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JUST A START LAUNCHES FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge, MA — March 27, 2024 — Just A Start proudly welcomed the Financial Empowerment Collaborative at 55 Norfolk Street in Cambridge. This newly renovated, 920 square-foot storefront space, located near Central Square, will serve as the hub for Just A Start’s financial opportunity programs. The Collaborative will offer a range of financial services, including free tax help, financial coaching, and resources on benefits and employment. Its strategic location will provide convenient access to residents in Central Square and the surrounding area, complementing Just A Start’s forthcoming Rindge Commons headquarters at Alewife.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, distinguished speakers included Carl Nagy-Koechlin, Executive Director of Just A Start, Ian Davis, Financial Opportunity Program Coordinator at Just A Start, E. Denise Simmons, Mayor of the City of Cambridge, Mike Connolly, Massachusetts State Representative for the 26th Middlesex District, Yi-An Huang, City Manager of the City of Cambridge, and Tom Evans, Executive Director of the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority.

This project was made possible through generous support, including $100,000 in funding from the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority and ARPA funding from the City of Cambridge. Additionally, the Liberty Mutual Foundation bestowed a $10,000 grant in support of Just A Start, earmarked specifically for the installation of an energy-efficient HVAC system at 55 Norfolk Street, as part of the foundation’s esteemed 2022 Climate Resiliency Mini-Grants initiative.

Winslow Architects spearheaded the architectural design, while Compass Contracting executed the construction.
About Just A Start

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systemically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region’s workforce. For more information, please visit www.justastart.org.