



# Building a Better Bowdoin Geneva Together



**Bowdoin Geneva  
Neighborhood Response Team  
FIRST YEAR PROGRESS**



# 2012: A Year of Progress in Bowdoin Geneva NRT area...

## Resident Priority 1 Reducing Crime and Increasing Two-Way Communications about Public Safety

- Safe Streets Team and Community Policing along with seasonal bicycle patrols
- New Neighborhood Watch groups forming in Bowdoin Geneva and more Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) block captains recruited
- Monthly Youth Safety meetings to plan outreach, services & employment opportunities for most-at-risk youth and for young adults re-entering the community (PACT, Partners Advancing Community Together)
- Work with business community to improve visibility into stores and reduce loitering on Bowdoin
- Party houses closed down
- Versus 5 years ago, violent crime is down 23%, property crime is down 33%, and no homicides in 2012

## Resident Priority 3 Maintaining a Clean and Attractive Neighborhood

- Clean-up and debris removal at playgrounds, community gardens & site at 191 Bowdoin & Topliff
- 2 new solar trash compactors in high traffic areas, improved signage for street cleaning, many citations for improper storage of trash. Closely timed trash pick-up and street cleaning starting spring 2013
- Problem properties inspected and issued citations
  - Star Five Oil - 181 Bowdoin
  - Hendry Street problems resolved
- Clean-up of vacant and foreclosed properties, regular walkthroughs joined by residents
- 16 street and neighborhood groups participated in Boston Shines projects in April

## Connecting As a Community

- Community Celebrations: Spring Egg Hunt, Multi-Cultural Fair, Summer CommUNITY Day, Halloween Haunted Forest, Winter Holiday Events and Holiday Caroling Walk (sponsored by many groups including Bowdoin Geneva VIP, Bowdoin Geneva Alliance members, and the Bowdoin Geneva NRT)
- Dorchester Community Food Cooperative and partners hosted 5 Fresh Fridays at First Parish and an end of season celebration in the newly revitalized Coleman Street Community Garden
- Dayboat fish and Mei Mei's Street Kitchen food truck bring more visitors to the Bowdoin Geneva Farmer's Market at the Bowdoin Street Health Center
- Bowdoin Geneva stakeholders working together to move Bowdoin Geneva forward

## Resident Priority 2 Engaging All Youth in Programming and Pathways to Opportunity

- Bowdoin Geneva Youth Council starts with support of BGA and BPD grant
- Youth Talent Shows at BCYF Holland, BCYF Cleveland, St. Peter's Teen Center & Bird Street
- New outreach workers and programs at BCYF Cleveland and Holland resulting in increased membership and site visits. New Rock Wall at BCYF Holland
- Outreach to families with middle and high school youth to engage them in programming
- Increased access to GED and Career-Based Programs
- Three Building Pathways classes with placement into trade union apprenticeships
- Work opportunities for neighborhood CORI youth
- 4 BCYF Streetworkers keeping at risk youth safe and connected to programs, training, jobs, and caring adults

## Resident Priority 4 Supporting Residents in Becoming Healthier Physically, Mentally, and Financially and in Becoming Pro-Active as Participants and Leaders in the Community

- Bowdoin Geneva Alliance (BGA) created Family Reference Guide to local Service providers
- Family Resource fairs: December, February and July
- Technology Goes Home classes for children and parents at BCYF Cleveland and Holland
- Outreach to homeless population, coordinated plan for providing shelter access, mental health, and substance abuse services referrals

## Building a Better Bowdoin Geneva

Introduction from **Mayor Thomas M. Menino**



One year ago, I formed the Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) as an outcome of extensive community dialog. I called for new level of collaboration, leadership, and accountability. The community has been spectacular in stepping forward to engage with the NRT. We recognize the long-standing presence of Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association, Meeting House Hill Civic Association, and Friends of Ronan Park and Friends of Geneva Cliffs; the Bowdoin Geneva Violence

Intervention Program; and welcome the strong contributions of the newly formed Bowdoin Geneva Alliance.

Together, Bowdoin Geneva has made great progress in a year, though there's more work to do to engage residents and strengthen community. The City is committed to working with residents and the community to build a better Bowdoin Geneva.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Thomas M. Menino**

## Thank you from the Bowdoin Geneva NRT Co-Chairs

It has been an honor to serve as the first year co-chairs. What makes the NRT work well is our constant desire to engage, hear and respond to Bowdoin Geneva residents as they guide us in building a better Bowdoin Geneva block by block and strengthening our residents household by household.

Thank you to all the residents, community leaders, local providers, and City of Boston employees who worked with us in 2012.

We hope you enjoy reading about what's been accomplished in 2012 and we are looking forward to your involvement in 2013.

Sincerely,



**Claire Raymond-Gooden**  
Bowdoin Geneva Resident Co-chair



**Adalberto Teixeira**  
City of Boston Co-chair

## Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Response Team

### CO-CHAIRS

**Claire Raymond-Gooden**, Dorchester CARES / Family Resource Center

**Adalberto Teixeira**, Deputy Director of Mayor's Office of Human Services

### PARTICIPANTS

**Bowdoin Geneva Residents, Block Leaders & Block Captains**, frequent attendees included:

*Patricia Hayden, Troy Martin, Richard Costa*

**John Walsh & Janet Jones**, GBGNA and Dorchester/Roxbury Labor Committee

**Philly Laptiste**, Bowdoin Street Health Center (BSHC), **Susan Young**, Violence Intervention Program @ BSHC

**Matt LiPuma & Alice Gomes**, Family Nurturing Center / Dorchester CARES

**Mark Culliton & Matt Gallup** College Bound Dorchester

**Andrea Kaiser**, Bird Street Community Center

**Bob Scannell**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester

**Fathers Jack Ahern & Richard Conway**, St. Peter's Parish

**Paulo DeBarros**, Catholic Charities / St. Peter's Teen Center

**Mary Ann Lomba & Judy Meredith**, CVC Unido

**Rev. Arthur Lavoie**, First Parish Church

**Jean DuBois & Beto Rosa**, Dorchester Bay EDC

**Jenny Silverman**, Dorchester Community Food Co-op

**Jhana Senxian**, Sustainability Guild Int'l

**Tania Mireles & Eugenia Lowery**, Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)

**Captain Sexton, Officer Golden, Kerry Ryan, & Carolyn MacNeil**, Boston Police Department (BPD)

**Sandy Zamor Calixte**, Suffolk County Sheriff's Dept

**Flavio Daveiga**, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)

**Darryl Smith & Colleen Kennedy**, Inspectional Services Dept (ISD)

**Emanuel Dorosario, Dan Donovan**, Code Enforcement

**Carl Hyman**, Dept of Neighborhood Development (DND)

**Tim McCarthy**, Public Works Dept (PWD)

**Joe Fleury**, Boston Transportation Dept (BTD)

**Sean Webb**, BCYF Streetworkers

**Gloria Moon & Sounja Bynoe**, BCYF Holland

**Mike Triant**, BCYF Cleveland

**Janet Taylor**, Jobs & Comm'y Svcs (JCS)

**Alan Gentle**, Roxbury Resource Ctr. (JCS)

**Barbara Berke**, Mayor's Office

**Marie St. Fleur**, Advocacy, Strategic Investment & Intergovernmental Affairs

# In our first year

**A little more than a year ago, Bowdoin Geneva residents and community leaders came together with Mayor Menino to talk about building a stronger, better, more connected Bowdoin Geneva.**

We agreed on HOW we would work together going forward. We committed to:

- Engage Bowdoin Geneva residents and build local leadership
- Deliver routine services consistently
- Coordinate access, delivery, and impact of all people-building programs in the neighborhood
- Provide objective assessment of our progress

We agreed to meet as a Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) every two weeks. The NRT is chaired by a Bowdoin Geneva resident and a representative of the City appointed by the Mayor. The NRT meetings have become a powerful vehicle for identifying neighborhood needs and opportunities, addressing problems, and holding each other accountable for progress made.

We listened to residents in prioritizing **WHAT we would work on together** in our first year. The NRT was launched in response to residents and local leaders asking for deeper collaboration. After addressing initial community concerns raised at our launch, we hosted our first Bowdoin Geneva Town Hall meeting in March where we asked residents to report back to us on what was working and to tell us what needed to improve. In May, we held a large evening meeting with residents to deepen our understanding of **Bowdoin Geneva residents' top four priorities:**

- 1. Reduce crime and increase two-way communication about public safety**
- 2. Engage all youth in programming and pathways to opportunity**
- 3. Maintain a clean and attractive neighborhood**
- 4. Support residents in becoming healthier physically, mentally, and financially and in becoming pro-active as participants and leaders in the community.**

In parallel with the formation of the NRT, Bowdoin Geneva's local service providers and faith-based institutions created their own collaborative alliance uniting local leadership in regular monthly meetings, jointly establishing a vision, priorities and goals for human services programming for area residents.

