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WATCH Executive Summary

WATCH Inc was founded in 1988 to serve the urban suburb of Waltham, a city of 63,000 people located approximately nine miles west of Boston. The mission of WATCH is to work towards a more just community in the Waltham area by promoting affordable housing, providing adult education and leadership development, and empowering underrepresented residents through civic engagement.

WATCH's goals are: increased access to safe and affordable housing in Waltham, fluency in English for the adult immigrant population, development of new leaders, and the engagement of underrepresented residents in effecting positive change for the city.

In order to reach these goals,

- WATCH provides ESL and life skills classes for adult very low-income immigrants, and one-on-one advanced tutoring sessions. WATCH recently expanded its ESL program to serve 150 people annually. WATCH also added a GED preparation class, and computer and writing labs.
- WATCH runs a twice-weekly free Housing Clinic, training more than 250 low-income tenants per year on their rights under tenant landlord law and resolving urgent housing issues. WATCH has expanded the number of weeks the clinic is open from 40 to 50. WATCH is also hiring a part-time Housing Clinic Coordinator.
- WATCH organizes low-income tenants to advocate for affordable housing. In the process WATCH engages, educates, and empowers low-income and immigrant members of the city and encourages and supports emerging leaders. WATCH's Tenant Action Group (TAG), currently numbering 150 households, recently proposed and gained passage of a \$2.1 million Tenant Rental Assistance Program through Waltham's Community Preservation Committee. TAG will also be active in shaping the reuse of the 200-acre former Fernald School site.
- WATCH organizes bi-monthly volunteer home weatherization projects for the homes of low-income residents of Waltham, saving residents hundreds of dollars annually on utility bills.
- WATCH teaches ten sessions of CHAPA-certified first time home buyers classes annually, educating new home buyers on all the components of buying a house and qualifying them for financial benefits.

Since its inception, WATCH has assisted more than 2,500 tenants in resolving housing issues and stabilizing their housing situations, graduated more than 2,000 students from first time homebuyer classes, graduated more than 1,400 students from English and workforce training programs, and developed 37 units of affordable housing.