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Serving Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway and South End

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2007 People Of the Year

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The *Boston Courant's* editorial staff has chosen one member from each of the neighborhoods it covers as a "Person of the Year" to honor their contributions that, over the years, have improved the quality of life for residents.

Back Bay

Walking through the Commonwealth Avenue Mall during the holiday season, it can be hard to believe that the lights on the trees have not always hung there. However, those lights did not arrive in the neighborhood until resident and philanthropist Ted Bernard-Cutler, who has dedicated his life to giving back to the city he loves, provided the funds for them.

Bernard-Cutler, who grew up in a poor household in

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PHOTO: GEN TRACY



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Clockwise from upper left are Ted Bernard-Cutler and his wife Joan, Tom Kershaw, Charles Steinberg and Suzanne Kenney

People of the Year

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Dorchester and amassed a fortune in various entrepreneurial ventures, including Comdex, an exposition for manufacturers of computer hardware and software. Through his philanthropy, he has contributed to the city's arts and culture as a board member of the Boston Ballet, the Wang Center, Emerson College's Cutler Majestic Theater, and has been active with the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Beacon Hill

Skating on the Boston Common's Frog Pond is due largely to the efforts of Tom Kershaw, who has owned the Hampshire House at 84 Beacon Street since 1969. Kershaw, a graduate of Harvard Business School, would gaze out of his office window above the Public Garden and notice fewer and fewer skaters on the park's lagoon. He soon realized that the water did not get cold enough to freeze over. An easy remedy, he found, was to refurbish the Frog Pond as a skating rink.

In 1981, when budget cuts threatened to eliminate holiday lights from the Common, Kershaw helped raise \$35,000 to save the display. A one-time Eagle Scout, he also helped found the Beacon Hill Business Association and the Board of the Massachusetts Tourism Coalition.

Fenway

When he arrived at Fenway Park in 2002, Dr.

Charles Steinberg, the former executive vice president of public affairs for the Red Sox, made the fans a priority, whether they attend games or never visit the park. Steinberg was part of the new Sox ownership's philosophy, changing what many in the past found to be a corporate culture of insensitivity to fans and the concerns of neighbors to one that is more receptive.

Steinberg has also made himself easily accessible to residents, both through his involvement with numerous youth baseball programs and local charities. He has been particularly sensitive to the children of soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq by honoring them during games.

South End

For more than 12 years, Suzanne Kenney has guided the initiatives of Project Place, a nonprofit agency that offers job training, work experience, education, and housing to help homeless men and women reestablish themselves in society with dignity. The people who pass through the organization's doors have faced issues of domestic violence, health problems, poverty, drug addictions, and criminal involvement.

Kenney has more than doubled Project Place's operating budget. Through her efforts, the organization has expanded to offer clients affordable residential units in the agency's headquarters at the corner of East Berkeley and Washington Streets, where many clients will work.