

Eric Massey, Researcher

Box 2: Files

Archived from OEOB 100 by Caroline Marvin on May 23, 2000

- ❖ Video texts and requests 9/7/99
- ❖ Video texts and requests 9/15/99
- ❖ Children's Hospital Wisconsin
 - Children's Health
- ❖ DC Breathe: Pediatric Asthma
 - Children's Health
- ❖ Women in Housing and Finance
 - Women and Girls Education
- ❖ Cliff Baker
 - Arts
- ❖ MARS Millennium Project
 - Millennium Council Projects
- ❖ Diane Rehm
 - Service
- ❖ APODACA Celebration of Life
 - Children's Health
- ❖ Videos/Film 9/7/99
- ❖ National Democratic Institute: speech, background, etc. 9/23
 - Civil Society/Democracy Building
- ❖ Videos 9/23/99
 - Children's Health
- ❖ Mammography PSA
 - Breast Cancer
- ❖ WLL: Women 2000—Saving Our Future
 - Health Reform
- ❖ NAFCU (Credit Unions)
 - Micro Enterprise
- ❖ Women Video
 - Women and Girls Education
- ❖ Exploris Video
- ❖ UFCW Video
- ❖ Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs dinner with Moynihan Video
- ❖ Girl Scouts National Convention Video
- ❖ Ireland: background, videotext, etc.
 - Vital Voices
- ❖ Girl Scouts video information
- ❖ Norman Cousins Global Governance Award to Walter Cronkite
- ❖ Improving America's Schools Conference

17217
ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS
NANA 14454

- Education
- Youth Development/After school/Violence
- ❖ Tel-Aviv Foundation
- ❖ Rutgers Franco-American Conference
- ❖ Ripka/Colitis Foundation
 - Health Reform
- ❖ Tribute to Charlotte Sullivan
- ❖ Coming Up Taller Awards
 - Youth Development/After school/Violence
- ❖ Action for Boston Community Development
 - Service
- ❖ Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
- ❖ Lesley College's Literacy and Learning
 - Youth Development/After school/Violence
- ❖ National Association of Public Interest Law
- ❖ Women's Venture Fund
 - Micro Enterprise
- ❖ Women's Information Network Against Breast Cancer
 - Breast Cancer
- ❖ Scholastic Teacher Nominations
 - Education
- ❖ Folder Regarding Hispanic American Initiatives
 - Education
- ❖ American International Health Alliance
 - Health Reform
- ❖ Kosovo PSA
- ❖ Jail Video
- ❖ Pittsfield, Mass. Video
- ❖ ANIMAIS
- ❖ Cancer
- ❖ Spirit of Women Awards
- ❖ White House Millennium Evening Remarks
 - Millennium Council Projects
- ❖ AIL-CIO
- ❖ Women's Lives, Women's Voices, Women's Solutions
 - Women and Girls Education
- ❖ World Bank's Girls' Education Recognition Awards
 - Women and Girls Education
- ❖ Tamotsu
- ❖ T. Howard Foundation
- ❖ WIN-ABC
 - Breast Cancer
- ❖ KaBoom Playground Institute
 - Youth Development/After school/Violence
- ❖ American Health Foundation

- Health Reform
- ❖ Glamour Magazine Women of the Year Awards
- ❖ Chicago Child Care Society
 - Adoption
- ❖ American International Health Alliance
 - Health Reform
- ❖ Scholastic Early Childhood Professional Awards
 - Early Childhood Development
- ❖ Katzenberg Award Ceremony Video
- ❖ Women's Venture Fund Gala
 - Micro Enterprise
- ❖ Miscellaneous Video Papers

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR
ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.
21st ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER
OCTOBER 25, 1995**

I am honored to welcome you to Action for Boston Community Development's Twenty-First Annual Community Awards Dinner. I am sorry I could not be with you tonight, but I didn't want to miss this opportunity to congratulate ABCD and the twenty selfless and energetic neighborhood volunteers who are this year's Community Award recipients.

I also want to take a minute to wish Michael Dukakis the very best as he celebrates his birthday with all of you tonight.

For more than 33 years, ABCD and its volunteers have helped create opportunity for tens of thousands of people in the greater Boston area. From Head Start to SummerWorks to the Foster Grandparent Program, ABCD's reach extends into every one of Boston's diverse communities, touching the lives of more than 70,000 infants, children, parents and seniors annually.

