



City of Cambridge

29.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 1996

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that the 48 Harvey Street House Project will provide an affordable, renovated three-bedroom house to a low/moderate income Cambridge family; and

WHEREAS: This project is inspired by Habitat for Humanity's example and led by Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing, an interfaith coalition including over 30 congregations, and Interfaith Action, a partnership of people's organizations, faith communities, and concerned Cambridge neighbors who share a vision of social justice; and

WHEREAS: Participants also include the Real Estate Cafe and several members of the Porter Square Neighborhood Association; and

WHEREAS: Those working on the project hope that its successful completion will lead to further such projects in Cambridge and the establishment of a Habitat for Humanity chapter in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The projects seek all kinds of volunteers with any one of a wide assortment of skills to take a hands-on approach to affordable housing in Cambridge; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing, Interfaith Action, the Real Estate Cafe and all the volunteer participants in the 48 Harvey Street House project; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all Cantabrigians to be cognizant of this worthwhile project and opportunity to help create affordable housing in Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the **Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing, Interfaith Action** and the **Real Estate Cafe** on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 30, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

105

29.

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coalition including
over 30 congregations,

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Resolved: That the City Council go on record
congratulating the Cambridge Clergy for
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the Real Estate Cafe
~~their partners~~ and all the volunteer
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Interfaith Action and the Real Estate Cafe.

*please
prep. send.
congrats to
for this proj.
inf. attached.*

KT

One hand can make a difference!

Take a hands-on approach to affordable housing in Cambridge . . .

- ☐ Swing a hammer or volunteer for another work crew at 48 Harvey St. (see back)
- ☐ Sign a petition to Save 2,000 Homes
- ☐ Join hands in a human chain stretching from 48 Harvey St. to the expiring use units at Rindge Towers at 1pm on Sunday, Sept. 29, The Feast of the Guardian Angels
- ☐ Write a check to the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing for future projects
- ☐ Write a letter to support the home rule petition, call 868-2900 for more info.

Give us a Hand!

Inspired by Habitat for Humanity's example, the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing and Interfaith Action, invite you to put your faith and love into action by volunteering to renovate our first project, 48 Harvey Street—a 3 bedroom house to be sold at an affordable price to a lower income household in Cambridge.

See list of Volunteer opportunities on the back of this

Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing is an interfaith coalition including over 30 congregations in Cambridge dedicated to preserving affordable housing in Cambridge.

Interfaith A partnership of organizations concerned in the Camb who st a vision social ju



(Cut out hands & house along solid line & fold hands in; right hand first, left hand second, so bl

Are you handy?

Please give us a hand in one of the following work crews:

Non-construction crew

- Database mgt & phones
- Fundraising
- PR & special events
- Misc administrative tasks

Masonry crew

- Point brick work at chimney in attic
- Rebuild brick retaining wall
- Install liner in chimney

Roof crew

- Remove asphalt shingles & install asphalt shingle on rear porch roof

Exterior crew

- Install childsafe guard rail & hand rail on rear porch
- Hose building exterior
- Cut grass / weed yard

Exterior painting crew

- Strip & repaint front porch wood components

Caulking crew

- Caulk all windows, storm window & door frames

Fencing crew

- Replace front chainlink fence with wooden fence
- Hang plants on porch

Windows crew

- Replace basement windows on left side
- Replace glazing putty
- Replace missing screens
- Secure loose storm

Weatherstripping crew

- Install weatherstripping on exterior doors
- Install metal thresholds on exterior doors

Doors crew

- Install new insulated exterior door in basement

- Install new lockset & bolt

Plaster / drywall crew

- Patch & smooth existing drywall & ceiling finish
- Install new drywall over existing surfaces

Wall treatment crew

- Remove wall paper
- Paint interior walls & trim

Floors crew

- Remove floor coverings to expose hardwood floor
- Repair hardwood floor buckled by water damage
- Sand, fill and refinish wood throughout

Ceramic tile crew

- Reglaze bathtub

Plumbing crew

- Adjust piping to washing machine
- Install 40 gal. gas hot water heater
- Install new kitchen sink
- Replace defective sewer lines in basement
- Replace kitchen faucets
- Repair / replace hose bibb shut off in basement
- Vent existing clothes dryer to exterior

