



## Debra Frankel Looks Back on 30 Years of Service as a Trustee of The Boston Home

On June 23rd, The Boston Home Trustees held their annual meeting virtually. In addition to celebrating the achievements of the past year, and welcoming new Trustees Suzanne Stinson and Cherie Magny-Normilus, the Trustees also took a special opportunity to thank Debra Frankel, past Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, for her remarkable 30 years of dedicated service to The Boston Home (TBH), as she retires from the Board.

Debra joined The Boston Home Board of Trustees in 1990 when her work with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) led her to connect with Carol Lobron, then Chief Executive Officer of TBH. *“It was a great connection,”* says Debra, *“as NMSS was very interested at that time in long term care for younger people with MS, and The Boston Home was always an innovator. It led to some really wonderful programs.”*

Debra recalls that one of the programs to develop through the partnership between NMSS and TBH was the Long-Term Care Alliance, a consortium of organizations that served younger people with long-term disabilities. TBH hosted the first meeting of the Alliance. It was a hugely significant, notes Debra, because it was the first opportunity that staff at the participating organizations had to meet, learn from one another and share ideas. The Alliance continued for more than fifteen years, and the relationships between staff and organizations continue today.

Looking back on her 30 years as a Trustee, Debra has seen big changes at TBH. *“When I first joined the Board, TBH was exclusively a women’s home, and there were 36 residents,”* she notes, *“So, the decision to begin admitting men, and then the expansion of the physical facility to accommodate many more residents— those were some of the biggest changes during my time on the Board.”*

Debra recalls that innovative programming continued to grow, along with the facility itself, from educational programs for long term care nurses to TBH’s B.Fit! Day Program, which receives support from the NMSS. *“It’s always been a wonderful collaboration,”* shared Debra, as she expressed her enthusiastic confidence that relationship between NMSS and TBH will continue to flourish, particularly with the stewardship of fellow TBH Trustee Lori Espino, President of the NMSS Greater New England Chapter.

Most recently, Debra worked on TBH’s Strategic Planning Committee. Although the committee’s work has been delayed temporarily by the challenges of the pandemic, Debra expressed her eagerness to see the new strategic plan take shape through the guidance of her fellow Board members.

Although Debra is retiring from the TBH Board of Trustees, she plans to continue in her work as a Patient Advocacy Consultant. She also hopes to carve out more time to with her grandchildren and to travel, as COVID restrictions gradually ease. The Boston Home community extends our deep and sincere appreciation to Debra for her dedication and leadership.