

From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

During the past 18 months, your compassion and generosity helped Second Chances and the folks we serve face a year none of us ever imagined. You supported us as we navigated uncharted territory – adapting, pivoting, and persevering again and again. You showed us the true meaning and spirit of community, while you simultaneously faced challenges at home, work, school, and in the aisles of the grocery store. I've been so deeply inspired by your kindness and encouragement – it is, quite honestly, what's kept me going. I hope that our fall 2021 Community Report will inspire you with its heartening stories and news of our collective positive impact.

Since 2005, Second Chances has been part of the safety net for community members who are navigating setbacks. And, because of you, we were able to be a resource for folks during one of the most difficult periods many have faced. With isolation, job loss, housing instability, and increased risk of serious illness, our clients have experienced an extremely challenging time – one that is likely to continue into 2022 and possibly beyond.

You made it possible for Second Chances to provide no-cost, empowering clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to a record number of men, women, and children in need this year. When protecting vulnerable community members had to be our priority, delivering a warm winter hat or new pair of socks was a way we could show people how much our community cares about their wellbeing. **Generous friends like you made it possible to fulfill 100% of requests for clothing this year.**

Our nonprofit partners and Second Chances have responded enthusiastically to the reopening of our community, delivering even more clothing than usual to folks returning to work, traveling to see family, and participating in classes, workshops, and interviews.

Throughout this year and a half, we've thought a lot about what's really important, and one of the consistent themes that emerges is being of service to our community. When you support our work with your contributions of clothing, funding, or your time and talents, you are investing in a strong and resilient community.

This spring, Second Chances was honored to receive a competitive, multi-year grant from the **Cummings Foundation**. This funding will enable us to dream big – creating opportunities to be of more service to our community. We're looking forward to developing and sharing our plans with you over the coming months and years.

We still don't know what the future holds, but we're expecting an increasing need for our services as our community recovers. **If you're able, I hope you'll help sustain Second Chances and our community with an online contribution at secondchances.org/donatefunds.html or in the enclosed envelope.** Your donation delivers free, empowering clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to local women, men, and children when they need our help most.

Thank you for being part of our compassionate and generous community.

With deep gratitude,



Founder and CEO



Our board and staff were thrilled to receive a five-year \$100,000 Cummings Foundation grant in 2021.

Left to right: Paul Connolly, Kate Berliner, Andrea Shapiro, Jessica Callaghan, Daniele Levine



Our staff is gathering the best of our winter clothing supply to deliver to clients.

Left to right: Andrea Shapiro, CEO and Jessica Callaghan, Program Manager

Board and Staff

Katherine Berliner, Board Clerk

Jessica Callaghan, Program Manager

Paul Connolly, Board Treasurer

Fiona Crimmins, Board Vice President
(through May 2021)

Daniele Levine, Board Member

Andrea Shapiro, CEO and Board President





Jonathan Dupcak rests against 4,700 pounds of clothing he collected from community members during his Eagle Scout volunteer project.



Jonathan's project contributed 3,600 pounds of clothing for adults to Second Chances and 1,100 pounds of clothing for children to our partners at Cradles to Crayons.



There was so much clothing, Second Chances made two trips to pick it all up. Thank you, Jonathan, the Dupcak family, and all the volunteers and donors who made Jonathan's Eagle Scout project such a success.

Community Member Profile: Jonathan Dupcak

Last winter as many of us canceled plans and worked from home, an ambitious high school student, Jonathan Dupcak, planned his Eagle Scout volunteer project – a community clothing drive to benefit both Second Chances and our partners at Cradles to Crayons. Far exceeding his expectations, he collected 3,600 pounds of clothing for Second Chances and 1,100 pounds of children's clothing for Cradles to Crayons.

