and CEO of TBH.

Start-up support for B.H.Fit! was provided through a grant from the Cabot Family Foundation, and negotiations are underway to establish contracts with payers. “We are grateful for the support of the NMSS, and we are undertaking additional fund-raising to ensure the further success of this innovative program,” said Serotkin.

The Boston Home Institute

The new Boston Home Institute is an initiative to advance the development of clinical standards of care for residents of TBH and other residents in long-term care facilities nationwide and worldwide. Features of the Institute include: developing a Center for the Promotion of Excellence in Long-Term Care, sharing best practices, training specialized physicians and nurses, and supporting research and appropriate public policy.

Highlights of recent and future activities of The Boston Home Institute include the following:

- On March 9th and 10th, representatives from the United Kingdom’s MS Society visited The Boston Home for an educational symposium. According to Debra Frankel, a former trustee of TBH and a consultant to the Institute, the UK delegation, seeking to learn about “best practices” in the field, sought out TBH because of its international reputation.
- In April, Serotkin will address the MS International Conference in Manchester, England, about supporting independence in long-term care.
- Also in April, The Boston Home will host a visit from the National MS Society Serono Pfizer neurological fellow in MS, Dr. Douglas Woo, and his mentor, Dr. Elliot Frohman. The program, hosted by TBH Medical Director James Mahoney, M.D., will include multidisciplinary sessions on such topics as advanced technology, rehabilitation, and nursing.
- In June, The Boston Home will host a two-day conference for leaders from seven nursing homes—from California to Boston—that care for people with MS. This program, co-sponsored by the National MS Society, is supported by an educational grant from Allergan.

“In bringing together staff from residential facilities as well as other leaders from our field nationally and internationally, The Boston Home has many opportunities to share and shape best practices and promote excellence in MS care for adults in long-term settings,” said Frankel.

According to Serotkin, “It is very exciting for us to take a leadership role in helping to improve the level of care for our residents and others beyond our campus. Thanks to our Board of Trustees, dedicated staff, and committed colleagues, we have made significant progress in advocating for this population. But much remains to be done in providing access to high-quality, affordable, and age-appropriate services for people living with MS.”

Other events marking TBH’s 125th year include a spring art exhibition and sale on May 6th, a commemorative recognition by the Bostonian Society, and a fund-raising gala.

Founded in 1881, The Boston Home is a 96-bed, not-for-profit, long-term-care facility that serves adults with multiple sclerosis and other progressive neurological diseases. The only facility of its kind in New England and one of a few in the United States, The Boston Home has earned a national reputation for providing progressive long-term care. For more information visit www.thebostonhome.org.

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