

# **“Preventing Homelessness”**

## **CJP’s New Partnership with HomeStart**

**Wednesday, December 5  
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.**

# Speaker Bios



## **Amanda Hadad**

### **CJP's Director of Social Justice (*Tzedek*)**

Amanda has worked to address injustice through a wide range of initiatives, ranging from education on the development of genocide to working with students to create and implement social action pilots within their communities. As the Director of Social Justice at CJP, her work focuses on bringing a Jewish perspective to Greater Boston's most pressing systemic issues, founded on the belief of the inherent dignity of all people.

Contact: [AmandaH@cjp.org](mailto:AmandaH@cjp.org).

*Amanda will be joined by Dr. Sarah J. Abramson, CJP's Vice President of Caring, Community Impact and Strategic Partnerships*



## **Matt Pritchard**

### **President and Executive Director, HomeStart**

Matt's commitment to serving Greater Boston's most vulnerable neighbors began in the late 90's when, while leading the social enterprises and training programs within a Boston-based homeless shelter, Matt moved into the bunks of the shelter for 12 months to better understand the path and challenges associated with homelessness. Since that time, Matt has worked in leadership and operational roles within the social sector with a focus on social innovation and scaling social impact. [Read more.](#)

# CJP's *Tzedek* Agenda

- CJP seeks to broaden opportunities to bring a Jewish perspective to tackle our society's most pressing issues.
- This year we renewed our commitment to social justice (*tzedek*), giving voice to our Jewish values as we work with the broader community to create positive systemic change. *Tzedek* will focus on two major content areas: Homelessness and Immigration.
- As our first homelessness initiative, we are partnering with the United Way and Bank of America Foundation to launch a pilot project with HomeStart to address systemic family homelessness in Greater Boston through eviction prevention.
- Last spring, we created FACES (Fund to Aid Children and End Separation) to provide children and families separated at the southern U.S. border with urgently-needed supplies, legal assistance, and reunification support.
- In partnership with JVS, we launched Together We Rise to support local refugees with career advancement through training, education, and job support.

# Key Statistics

## Homelessness in the Jewish Community and Beyond

- Of those in our Jewish community who have been helped by CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative, 40% cited housing as the most pressing issue they faced.
- On any given day, there are approximately 3,500 homeless families in Massachusetts. Many others stay with friends, family, or in crowded units simply to have a place to call home.\*
- In an academic year, 20,000 Massachusetts school children experience homelessness. With 35% of all Massachusetts families not having enough savings to weather a financial emergency, many are at risk.+
- Boston Public Schools (BPS) report that there are 3,500 students experiencing homelessness every single day. There are 56,000 children enrolled in BPS. This means that, according to BPS, more than 6% of all students are experiencing homelessness.
- If a family is evicted for nonpayment in Massachusetts, it is considered "cause" eviction, which disqualifies them from accessing state family shelter system for more than 3 years.
- Boston's housing crisis extends beyond any one community and the lack of affordable housing is often referenced as one of the greatest factors driving homelessness across the region.

\*Source: HomeStart, Inc.

+Source: MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



# Why Eviction Prevention?

- The evidence strongly indicates that eviction is not just a condition of poverty, but a cause of it.
- The effects of eviction are devastating and long-term. Once evicted, families face greater employment, education, mental and physical health challenges, as well as stigma and legal barriers to accessing housing.
- HomeStart's interventions to keep families housed are far less costly than evictions. An eviction in Boston costs between \$6,000-\$10,000, and the cost to taxpayers to provide shelter is \$37,000 per family vs. \$2,000 (HomeStart's cost to keep a family housed).

# HomeStart's Eviction Prevention Model

**HomeStart mission:** To end homelessness in Greater Boston by assisting individuals in obtaining housing and settling into the community, and by developing strategies to prevent homelessness before it starts.

- HomeStart has prevented more than 3,000 evictions in Greater Boston, and 95% of their clients are still housed after 48 months.
- HomeStart has developed the Renew Collaborative, a public-private-nonprofit model that promises to significantly reduce eviction for non-payment of rent. Working with the Boston Housing Authority, HomeStart is now creating agreements with for-profit property managers to financially support the program's operation on a per-intervention basis.
- The funding model leverages money spent on eviction for prevention services.
- HomeStart's results are promising; more than 97% of households remain housed one year later. Only 5% of clients have been evicted for nonpayment after four years.