In **2012**, the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance joined with the Bowdoin Geneva NRT, and the Bowdoin Geneva Violence Intervention Program or VIP (previously established by the Mayor and the Boston Public Health Commission) to work closely with each other and with Bowdoin Geneva residents and civic associations. This report highlights some of the meaningful steps we have taken together and what we have achieved in 2012, our first year of collaboration.

# together...

## In March, residents told the NRT what to work on...

*"Police need to be more effective & engage with the kids. The bike cops need to talk to the neighbors & get to know them. Interact more. Establish relationships."*

*"More police & more vigilant"... "Police need to communicate more with residents" ... "Police increase quality life in community"*

*"Deal with drugs & prostitution - Hendry Street #37"... "Druggies off the corner of Norton & Bowdoin"*

*"Please enforce fines on property owners who continue to have blighted properties" ... "How to address slum landlords"*

*"We need more place for homeless adults to hang" ... "Hanging out between Olney & Health Center"*

*"Trash on vacant lots, trash in gutters all winter. Please add more trash barrels (pot belly) to City lots and other vacant lots" ... "Posted signs for street cleaning / streets not being cleaned"*

*"Rec center opportunities for older youth. Rec centers are crowded" ... "More teen events" ...*

*"Opportunities & jobs for teens"*

*"They bring the community together on various occasions to do things like this" ... "Meetings & civic engagement"*

*"We also have a wonderful people in our neighborhood and we just need to put the people working with [the NRT]" ... "Feeling that neighbors support each other"*

*"Working together, helping each other, reporting problems"*

*"Neighborhood Watch has reduced violence, crime, created unity (huge progress)"... "VIP is bring residents together"*

*"More police presence. Bike patrols are working" ... "I like the way police interact with children. I love the bike patrol"*

*"Growth - businesses are staying"*

*"Programs are working- just not enough communicating"*

*"Ronan Park. Happy the way it is working"*

*"Street workers interact with kids & build relationships"*



## ...and what was already working well

# The NRT brings people together

People who live and work in Bowdoin Geneva meet with local leaders and City employees to identify problems and opportunities and to determine together what can be done about them. Issues are identified, clarified and recorded. Between meetings, City of Boston workers, leaders from local health and human service providers along with local clergy meet in various situations and working groups to respond to the issues identified. Every two weeks, progress is reviewed and recent events in the community are discussed.

A typical meeting includes these components:

- Welcome, introductions, approval of the record from the last meeting
- Public safety report and discussion
- Update on basic city services actions and problems resolved plus identification of new problem areas
- Exploration or planning conversations related to human services and community engagement, such as:
  - Programming for youth, with a special focus on engaging middle-schoolers
  - Connecting youth and adults with job readiness, training, and employment opportunities
  - Serving homeless community members
  - Hosting events so neighbors can get to know each other and connect with local resources
  - Creating more opportunities for residents to become part of building a better Bowdoin Geneva
- Report out on what's new and good in the neighborhood and on upcoming events

Meetings are typically attended by residents, block captains, block leaders and representatives of these groups:

## Residents & Resident Organizations



## Local Providers and Organizations



## City of Boston



# ... to hear and respond to residents' concerns



Call to Action  
October 2011



NRT Launch  
November 2011

After meeting with Bowdoin Geneva residents and leaders in late 2011, Mayor Thomas M. Menino launched the Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Response Team. In addition to its biweekly public meetings, the NRT hosted its first Bowdoin Geneva Town Hall meeting in March where translators in four languages were present to ensure all residents' inputs could be heard. Occasional evening meetings enable more residents to engage with NRT members.



Town Hall Meeting  
March 2012



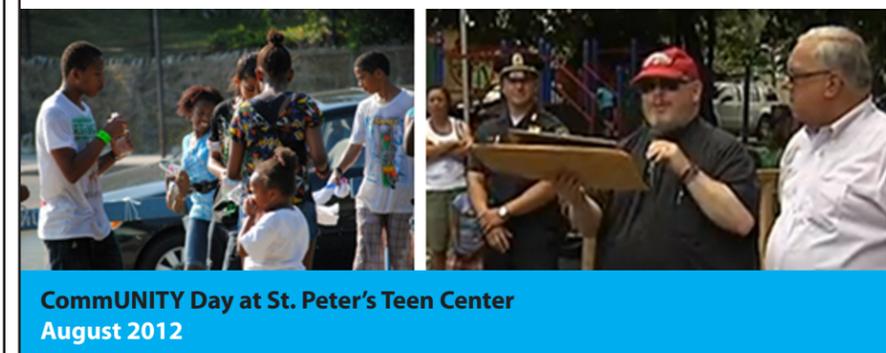
Evening NRT Meeting  
May 2012

# The NRT supports community organizations in making good things happen in Bowdoin Geneva

Residents tell us that building a stronger community starts with getting people out of their houses and meeting other people in their community in enjoyable settings. Many community groups in Bowdoin Geneva have been holding great events for years, others have put on their first events this year. The Bowdoin Geneva NRT believes in the importance of opportunities for people to mingle and connect. The NRT has hosted some of its own events, but more often its members have lent a hand to make each other's events more successful with more outreach, more helping hands, more coordination with the City and more opportunities to showcase the many resources within the Bowdoin Geneva community.



Dec. 2011 | Jan. 2012 | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec.



These are just a few examples of events from the NRT's first Holiday Fair in December 2011 to a Holiday Caroling party that closed out our first year of working together with a walk from BCYF Holland to First Parish. Over the course of Summer 2012, over 37 events were hosted by BG civic groups and organizations, with more than 2500 people coming out to enjoy them, no doubt an important contributing factor to a summer that was safer than the prior year's.

Community organizations that have played leading roles in one or more of these events are...

- **First Parish of Dorchester**
  - **Friends of Geneva Cliffs**
  - **Friends of Ronan Park**
  - **Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets**
  - **Bowdoin Street Health Center / Bowdoin Geneva VIP**
  - **Family Nurturing Center / Dorchester CARES**
  - **St. Peter's Teen Center**
  - **Dorchester Community Food Co-op**
  - **Sustainability Guild International**
  - **BCYF Holland and Cleveland**
- And many others...

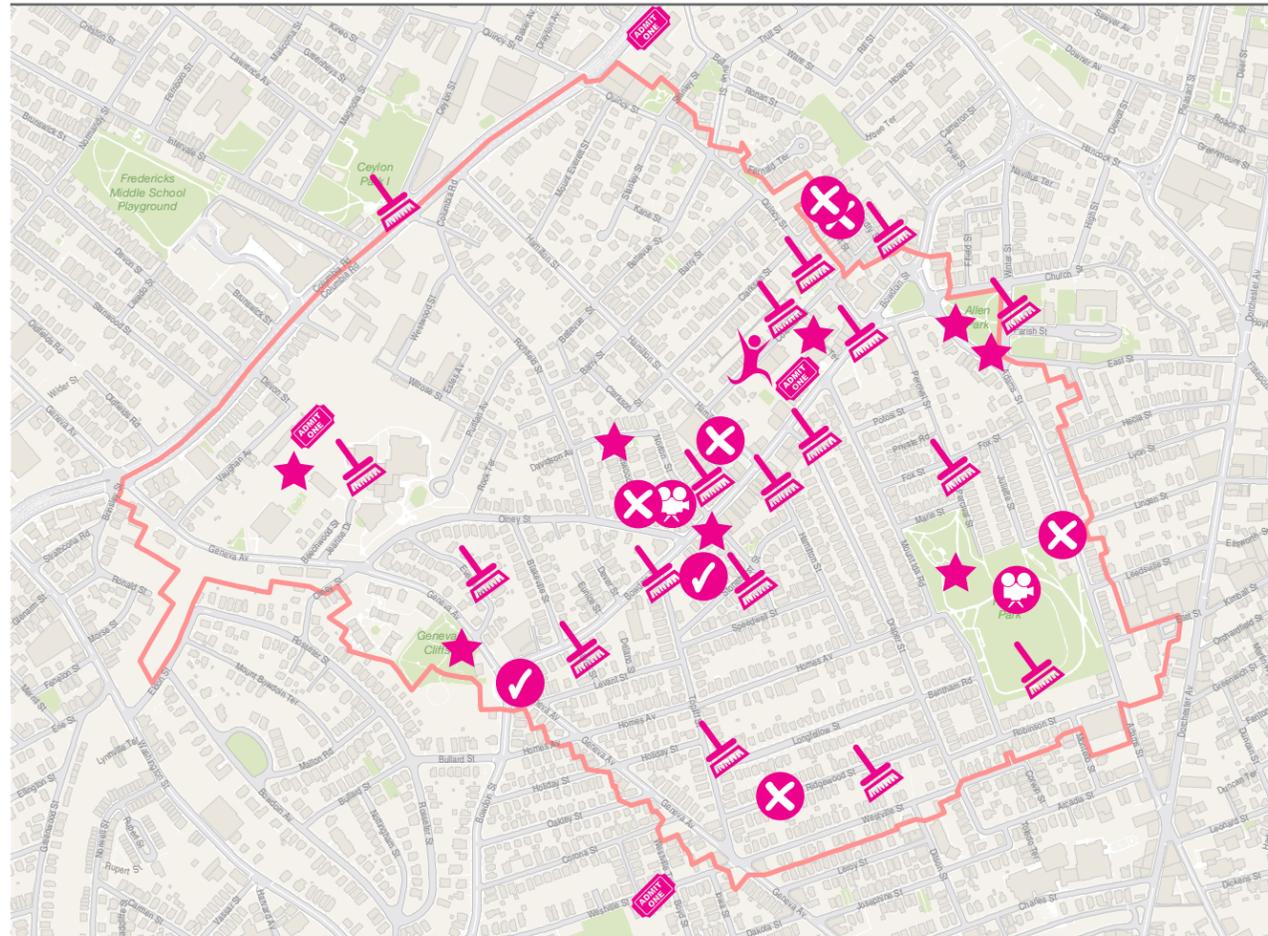


But holiday celebrations and community events are far from the only good things that have happened in Bowdoin Geneva.