Insulation crew

- Install R-19 in basement ceiling
- Wrap existing heating pipes w/ insulation

Electrical crew

- Upgrade existing 60 Amp service to 100 Amp
- Replace frayed exterior

- wire from service to main

- Repair/replace circuit wiring to upgrade outlets

- Install additional wall outlets throughout

- Replace ungrounded 2 prong outlets w/ 3 prong

- Install fan / light vented to exterior in bathroom

- Install GFI outlets in kitchen, pantry & bathrm

Cabinetry crew

- Install prefinished base cabinets in kitchen pantry
- Install wall cabinets in pantry selected by owner
- Install new kitchen countertop at pantry

Appliances crew

- Install free standing gas stove & oven w/ hood
- Install new refrigerator

Basement crew

- Cement parge walls

Clean-up crew

- Remove debris from property interior & exterior
- Clean all windows
- Clean all plumbing fixtures
- Remove all stored goods from basement
- Remove non-structural finishes in basement
- Clean and disinfect basement (mildew)

Miscellaneous crew

- Nail roof rafters to floor joists
- Repair hinges at scuttlehole door to attic
- Seal open chases in basement ceiling

To volunteer, call 492-0300!

The 48 Harvey Street House Project

- is a project envisioned and led by two faith groups—Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing (CCHA) and Interfaith Action (IA)—acting out of our faith commitments to provide affordable housing for a Cambridge family, and thereby show our commitment to dealing with the affordable housing crisis in Cambridge.
- is dealing with rehabilitating a three bedroom house to be sold at an affordable price to an eligible family (screened by the City of Cambridge Development Office) who based on their income would find it difficult to purchase a house in Cambridge.
- has been developed by people energized by the Habitat For Humanity model who hope the successful completion of this project will lead to further such projects in Cambridge and the establishment of a Habitat For Humanity chapter in the Cambridge area.

I AM VOLUNTEERING TO ASSIST IN THE
48 HARVEY ST. RENOVATION PROJECT

Initiated by

Clergy for Affordable Housing and Interfaith Action, Inc./Porter Sq. Ecumenical Ctr., Inc.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone numbers: Home: _____ Work: _____
 e-mail address: _____
 Congregation or association _____
 Civic/School/Community Group _____

* * * *

Construction Experience:

Please check your skill level. Mark the tools column if you have some or all of the tools

	Professional skills	High skills	Medium skills	Beginner	
	Certified	Can lead less	Require little	Performed task	Tools?
	Prof.	Skilled group	Supervision	Less than 10x	
Demolition	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Masonry/Concrete	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rough Carpentry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Finish Carpentry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drywall/Sheetrock	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Electrical	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Plumbing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Exterior Painting	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Interior Painting	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Roofing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Windows/Doors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wallpaper	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tile/Carpet Instal.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cabinet Building	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Hours you would be available to give a hand:

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Morning	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Afternoon	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Evening	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Ave. number of hrs/wk _____ or hrs/mo. _____ I would have to give a hand.

Please return this form to IA/PSEC, P.O. Box 764, Cambridge, MA 02140. Thank you!
Phone Trudy Bauer 354-3547 or Margaret Studier 876-4096 or the Interfaith Action Voice
Mail: 492-0300

Interfaith Action

formerly Porter Square Ecumenical Center

Summer 1996

Interfaith Action Mission Statement

Interfaith Action is a partnership of people's organizations, faith communities, and concerned neighbors in the Cambridge area who share a vision of social justice. We focus this vision on discrete actions that address the effects of poverty and homelessness, while we seek to understand and eradicate their root causes.

We offer practical support to established and newly forming homeless and low-income empowerment organizations through technical assistance and projects that build capacity for growth at the grassroots. As a focal point for community cooperation and education, we provide training and opportunity to volunteers, foster links and resource sharing among helping groups, and work to expand the circle of people who are aware of the problem and committed to solving it.

