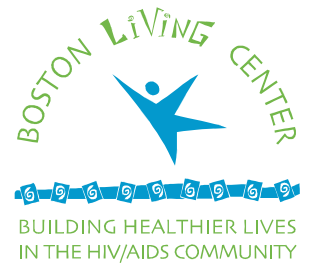


## Boston Living Center Plans Merger With Victory Programs



February 2012

Dear BLC Friends,

In case you have missed the announcement about the Boston Living Center's planned merger with Victory Programs in our recent e-newsletter, we want to share this exciting news with you.

You may be aware that since July, both organizations have been under a management agreement and have been sharing organizational resources. After unanimous votes from both our boards, our agencies plan to merge officially on March 1, 2012. Members of the BLC have welcomed this news, and were formally notified starting at Monday Night Dinner on January 30, 2012.

For the past 35 years, Victory Programs has opened doors to recovery, hope and community to individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction or other chronic illnesses. Our programming is highly complementary and the partnership will be beneficial to both agencies. Below are just some of the similarities between our two organizations:

### **A History of Commitment to Fighting HIV/AIDS**

Both the BLC and Victory Programs are strong leaders in the HIV/AIDS community and have been working to combat the disease since the earliest days of the epidemic.

### **Emphasis on Community, Wellness, and Nutrition**

Building a sense of community is vital at both organizations. Both agencies believe that solid social connections and peer support are integral to improved health and wellness. Healthy eating and proper nutrition are emphasized.

### **Connections to Health, Housing, and Job Training**

Connecting members and clients to resources and support systems is a primary focus of both organizations. Whether it's a connection to housing or medical care, both agencies are committed to working with other AIDS service organizations and health providers to ensure individuals get the help they need. Workforce development and job training also play an integral role at both agencies.

### **Commitment to Individualized Care and Volunteerism**

Both organizations provide care to each client or member individually. The philosophies of care are similar, focusing on client-centered, individualized support and emphasizing health promotion and harm reduction. A network of dedicated volunteers creates a sense of community and helps keep each organization going.

### **Dedication to Meeting Emerging Health Needs**

Both organizations are leaders in the field and have been at the forefront of responding to the emerging health needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, adapting services as the needs of clients and members change.

### **Shared Resources**

Victory Programs and the BLC have worked together for more than 20 years. A merger will combine resources, increase membership at the BLC, and preserve and expand a community resource that hundreds rely on each week. Combining staff, volunteers, and operational supports achieves economies of scale, streamlining resources and allowing for more focus on clients and members.

We're looking forward to a new future with Victory Programs. On behalf of our members living with HIV/AIDS, we are grateful for your participation over the last year - and over the past 22 years - to help ensure the future of the Boston Living Center.

Sincerely,

Boston Living Center Board & Staff



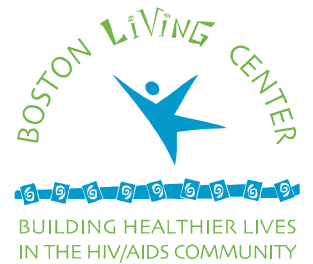
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We are posting answers to some of the FAQ you may have about the merger.

**1) Will the BLC continue to offer services to individuals with HIV/AIDS?**

The BLC's will continue to foster the wellness of all HIV+ individuals and respond to the changing needs of the HIV/AIDS community. There will be no staffing changes in the Member Services department. We want to assure our donors, volunteers, and above all our members that the merger will not compromise the services and care our members receive at the BLC. In fact, it will enhance our ability to better respond to the needs of our membership. As always, offering seamless programs and services to our members remains our highest priority.

**2) Will the BLC continue to operate at the current location?**

The BLC will continue to operate at 29 Stanhope Street, where it has been since 1995. Some of the administrative staff will move to a location where Victory Programs administrative offices are located. However, the program staff, meals program staff, and the volunteer coordinator will remain at the current location.

**3) Will I be able to make a donation specifically to support the BLC?**

The BLC will become one of the 19 programs under the Victory Programs umbrella. If you choose that your donation be applied to any of the specific services at the BLC, we assure you that your funds will be used for supporting the Center and our members living with HIV/AIDS. The BLC will continue to host annual events including the Dinnerfest Party + Auction for our supporters and the Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner for our members, both of which will raise funds for the BLC.

Both organizations' websites will be updated regularly with new information about the merger. To learn more about Victory Programs, please visit [www.vpi.org](http://www.vpi.org).

Please contact Marc Davino, Director of Development & Communications, at [mdavino@livingcenter.org](mailto:mdavino@livingcenter.org) or 617-236-1012 x233, with any questions or concerns.



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