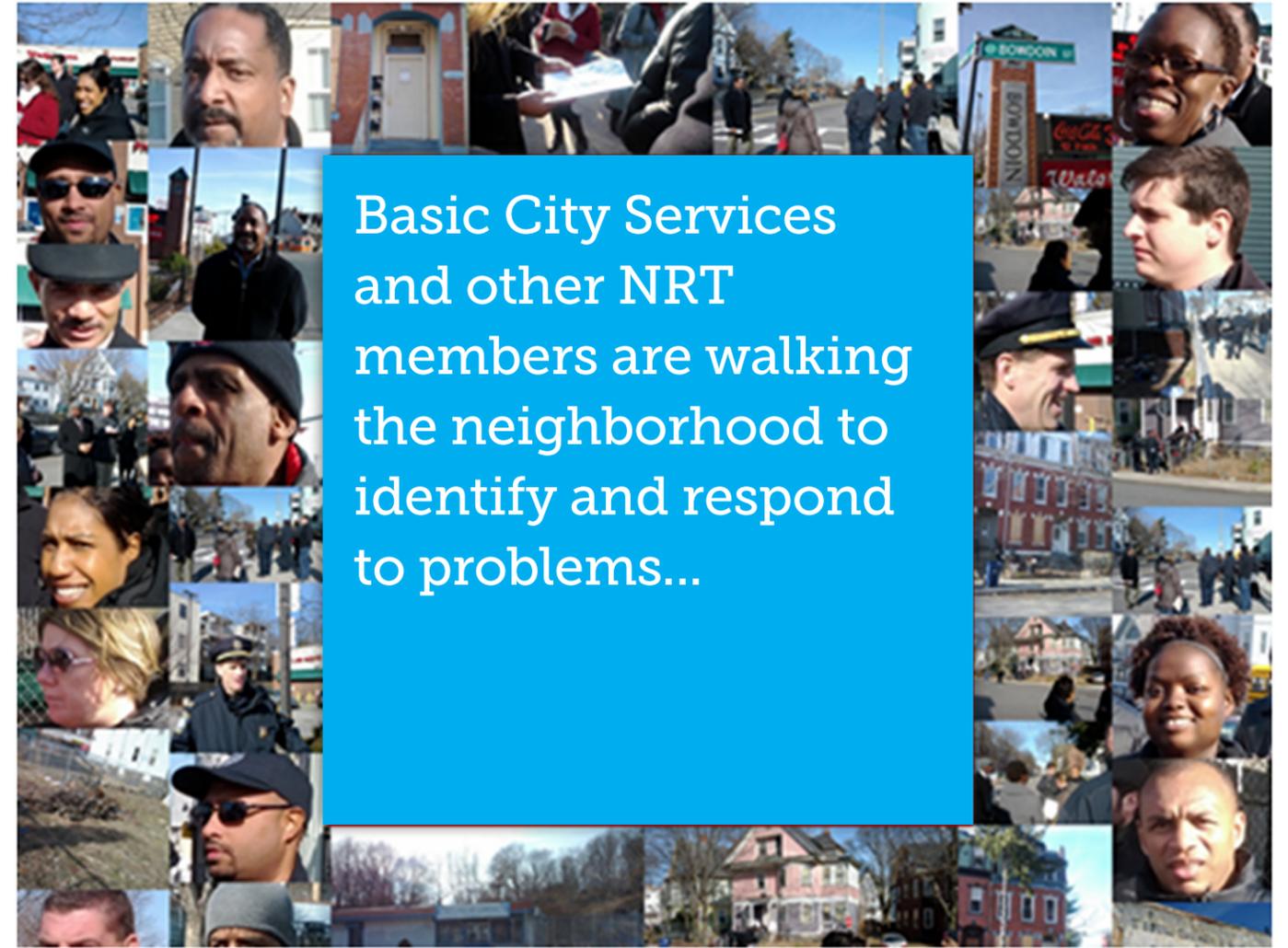
The remainder of this report focuses on progress that the Bowdoin Geneva NRT and its members have made on the four priorities identified by residents at the beginning of the year.

# The NRT is reaching out street-by-street to encourage neighbors to celebrate community and solve problems together

The area that the Bowdoin Geneva NRT focuses on is defined by the **red boundary below**. While this is the area for which the NRT reports statistics, many of the NRT's activities are open to nearby residents and many of the positive actions taken also serve the broader Bowdoin Geneva community.



-  **Celebration, Block Party, or Other Community Event**
-  **Youth Talent Show**
-  **Outdoor Movie Night**
-  **Playway fun & fitness street party**
-  **Boston Shines clean-up project**
-  **Problem Addressed**
-  **Designated Problem Property**



In our first year, NRT members conducted more than a dozen walkthroughs covering streets across the Bowdoin Geneva residential areas and business districts. City workers from the Departments of Public Works, Transportation, Code Enforcement, Inspectional Services, Police, Neighborhood Development and Neighborhood Services along with the Public Health Commission walked together with residents and community leaders. Neighbors often joined the group to talk about issues important to them.

Over 83 issues were flagged with many issues being resolved through dialog with property and business owners. 34 citations were issued with most resolved by the end of the year. Several properties were observed to have more extensive problems and were referred to the Problem Property Task Force.

Overall, the walkthroughs resulted in many neighborhood improvements ranging from:

- **Maintenance and cleanliness of properties and surrounding lots,**
- **Identifying areas of pest infestation leading to concerted baiting programs,**
- **Improved sight lines into stores, improving customer and employee safety, and**
- **Street and street lighting repairs and placement of business district trash receptacles**

# Resident Priority #1:

## Reduce Crime and Improve Two-way Communication about Public Safety



The Boston Police Department's District C-11 has had an ongoing relationship with the Bowdoin Geneva community since forming the Safe Street Team in 2007 and has been a partner in the Bowdoin Geneva NRT since its inception. The Safe Street Team on Bowdoin St. consists of a Sergeant and nine Officers. Their mission is to interact with the community and develop relationships with residents and community/civic groups. Enforcement of the laws is also part of their mission and particularly quality of life violations such as public drinking. The Safe Street Team Officers do patrol on bikes (weather permitting) and will continue to do so going forward.

Sgt. Thomas Rose and the Safe Street Team along with the C-11 Community Service Officers are continually working with residents, community groups, clergy, and the youth of Bowdoin/Geneva through community meetings, social events, and youth activities.

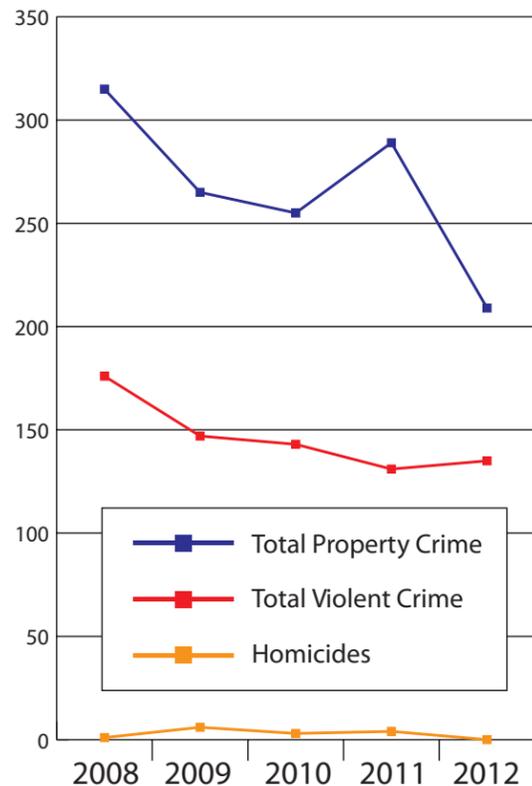
At the time of the NRT launch, Bowdoin Geneva residents were particularly concerned about having a safe summer. Bicycle patrols and staffing at Ronan Places and other centers of youth activity were particularly welcomed by families and community members.



