

Grantee at a Glance...



The Boston Bar Foundation (BBF) is the charitable affiliate of the Boston Bar Association (BBA) and is a reflection of the Boston legal community's proud tradition and history of public service and civic involvement. The Women's Lunch Place (WLP) is a long time recipient of an IOLTA Grant whose mission is "to provide a safe, comfortable daytime shelter, nutritious food, and services for women who are homeless or poor. We treat women with dignity and respect and foster a community committed to meeting each woman's needs."

History: Founded 26 years ago by two women who worked at Pine Street Inn, recognizing that there was no place for specifically women to go, The Women's Lunch Place began running 3 days a week for 4 hours a day serving a regular lunch and a vegetarian options (still to this day). The shelter is now open six days a week and serves breakfast and lunch daily to 100-170 women, on average about 130 per day.

Program Basics: WLP is open Monday- Saturday, 7am-2pm serving breakfast and lunch, with all employees required to perform some type of direct service to guests.

Approximately 70% of the guests that visit Women's Lunch Place are housed, but live on roughly \$800.00 and require the services of WLP to make ends meet. However, the guests receive much more than a hot meal.

WLP relieves the often isolation of such situations. The WLP offers a place for women to come together, share their stories, support one another and receive the benefits of simple human contact. There is a wellness office that is staffed 5 days a week for urgent care needs, a donation closet for needed items from winter coats to toiletries. WLP offers a place for women to shower, do their laundry and take naps. There is a creative expressions series offering art classes, knitting, quilting and there is even an artist in residence program for 3 months at a time offering photography and writing and music in the months to come.

The guests also have access to computers, fax machine, message board. There is a community room for activities such a yoga and drama, advocacy support groups.

BBF Support: WLP offers legal fairs that are specifically funded through a grant from the Boston Bar Foundation. This grant enables homeless and low income women access to legal services, help with housing and referrals to substance abuse programs and help with domestic violence

So much more than a hot meal, The Women's Lunch Place provides that sense of community for women in need.

To make a donation to the BBF to enable us to continue to support organizations like The Women's Lunch Place, please visit www.bostonbarfoundation.org.