

From Our CEO

CELEBRATING 17 YEARS

Dear Friends,

In May, more than 100 members of our community gathered in Union Square, Somerville to celebrate 17 years of Second Chances. Our “Spring Refresh 2022” celebration marked a belated 15th anniversary party – delayed two years by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeing cherished members of our community – new and long-time friends and supporters, nonprofit partners, and several of our favorite local business owners – was invigorating, moving, and even a little overwhelming. After such a long period of separation, your beautiful faces and generous hearts reminded me why we do this: connection and community. As we continue to be mindful of protecting our community’s health, I am deeply appreciative of opportunities to be together, and it’s clear that others share that feeling.

The last two and a half years have shown how much need there is in our community. So many folks are just one health issue, major auto repair, or job loss away from a spiral of instability. Recently, the rising costs of rent, utilities, food, transportation, and clothing have strained people’s limited budgets, especially with growing kids, unexpected surcharges, and other surprise expenses.

When you work with Second Chances, you are part of the safety net that supports members of our community during difficult times. Your compassion and generosity make it possible for our neighbors to wear empowering clothing while they stabilize their housing situations, find employment, and visit the doctor.

Your kindness and generosity have made it possible for Second Chances to once again provide no-cost, empowering clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to a record number of men, women, and children in need this year – **with a 20% increase in the number of people we’ve served in the past 12 months.**

Earlier this year, **Arbella Insurance Foundation** made a funding commitment to Second Chances that has inspired us to keep thinking big. Combined with multi-year support from the **Cummings Foundation**, Arbella’s partnership will enable us to explore several opportunities to be of service to even more people in need in our community and beyond.

Your support – through your generous contributions of clothing, funding, or your time and talents – ensures that something as basic and bountiful as clothing will not be an obstacle to someone’s success in achieving their goals.

If you’re able, I hope you’ll help support, sustain, and nurture folks in our community with an online contribution at secondchances.org/donatefunds or in the enclosed envelope.

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

With deep gratitude,



Founder and CEO



Our staff is bringing the best clothing you’ve donated to people in need in our community.

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

Board and Staff

- Amanda Adams**, Board Member
- Katherine Berliner**, Board Clerk
- Jessica Callaghan**, Program Manager
- Paul Connolly**, Board Treasurer
- Daniele Levine**, Board Member
- Andrea Shapiro**, CEO and Board President



We’re grateful to our Event Planning Committee for planning such a warm and welcoming event. Left to right: Rachel Foy (Event Planning Committee Chair) and Jessica Callaghan (Second Chances) Photo: Erica Yuen Photography





How Your Clothing Helps Our Community

With so many resources available in our community, clothing should not be an obstacle for people trying to access housing, employment, education, training, and healthcare.

Your donations of women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, and accessories in good (or better) wearable condition enable the homeless and low-income people we serve to commit their limited budgets toward other urgent needs like food, housing, transportation, and health care.

Find a donation location and more information about how and what to donate: secondchances.org/donateclothing



It was wonderful to reconnect with our community at Spring Refresh 2022. Left to right: Owen Callaghan (volunteer), John Donohue (Arbella Insurance), Andrea Shapiro (Second Chances) Photo: Erica Yuen Photography

Client and Partner Profile: CASPAR and John

Second Chances has partnered with CASPAR to deliver free and empowering apparel to clients for more than 17 years. Now part of Bay Cove Human Services, CASPAR (Cambridge And Somerville Programs for Addiction Recovery) delivers comprehensive services to people at every stage of recovery from substance use.

This summer, we delivered clothing to John*, who recently moved in to one of CASPAR's residential programs. John shared his gratitude, saying "I can't explain in words how helpful it was to receive clothes at that time of need. I am so appreciative that this was available to me. The quality and condition of the clothes was remarkable. The care and selection of the clothes made me feel like a man in recovery! I speak for all the men in my community, thank you from the bottom of our heart!"

"I can't explain in words how helpful it was to receive clothes at that time of need. I am so appreciative..."

Deb, John's case manager, shared her thoughts as well. "We have many men who enter our program without any means, who are homeless, who come to us with very little. To see these men when they receive their signature white tote bag, full of very gently used clothing, their faces light up! I would like to let all of you know how many smiles you put on the faces of the men we serve! Much gratitude and a heartfelt thank you for all you do for the community!"