Summer saw significant reductions in violent and property crime over the prior summer (measured May 1st through August 28th):

**SUMMER 2012**  
**Property Crime:**  
 Down 41%  
**Violent Crime:**  
 Down 9%

Results for the 2012 versus the prior year showed overall property crime down 26% and violent crime up 2%, holding nearly steady after several years of steady reduction. Non-fatal shootings were 17 this year versus 12 last year and there were no homicides this year versus 4 last year. Starting in 2011, Operation Concord led to the arrests in January 2013 of 27 alleged members of the Woodward Avenue and Hendry Street gangs. Many of those arrested for conspiracy to distribute drugs had been major contributors to street violence and local crime. In total, those charged had been arraigned more than 850 times before. Operation Concord was a collaborative local, state and federal initiative that worked diligently over months to build cases that would lead to lengthy prison sentences, sending an important signal to other gang members.



Officers from C-11 and the Safe Street Team participate in teaching boxing to youth at the St. Peter's Teen Center as well as playing basketball with older teens. These activities are examples of the police interacting with

youth in non-confrontational environments which builds trust and fosters relationships. The Safe Street Team also participates in Youth Dialogues at the Teen Center which are coordinated by the YWCA.

C-11 officers have joined NRT walkthroughs where they have been instrumental in orienting Main Streets business owners to safety improvements through compliance with signage ordinances and in working with the liquor store to cease the sale of "nips" that often result in increased loitering and public drinking violations.



The BPD Neighborhood Watch Unit has actively sought to meet residents and help them organize block groups on their streets. Working along with the Bowdoin Geneva VIP and NRT, several new Neighborhood Watch groups have been formed this year. Existing and new groups share common desires for:

- **Safer, cleaner and a more attractive blocks;**
- **Streets where people know their neighbors; and,**
- **Neighbors who care about the long-term health and well-being of families on their block and their community.**

The Neighborhood Watch Unit builds on the positive experiences and successes of existing groups to encourage and mentor people who are just getting organized. Neighbors have held meetings, hosted successful block parties, and organized Boston Shines clean-ups. The Coleman Street Neighbors Association and the Sustainability Guild worked with the Boston Transportation Department to pilot a new outdoor play & exercise event called Playways. As block groups grow over time and with repeated personal interactions at community events, the Neighborhood Watch Unit aims to be an accessible, visible and dependable partner helping residents build a better Bowdoin Geneva block by block.



In October, VIP Block Captains, Neighborhood Watch block leaders, and other civic leaders and organizers met together as a first step in developing a vision for greater community engagement as well as identifying training and mentorship needs. This work will continue in the coming year.

## Actions Taken at Problem Properties to Reduce Crime and Improve Environment

Strong vibrant neighborhoods are built around a perception of safety and vitality. Too often, the actions of a few bad actors greatly diminish the quality of life in Boston's neighborhoods through neglect or outright crime. To address these issues, Mayor Menino created the Problem Properties Task Force.

The Bowdoin Geneva NRT has worked closely with the Problem Properties Initiative in a coordinated, inter-departmental approach to identify and respond to properties where there are persistent criminal activities and violations of the State's sanitary and building codes. The Task Force is charged with cleaning up the City's most blighted and crime-ridden addresses by holding the owners of these properties responsible for their actions and inactions. In some cases, these addresses are known epicenters of drug use, prostitution, violence or other crimes. In other cases, they may be dilapidated visual blights that pose a safety hazard for the community. In all cases, these property owners, whether through negligence or malfeasance, have allowed their properties to become chronic problems for the neighborhood.

One property, 37 Hendry Street, is a particularly good example of problem resolution. At one point, there were 18 foreclosed triple-deckers in the Hendry, Coleman, and Clarkson Street area. The streets had suffered persistent drug dealing and violence that had led to four shootings in

2010. In response, residents along with the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) organizers, St. Peter's clergy, the City of Boston, and the Boston Police worked closely together hosting monthly crime watch meetings over three years. Resident calls to the Mayor's Hotline, 617-635-4500, and 911 were instrumental in reporting problems of all types.

The City acquired four foreclosed properties at 15, 17, 19, and 21 Hendry and renovated them for resale. DBEDC acquired other nearby properties for similar renovation and resale to new home buyers.

In August 2012, 37 Hendry St was declared a Problem Property and Inspectional Services along with Boston Police found violations and criminal activity. Later in January 2013, Boston Police and federal agents arrested 27 people based in the Hendry St. area and another local hot spot, uprooting deeply embedded gangs trafficking drugs and violence in the Bowdoin Geneva neighborhood and nearby Dorchester. This was a victory for all residents, old and new, and a powerful example of working together to address problem properties.

The pages that follow outline the actions the City has taken at some of the Bowdoin Geneva properties that were referred to the Problem Properties Task Force and designated as the among the city's most egregious problem properties.

## 30 Ridgewood, Dorchester (Designated Problem Property on 8/31/2011)

### Neighborhood Concerns:

30 Ridgewood was a major concern for the neighborhood due to the blighted condition of the building, the status of the property as a poorly maintained rooming house, and tenants who were intimidating to neighbors. Prior to designation the property had 12 open code violations for trash and debris totaling \$2,768. Additionally, the Mayor's hotline had recorded 4 complaints for unsatisfactory living conditions.

### City Actions Taken:

Many police calls to this property were disputes between tenants. Initial investigation showed this house to be a very poorly maintained rooming house. Several inspections took place as a result of calls about trash storage and debris. Additionally, tenants made requests for inspections due to the living conditions inside the units resulting in violations being issued against the property owner. The BPD District Captain worked closely with owner and other city agencies to get owner to clean up property. The C-11 Drug Control Unit and the Special Investigations Unit were also involved at this address.

### The Result:

Due to the actions of all the city agencies involved, this property has been cleaned up. The façade has been restored and repainted, and there have been no further complaints about trash. All violations that were issued have also been corrected. The work of the C-11 Drug Control Unit and the Special Investigations Unit eliminated the problem tenants. Based on these successes the property is being removed from the problem properties list.



30 Ridgewood Street at time of the original violations and one year later.

*"We will not allow problem properties to drag down the quality of life in our neighborhoods... Now, residents will have the full weight of the city and all of our resources on their side when it comes to absentee landlords who ignore their responsibility to their neighbors."*

*-Mayor Thomas Menino*

617-635-4500



Use the Mayor's Hotline to report your concerns:

- Unsatisfactory living conditions?
- Poor conditions of property?
- Need street cleaning or plowing?
- Need a TV to be picked up?
- Need a recycling cart?
- Abandoned vehicle?
- Street light out?
- Trash violations?
- See a pothole? See graffiti?
- Have a comment for the Mayor?

**Available 24 hours, every day.**

Or, use  
**Citizens Connect**



Download the app for your smartphone from [www.CityofBoston.gov](http://www.CityofBoston.gov)



### 34 Norton Street, Dorchester (Designated Problem Property on 8/31/2011)

**Neighborhood Concerns:**

334 Norton Street was the site of a triple shooting resulting in one fatality on July 4th of 2011. Furthermore, no less than 10 shots fired incidents have occurred at this address since 2001. Violent incidents at 34 Norton St. appear to be targeting residents of the address and/or associates of these residents. Several residents at this address are verified gang members. The residence/address has been associated with multiple crimes related to firearm violence, domestic violence and drug activity.

**City Actions Taken:**

After the July 4th homicide, C-11 utilized directed patrols at the property and in the area. C-11 CSO office worked with ISD to get the owner to address the code violations, maintaining constant contact throughout the designation period. ISD found the basement being used for illegal living space. Following inspection, the basement was vacated. In July 2012, the building inspector determined that there were still issues with the basement and swore the violation out to Housing Court.

A gang-involved youth who was a tenant at this location was referred to the Public Health Commission's Violence Intervention Program (VIP). He has since been working with VIP to return to school for a GED.

**The Result:**

With the increased police activity around the house, calls to this property have diminished and problem tenants have been removed. No significant incidents have occurred at this property for several months.

A short form permit was issued on August 10, 2012 to return the basement to its original condition and use it for storage purposes only. As of 9/12/12, the case was closed and all violations on the property were corrected and closed.

### 9 Inwood Street, Dorchester (Designated Problem Property on 10/25/2011)

**Neighborhood Concerns:**

Often complained about as an illegal rooming house, many assaults and drug activities mostly related to tenants. Property was in poor condition with improper storage of trash, overgrown weeds, damaged siding, roof and porch in disrepair.