Jonathan recently began his senior year in high school. A competitive swimmer with his high school and club teams, he also volunteers at a food pantry in his community. Jonathan is preparing to apply to colleges with the goal of majoring in pre-med, followed by medical school. During that time, he hopes to train and work or volunteer as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Jonathan chose Second Chances after researching organizations online and contacting programs to learn more. He felt drawn to working with a local organization that would distribute the donated clothing to people who need it. Jonathan impressed us with his thoughtful planning and consideration. He paid close attention to logistics and asked thorough questions.

Jonathan was surprised to surpass his initial goal of collecting 700 pounds of clothing and had to adjust some of his plans. As part of the project, Jonathan organized a community collection event at a local church parking lot. More than 50 people came to donate there, contributing half the clothing he collected. He had planned for one day of sorting clothing with Scouts from his troop, but instead needed three days of four-hour sessions. Jonathan led his troop through the sorting process, working around winter weather with the clothing piled on tarps in his driveway so volunteers could spread out for COVID-19 safety.

Jonathan told us that the most valuable lesson he learned through this project was how helping people in need can bring together community for a common goal and give us all hope.

We are so grateful to Jonathan, his Eagle Scout troop and leaders, and the Dupcak family for coordinating and working on this virtual volunteer project and supporting people in our community. Thank you all!

How Your Clothing Helps

Your donations of women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, and accessories in good (or better) wearable condition enable our homeless and low-income clients to redirect their limited budgets toward more urgent needs like food, housing, and health care.

Throughout the pandemic our donation bins and warehouse have continued to operate with safety precautions in place. Locate a donation location and information about how and what to donate at secondchances.org/donateclothing.html.

"... helping people in need can bring together community for a common goal and give us all hope."



Our clients are always thrilled to receive high-quality clothing from Second Chances. We are deeply grateful for the Bombas socks and Vans clothing and shoes that these community-minded businesses donated for our clients.

"Your kindness and generosity make it possible for our clients to feel good about themselves at a time when they are emotionally vulnerable. The confidence and self-esteem that stems from having appropriate work clothes can go a long way toward ensuring positive outcomes for the folks we serve. Thank you."
— Riverside Community Care, Recovery Support Navigator

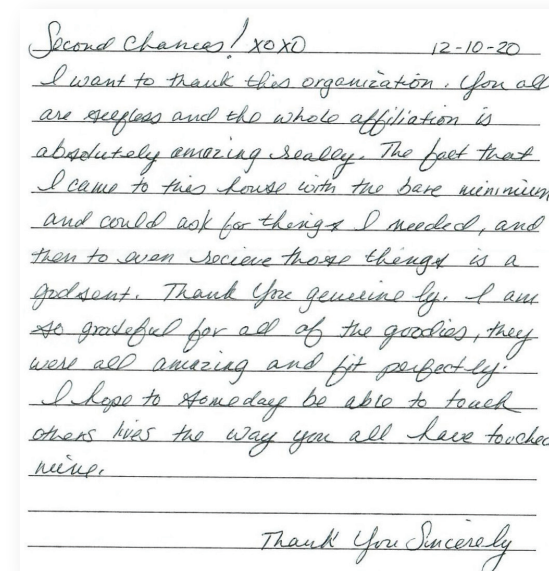
"Everything fit and more importantly, we're extremely pleased with the choices. I got a pinstripe blouse and white pants which are just unbelievable! The black linen pants are fun too. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"
— Cambridge Mutual Aid, Client

"Thank you again for the clothing you dropped off last week! I had a chance to put it all in our clothing closet for participants yesterday. I could tell it was packaged with such care, and the items themselves were really high-quality. I'm so excited to give them a second life with our program participants."
— On The Rise, Development Coordinator

"I wanted to send an extra thank you for the maternity items you provided. My client was very excited to have options beyond an oversized t-shirt!"

— Transition House, Resident Support Coordinator

* Names and identifying information have been changed.



Your Impact

When we receive words of encouragement and appreciation from our partners and their clients, it reminds us of why we do this work. We hope you'll enjoy hearing what your generosity and compassion have made possible over the past year.