Your programs and volunteer efforts, for instance, have enabled teen welfare mothers to finish school and gain enough skills to find good-paying jobs. Not only are these young women able to support their families, they also contribute to the economic health of their communities.

Tonight we also celebrate a unique partnership that really works: Federal/local, public/private, professional/volunteer - all resources working together at ABCD to strengthen families and build neighborhoods. ABCD and other community action agencies nationwide have learned to augment scarce federal resources with other public and private funds to operate programs on behalf of our communities.

At a time when many programs and institutions that help struggling families and children are in jeopardy, I want to encourage each of you to continue to support these programs with your hard work.

The President and I thank you for devoting so much of your time and strength to bringing hope and opportunity to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

###



Megan Melissa Sayce <sayce@bostonabcd.org>
10/20/99 05:16:31 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric E. Massey/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject: ABCD Video

Hi Eric,

I've been able to solidify a few details about the dinner:

There are 19 Community Awards recipients, 3 employee awardees, and 2 special awards. So 24 in total.

Senator Kennedy is being honored as the first inductee into the ABCD Hall of Fame for the impact he has made in his lifetime of service on the low-income residents of Boston.

John Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard University Professor of Economics Emeritus, will be speaking in tribute to the Senator. He turned 91 on Friday, October 15th. Perhaps a birthday greeting would be appropriate.

I would appreciate it if Mrs. Clinton would mention President/CEO Bob Coard and Vice President John Drew. Both have been at the helm of the agency throughout much of our history. For over 37 years, ABCD has been providing Boston's poor with services and programs that promotes upward mobility, primarily through various forms of education and job training.

Also, the video will be shown BEFORE the Senator formally receives his award and before he speaks. It will also be before dinner is served. Mrs. Clinton can tell the audience to enjoy their dinner and the rest of our program. The video will be introduced by the Chairperson of our Board, Thelma Burns, but as we discussed earlier, things have a tendency to change in the 11th hour, so you might not want to mention that.

Again, we would like the tape in BETA, but we would appreciate a copy in VHS as well, if possible.

Please see our web page at www.bostonabcd.org for our on-line Annual Report.

If I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 357-6000 x 238.

Thanks again, Megan



- att1.htm

Boston, MA - Oct. 29 or via satellite

Government & Industrial Relations
178 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111

(617) 357 6000 x 238
Fax: (617) 482-4859

Action for
Boston
Community
Development, Inc.

yes

Shirley
10/29/99

Megan Sayce

238

Fax

To: Patti Solis Doyle

From: Bob Elias

Fax: 202-456-5340

Pages: 3, including cover page

Phone:

Date: October 1, 1999

Re: 25th Annual Community Awards Dinner

CC:

Following you will find a copy of the letter of invitation that was sent to the First Lady earlier in September.

Senator Kennedy would be honored by a visit by Mrs. Clinton, and her presence would certainly enhance our dinner. In the event that she is unable to attend, we would like to invite her to join us live via satellite to say a few words of congratulations to the Senator.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at (617) 357-6000 extension 246 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Bob

I can
maybe
video?

Patti

Beta + WMS

Bob Elias

See 1962 in exishe

www.BostonABed.org



Action for Boston Community Development Inc.

178 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111-1083
TELEPHONE: (617) 357-8000 TTY: (617) 423-9215 FAX: (617) 357-6041

September 16, 1999

The First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will hold its twenty-fifth Annual Community Awards Dinner at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers this fall on October 29, 1999. ABCD is Boston's official anti-poverty agency and the largest human services agency in New England.

This year's Dinner promises to be very special. In more than a quarter-century, many individuals have distinguished themselves with superlative dedication and service. Among these extraordinary individuals, Senator Edward Kennedy leads the way. We will be honoring Senator Kennedy as the first inductee into the ABCD Hall of Fame for championing the causes of the poor during his lifetime of public service. Throughout the years, he has worked with diligence to expand employment opportunities to all workers, to secure healthcare for those who need it most, to improve schools and educational resources, and to fortify the economic base of our state.

It would be an honor to have you deliver the keynote address and be witness to this significant induction. In light of your own commitment to supporting families, empowering workers and strengthening communities, it would be a symbolic and meaningful gesture for you to join us in applauding Senator Kennedy's devotion to easing the burden of poverty.

