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Renovated housing co-op holds open house

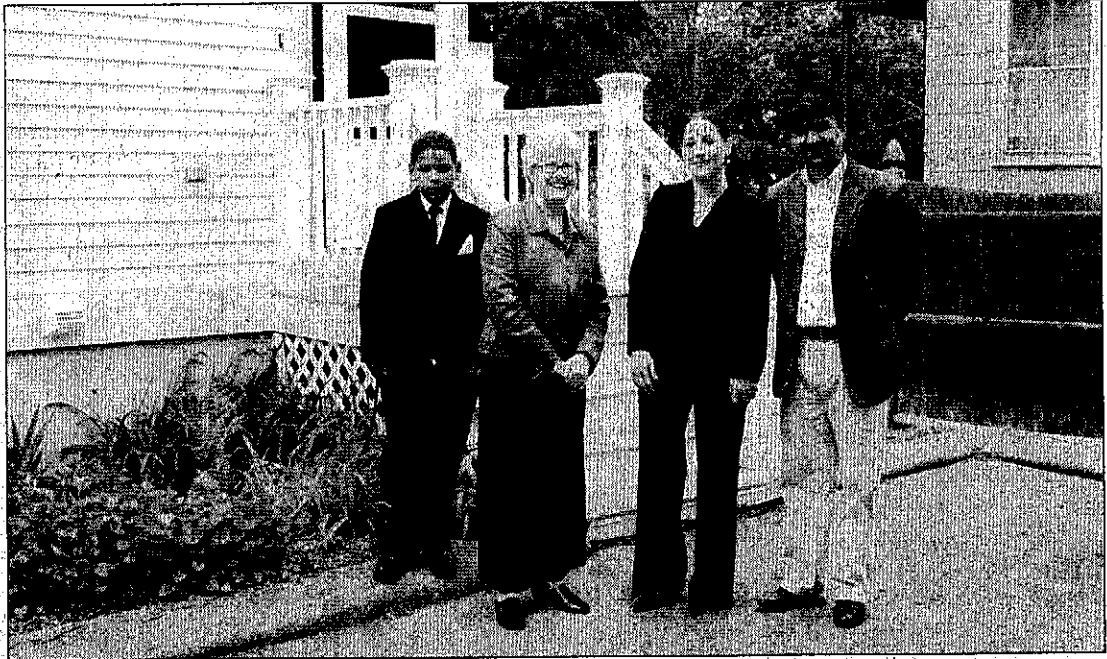
By PAUL LEIGHTON
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BEVERLY — Affordable-housing advocates and residents recently celebrated the preservation and improvement of the Cotton Mill housing cooperative on Dodge Street.

Harborlight Community Partners last year took over the struggling cooperative, which consists of two duplex houses on Dodge Street. The Beverly Community Development Department and the North Shore HOME Consortium invested \$150,000 to fix up the units. Danversbank agreed to improve the terms of the mortgage to help keep the project afloat, according to Harborlight.

Among the new residents of the Cotton Mill Cooperative are Rachel Lopez and her three sons. In a letter to Harborlight Community Partners, Lopez called the affordable housing “a dream come true.”

“The house is a gift from God himself, and just thinking about making a new life for my boys



Courtesy photo

Cotton Mill resident Rachel Lopez, third from left, stands with her son Edwin, Ann Shaw of Danversbank, and Harborlight Community Partners Executive Director Andrew DeFranza at the Beverly housing cooperative.

and I, it inspires my heart and brings light to my soul,” she wrote.

Harborlight Community

Partners also runs the Turtle Creek and Turtle Woods senior housing complexes, We Care About homes affordable

apartments, and Harborlight House Assisted Living, all in Beverly, as well as Whipple Riverview Place in Ipswich.