—Interfaith Action Board of Directors whose members represent: Christ Church Cambridge, First Church Cambridge, Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, St. James's Episcopal Church, University Lutheran Church, Bread & Jams, On the Rise, and Solutions at Work

What's in a Name?

Looking back this spring on the three years since a handful of us first sat around a table in the basement of the abandoned Stephen James House (now a hole in the ground), we realized that the organization we are creating has evolved a good deal.

We find that the name Porter Square Ecumenical Center no longer reflects the work our organization wants to do. A new name, "Interfaith Action," came surprisingly fast. We like it because it mirrors the zest and energy of our groups, it's inclusive, and it's short.

Revisiting our name was part of an effort to re-examine our mission. This was not an act of semantics. It was a sober look at our organization—how we were using our strengths and capabilities to meet the needs of our constituent organizations and the homeless of the Cambridge area. We recognize the importance and potential of our bridging function. By bringing together grassroots groups and helping communities, we can nurture mutually beneficial relationships and collaborations. We have moved from "ending homelessness one individual at a time" to "building capacity," helping groups to become independent and sustainable.

We were startled that the words "social justice" were not included in the mission statement we wrote two years ago. Perhaps we once felt they were implied. Now we see a need to state explicitly that social justice is at the core of Interfaith Action's work. We will strive to be attentive and responsive to root causes of homelessness, seeking to address underlying structural issues as well as the effects of public problems.✦

New Collaboration to Capture Affordable Housing in Cambridge

Interfaith Action (IA) has joined in an initiative sparked by the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing—in partnership



Children's Clothing Exchange

with the Real Estate Café and several members of the Porter Square Neighbors Association—to purchase, renovate, and resell to a low-income family a dilapidated but structurally sound house in North Cambridge which was about to go on the market.

With IA acting as fiscal agent, the consortium has signed a Purchase & Sale agreement. Repairs will be accomplished by volunteers—neighbors, members of Cambridge's faith communities, and the family who will move in all wielding hammers and paint brushes under the supervision of cooperating architects and construction managers. (The

idea is similar to methods of Habitat for Humanity.) We may be able to tap into a City of Cambridge grant program which subsidizes home ownership initiatives for low-income people. The current low asking price of the property and the "sweat equity" of the volunteers will keep the final price of the house down, while creating a modest fund of seed money on which the consortium can draw for its next project.

Much of the enthusiasm and volunteer effort will be coming from the Cambridge Clergy and the Porter Square neighbors; Interfaith Action brings its organizational capacity and planning skills to the partnership. We anticipate a fruitful collaboration.✦

Building capacity to end homelessness

Interfaith Action

Profiles of Current IA Member Groups

On these two pages we present profiles of the three people's organizations whose representatives sit on the IA Board of Directors and help chart our course. Subsequent newsletters will profile the rich array of established programs at member churches which serve homeless and low-income people. A coming newsletter will also feature a description of a needs assessment for homeless women's transitional housing, conducted by Solutions at Work for On the Rise—a powerful example of the insights and expertise formerly homeless people bring to the task of ending homelessness.

Bread & Jams

Who We Are

Founded in 1989 to help homeless and economically disadvantaged people regain control of their lives, Bread & Jams is committed to self-advocacy and self-empowerment among those who lack the resources to help themselves.

We assist others by providing services which help them get off the street, restore a sense of dignity, and help them regain control of their lives. We also seek a greater representation of homeless and economically disadvantaged people in decision-making processes at all levels.

Bread & Jams policy decisions are made at our weekly consensus meetings. These meetings are open to all and provide an opportunity for homeless and formerly homeless persons to have a voice in our decision-making process.

Community Outreach

Bread & Jams' professionally-trained outreach workers offer survival support, crisis intervention, emergency referral, and next-step services to homeless people living on the streets. Our vans provide

regularly-scheduled or emergency transport runs to local medical and human service providers.

Host Homes Placement

This service offers an alternative to living in the shelter system for homeless individuals and families who are ready for the next step in their recovery from homelessness. To do this, Bread & Jams negotiates with home-owners and tenants to provide a room for homeless guests.