Since 1962, the year that Edward M. Kennedy was first elected to the Senate, ABCD has administered quality programs that serve tens of thousands of low-income Boston residents. We help the young and the old, and all in between to strengthen and stabilize families and their neighborhoods. We provide individuals with critical services, advocacy, and the tools they need to break out of the cycle of poverty. However, our staff does not do the job alone. An army of volunteers helps

THELMA D. BURNS, *Chair*; JEAN M. BABCOCK, *Vice Chair*; REGINALD BROTHERS, *Vice Chair*; IVELISSA ESCALERA, *Vice Chair*;
KATHLEEN FLYNN, *Vice Chair*; STANLEY N. WILLIAMS, *Vice Chair*;
JEAN M. BABCOCK, *Treasurer*; MARK V. NUCCIO, ESQ., *Clerk*; ROBERT M. COARD, *President/CEO*

us to help others. Every year, we pay tribute to outstanding Boston residents for their exemplary volunteer activities at the Dinner. Your presence, support, and recognition would bestow a great honor upon these selfless volunteers.

The ABCD Dinner is an extraordinary event in Boston. Its uniqueness comes from the diversity of our award recipients and of our audience. Over thirteen hundred people, ranging from community residents to representatives of community programs, universities, area businesses and government agencies, attend the Dinner each year.

I hope that after reviewing the enclosed information you will share in our enthusiasm for the event and accept our invitation. Please call me at (617) 357-6000 extension 246 if I can be of assistance.

Very truly yours,



Robert Elias, Director
Government & Industrial Relations

Kennedy
ABCD
volunteers

Enclosures

Government & Industrial Relations
178 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111

(617) 357 6000 x 238
Fax: (617) 482-4859

**Action for
Boston
Community
Development, Inc.**

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From: Bob Elias

Fax: 202-456-5340

Pages: 3, including cover page

Phone:

Date: October 1, 1999

Re: 25th Annual Community Awards Dinner

CC:

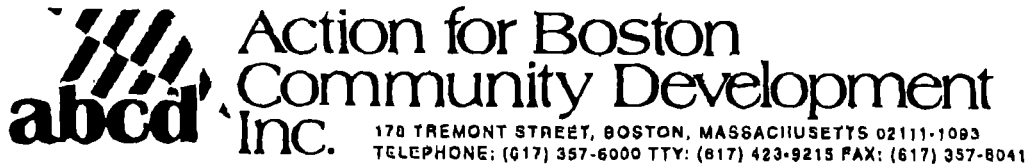
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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Elias". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert Elias, Director
Government & Industrial Relations

Enclosures

BOSTON Herald

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1999 • 50 CENTS

Kennedy gathers dollars for ABCD

Rain or shine, Republican president or not, Republican Congress or not, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has brought home lots of federal money and support for Boston's poor for decades.

That's why Boston's anti-poverty agency, Action for Boston Community Development, will honor Kennedy as the first inductee into ABCD's Hall of Fame at its annual fund-raising dinner Oct. 29 at the Sheraton Hotel.



**Wayne
WOODLIEF**

The mantle fits the man and it's timely. Kennedy has been a magician of the minority since the Republicans won control of both houses of Congress in 1994. His knowledge of arcane Senate rules and his ability to tie up the GOP's pet legislation unless it moves his projects, too, is uncanny. It frustrated former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole so much that it was one reason Dole quit in 1996 to run full time — futilely — for president.

Kennedy found just the right Republican collaborator, first Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.), then Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), to pass major health insurance legislation for workers and children in the past few years.

What ABCD reminds us is that this is nothing new. The political 'Teddy Ballgame' has been doing it for years.

"I've got a picture of the senator and me on my wall from back in the '70s when we were both still slim and a Republican president, Gerald Ford, was trying to kill the federal Office of Economic Opportunity," said Robert Coard, ABCD's longtime president and chief executive officer.

OEO was the agency that funded ABCD and Coard sought Kennedy's help. He got it. "Kennedy filed a bill and then rounded up Republican and Democratic support. All the agencies went along with it. We were saved."

In the 1980s, Kennedy — sometimes as a

committee chairman when the Democrats held power, sometimes as a skillful minority maneuverer — helped save Head Start, home fuel oil programs and the like from Ronald Reagan's ax.