**City Actions Taken:**

BPD identified this problem property due to the calls for service volume and illegal drug activity happening at the property. Resources were allocated to address problem tenants. Drug investigations and arrests were made. ISD inspected and determined that the property was operating as an illegal rooming house and was unfit for human habitation. The property was vacated, boarded & secured by ISD.

**The Result:**

Since designation, this property has transferred ownership. The condemnation has been lifted and it has been approved to once again house tenants. One unit is occupied, 2 are vacant. The criminal activity at this property has stopped. All violations have been corrected. In October 2012, this property was recognized as model transformation in a press conference reporting on Problem Property Task Force's progress.

### 108 Adams Street, Dorchester (Designated Problem Property on 3/26/2012)

**Neighborhood Concerns:**

Incidents range from drug overdoses to breaking and entering to warrant arrests and missing persons. Owner also owns 102 Blue Hill Avenue which was a previously listed problem property. The City was concerned that some problems at 102 Blue Hill Avenue may have shifted to this address.

**City Actions Taken:**

Area C-11 directed numerous police resources to this address. Captain remained aggressive with problem tenants and owner to clean up property and evict problem tenants. Code Enforcement issued several violations.

After designation, a large electronic sign board was placed in front of the property identifying it a Problem Property. Owners Attorney worked with C-11 to evict problem tenants. BPD worked with ISD on other violations.

**The Result:**

As of end of August, owner's attorney reports to District Captain that all problem tenants have been evicted. There have been no new police incidents at this address since March of this year and code enforcement complaints have been resolved. Property has been cleaned up.

### 37 Hendry Street, Dorchester (Designated Problem Property on 10/1/2012)

**Neighborhood Concerns:**

Neighbors reported exposed garbage, trash and litter along with rat activity. Abatements were written by the Environmental Services Division. Problems continued with the property becoming unkempt and severely overgrown over the summer. Owner fails to appear for scheduled dates at Housing Court.

**City Actions Taken:**

Building is inspected, condemned, vacated and secured in August. Twenty-seven violations are recorded: 5 sanitary code in common area, 5 sanitary code in Unit #3, 6 exterior sanitary code, 5 CEP violations, 4 violations of electrical code, 1 building code violation, and 1 plumbing code violation. Owner living outside the US. The property is scheduled for foreclosure. All residents have moved; a displaced woman and child were assisted by the Boston Housing Authority. The property will be monitored by BPD until owner is notified and issues are corrected.

**The Result:**

No new violations have been reported since the building was condemned. The property has been baited to remediate rat activity. The owner is now in bankruptcy court. The Department of Neighborhood Development is working with the bank on the auction to ensure the house will be purchased and occupied by an owner who will invest in the community. 37 Hendry is a great success story for the community and a positive example of community residents getting involved and working with the Problem Properties Task Force and the Bowdoin Geneva NRT to turn the street around. At a holiday party in December 2012, Hendry Street neighbors celebrated major improvements in their quality of life.

## Resident Priority #2:

# Engage All Youth in Programming and Pathways to Opportunity



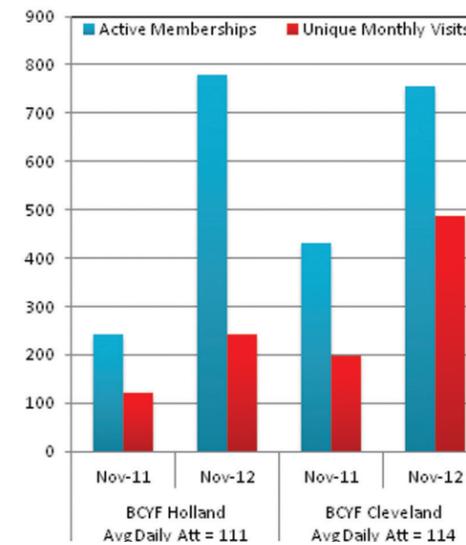
Over the last year, youth-serving organizations in Bowdoin Geneva have been working closely together to strengthen the fabric of the community and support the growth of positive options for youth in the neighborhood. Led by the members of the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance's Youth Committee (St. Peter's Teen Center, The Bowdoin Street Health Center/VIP, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, Bird Street and College Bound Dorchester) the community has rallied around its youth.

Among many initiatives this year, some of the most notable were:

- The re-establishment of a **Bowdoin Geneva Youth Council** whose first project was a resident survey;
- Vibrant and diverse youth **summer programming in Ronan Park**, providing elementary, middle and high school youth with opportunities to play sports, engage in the arts and socialize in a safe encouraging environment;
- Extended opportunities for **middle school youth** in educational after-school support, expanded recreational opportunities, civic engagement programming and social and emotional supports;

- The creation of a **CORI friendly youth jobs program** that provided Bowdoin Geneva youth jobs at community based organizations while receiving additional support services;
- Support for **PACT youth at risk** from the Bowdoin Geneva area to get into work, training and college;
- **Youth civic engagement** in community events, Boston Shines, and other youth advocacy initiatives such as mobilizing for youth jobs, youth raising their voices for improving their access to opportunity;
- **Youth led programming** for positive choices to understand early indications of gang recruitment and staying away from potentially dangerous situations; and
- Expansion of **after-school services Bowdoin Geneva at the Holland Elementary School** increasing the number of youth served and providing additional academic and enrichment supports.

Youth programming has more to do, but this year has shown that community led, City supported youth-focused programming can make a difference.



A door-knocking campaign, started just after the NRT launch, alerted Bowdoin Geneva residents to the presence of youth programs in Bowdoin Geneva, asked about unmet needs, and offered free trial memberships at the two closest Boston Center for Youth and Family (BCYF) community centers. This effort contributed to a rise in active memberships and in the number of unique visitors each month to BCYF Holland and the BCYF Cleveland:

New programs were introduced, including programming for girls at both centers. A Middle School Girls Focus group was held in October 2012 followed by recruitment of a Girls Leadership Corps (GLC). Five girls were hired from the Bowdoin/Dorchester area.

BCYF Cleveland is now offering its third Technology Goes Home session that equips parents and students with 15 hours of hands-on technology orientation, a new netbook or mobile device for a \$50 co-pay and, for eligible residents, access to low-cost home internet service and is currently printing its second edition of a new Cleveland Times newsletter, having trained a group of 12 students in photography, writing and graphic design.

Based on the number of door-knock respondents who said they were interested in climbing walls, the BCYF Holland was prioritized for the installation of a new wall which was completed in time for summer 2012. BCYF Holland also watched Technology Goes Home classes.

Bowdoin Geneva youth are talented and summer 2012 abounded in youth talent showcases. St. Peter's Teen Center, BCYF Holland, BCYF Cleveland and Bird Street Community Center all hosted shows that were open to youth, their families and the general public.

Summer 2012 also brought a new level of coordination in programming Ronan Park, with activities scheduled throughout the day and evening. Youth programmers worked closely with Boston Police to ensure the safety and comfort of people using the park as well as the residents surrounding the park.

A core group of Bowdoin Geneva service providers and clergy meet twice monthly in a Bowdoin Geneva Youth Safety meeting. In this small and confidential setting, caring adults who are experienced in working with at risk youth discuss individualized plans for youth who may be having trouble at school, with their families, in life or in returning from incarceration. Personal connections enable referrals, as well de-escalation and interventions.



Building  
New NRT  
Partnerships



## The Bowdoin Geneva Youth Council

The BG Youth Council re-formed in 2012 through the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance. The mission of the council is to strengthen our community by reaching out to residents, connecting families with needed resources and promoting the positive parts of life in Bowdoin Geneva. We engage youth in activities that promote our own growth while setting an example for other young people to follow.

Youth received Leadership, Public Speaking, and Community Organizing training from members of the Alliance Youth Development committee. As a first step, Youth Council members conducted a survey of 113 residents to capture positive aspects of the community and to prioritize potential projects for the coming year.

## Resident Priority #2:

### Engage All Youth in Programming and Pathways to Opportunity

The Partnerships Advancing Communities Together (PACT) program is a multidisciplinary service provision partnership established to reduce violence among an identified and specific group of youth and young men, most between 16-24 years old, who have perpetrated or been victims of gun violence within the city of Boston. PACT is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) via the Boston Public Health Commission. The intent of the initiative is to reduce violence by partnering with community-based organizations with proven experience working with this population, to provide job readiness, education and case management opportunities to the identified population and their siblings and children.

PACT combines the efforts of police, BCYF and other Streetworkers, the courts, and education and job programs to target 296 Boston gang members, who are considered responsible for the majority of the city's violence and most likely to be its victims. In 2012, there were 31 PACT clients (identified impact players) who list addresses in the BG area, and 49 PACT clients are associated with gangs active in the BG area.