Homeless guests are referred by human service agencies, shelter transitional programs, and our own outreach service. Homeless guests are fully assessed to meet Host Home Placement criteria and are appropriately matched with home hosts. Bread & Jams outreach team provides ongoing support to home hosts as their homeless guests work on the next steps in their recovery from homelessness. (Contact: Seamus Kearney, 617/354-9178)

Self-Advocacy Center

For more than four years, Bread & Jams has provided a place where homeless people could access phones, typewriters,

a shower, a kitchen, and a pleasant environment in which to relax, especially during the winter. We provide coffee, snacks, and personal items in an atmosphere that our visitors tell us allows them to enjoy a degree of freedom they have difficulty finding elsewhere. Incoming phone calls are answered with a simple "hello" which allows our visitors to use our phone to seek employment or housing without the embarrassment of disclosing their homelessness. This January we relocated to Old Cambridge Baptist Church near Harvard Square, making the Center accessible to a much larger homeless population.

Sunday Meal

Every Sunday evening since 1990 we have served a community meal. During the meal we distribute donated clothing. In warmer months this meal is served outside on the Cambridge Common where up to 200 people from all walks of life enjoy picnic-style meal, often accompanied by musical entertainment. From this meal-and-music experience we derive our name—Bread & Jams.

Van Service

Our vans transport homeless people from our Sunday Meal and other evening meal programs to shelters, providing service 365 days a year. The vans also distribute blankets and clothing to those who do not wish to go to shelter.

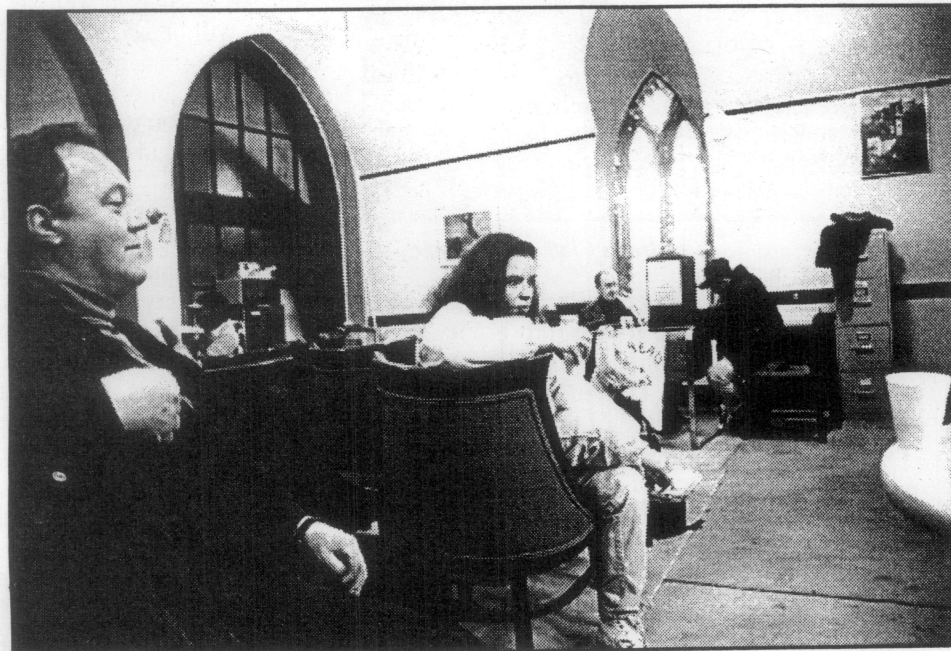
TV Show

We produce two public access cable TV programs—a weekly and a bi-weekly—dealing with all issues that relate to homelessness. ♦