"He would work with the devil himself to help the poor," said Coard. It wasn't quite Satan, but Kennedy did pair up with Dan Quayle, then a senator, to pass an alternative job training act in the mid-80s after Reagan and the GOP killed the old — and corrupted — Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA).

Kennedy and Quayle won bipartisan support for the new bill, which helped ABCD get training grants. "It wasn't all we wanted and we were a little mad at Kennedy at first," said Coard. "But he told us it was the very best he could get. He's a pragmatist, not an ideologue." Well, he's actually both.

More recently, Kennedy helped ABCD win a \$2.8 million federal welfare reform grant to help train former aid recipients for new jobs and a \$1.6 million Head Start grant.

Coard said welfare-to-work is working. "We had to change habits and cycles," he said. "We put recipients into our Urban College for training and brought in counselors like the people from Morgan Memorial Goodwill to teach good work habits."

ABCD's impresario for the Kennedy dinner is Bob Elias, the agency's director of governmental affairs. Elias also has worked closely with Kennedy and other state and federal officials and has been an innovative, ace fund-raiser.

The likes of Jesse Jackson, John Glenn and consumer advocate Ralph Nader have spoken, for no fee, at ABCD's annual dinners. Of course, a then-obscure governor from a small Southern state didn't get his chance and later became the big fish who got away.

"Bill Clinton wanted to come speak in



SEN. TED KENNEDY: Grantmeister.

1991, when he was first coming to New England," sounding out his presidential hopes, Coard said. But John Sasso, a political consultant friend of ABCD, "said we ought to go with guys we know," Coard recalled. So the agency brought in Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), then chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a Clinton rival for president.

Maybe it would have been better to try the new guy on the block that year, even if Harkin did have some say over ABCD funding. But this year there's no argument that Ted Kennedy, the hometown hero, is just the right choice for the dinner and for the ABCD Hall of Fame.

Talk back to Wayne Woodlief on line at bostonherald.com.

Hi Eric, I've been able to solidify a few details about the dinner: There are 19 Community Awards recipients, 3 employee awardees, and 2 special awards. So 24 in total. Senator Kennedy is being honored as the first inductee into the ABCD Hall of Fame for the impact he has made in his lifetime of service on the low-income residents of Boston. **John Kenneth Galbraith**, Harvard University Professor of Economics Emeritus, will be speaking in tribute to the Senator. He turned 91 on Friday, October 15th. Perhaps a birthday greeting would be appropriate. I would appreciate it if Mrs. Clinton would mention President/CEO **Bob Coard** and Vice President **John Drew**. Both have been at the helm of the agency throughout much of our history. For over 37 years, ABCD has been providing Boston's poor with services and programs that promotes upward mobility, primarily through various forms of education and job training. Also, the video will be shown BEFORE the Senator formally receives his award and before he speaks. It will also be before dinner is served. Mrs. Clinton can tell the audience to enjoy their dinner and the rest of our program. The video will be introduced by the Chairperson of our Board, Thelma Burns, but as we discussed earlier, things have a tendency to change in the 11th hour, so you might not want to mention that. Again, we would like the tape in BETA, but we would appreciate a copy in VHS as well, if possible. Please see our web page at www.bostonabcd.org for our on-line Annual Report. If I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 357-6000 x 238. Thanks again, Megan

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 23 STORIES

Copyright 1999 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

August 9, 1999, Monday ,City Edition

SECTION: METRO/REGION; Pg. B3

LENGTH: 730 words

HEADLINE: Neighborhood program helps seniors keep their homes

BYLINE: By Jordana Hart, Globe Staff

BODY:

It was seven years ago that Antrynette Seymour first laid eyes on the sturdy red-brick rowhouse on Montrose Street, delighting in its intricate woodwork, sweeping hallways, and wide-open rooms overlooking the tranquil Roxbury street.

The former Tent City youth coordinator bought the three-family for \$75,000, after two years of searching for a house. She eventually moved her daughter and two grandchildren into the second floor and rented the third floor for \$1,000 a month - \$100 short of her monthly mortgage payment.

Over time, Seymour, who did not want her age printed, spent \$38,000 improving her beloved home.

But she found out last fall, after her tenant moved out, that rainwater had poured through the roof into the third-floor flat, rendering it unlivable and that the bathroom had become a mess of broken tile and mildew.