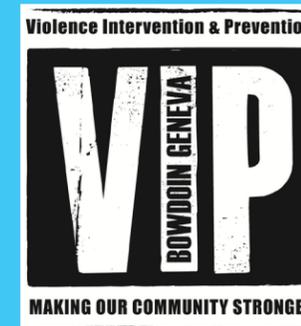
There are currently three members of the BCYF Streetworker team and a BCYF supervisor assigned to Bowdoin Geneva. Their efforts are targeted to the most proven-risk teens and young adults who reside or spend time in the neighborhood. Through (SSY) funding that supports the PACT initiative, BCYF Streetworkers have connected 27 at-risk and gang-involved clients to local partners who provide pathways to education, job training, safe housing, and, in some cases, mental health or substance abuse services.

The program also plays a pivotal role in preventing retaliation violence. Successful Ceasefire Call-Ins with two very active gang-affiliated groups have engaged these young men in taking steps to avoid youth-on-youth violence.

SSY also funds two BCYF Outreach Workers who are assigned to provide support to youth ages 15 through 18 and to offer positive mentoring for PACT siblings. The BCYF Outreach Workers have also developed relationships with front-line staff at BCYF Holland, BCYF Cleveland, the CASH School, the Harbor School, Bowdoin Geneva Alliance youth-serving organizations, and other non-profit partners to connect young people to resources that support positive behavioral change. VIP assisted in connecting at-risk youth to jobs. In addition, four CORI youth were employed based on a City of Boston NICE grant to the Sustainability Guild for improvements at 191 Bowdoin.

Building Pathways, a 7-week program, sponsored by the Building and Construction Trades Council, is designed to prepare qualified applicants for an apprenticeship in the building trades - the pathway to a rewarding career in construction. The Dorchester / Roxbury Labor Committee in collaboration with the Bowdoin Street Health Center and many NRT members were instrumental in recruiting 33 people to attend an info session. Four individuals from Bowdoin Geneva netted coveted pre-apprenticeship slots. All four (2 males/2 females) graduated and are now in union apprenticeship programs. Applicants must be at least 18 with a high school diploma or GED. For information on upcoming sessions, please contact Brian Doherty, Building Pathways Project Coordinator at 617-282-2242.

## Bowdoin Geneva NRT Partner



## The Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative

The Bowdoin Geneva Violence Intervention & Prevention Initiative (VIP) is a partnership between the Boston Public Health Commission and the Bowdoin Street Health Center. Through community mobilization techniques, VIP coalitions strengthen neighborhoods' capacity to develop community initiatives that prevent violence over the long term. VIP Coalitions work to ensure residents have the knowledge and resources to drive sustained changes that influence violence where they live.

Bowdoin Geneva VIP, with the help of city agencies and various community partners, has worked to improve the quality of life as well as the physical disorders in the neighborhood. The commitment of Bowdoin Street Health Center's VIP program has allowed for extended community outreach and organizing. Outreach has and continues to be done street by street and block by block. Most violent incidents have been issues of gun violence which have affected residents physically, mentally, and emotionally. Organizing efforts have essentially been effective especially in this neighborhood.

VIP works with residents and community leaders to address four violence prevention goals:

- **Train residents to address problems in their physical surroundings and reduce the perception of chaos in their communities**
- **Promote health services, including mental health and substance abuse to improve health outcomes**
- **Connect students and young people to positive activities, especially middle school students where truancy increases and recruitment to gang activity are known to begin**
- **Develop resident-led community-wide responses to violence that reinforce the notion that violence is not acceptable**

Working closely with the Neighborhood response Team (NRT), we continue our work with residents to create and provide opportunities that not only meet the needs of the residents but also bring them together and strengthen community cohesion. Our collaboration with the NRT to identify physical disorder as well as quality of life issues has had many successes. VIP has worked closely with residents to identify eyesores in the community and have been a part of the process of positive change. This level of resident engagement is not only empowering to residents but it also gives them hope that more progress can be made because of their engagement in the community.

Overall we are working with the residents to promote a healthy community and to continue to curb the violence. This is an everyday struggle and with continued support, Bowdoin Geneva can be the neighborhood it once was known for, one that is community strong.

## Resident Priority #3:

# Maintain a Clean and Attractive Neighborhood

From all reports, residents, businesses and people who work in Bowdoin Geneva are seeing improvements in street cleanliness and maintenance of vacant lots, as well as a reduction in disorder around problem properties. This visible progress has occurred only because so many people have contributed in so many different ways:

- **Residents** have participated in street and neighborhood clean-ups, alerted the city to trash pick-up problems, and used the Mayor's Hotline (617-635-4500) to report cleanliness, street and sidewalk conditions, lighting, pests, and other maintenance issues in the area. Residents and area youth have been enthusiastic participants in Mayor Menino's Boston Shines program where the City provides brooms, shovels, trash bags and specialized trash pick-ups to support residents who organize clean-up projects.
- **Businesses** have helped the City of Boston identify the right locations for new Big Belly solar trash compactors on Bowdoin Street and have been paying more attention to keeping streets and sidewalks clean in front of their properties.
- **Bowdoin Geneva Youth** from St. Peter's Teen Center have been particularly active force in the spring Boston Shines kick-off project. Youth from the Student Conservation Association conducted an extensive clean-up of Geneva Cliffs in the late summer that help prepare the area for a safe and successful Halloween Haunted Forest event later in the fall. Court-involved youth working with the Sustainability Guild built up-cycled outdoor furniture at 191 Bowdoin at Topliff St., cleaning and preparing the lot for re-use.
- Based on **input from residents and businesses**, the **City of Boston Public Works Department** has begun daily sweeping of the Bowdoin Street business district and, is now are working together with the **Boston Transportation Department** to enable trash pick-up to be closely followed by street sweeping starting in the spring of 2013.



### Boston Shines 365 Kick-off

*Residents, Bowdoin Geneva youth, school staff and volunteers*

- Tebroc Street Park
- Bowdoin Main Street area
- Ridgewood Street
- St. Peter's Church & Teen Center
- Mt. Ida Road
- Eaton Square area
- Topliff & Tonawanda Streets
- Bird Street Community Center
- Mather School & First Parish
- Holland School

### Boston Shines 365 Summer Beautification & Clean-ups

*Student Conservation Association*

- Geneva Cliffs

*City Year with Harvard Pilgrim*

- Mural & Painting at Holland School

### Boston Shines 365 Fall Clean-ups

*Residents with DA's Office & Suffolk Law Students*

- Coleman Street Community Garden
- Coleman & Hendry Streets
- Topliff & Bowdoin Lot
- St. Peter's Church and Teen Center
- Draper Street
- Norton, Stonehurst & Bowdoin Streets
- Everton Street
- Ronan Park entrance

*Residents & Civic Associations*

- Friends of Ronan Park
- Ridgewood Civic Association
- Norton Street

### Boston Shines 365 Regular Clean-ups

- Four Streets Civic Association



**Friends of Geneva Cliffs** hosted two community events this year – the Spring Easter Egg Hunt for small children and the Haunted Forest for children, youth (and some adults) this Halloween. This year, at different times, **Norton Street residents** working with Violence Intervention Program (VIP) staff and the Student Conservation Association each played important roles in revitalizing the park for public use. When called upon to address evidence of drug use in the area, the Boston Public Health Commission and the Boston Police Department both stepped forward to assist in cleaning the area and to address underlying problems of homelessness and drugs.

On Coleman, Norton, Trent and Hendry Streets, the **Four Streets** block group clean-ups have inspired more resident engagement which, in turn, led to beautification projects in community gardens, front yards and sidewalk areas.

Rat, mice and pest have been a concern on certain streets. The City has responded with code enforcement, traps and bait, along with resident and landlord communications on proper trash disposal and storage. In one instance, an intensive clean-up of a public garden and abutting alley removed 176 bags of plant and construction debris that had been contributing factors. The Sustainability Guild worked with Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve to transform the Coleman-Quincy garden with fresh plantings.

**Business Districts:** As part of its regular walkthroughs, the NRT identifies where streets, sidewalks and street lighting need repair. The City has repainted crosswalks and yellow lines in areas where they had seen excessive wear. Street lighting has been improved around the Bowdoin and Norton liquor store and rusting storage containers and pallets have been removed from the back.

ISD worked with businesses to better balance promotional signage and sight lines into the business to attract residents into the stores while improving employee and customer safety.



## Resident Priority #3: Maintain a Clean and Attractive Neighborhood

The Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association (GBGNA) had long been concerned about property conditions and storage of equipment and vehicles on two Bowdoin Geneva business district properties. With GBGNA's impetus, Inspectional Services and Code Enforcement actions resulted in notable improvements to these previously problematic commercial properties.

