

# ANNUAL REPORT



MASSHOUSING

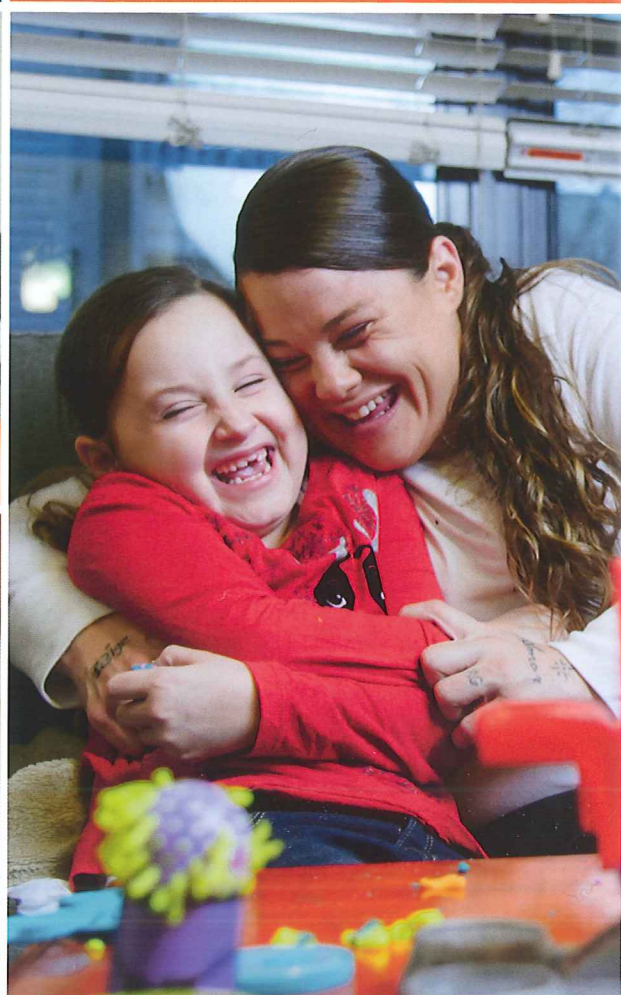
2015





**"We have a place now we can call our own home. A place we can be safe and live in peace. There are no more sleepless nights."**

**- Christine Wright**



### **Christine and Gianna, Boston (Dorchester)**

The money that MassHousing provides for affordable housing does more than pay for bricks and mortar. It helps change lives for the better. Here is one resident's story.

Christine Wright's journey to a new, affordable apartment at Uphams Crossing in Dorchester was not an easy one.

She had to overcome homelessness, substance abuse and incarceration to give her and her daughter a safe place to call home.

"She overcame what many of us would have buckled under," said Lisa Alberghini, president of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), which redeveloped the former St. Kevin's School campus into 80 units of new affordable housing, some of the apartments for formerly homeless families and families at risk of being homeless.

For Christine and her daughter, Gianna, the opportunity to live at Uphams Crossing has transformed their lives.

"We came from a shelter," she said. "We spent years moving from couch to couch, never having a place of our own. We are so excited and grateful to be here. Gianna deserves to have a good life."

Christine's life had hit bottom when she was a victim in a serious domestic violence incident. It turned around with the help of Marisol Batista of Casa Nueva Vida, an organization that works with homeless families. Marisol helped Christine with the application process that allowed her to be selected to live at Uphams Crossing.

"Gianna always asked me why we couldn't have our own home," Christine said through tears. "We have a place now we can call our own home. A place we can be safe and live in peace. There are no more sleepless nights. We have a key to our own home and now there is nothing we can't do."



### Nicole Carter, Haverhill

Living in a Haverhill homeless shelter with her newborn daughter, Nicole Carter could see the progress being made converting the former school building nearby into 12 new affordable apartments.

It was a challenging, lonely time for the new mother whose soon-to-be husband, Greg, was not allowed to stay with her because he worked an overnight job in Boston and the shelter had a nightly curfew.

Nicole then saw an ad online seeking applicants for the new housing – the Apartments at 165 Winter – being developed by the Planning Office for Urban Affairs.

“I worked hard to get all the paperwork they needed,” Nicole recalled. “I had made a goal to work hard and get a job.”

But Nicole had another setback when she broke her wrist and needed surgery. Continuing her effort to be accepted as a resident at the Apartments at 165 Winter, Nicole got a job at a Haverhill Market Basket store and soon her fortunes turned.

She and Greg were accepted from 400 applications for the 12 affordable apartments at the newly completed Winter Street building and her family finally had a place they could call home.

“My family and I are forever grateful for this opportunity,” she said, holding back tears. “It’s wonderful, I love it.”

Now Nicole, Greg and daughter Adrianna have settled in and are enjoying life as a family.

“I’m now working 25 hours a week at Market Basket,” she said. “I love working there. There are so many people who helped us and we are very thankful.”



“My family and I are forever grateful for this opportunity”

- Nicole Carter