The answer to her prayers came in April, when a neighborhood senior citizens organization offered Seymour, who was without a tenant and behind in her mortgage payments, the funds she needed to make repairs.

The surprise help came from a group of Grove Hall elders, who with Action for Boston Community Development Inc. are trying to ensure that older homeowners in Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester can afford to stay in houses they bought decades ago.

The "Aging in Place" program might also help stem what some residents and real estate brokers fear is a creeping gentrification and land speculation that threatens to displace longtime residents and change the face of Boston's black neighborhoods.

The elders group and ABCD received a \$250,000 grant from Federal Home Loan Bank and Boston Private Bank and Trust to remodel and repair up to 25 houses. They plan to apply for another loan in October to repair another 25. About 62 elders have come forward seeking help with repairs, and organizers hope the



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program will spread to other Boston neighborhoods.

"When we see the rising predatory practices of knocking on doors and offering small amounts of money, we must continue to find ways to be creative," said Senator Dianne Wilkerson, a Democrat who represents Roxbury, the South End, the Fenway, and parts of Dorchester and Jamaica Plain.

"I feel that if my home is up to par, I would not ever want to, or have to, sell it," said Barbara Williams, 69, who has owned her two-family and in-law apartment on Holborn Street in Dorchester since 1960. Williams, president of the Grove Hall Elders Housing Advocacy Group, is herself slated for a new bathroom.

"People don't want to move to a nursing home or live with other people," she added. "We want to stay in our homes."

At a press conference outside Seymour's house, Wilkerson spoke of the importance of seniors owning property. "You own the land, and you can't substitute that for anything else," she said.

The Aging in Place program is investing \$10,000 to renovate Seymour's house. Work began July 29.

"They will patch the roof, [replace] 13 windows, paint and do carpentry, and fix the bathroom tiles," said Seymour. She is preparing to rent the third floor this fall.

"A house is to enjoy, not just to have a roof over your head," Seymour said. If the \$10,000 grant had not come along, "I would have figured out something," she said. "Something always comes up. You can't get yourself down."

But the way residents see it, some developers are banking on elders such as Seymour losing their homes so they can buy them for well below market rate, renovate them, and reap a hefty profit. But recent public attention to the problem has at least slowed calls from strangers asking homeowners, particularly in Roxbury's historic Fort Hill, whether they want to sell.

Eva Woodberry said her once-grand house on Blue Hill Avenue is in disrepair, the floor of her bathroom so weak she cannot use her toilet. Last Friday, workers from the senior assistance program installed a heater and are set to begin replacing her bathroom and kitchen floors.

"I have never thought of selling," said Woodbury, who is 79. She lives with her daughter in the house she bought on Blue Hill Avenue for \$6,000 in 1967. Widowed soon after, she raised her six children there, paying \$90 a month until the house was hers.

"I suffered the cold and winter to get this house and, amen, I am going to enjoy it now," Woodberry said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Antrynette Seymour standing in one of her apartments on Montrose Street. Seymour received funding from the Aging in Place program to make roof and window repairs to her building.

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/WENDY MAEDA



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Since 1962 has in existence

of People: 1200.

Program:

- Long history
w/ ABCD -

→ ^{HRL}
J.D. = v. 120 21. 1997

- Simon Amstrong dinner

→ focus on Simon Amstrong

- Show after he has been been introduced into

the show in 1962

introduced in wing & seats...

intro by MC

B.A.M.

- Sheraton Boston Hotel

Oct 29th

1999

LEVEL 1 - 9 OF 23 STORIES

Copyright 1999 UMI Inc.;
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Business Dateline;
Boston Business Journal

January 29, 1999

SECTION: Vol 18; No 51; pg 9

LENGTH: 695 words

HEADLINE: Academy to train urban poor for finance sector jobs

BYLINE: Chris Mahoney

DATELINE: Boston; MA; US; New England

BODY:

Kwania Martin pulls no punches about it. She was going nowhere. For years she went from one packaging job to another, getting more frustrated with each warehouse stint she landed.

"I was getting increasingly unhappy," said Martin. "I always knew that I was the type of person who liked helping people out, dealing with other people. I knew I couldn't reach this goal if I continued to work in factory environments." After six years of factory jobs, Martin's goal is in sight.

