

SWEETER CHARITY



THE NEXT GENERATION DEVELOPERS TASK FORCE Members of the committee formed to turn this classic 1871 Victorian house into a residence for families of patients staying at Children's Hospital Boston include (FROM LEFT): Robert Zuker, Paul Bernon, Susan Mulder, Roy MacDowell III, Todd MacDowell, Michael Lorber, Jeffrey Bilezikian, Dave Gerzof, Douglass Karp, Jason Weissman, and Kathleen and Pat Scanlon. Next Generation Developers Task Force members not pictured include: Ben Fischman, Alex Leventhal, and Daniel Rottenberg.

BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S NEW RESIDENCE FOR PATIENTS' FAMILIES 241 Kent Street, Brookline

The days of the ne'er-do-well son who squanders the family fortune appear to be over.

Cause: A new group of benevolent scions is emerging in Boston to create a formidable alliance for families of sick and hospitalized children called the Next Generation Developers Task Force.

Douglass Karp, senior vice president of New England Development and son of real estate mogul Steve Karp, spearheads the committee, whose current goal is to turn a dilapidated yet historic house into a residence for the families of patients at Children's Hospital.

History: The project began about a year ago, when Children's asked Karp for his help in acquiring the property on Kent Street in Brookline. The once-beautiful Victorian residence, originally built in 1871 by Andrew Houghton, owner of the Vienna Brewery, had

fallen into disrepair after being used for years as a Northeastern University frat house.

As Karp recalls, "When I was growing up, my family was always very connected to Children's. My mother was part of the Women's League, my dad is now the chairman of the board, and it was always an important thing to give back to the community—and in particular to the hospital."

Once the house was purchased, Karp's next duty was to form a committee to oversee the renovation. With the help of Children's, he put together a list of young leaders he thought would make a strong board.

Reaching Out: Karp then turned to his friends and colleagues in the real estate industry, including Paul Bernon, Jeffrey Bilezikian, Robert Zuker, Gilbert Winn, and Roy and Todd MacDowell. He also recruited Susan Mulder, a marketing specialist, and architect Kathleen Scanlon.

The plan is to restore the home and build an addition in the back, creating space for 22 families as well as an on-site caretaker's suite.

Fundraising: With the community solidly behind the project after a series of meetings, the issue now on the front burner is raising money for the hospital's new family residence. The goal is to raise \$10 million, which will cover the renovation and help Children's create an endowment for the future. A significant amount has been raised during the "whisper" phase of the campaign, but the project still has a way to go.

"Everyone on the task force has contributed," says Karp, "and we have naming-rights opportunities available for the rooms. At Champions for Children, we raised a significant amount of money—one of the bedrooms went for \$75,000."

Future: When asked about the next project for Next Generation, Karp says he's keeping mum until the present one is finished. "I'd like to keep the task force in place, raise funds, and oversee the construction to be sure it all goes well, and then we'll talk about Children's Hospital's other needs. Everyone feels that we've been given one of the easiest things to do—helping children."

411: Visit childrenshospital.org/241kentstreet.