"Mr. J was ecstatic about the two jackets, which fit perfectly. He looked like a different person and kept asking me to pass on his thanks to you and Second Chances. Mr. J was so happy and went around thanking all the volunteers. It made everybody feel good that they are involved in this work."
— Friday Café, Volunteer



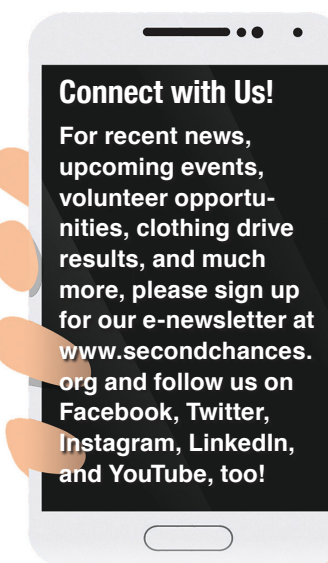
Many thanks to our friend Dave, not only for regularly donating clothing, but for sending us this photo as well. In a year when we've had such limited contact, it means so much to receive your kind emails and photos.



Get Involved

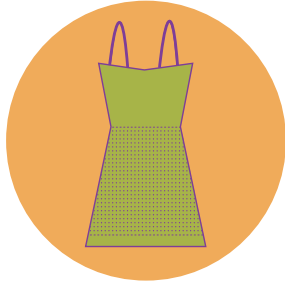
Second Chances depends on many self-motivated, creative, dependable volunteers each year and we're so grateful for the help! We've temporarily adapted these opportunities to provide virtual and safe experiences for volunteers and our community.

Learn more and get in touch about volunteering: secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp.html





P.O. Box 441328
Somerville, MA 02144-1328



Second Chances reuses and recycles clothing, shoes, and accessories so that homeless and lower-income people feel confident and valued as they take their first steps toward brighter futures and, as a community, we can minimize the amount of apparel going into local landfills.

Learn more:
secondchances.org

Special Appreciation

Our work – and the successful transitions our clients are making – is only possible because of you, our generous community. We are grateful to hundreds of donors of funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; companies and organizations that host clothing drives; our amazing volunteers; and so many colleagues and advisors who have provided free and discounted services to Second Chances.

And we're immensely grateful to the following companies, foundations, and organizations:

For lead financial support of our work in 2020 and 2021

(through August 31, 2021)

*contributors in both 2020 and 2021 to date

Sustainer (2021-2025)

- The Cummings Foundation

Cashmere

- City of Cambridge*
- The TJX Foundation*

Silk

- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation*
- Corderman & Company*
- Lincoln Property Company

Wool

- East Boston Savings Bank*

Linen

- Cambridge Community Foundation
- Greater Boston Association of REALTORS®*
- Agnes M. Lindsay Trust

Cotton

- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation*
- Bentley University MBA Students
- Theresa Briggs Yoga and AIG*
- Concord-Carlisle High School Student Senate*
- East Cambridge Savings Bank*
- Eastern Bank
- Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
- Alan and Patricia Shapiro Charitable Gift Fund
- The William & Karen Tell Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental
- Tufts University*
- Webster Bank*

For graciously hosting our outdoor clothing donation bins

- Town of Arlington
- City of Cambridge
- Cambridge Crossing / NorthPoint
- Tufts University
- Whole Foods Market, Arlington

For more generous sponsors and donors of in-kind services and clothing, please visit

secondchances.org/oursponsors.html.

We are deeply grateful to all our donors of clothing, financial support, and services and regret any errors or omissions in this year's Community Report. If you've been inadvertently overlooked, please let us know so that we can properly acknowledge your generosity!

There's still time to support resilient and determined people in our community this year and beyond! Help neighbors as they find strength, community, and stability, and reach thousands of community members with your brand. Sponsorship benefits and more information at secondchances.org/sponsor.html.

Use the enclosed envelope to donate by check or, you can donate quickly and securely online at secondchances.org.