Contact: Mike Sullivan, 617/497-9200

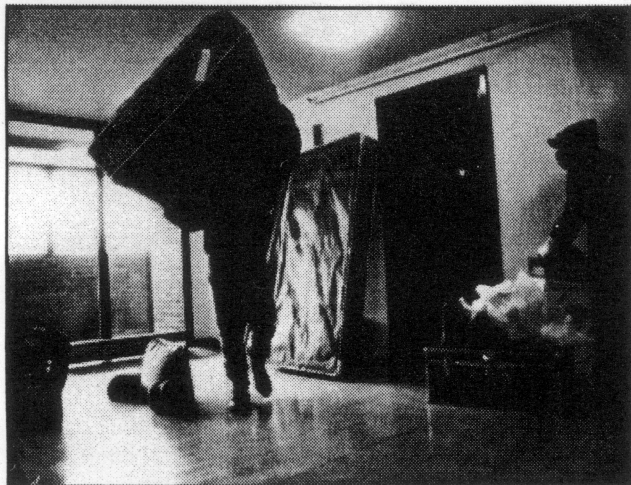
Solutions at Work

Solutions at Work is a peer-led self-help organization that empowers people who have experienced homelessness to work together to define the challenges we all faced while homeless and to develop



At the Bread & Jams Self-Advocacy Center

Building capacity to end homelessness



Moving a client from Somerville to apartment in the South End

our own solutions. We make use of the many skills already present in the homeless community and help people develop and share new skills. At Solutions the experts are those who have direct experience of the forces of poverty.

Solutions at Work's key goals are:

1. To show by our example that homeless people can be active participants in the governance and design of the programs they use, and that these programs can successfully provide employment for the people who use them.

2. To ensure that people who have experienced homelessness have a voice in their own advocacy, including gaining access as partners in the various local and statewide policy planning processes that affect homeless people.

Solutions programs have been active in the Cambridge community since 1989.

Cambridge Furniture Bank

Our keystone project—solicits and collects donated household furnishings and appliances, sorts and stores them, and makes them available to people moving out of homelessness. All CFB workers have experienced homelessness, making them uniquely sensitive to the people they are assisting.

helped more than 5000 families since 1989

Moving Up

Provides below-cost moving services for people living in poverty, especially those who have no other support system and may find moving very traumatic, such as seniors, people with physical and/or mental disabilities, and those living with HIV.

moved more than 400 households

Children's Clothing Exchange

Offers clothing for infants and children in exchange for outgrown clothing or volunteer time at the Exchange. The Exchange is located in Grace United Methodist Church, 56 Magazine St., Cambridge. Open 10-3:30, Tu, Wed, Sat.

serves 300 cooperating families

Speaking Up

Engages new and diverse voices from the community of people who have experienced homelessness. Provides the skill training and leadership development to encourage them to speak up and advocate in a variety of forums on the issues of poverty and homelessness.

involved more than 500 people.✦

Contact: Macy Delong, 617/492-0300

On the Rise

On the Rise is a new Cambridge-based nonprofit developing programs for unsheltered homeless women—women who cannot, for a variety of reasons, access shelter or other support services. The primary goal of On the Rise is to develop a coordinated continuum of services which will enable the most alienated and troubled homeless women in Cambridge and Somerville to move towards independence and self-reliance.

On the Rise began in response to the frustration of homeless women attempting to access programs in the Cambridge area. Many women did not fit the client profiles of these programs; others had been through program after program, never quite finding what they needed. The system had given up on them and they had given up on the system. We grew out of the voices of these women—what they needed, what would help them, what had not helped them. To continue this commitment, On the Rise has a second goal: to actively involved homeless and formerly homeless women in the design and implementation of its programs.

On the Rise's first project is an Outreach/Safe Haven program. Beginning this fall, a team of two outreach workers

(a formerly homeless person and a masters-level clinician) will work with women now living on the streets. In addition to providing tangible aid such as blankets and food, outreach workers will work to develop the relationships with these women that are critical to helping them leave the streets. Many of these women are survivors of sustained and profound psychological and physical trauma; some are mentally and/or physically ill; some are substance abusers; most have been homeless for years. The extended time these women spend on the streets almost inevitably leads to a deterioration in mental and physical health; the instability which may result often precludes their participation in transitional and other supportive programs. Yet without assistance, they cannot escape the streets. All of their energy is invested in survival. Because engaging them is a protracted process but is central to helping them, the outreach workers will spend significant amounts of time with each woman developing trust and helping her to begin to identify the steps she must take to move out of homelessness.

