



**Bulldog**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
unleash success

ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

## NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Arthur Sesnovich

Bulldog Communications

(508) 485-0776

[agspr@earthlink.net](mailto:agspr@earthlink.net)

### PROJECT HOPE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Linda Wood-Boyle, Former Director of HomeStart, Replaces Sister Margaret Leonard,  
Long-Time Organizational Leader*

**BOSTON, MA (August 28, 2015)** - [Project Hope](#), a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families up and out of poverty, announces the appointment of Linda Wood-Boyle as the organization's new Executive Director.

Project Hope's Board of Directors conducted an extensive search to find a replacement for its long-serving Executive Director, Sr. Margaret Leonard. Sr. Margaret will remain actively involved with Project Hope as its Senior Advisor.

Ms. Wood-Boyle joins Project Hope after more than 15 years as the President and Executive Director of HomeStart, a Boston-based nonprofit committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the City. In this capacity, she oversaw multiple programs, more than 60 staff and administered a \$9 million budget. During Wood-Boyle's tenure the agency more than quadrupled its capacity to serve homeless and at-risk-of homelessness individuals and families. In fact, under her leadership, HomeStart successfully placed more than 500 families and individuals into permanent housing each year, with more than a 90% retention rate, as well as starting the first scattered-site Housing First Program in Boston.

(MORE)

[Project Hope Appoints New Executive Director / 2](#)

One of her most significant achievements is the design and development of HomeStart's Homelessness Prevention Program. Initiated in 2003 with a small pilot grant and one staff person, this program helps households who have fallen behind on their rent and find themselves on the brink of eviction, providing case management services and small back rent payments to help these families and individuals preserve their housing and avoid homelessness. The organization now prevents homelessness for more than 500 households each year.

An ordained United Methodist minister, Linda has more than 30 years of experience in non-profit administration and development. Prior to HomeStart, Linda served as the Executive Director of the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Wood-Boyle is also a very effective fundraiser. When she joined HomeStart in 2000, the donor database numbered 200 individuals and companies. Thanks to her careful cultivation of board members, individuals, foundations, and corporations, the donor database increased to 10,000. She also developed two signature fundraising events, which generate more than \$500,000 for the organization

"I'm thrilled to be joining Project Hope," said Wood-Boyle. "As a nonprofit leader in Boston and a resident of Dorchester, I've long been aware of Project Hope and the impact the agency has on women and families in the Dudley Street neighborhood. It will be an honor to succeed Sr. Margaret, a colleague and dear friend who I admire greatly, and to work with Project Hope's exceptional staff and committed Board.

"I'm very pleased to have Sr. Margaret's counsel and guidance through this transition and in the future," said Wood-Boyle.

Sr. Margaret was effusive in her praise of Ms. Wood-Boyle as Project Hope's new leader. "I believe the Board has made a wonderful selection in Linda," she said. "I have had the privilege to know and work with Linda over many years. I am delighted with this choice."

Wood-Boyle serves on the Leadership Council for the City of Boston and is an officer of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance.

###