Thank You
Town Meeting Members!

Dining Common
The Craig’s Place Dining Common finally opened its doors on April 5th, just in time for Easter Dinner.

Extremely Cold Winter
It was a cold and harsh winter for everyone this year, but especially for those without a home. We ran at expanded capacity for 50 nights this winter and sheltered 169 individuals. In the bleakness of this winter, we offered hope.

This year, we:
♦ Helped a 21 year old reconnect with his mother after 15 years of separation.
♦ Pulled together resources for a transgender female veteran—she found permanent housing!
♦ Gave out 700 bus passes to help guests get to appointments with therapists, doctors, jobs, and other services
♦ Sent 16 guests to Detox. Five went on to intensive treatment services!
Resource Advocacy

Craig’s Doors Resource Advocacy program became the service learning portion of a new 3 credit public policy class at UMass Amherst—Homelessness and Shelter. The class is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about local homelessness in both an academic context and within the nonprofit field. The class also provides further training for the students on the nuts and bolts of advocacy.

The student Resource Advocates from last year work alongside advocates from the class to provide our guests with resources such as housing, healthcare, and food assistance. They are supervised on site by our Case Manager—a new employee position at Craig’s Place.

A Better Solution

The shelter was granted expanded capacity the night of November 11th, with temperatures dropping below 20 degrees. Despite our empty beds, one guest never made it to our doors that night. Robert Sherman, a much beloved chronically homeless guest who suffered from alcoholism, died that night in his tent. He fell asleep, not knowing he was in danger.

Sherman is a strong reminder to us all, that Permanent Supportive Housing, with no hoops to jump through, is the best solution to saving the lives of those who struggle with addiction and mental illness.