No matter how aggressive our outreach, however, its efficacy may be compromised if our workers must make referrals to other programs from which the women have been barred, or if a woman is too frightened or confused to go to a strange place to get services she is not entirely sure she needs or wants. The Safe Haven is an extension of mobile outreach designed to provide an intermediate step between the streets and these other programs.

At the Safe Haven (tentatively to be located in St. James's Episcopal Church), women will be able to tend to many of their needs—showering or making a telephone call, for example. Additional services such as health care and legal assistance will be provided by agencies with which On the Rise collaborates. Past experiences with impersonal and perhaps degrading treatment leave many women wary of hospitals and substance abuse or mental health programs. The Safe Haven will provide a neutral space where women can begin to access some of this assistance in a less intimidating context. Over an extended period of time, they may become comfortable using existing, more comprehensive services in the community.✦

Contact: Katya Fels, 617/497-7968

Interfaith Action — building capacity to end homelessness

IA's Working Goals for Action and Funding, 1996 and Beyond

- Monthly support to Bread & Jams, Solutions at Work, and On the Rise to bolster their internal budgeting and accounting capability. Ongoing. \$300/month
- Collaboration to capture/rehab affordable house in Cambridge and establish revolving fund. Summer/fall 1996 and ongoing. \$1000 loan
- Grant to On the Rise to purchase 1000 safety whistles for distribution through outreach and resale for fundraising. Summer 1996. \$1000
- Performance concert to benefit IA and member groups. Spring 1997
- Purchase of a truck for Solutions' *Moving Up* project. Summer 1997. \$30,000
- IA Capital Campaign. 1997-98
- Renovation or construction of community center to provide services to homeless and non-homeless persons: community networking, self-advocacy center, administrative office space; recreational and business-related activities. 1998-2000. \$80,000 - \$750,000, depending on design
- Construction or rehab of site for On the Rise's transitional housing. 1999-2001. \$800,000

With Help From Our Friends

Your monetary support has carried Interfaith Action along on its journey from pipe dream to tangible accomplishment. We are awed by your generosity; we thank you; and we will undoubtedly ask for your help again. We have also received another kind of support—in-kind donations of services and expertise. Herewith a list of some creative contributors to Interfaith Action and its member groups.

Cambridge Housing
Authority
Ryder Truck Rental
Metropolitan Moving and
Storage
CASCAP
Architects Bill Bibbens,
Michael Washington
Porter Square Café
Kinko's, Harvard Square
Carberry's Bakery
Hi Fi Pizza
Cybersmith
ABC Pizza
Charles Hotel

Middle East Restaurant
Harvard Square Business
Association
The Chocolate Box
Photographers Teri
Unger, Beth Driscoll
Cambridgeport Savings
Bank
Red Roof Inn
The Real Estate Café
Harvard Square Clergy
Harvest Food Coop
Lotus Corporation
Harvard University
Salerno Signs

Attorneys Doug Kott, Ed
Lawrence, Carolyn
Osteen, Jean Kolling
The Inn at Harvard
Realtors Walter Guffey,
Helen Moulton
East West Foundation
New Balance
Bread & Circus, Newton
Handel & Hayden
Society
Cambridge Natural
Foods
Healthworks
Coffee as You Like It

*IA volunteer with Bread & Jams staff in the basement
of Old Cambridge Baptist Church.
All photographs in this newsletter: Teri Unger*



Yes, I'd like to help.

I can volunteer:

my time _____

an in-kind service _____

Send me more information _____

Here is my donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Call us at 617/492-0300.

Interfaith Action
Post Office Box 764
Cambridge, MA 02140



City of Cambridge

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September 30, 1996

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Born, Davis, Duhay, Galluccio
Consent Order #29
Beves, Russell, Sullivan, Toomey.

Councillor Triantafillou re: Congratulations
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Housing, Interfaith Action and the Real
Estate Cafe and all the volunteer
participants in the 48 Harvey Street House
Project who will provide an affordable,
renovated three-bedroom house to a low/
moderate income Cambridge family.

R-961

In City Council September 30, 1996

ORDER ADOPTED