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Mayor Joseph Curtatone Attends Veterans Day Breakfast at the Massachusetts Bay Veterans Center

Somerville— On Wednesday, November 11, 2015 Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone joined formerly homeless veterans living at the Massachusetts Bay Veterans center for an Honor Breakfast. The facility is owned by the nonprofit organization, Volunteers of America Massachusetts, and is home to 22 veterans from all over New England.

Staff and volunteers arrived early at the program to start making pancakes, bacon, sausage and scrambled eggs. As the smell of breakfast wafted through the air, veterans made their way towards the dining room, where they were warmly greeted by the Mayor of Somerville, Joe Curtatone.

“On behalf of my family, our community, and Americans everywhere, I want to thank you for your service to our country,” said Mayor Curtatone. “We’re continuing to build our community through creating new buildings and structures, but we know that the most important thing is the people. If you don’t invest in the people, there is no community, and that’s what we’re building here – human capital. Thank you for being a part of this program and helping its success.”

The Massachusetts Bay Veterans Center provides transitional and permanent housing to formerly homeless veterans – but it also does much more, giving veterans access to a licensed mental health therapist, addiction counseling resources, and links to educational and employment resources. Since opening two years ago, this hub for veterans’ services has helped over 100 veterans regain their independence and integrate back into their communities.

Veterans sat down with Mayor Curtatone for the breakfast, giving the veterans an opportunity to ask him questions about veterans’ issues, as well as community issues.

“Mr. Mayor,” said one veteran, “I just want to let you know how important this program has been to me. When you’re in a bigger shelter or program, it’s easy to get overlooked. But I want to thank the people who had a vision of helping a few veterans at a time, because the staff here really does look out for our needs as individual people. We can have a new start here and that’s truly meaningful.”

Thomas Bierbaum, President and CEO, noted, “We’ve gotten so much support from the community in Somerville. With that support, we’re helping homeless veterans re-enter the community healthy, employed, and motivated to stay independent. We’re grateful for the opportunity to give back to veterans who have sacrificed so much.”

About Volunteers of America Massachusetts:

Volunteers of America Massachusetts is a trusted community provider, a passionate advocate for individuals struggling to get back on their feet, and a partner helping other community based organizations throughout Massachusetts. Volunteers of America Massachusetts provides vital social services to thousands of women, men, and young people each year. To learn more, visit us online at www.voamass.org.

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