

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME OF JOSEPHINE MCNEIL

JOSEPHINE McNeil was the Executive Director of Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization, Inc. d/b/a CAN-DO. CAN-DO is a community-based nonprofit housing development organization with a mission to create and manage affordable housing in the City of Newton. Her tenure with CAN-DO spanned almost twenty years. She was one of the organizing members in 1994 and the first President of its Board of Directors until 1999 when she was hired as its part-time Executive Director in 1999 and in 2000 her duties were extended to a full-time position.

Prior to her tenure at CAN-DO, she was an associate at the Boston law firm of Brown Rudnick Freed and Gesmer in its affordable housing practice group specializing in the representation of nonprofit developers and tenant organizations in low-income housing developments. She left the firm to join work as a project manager for an affordable housing developer.

During her tenure, CAN-DO developed approximately 50 units of housing serving a diverse population. Forty-three of the units are deed-restricted to ensure that they remain affordable. The individuals and families residing in these units include individual with developmental disabilities, households headed by female victims of domestic violence, formerly homeless families including veteran families. She collaborates with nonprofits and/or governmental agencies to provide the supportive services many of the residents needed. She instituted a program which provided services to help residents to gain the skills necessary to become financially self-sufficient.

Josephine's work in the area of affordable housing is widely recognized in her local community, as well at the state level. Included among her many awards In October of 2006, she was designated as a Star and presented with an award from the Newton Community Service Center as part of its annual Night of Thousand Stars Benefit; in 2008 Boston College Law School presented Josephine with its David Nelson Public Service Award. In 2009, she received the City of Newton's Mayor's Medallion Award as well as an award from the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership for "going above and beyond" for CAN-DO's tenants. That same year she was one of the recipients of a Women of Justice Award from Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. In 2017, the next year, she was recognized as an Unsung Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women; in 2018, she was named the recipient of the 10th Annual Woman of the Year by the Women's Law Center of the Boston College Law School. In 2018, she was the recipient of the highest award of the Newton Needham, Chamber of Commerce, the Robert L. Tennant Award for her advocacy of affordable housing in Newton.

McNeil continues her advocacy for issues impacting housing stability for low-income families through her involvement in bar association activities at the state and national level

In Newton in addition to her work with U-CHAN, she is a member of the Community Advisory Committee of Newton Wellesley Hospital, a member of the Fair Housing Committee of Newton, a member of the Newton Housing Partnership and a member of the Mission and Social Commission of the Eliot Church of Newton.

Josephine is a graduate of Vassar College and the Boston College Law School