

## ***ACTION, INC. Works to Bring Affordable Housing to Gloucester***

Gloucester-based community action agency Action, Inc. was proud to open the doors to the new-and-improved Action Shelter last week, after months of decision-making and construction.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house held Wednesday, October 14th was a chance to show off not only major improvements to the emergency homeless shelter, but also to reveal four brand new apartment units designed to transition homeless individuals into permanent housing. Attached to the pre-existing shelter located at 370 Main Street, the apartment units can be accessed through a separate entrance and are equipped with modern efficiency kitchens and an impressive amount of storage space.

“Because of the help and hard work of so many,” said Action, Inc. Executive Director Tim Riley, “we were able to cut the ribbon today and celebrate the construction of these badly needed affordable housing units that create permanent housing for four chronically homeless people.”



***L to R:*** Richard Rafuse, Action Board Chairman; Bronia Clifton, CEDAC; Tim Riley, Action Director; Emily Rothschild, Development Specialist; Andy Nelson, DHCD; Ronna Resnick, Action; Ed Chase, Mass Housing; Bill Rochford; Bob Mitnik, Architect; Gretchen Wood, Board Vice-Chairperson

The renovations to the shelter building included major upgrades to the common areas, bedrooms, and kitchen, which serves approximately 20 people every evening. Both the shelter and the apartments are painted in bright, modern colors, with plenty of windows to let in the light and harbor views.

Present at the event were members of Action’s Board of Directors and staff, as well as representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development, Mass Housing, CEDAC, HUD, Gloucester Housing Authority, City Council, and the general public.

On behalf of Action, Director Tim Riley, Housing Director Ralph Johnson, and former long-time Action Director Bill Rochford would like to thank the following individuals and groups for making this important project possible: Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mass Housing, CEDAC and the City of Gloucester Community Development Block Grant Program (funders); Development Specialist Emily Rothschild; local Architect Bob Mitnik; Rockport Designer Janice Tranos; Essex Radio for providing sound for the event; Bill Dugan of the Gloucester Housing Authority; Shelter Manager Jim Noble; and shelter volunteer Kevin Murphy. They would also like to thank Gloucester Friendship Quilters Suzanne McCalla, Kathleen O’Leary, Joan Duchane, Jeanne Cairns, Kathleen Dainton and Suellen Helie for generously donating their beautiful hand-made quilts to the Action Shelter.

Though he retired this year after more than 40 years of service, Rochford played a major role in the shelter project and was thrilled to speak at the open house. “It has been a long time coming,” he said on Wednesday, “but we made a promise to see to it that these affordable housing units were built, and fortunately we were able to deliver on that promise.”