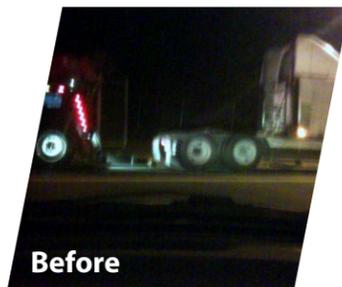
### 181-183 Bowdoin Street



**181 Bowdoin:** Deteriorated vacant lot with over \$6,500 in outstanding code violations. Neighborhood Services and ISD contacted the owner who promptly responded by removing all abandon vehicles, clearing the lot of overgrowth, removing trash and debris, and installing a new fence. All code violations were resolved and there have been no further complaints from the neighborhood. The property is now being marketed for sale and redevelopment



### Star Five Oil Company



**Corner of Bowdoin and Geneva:** The Star Five Oil Company had been cited for storage of oil tank trucks at this property. This site has been reopened as a convenience store.

## Resident Priority #4:

## Support residents in becoming healthier physically, mentally, and financially and in becoming pro-active as participants and leaders in the community

**Bowdoin Geneva has many assets to support residents' success in life.** The challenge is to work in partnership to connect residents to the resources that are here for them and to encourage people to share what they know in ways that can help their families, friends and neighbors. Bowdoin Geneva providers know that if they can support residents better, residents can in turn be more active in building a stronger and better Bowdoin Geneva.

Bowdoin Geneva's health, human service, and youth programming providers have joined together to form the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance (BGA) described in more detail at right. These organizations individually provide a broad array of services to area residents. In building on each other's strengths and referring clients to one another, BGA service providers are strengthening their ability to address residents' needs. This year, the BGA produced its first Family Resources Directory.

This year, the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance members played a leading role within the NRT in greatly increasing opportunities for residents to connect to local resources:

- Family Resource Day and Holiday Party in December 2011;
- Family Resource Expo in February 2012;
- Family Fun and Financial Fitness Fair in August 2012; along with
- Sponsorship and presence at many other events over the course of the year.

As the number and variety of community events increased over the past year, the Alliance started organizing a Bowdoin Geneva community calendar with the goal of spacing out events over the year to offer a lively series of opportunities for residents to meet one another, learn about neighborhood assets and be connected to services and opportunities that meet their needs.

The VIP program was instrumental in reaching out to Bowdoin Geneva's homeless community, working with the Health Center and community partners to address the complex needs of this population.

The Family Nurturing Center, Dorchester CARES and the Family Resource Center present at nearly all of these community events extended outreach to families with infants and young children to promote parenting skills, healthy decisions and school readiness for Bowdoin Geneva's youngest residents.

2012 saw the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance, VIP and NRT members working closely together to improve access to healthy, affordable food and to provide healthy food in new settings that encourage social interaction and community strengthening.



# Bowdoin Geneva NRT Partner



## Bowdoin Geneva Alliance

The Bowdoin Geneva Alliance is a group of community based organizations working together, for the betterment of the Bowdoin-Geneva community.

Bowdoin Geneva has often been left out of funding opportunities that have benefited surrounding neighborhoods and the member organizations decided it was important to come together to identify community needs and ways that we could work together more collaboratively and effectively to address those needs. We have been meeting for the last 2 ½ years.

### MEMBERS

Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets, Bowdoin Street Health Center, Bird Street Community Center, Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, Cape Verdean Community Unido, Catholic Charities Teen Center, College Bound Dorchester, COMPASS School, Dorchester Bay EDC, Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts, St. Peters Church, and First Parish Church

### VISION

Speaking in one voice, the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance envisions a neighborhood in which all people – all ages, all incomes, and all cultures come together to create a safe and welcoming community that offers growth, opportunity and quality of life to all who live, work and visit Bowdoin Geneva.

### MISSION

Bowdoin Geneva Alliance is an effective network of organizations working together and aligning with others for the greater good of the residents and businesses of the Bowdoin Geneva community.

In a spirit of shared leadership and responsibility, we listen and respond to the residents of the area and join with other community leaders. We provide services, access resources and build bridges and community power to support neighborhood transformation so that Bowdoin Geneva becomes a thriving neighborhood.

### MEETINGS, GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Members meet monthly and have established three committees each with goals that have been prioritized for the next year. The Alliance strives for consensus when decisions are made. An executive committee is responsible for organizing the monthly agenda.

### CURRENT SUB-COMMITTEES

Three sub-committees have been established:

1. **Family Strengthening:** focus on connecting children and families to one another and to resources and building on family strengths.
2. **Youth Development:** focus on building youth leadership, a voice for youth and jobs.
3. **Economic Development:** focus on beautification, safety, jobs and business growth and development

### Resident Priority #4:

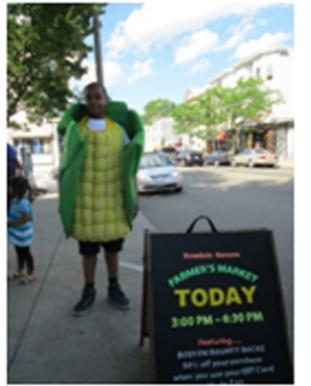
## Support residents in becoming healthier physically, mentally, and financially and in becoming pro-active as participants and leaders in the community

The Bowdoin Geneva Farmers Market (BGFM) has become a citywide leader in creative strategies to promote **affordable, healthy food** while building community. Bowdoin Street Health Center, working alongside the Mayor's Office of Food Initiatives and the Public Health Commission's Inspectional Services Department, was one of six neighborhoods across the City selected to bring fresh-caught fish to the farmers market. In Bowdoin Geneva, home to so many people from coastal and island cultures, it was no surprise that fish was a huge hit catapulting the 2012 season to record-breaking heights in both sales and attendance.



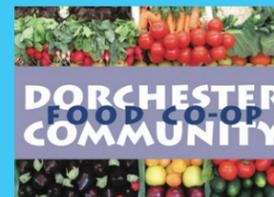
In partnership with the Mayor's Boston Moves for Health campaign, the market became a place for young people engaged in **active play** with opportunities to dance, hula hoop, jump rope, and even learn to juggle. It was also a great resource for the Health Center patients and staff to learn more

about and purchase fresh produce. Thanks to Boston Bounty Bucks, over \$1,000 in spending by SNAP (formerly Food Stamp) customers was matched by the City and the Boston Collaborative for Food and Fitness, helping to make farmers market purchases affordable for those with limited food budgets.



Bowdoin Street Health Center's food access work was aided by two paid internships supported by the Boston Youth Fund. These teens helped execute the Health Center's Healthy Corner Store Initiative in collaboration with BPHC's Healthy on the Block Initiative and Healthy Dorchester. They promoted healthy foods available for sale in the neighborhood and worked with corner store owners to encourage them to carry even **more healthy food and beverage options**. America's Food Basket on Bowdoin Street began labeling healthy offerings and devoted a beverage cooler to displaying only healthy choices.

### Building New NRT Partnerships



## Dorchester Community Food Co-op

The Dorchester Community Food Co-op is an initiative to build a community & worker-owned cooperative market that provides economic opportunity and healthy affordable food. The Co-op will be a community asset, providing space for education and cultural activities, and will be a dynamic center for healthy eating and sustainable living that celebrates the rich diversity of Dorchester. The Co-op has expressed interest in a potential location on Bowdoin Street.

For the Fresh Friday community dinners, the Co-op and the Sustainability Guild transformed culturally diverse recipes from

across the community into delicious, healthier versions using many ingredients found in local farmers markets and from local growers, including the Coleman-Quincy garden. Local families enjoyed healthy meals accompanied by music from local entertainers, and went home with new recipes and healthy eating information for kids – all for a suggested donation of \$5. The Fresh Fridays team employed 3 community women and many volunteers and served over 800 neighbors.

## Resident Priority #4:

Support residents in becoming healthier physically, mentally, and financially and in becoming pro-active as participants and leaders in the community

### Building New NRT Partnerships

## Sustainability Guild International



Sustainability Guild International (the Guild) is a Dorchester-based social enterprise that designs and pilots collaborative, sustainable community development solutions that promote inner city equity, prosperity, health and beauty through collaborative action with business, government, non-profit organizations, and the community.

- Partnered with Coleman Street Neighbors Association to engage residents in Boston Shines street clean-up and beautification and, and the summer Playway pilot with Boston Transportation Department
- Restored and reactivated the Coleman Quincy Garden with Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve and Coleman Street Neighborhood Association and the surrounding Four Streets block group
- Launched the Fresh Friday's community-supported café pilot in partnership for Dorchester Community Food Co-op, Ashley's Breakfast Shop, Family Nurturing Center and First Parish Church
- Promoted positive interim use of city-owned lot at 191 Bowdoin (at Topliff) for community betterment, received City of Boston NICE grant for property improvement and other funding to employ court-involved youth through Youth Options Unlimited to build upcycled outdoor furniture and mobile gardens.

The Guild is working with the NRT to transform the 191 Bowdoin into an attractive and productive space for the community to gather and engage in multi-generation and cross cultural experiences that include gardening, cultural performance, upcycling, social exchange, and education. Until the lot is redeveloped, it will become a platform for showcasing community skills, interests and passions - brought to the community by the community.



