

MEMBERSHIP MONDAY: On The Rise, Inc.

Highlighting On The Rise's Impact on the Community

At the Providers' Council, we are proud to highlight the incredible work of our members who are making a difference in the human services sector. This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring On The Rise, Inc., an inspiring organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. On The Rise creates a safe and supportive community for women, transgender, and nonbinary people on their journey through and beyond homelessness. Through its relationship-based, participant-centered approach, On The Rise helps individuals build trust, foster self-determination, and achieve long-term stability.

Who is On The Rise and What Do They Do?

Founded in 1995, On The Rise, Inc. was born out of the voices of women experiencing homelessness who were falling through the cracks of fragmented social service systems. In response, the organization developed a low-barrier, relationship-based model that prioritizes trust, dignity, and long-term well-being over quick fixes. Today, On The Rise provides holistic, participant-centered services to more than 450 women, transgender, and nonbinary individuals annually—many of whom have survived trauma, violence, and systemic barriers such as racism and poverty. Rather than focusing solely on immediate needs, On The Rise builds deep, authentic relationships that empower participants as experts in their own lives.

Their Safe Haven program offers more than a day shelter—it's a warm, home-like environment where participants can access meals, private showers, clothing, toiletries, mailing addresses, and quiet spaces, all completely free of charge. Advocates meet participants where they are, supporting them with personalized goals, connecting them to community resources, and accompanying them to appointments.

Through the Keep the Keys program, On The Rise ensures housing stability for those transitioning out of homelessness. This includes assistance with housing applications, moving support, financial management, and ongoing advocacy to help participants maintain safe, secure housing—an effort that has resulted in 600+ people housed, with 92% remaining stably housed today.

Beyond services, On The Rise fosters a strong sense of community and belonging through intentional programs, signature events, and a commitment to anti-racism and equity. Their holistic approach—rooted in relational-cultural theory, harm reduction, and participant partnership—creates an environment where transformation and long-term well-being are possible.



When Did On The Rise Join The Providers' Council and Why?

On The Rise has been a proud member of the Providers' Council for many years, joining a network of organizations committed to strengthening the human services sector. Their mission—to create a safe and supportive community that fosters self-determination and well-being for women, transgender, and nonbinary individuals—deeply aligns with the Council's vision of promoting equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

By participating in the Providers' Council community, On The Rise connects with peers who share a commitment to advocacy, workforce development, and elevating the voices of those most impacted by systemic barriers. This shared purpose continues to guide their collaborative efforts toward creating lasting change across Massachusetts.



A Voice from the On The Rise's Team



"At On The Rise, relationships and community building are at the heart of our participant-centered approach. The relationships we build are the foundation for creating long-lasting well-being for participants in our community who have fallen between the cracks of our social service system.

By centering the participants as experts in their own needs and joining them as partners in their journey, we see transformational outcomes that might not otherwise be achieved in a traditional context that is focused on prescribed solutions to individual circumstances."

— Andrea (Kalsow) Henneberry, Director of Development and Communications, On The Rise, inc.



Looking Ahead: On The Rise's Continued Commitment to Support and Innovation

On The Rise is proving that trust and community can spark real, lasting change. Their work reminds us that when dignity and empowerment are prioritized, transformation is possible. We are proud to count On The Rise among our Providers' Council members!

On The Rise's bold efforts to foster self-determination and well-being for women, transgender, and nonbinary people on their journey through and beyond homelessness. Your support – whether volunteering your time, continue remains committed to fostering empowerment, belonging, and self-determination for women, transgender, and nonbinary individuals navigating homelessness. They invite you to join their mission and take action in meaningful ways—whether through volunteering, donating, or attending upcoming events.

One major initiative on the horizon is their Prepare for Winter Dinner, taking place on October 9, which supports their efforts to keep participants safe and warm through the colder months.

Ways to Get Involved:

- **Cook a Lunch:** [Sign up here](#)
- **Donate Clothes and Toiletries:** [Give essentials](#)
- **Apply to Volunteer:** [Join the team](#)
- **Attend or Support Prepare for Winter Dinner:** [Event details](#)

Want to learn more about On The Rise and the Providers' Council? Visit our websites to explore our work, services, and upcoming initiatives!

[Providers' Council](#)

[On The Rise, Inc.](#)