Partnerships like the one we have with CASPAR ensure that clothing is not an obstacle for someone who wants to improve their health, housing, education, or employment. We are grateful for our partners, like Deb, who make it possible for Second Chances to reach hundreds of people on the road to recovery, stability, and wellbeing each year.

* Names and identifying information have been changed.

Spring Refresh 2022

It was wonderful to reconnect with our community in person at our Spring Refresh event in May. Getting together for an evening of good cheer at Warehouse XI in Somerville, was just what so many of us needed after a long period of disconnection and distance.

Thank you to our event sponsors, especially our Presenting Sponsor, Arbella Insurance Foundation, for generous support that made our 17th anniversary celebration possible. As a small organization, we are only able to host a fundraising event every five years or so, and this was a truly special opportunity – two years delayed!

We are deeply grateful to our Event Planning Committee, our Board of Directors, our speakers, and all of the donors, volunteers, and vendors who made Spring Refresh such a warm and joyful celebration.

More photos and gratitude are on our website at secondchances.org/SpringRefresh





Vinfin clients had a productive and fun time shopping at The Garment District in Cambridge.

behavioral health challenges. For more than a decade, Second Chances has partnered with Vinfin to provide their clients with the clothing they need to lead independent, productive, and valued lives.

Everyone who attended found items they were excited to wear. One of the clients said "I had a great time, The Garment District had so much variety."

As they finished their outing, Kristina Rowshan, Lead Peer Specialist at Vinfin said "We all had a great time shopping at The Garment District. Thanks to Second Chances, our clients and staff were able to have an enjoyable morning shopping together. We learned more about our folks and their interests, and had a fun time looking for different items. So many people really came out of their shells through this experience!"

We are grateful to be able to work with Vinfin staff and clients and thankful to The Garment District for welcoming this opportunity to serve our community in a new way.

Event: Vinfin Client Shopping Outing

This summer, ten Vinfin clients enjoyed a morning of shopping at The Garment District in Cambridge, accompanied by staff from Second Chances and Vinfin. We all had a great time, especially the clients, who do not often have the opportunity to shop for themselves.

Vinfin is a provider of community-based services to individuals with mental health conditions, intellectual and developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and

Get Involved

Second Chances depends on many self-motivated, creative, dependable volunteers each year and we're so grateful for the help! Many of our volunteer opportunities are virtual or can be conducted in your own home, workplace, or gathering place.

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



Jackie Johnson, Senior Manager of Community at Greentown Labs, has hosted several clothing drives at work and served as a member of our Spring Refresh Event Planning Committee. We're so grateful for volunteers like Jackie, who make it possible to deliver free clothing to nearly 500 people in need in our community every year.



 **Second Chances**

Clothing connecting community

Connect with us!





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 neighbors are making – is only possible because of you, our generous community. We are grateful to hundreds of compassionate donors of funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; amazing companies and organizations that host clothing drives; our dedicated and wonderful volunteers; and so many talented colleagues and advisors who have provided free and discounted services to Second Chances. **We're immensely grateful to the following companies, foundations, and organizations:**

For lead financial support of our work this year (through August 31, 2022)

* Contributors in both 2021 and 2022 to date

Sustainer (2021-2025)

- The Cummings Foundation*

Cashmere

- Arbella Insurance Foundation
- Alan and Patricia Shapiro Charitable Gift Fund*
- The TJX Foundation*
- Triumvirate Environmental

Silk

- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation*
- Corderman & Company*

Wool

- Ginder and Adams families and the Gates Foundation
- Slaggie Family Foundation

Linen

- The Boston Foundation
- Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation
- Cambridge Community Foundation*
- Rockland Trust*

Cotton

- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation*
- Theresa Briggs Yoga and AIG*
- East Cambridge Savings Bank*
- Hillman Homes*
- Metro Credit Union
- Naveo Credit Union*
- The William & Karen Tell Foundation*
- Tufts University*
- Whole Foods Market

For graciously hosting our outdoor clothing donation bins

- Town of Arlington
- City of Cambridge
- Cambridge Crossing
- Museum of Science
- Pierce Boston
- Tufts University
- Whole Foods Market, Arlington

For more generous sponsors and donors of in-kind services and clothing, please visit secondchances.org/oursponsors

We are deeply grateful to 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 we can properly acknowledge your generosity.

You can still help our neighbors find strength, community, and stability as a sponsor or individual donor.

Sponsorship benefits and information at secondchances.org/sponsor

Individual donations at secondchances.org/donatefunds

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