The Coleman Street Neighborhood Association worked this summer with City of Boston's Transportation Department (BTD), Sustainability Guild, Dorchester Community Food Co-op, GBGNA, and the Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve to pilot a new way to bring residents together for **physical fun and fitness**. Playways are small-scale, neighborhood-organized street closures for active recreation. The Coleman Street Playway offered Latin dance lessons, hula hoops, a bike rodeo, art projects, and live music followed by a community potluck in the Coleman-Quincy Garden.

This summer, a new innovation arrived in the form of **Fresh Fridays**, a collaborative effort led by Dorchester Community Food Co-op, GBGNA, and the Sustainability Guild. Residents gathered at Ashley's restaurant to prepare healthy dinners with produce from the Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve that were served at First Parish church. Good food and music attracted more than 125 residents on each of five Friday nights. The end-of season celebration at Coleman Street Community attracted over 250 people.



**Financial health** was another focus of the NRT in 2012. In August, a Family Fun and Financial Fitness Fair sponsored by the Mayor's Circle of Promise Initiative, LIFT, and the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership at First Parish Church and the Rev. Allen Park. Residents could sharpen their budgeting skills, learn about creative ways to save, get housing and tax questions answered, or discuss setting up a college saving account.

Triggered by NRT discussions and resident interests, the Roxbury Resource Center a division of Boston Office of Jobs and Community Services (JCS), worked with BSHC to begin offering bi-weekly **job readiness** workshops at the Health Center on resume and cover letter writing techniques, and interviewing techniques. Residents served include mothers returning to the workforce and long-term unemployed. As a result of these workshops, the residents re-fueled their job searches.

Residents are regularly invited to utilize the One-Stop Careers Centers where they can participate in the full scope of topics including exploration and of vocational skills training opportunities and adult basic education programs, along with individual career advising. New participants are welcome any time. Residents can learn more by calling the Roxbury Resource Center at (617) 989 - 9100 ext. 162 or visiting the BSHC.

When residents come together in positive settings and find new resources to improve their physical, mental, and financial health, they also discover the value of working together as a community to bring these benefits to their family, friends and neighbors.



Building a better Bowdoin Geneva block by block means finding and developing resident leaders who are interested in telling their neighbors about the good things happening in Bowdoin Geneva and who will also encourage people to speak up to identify unmet needs and problems.

In October, the Bowdoin Geneva NRT brought together VIP block captains, volunteer block leaders and Neighborhood Watch leaders along with a few interested civic association members to explore how emerging leaders and organizers might be better supported through training, peer networks, mentors and other supports. In early 2013, these inputs were incorporated in a \$1M grant application to the Department of Justice. Whether or not Bowdoin Geneva wins the grant, the NRT aims to increase the number of residents engaged in community improvements and strengthening.



# In the coming year...

The NRT's foremost objective is to engage residents in building a better Bowdoin Geneva block by block:

## Priorities for 2013 include:

- **Making further progress on resident's top four priorities**
- **Creating more opportunities for residents to engage with the NRT and with each other about what improvements are needed to strengthen the community**
- **Identifying more leaders within the community who are interested in joining with others to address neighborhood priorities and/or working with their neighbors to build connections**
  - Develop these leaders through peer discussions, training, and mentorship
- **Promptly and systematically addressing problem areas and problem properties that are identified through crime patterns, calling patterns (911 calls, calls to the Mayor's Hotline, 617-635-4500), resident inputs, civic associations, and NRT walkthroughs**
- **Working with and through NRT partners to:**
  - Expand the number of streets participating in Boston Shines, Neighborhood Watches, block parties, Playways, or other activities that connect neighbors to one another
  - Update the Bowdoin Geneva Family Resource Guide and consider other ways to document neighborhood assets and make them more visible and accessible to residents
  - Prepare more residents for jobs and bring more jobs to the area
- **Regularly assessing and reporting on objective measurements of progress**
- **Collaborating on grant applications to bring more funding to Bowdoin Geneva**

The **Bowdoin Geneva Alliance** is emerging as an important force in the community and the NRT aims to align with its three committees and support the Alliance's overall priorities for the year, including the growing calendar of community-wide events, the revitalized Bowdoin Geneva Youth Council and strengthening Bowdoin Geneva Alliance communications and connections with the NRT area elementary schools that serve the largest number of NRT area students and families.

As the **Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets** restructures its board and re-invigorates its membership, the NRT anticipates renewed joint efforts ranging from coordinating clean-up and beautification efforts, addressing business owners needs and creating conditions that will attract new jobs and businesses to the Bowdoin Geneva area.

In 2012, Bowdoin Geneva's five civic associations -- **Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association, Meeting House Hill Civic Association, Friends of Ronan Park, Friends of Geneva Cliffs** and **CVC Unido** -- all made great contributions to engaging and strengthening community. As we move into 2013, the NRT anticipates an even closer working relationship within and among these important players who each strive to make the voice of Bowdoin Geneva residents heard within the community, the City of Boston and beyond.

And we look forward to working  
with you to build a better  
Bowdoin Geneva

## For More Information

### On the NRT

NRT Resident Co-Chair, Claire Raymond-Gooden,  
cgooden@familynurturing.org

NRT City Co-Chair, Adalberto Teixeira,  
Adalbert.Teixeira@cityofboston.gov, 617-635-3404

Representative of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services for North Dorchester and to the Cape Verdean Community, Flavio Daveiga, Flavio.Daveiga@CityofBoston.gov, 617-635-1180

### On Bowdoin Geneva Civic Associations

Cape Verdean Community Unido (CVC Unido) and Cape Verdean Providers, Mary Ann Lomba, malomba@verizon.net

Friends of Geneva Cliffs, attention of Philly Laptiste, Bowdoin Street Health Center at 617-754-0100

Friends of Ronan Park, Geoff Doerre, gdoerre@fastmail.fm

Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association, Davida Andelman, dlandelman@comcast.net

Meeting House Hill Civic Association, Megan Sonderegger, megan.sonderegger@gmail.com

### On the Bowdoin Geneva Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Coalition

Susan Young, syoung4@bidmc.harvard.edu

### On the Bowdoin Geneva Alliance (BGA)

Mark Culliton, College Bound Dorchester, 2013 BGA Co-chair, mculliton@collegebounddorchester.org

Paulo DeBarros, St. Peter's Teen Center, 2013 BGA Co-chair, paulo\_debarros@ccab.org

### On Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets

Steve Rumpler, Dept. of Neighborhood Development, SRumpler.dnd@cityofboston.gov, 617-635-0462

### On Family Support Services

Family Nurturing Center / Dorchester CARES, Alice Gomes, agomes@familynurturing.org

Family Resource Center, Claire Raymond-Gooden, cgooden@familynurturing.org

Bowdoin Street Health Center, Philly Laptiste, plaptiste@bidmc.harvard.edu, 617-754-0100

### On Problem Properties

For the latest information on the Problem Properties Task Force, or to read the City ordinances which govern its effort please visit: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/problemproperties/>

For questions or to report a problem property in your neighborhood, please contact the Mayor's Hotline at 617-635-4500 or <http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/24/>

### On Organizing a Neighborhood Watch Group

Carolyn MacNeil, Neighborhood Watch Unit, BPD, MacneilC.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us, 617-343-5682

This report can be found on-line at:  
[bit.ly/bg\\_nrt1](http://bit.ly/bg_nrt1)

**617-635-4500**



Use the *Mayor's Hotline* to report your concerns:

- Unsatisfactory living conditions?
- Poor conditions of property?
- Need street cleaning or plowing?
- Need a TV to be picked up?
- Need a recycling cart?
- Abandoned vehicle?
- Street light out?
- Trash violations?
- See a pothole? See graffiti?
- Have a comment for the Mayor?

**Available 24 hours,  
every day.**

Or, use

**Citizens Connect**



Download the app for your  
smartphone from  
[www.CityofBoston.gov](http://www.CityofBoston.gov)

*This brochure was printed by Standard Modern Company, a Union printing company.*

# THE BOWDOIN GENEVA NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSE TEAM WELCOMES YOU AND NEEDS YOU!

## Residents & Resident Organizations

Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association

Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association



Friends of Geneva Cliffs  
AN URBAN WILD



## Local Providers and Organizations



Bowdoin Street Health Center



Catholic Charities  
Teen Center at St. Peter's



St. Peter's Parish



Dorchester CARES  
Coalition for Families and Children

First Parish Church  
In Dorchester



Family Nurturing Center  
of Massachusetts



Compass School

## City of Boston



Public Works Department (PWD)  
Neighborhood Development (DND)  
Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)  
Inspectional Services Dept (ISD)  
Jobs & Community Services (JCS)



**BOWDOIN GENEVA IS OUR COMMUNITY**

**AND WE ALL CAN BE PART OF...**

**Building a better community block by block**

**Konstruindu un kumindad midjor poku a poku**

**Bati yon pi bon kominoté blòk pa blòk**

**Construyendo una mejor comunidad cuadra por cuadra**