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Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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STEPPINGSTONE AWARDED 1.137 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO HELP THE HOMELESS

(Fall River, MA) – On September 30, 2014, the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Steppingstone \$1,137,525 for a project which will serve the chronic homeless population and homeless veterans in Fall River, MA. These funds fell under SAMHSA’s Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals-Services in Supportive Housing, in which \$9,981,470 was available to fund up to 25 awards across the United States. Steppingstone was one of those recipients.

“This couldn’t have come at a better time.” Kathleen Clark, Executive Director of Steppingstone exclaimed. “We recently signed a purchase and sales for a larger homeless shelter because of the inadequate space of our current shelter. I’ve been amazed by the major support we’ve received from the Mayor’s Homeless Task Force and BayCoast Bank President, Nick Christ with our capital campaign for this new facility. BayCoast Bank has committed to \$350,000 grant and we are currently working toward our Capital Campaign goal of 1.8 million dollars, which will afford both acquisition and renovations of the new facility. We’ve also had significant commitment from many other local banks and foundations. It’s been truly incredible.”

The grant will fund the implementation and operations of Project FAIHR (Focused Achievements in Housing and Recovery) for 3 years. It provides funds for 3 full time staff positions and other helpful items such as client transportation and implementation of evidence based practices. FAIHR’s services will be

available in Steppingstone's current First Step Inn homeless shelter and services will relocate to the new facility once renovations are complete. FAIHR's services will also be offered in other venues the homeless frequent, such as the local churches which currently shelter the winter homeless overflow and soup kitchens. Services are structured to encourage placement into permanent supportive housing and housing stability, increased employment, improved health and self-sufficiency. Steppingstone's permanent housing programs offer over 70 units of housing and the Agency has partnered with Catholic Social Services, who also operates supportive housing programs, as well as other private landlords in order to successfully place FAIHR's participants in housing.

For more information about Project FAIHR or Steppingstone, contact Kathleen Schedler-Clark at 508-674-2788. For information regarding the First Step Inn capital campaign visit www.firststepinn.org, or you may contact Nick Christ, BayCoast Bank President at 508-675-4430 or Susan Bennett, Steppingstone's Director of Development at 508-674-2788. Learn more about SAMHSA's initiatives at www.samhsa.gov.

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