For the past four weeks the 26-yearold Mattapan resident has been laying the groundwork for a career in the financial services sector. If her plans pan out, she'll have an insurance company job before long.

And if the local financial industry's plans pan out, Martin will keep that job for a while.

Martin is one of about 200 people set to enroll in the newly created Financial Services Academy, a unique partnership among the financial services industry, a number of community organizations and New England College of Finance.

The academy targets certain community segments-minorities, immigrants, the unemployed and the working poorto train for entry-level positions in banks, insurance companies and mutual fund firms.

"These aren't dead-end laundry service or mailroom jobs. The financial services industry is very serious about filling entry-level openings," said Robert Regan, president of New England College of Finance. "For years these firms have been hiring college graduates to do these jobs. Now with the low unemployment they're finding it difficult to replace the people they lose."

Regan said it costs a company \$ 10,000 to replace a former employee. Given the trend among many junior-level employees to jump ship after less than a year's stay, replacement can get pretty expensive, he said.



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New England College of Finance provides the educational resources. Eight financial institutions have agreed to underwrite the academy for three years, and six community groups have agreed to recruit likely students, provide preliminary training, and offer graduate support to students who complete their academy schooling.

"The goal is to give people a ladder they can climb, not a basement they stay in," said John Hamill, president of Fleet Bank, one of the academy's corporate sponsors.

Officials from participating companies say many of the people they now hire are over-eager college students who leave after a few months, especially if they do not get promoted as quickly as they think they should.

The officials say the academy is a plum way to fill entry-level posts with people who would be willing to build tenure in a particular company.

"There are a number of people in the community who are underemployed and unemployed, who are looking for opportunities to become gainfully employed," said George Russell, vice president of community affairs for State Street Corp. "We will provide the career path, but they need the prerequisite skills, so we send them to the New England College of Finance. When people are working and going to school, they tend to stay with you longer," he said.

Other corporate sponsors are Boston Financial Services, Fidelity Investments, Home Loan Bank of Boston, Investors Bank & Trust Co., Massachusetts Financial Services, and USTrust. In all, the companies have pledged roughly \$ 1 million to the academy. The participating Boston-area organizations are Action for Boston Community Development Inc., Boston Private Industry Council, Boston Work force Development Coalition, STRIVE Inc., Greater Boston Financial Services Professionals, and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

Kwania Martin is one of 90 people the Urban League is currently training to enroll in the academy, said Joan Wallace Benjamin, the organization's president.

"We're very excited about the possibilities the Financial Services Academy will afford the men and women we train," she said.

The Action for Boston Community Development is training 150 people to send to the academy.

"What we're talking about is creating opportunities so people can actually take control of their lives," said Mark Isenberg, the organization's director of training.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

UMI-ACC-NO: 0002425

LOAD-DATE: February 24, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 22 OF 23 STORIES

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The Boston Herald

October 14, 1998 Wednesday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 007

LENGTH: 301 words

HEADLINE: Head Start uses open houses to increase awareness

BYLINE: By JENNIFER ROSINSKI

BODY:

In celebration of National Head Start Month, Boston yesterday began hosting open houses in city neighborhoods to educate families about what the community service program has to offer.

For 33 years, the national program has given at-risk, low-income children the tools they need to succeed.

"Preschool children have the opportunity to get educational resources before they enter the mainstream school system," said Carole Bernard, director of public information for the program.

The series of Head Start open houses will be held at 13 locations throughout the city over the next two weeks. The North End center kicked off the series with the first open house yesterday, and the South End center will wrap up the series Oct. 30.

Each open house introduces the children and families who participate in the program, the teachers they learn from and elected officials. Members of the community are given informational briefings and tours of the facilities.

Bernard hopes through the open houses community members will learn what services are available and how to take advantage of them. "It's critical for the two to meet," she said.

The federally funded program operated by Action for Boston Community Development Inc., provides medical, nutritional, social and educational services to more than 2,200 children and their families throughout the city.

"We try to make sure the whole family unit is safe," Bernard said.

Photo Caption: FOOD FOR THOUGHT: City Councilor Paul Scapicchio celebrates National Head Start Month by having lunch with 4-year-olds Kamryn Russo, left, and Carla Guzman at the North End Head Start center during yesterday's open house. The national program has given at-risk, low-income children the tools they need to succeed for 33 years. STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK WHITEMORE



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