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So he made that bid and waited for a reply and then the city asked for more information and more deadlines and during that time of waiting he felt it would be good to establish an entity to help people in this process who had experienced a trauma in life and were willing to work daily on rehabbing a building to make it their home.

He found out that most of the agencies he had volunteered with in the past had rules where people had to own a home for two years (some shorter and some longer times) before they could help.

Now he became more firmly resolved to “do something” about this.

About this time there was a change in the social services contractor for the building he lived then and he learned of a grant opportunity from the Recovery Learning Community to start new organizations to fulfill a just such a need. So he got the application form. So he made that first grant application and it was granted. Almost each day he worked on updating a website that was established for this entity he now is calling S.C.A.R.F. (Saving Culture, Actively Reclaiming Futures) at <http://scarf.atwebpages.com>. And at popular request has also established a facebook and twitter presence.

Now he seeks your support, help and participation in this new venture.

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It is now planned that sometime near November of 2015 we will have our first meeting of the entity that will write the articles of organization and file other papers to become a reality in Massachusetts.

We need lawyers, architects, builders, planners, designers, electricians, folks in the plumbing, wall board, historic preservation and other such trades. We need accountants, managers, and folks now retired that used to be active in those fields as well as students that are to make one of these field their career.

Charlie Knight's current address is
32 Byers Street, # 101
Springfield, MA 01105-1221

His phone number is
(413) 732-7077

His personal email is
ceknight.spfd@gmail.com
and he looks at that one more often than the scarf email.

Lets talk and see whom we can suggest to invite so we can have a wide cross-section of people to form the nucleus of people to launch this entity.

Consider this “folder” to be your personal invitation to join us in building a better community by helping people rehab fantastic older buildings into great and warm homes.

Front-cover

What is a S. C. A. R. F. ???

For some it is a way two pieces of wood are cut so they join to make a stoner and longer span, it is called a “scarf joint”. For others it is a piece of clothing that is used to protect the skin from the outdoor elements whether they be heat, cold, or other harmful things. Some it is a colloquial saying meaning to get something quickly. But for us it means



**Saving Culture
Actively
Reclaiming Futures**

It reminds us that our focus is on **Saving the Culture** marks of a time now passed while we are **Actively bent on Reclaiming the Futures** of people who have experienced some sort of a traumatic event.

And the way we are doing this is by obtaining and rehabbing abandoned & neglected houses with the sweat equity of those that will live in them and help from others to make homes.

This is a history and a bit about this project and your invitation to join us.

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As we all know, vision of something called the “American Dream” is in danger of becoming the “American Nightmare”; and a goal that seems more and more “out of reach” for those that have worked hard a great deal of their lives and now, after some sort of a traumatic event, find themselves in great need, dependent upon others or even homeless.

Without a “home” you can call your “own” most of us are like a ship without an anchor. We move about tossed and turned by the waves and storms of life and with each jostling lose a little more of our self esteem, self worth, and the desire to not only continue on; but to make a difference in this life.

We want to work. We want to be an active participant in the communities that we are now living in, but without that solid base of a home of your own it is a “dream” that's almost impossible to achieve.

The cost of a new house is “through the roof” and yet it often will not give us the “link” to a past and as sense of permanence that rehabbing an older building will provide. The moderate rehab skills needed are easily taught & most people would willingly learn a few of these skills and work daily on making a formerly abandoned or just neglected house into their own custom made “home”.

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Charlie Knight became homeless due to forces pretty much beyond his own actions and came down to Springfield, MA in 1994 after his father had died and it was deemed he could not live any more in the family home until a trust was dissolved and legal papers signed.

Those papers took many years instead of months to get “drafted” and in that time he took many courses in printing, art, architecture, civil engineering, also landscape design/maintenance and web design/programming.

He also became actively involved in a number of groups attempting to end homelessness as we knew it in 2002.

By the fall of 2013 he was wanting to obtain a house and have rental units in it so he could have a place to live and practice design skills he had learned while also providing for people that needed a place to rent. At that time he had spent many years sitting in on and observing and being an officer of a board of the corporation that owned the building where he was a tenant.

He saw many a building in the “open house” viewings prior to the city's “tax auction” procedure and often did a lot of research on these buildings.

By the summer of 2014 he saw a place he wanted try and “bid on”.

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That building he was told in January of 2015 was not “available” and there were some problems in making it able to come up for another “auction” or a rfp (request for proposal).

But his desire to own such a house a this one that had some “character” and a “connection” to a time past would just not “go away”.

So when he received an email telling him of an “rfp” for a small house that has a portion built in 1860, he went to look at it out of curiosity. He found out that it had been put up before for an “rfp” and no one had made a bid.

This time he came to the second time it was open to be viewed & immediately saw in it a small home he could live in that would be not much bigger than a “condo” but he would have his own walls and some land in front and back to be his own. So he asked around and then asked for the bid package. The information on what to do came from the city and it was pretty much a great learning process to go through the step by step process, even with extensive training he has received at college.

It was at this time it came into his heart and mind to record what he was to do if he obtained this house so others after him could follow those steps through what seemed to have become almost a maze only the “initiated” could follow.