

## Cleaning up the dorms

By Christopher Rocchio/ Daily News Staff  
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**W**hen Pilar Pueyo of Waltham arrived at the Boston Rescue Mission dormitories, she discovered mostly bare walls.

After spending several days there with her colleagues from Boston Private Bank and Trust, she barely recognized the place.

"We were actually able to go into the living quarters at the Boston Rescue Mission and try to make the space a bit nicer and more special for the people that stay there," Pueyo said. "We had free rein to do whatever we wanted, which helped get the creative juices flowing."

Using paint, stamps, sponges and stencils, Pueyo said her company brightened many walls at the dorms, which provide shelter for homeless and drug-addicted men and women trying to live independent lives.

Pueyo said Chinese characters were drawn on walls, expressing words and concepts including love, peace and tranquility. Other messages written on the walls were sayings Pueyo said are used at the dorms in everyday life, such as "Don't leave before the miracle happens."

"They were important and inspirational messages for the people in the dorms in an effort to help them reach their recovery," she said.

Employees of Boston Private Bank and Trust worked alongside volunteers from UBuild, an initiative of YouthBuild Boston that offers young people an opportunity to work with skilled project managers, as well as building and landscape professionals. Volunteers from UBuild installed new cabinets in the kitchenette and fixtures in the bathroom.

"One of the best parts was working side-by-side with the youth volunteers and exchanging ideas with them," Pueyo said. "It was interesting to speak with kids not geared toward college who are instead interested in developing a trade."

A native of Puerto Rico and a Waltham resident for 14 years, Pueyo is vice president of human resources at Boston Private Bank and Trust. She said the company is active in reinvesting in the community.

"It's not only developmental opportunities, but also hands-on opportunities to contribute to agencies and work side by side with them," she said. "That's why working at the Boston Rescue Mission was interesting to us, and a lot of our company employees got involved."