

From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year I was talking with a donor about what inspired him to give. He shared how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he was thinking about what he could do to help local folks who were struggling. He considered what people need most – food, clothing, shelter, and health-care – and decided to give generously to effective and efficient local organizations meeting those basic needs.

When people can't afford rent, food, or medicine, clothing becomes a luxury. Seasonal changes, growing children, and everyday wear and tear create a cycle of clothing insecurity, which is worsened by insufficient income and increasing costs of other necessities.

Every time you support Second Chances – whether that's by donating clothing, making a financial contribution, sending a supportive card or email, or volunteering your time and talents – **our team experiences a sense of community and a deep understanding of how, together, we're part of something powerful.**

When Second Chances delivers empowering, thoughtfully-selected clothing, **our clients experience the same sense of connectedness, belonging, and empowerment.** We know this from the kind words our partners – who work closely with people who receive clothing – frequently share with us.

*“Clothing plays such an important role in how you feel about yourself and can make all the difference. [Having the right] clothing gives clients the confidence to walk into the courtroom and face their abusive partner or put their best self forward in a job interview. I have seen firsthand the positive impact Second Chances has had on clients and I am grateful to have them as a partner.”**

Because of you, Second Chances was able to serve 50% more people this year, on top of a 20% increase last year. Jessica and Winnie – our talented and compassionate program team – are collaborating with more than 20 local organizations to reach 600+ people with clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards and distribute more than 3,000 pairs of new socks and underwear each year.

You are the safety net that supports members of our community during difficult times. Your compassion and generosity provide dignity, safety, and inclusion for someone who's experiencing uncertainty and instability.

If you're able, I hope you'll continue to support, sustain, and nurture neighbors who are experiencing challenges with a contribution online at secondchances.org/donatefunds or by mail in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for being part of our community.

With deep gratitude,



Founder and CEO

* From the Executive Director of a local organization serving survivors of domestic violence.



Our staff gathers and delivers the best clothing you've donated to people in need in our community. Pictured here, in the room where we prepare clothing for clients.

Left to right: Jessica Callaghan, Program Manager; Winnie Lee, Program and Communications Coordinator; Andrea Shapiro, Founder and CEO

Board and Staff

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

** Clerk through May 2023, member through August 2023



This spring, our Board got a tour of the space where clothing is processed and stored before our Annual Meeting.

Left to right: Paul Connolly, Board Treasurer; Daniele Levine, Board Member; Katherine Berliner, Past Board Clerk; Amanda Adams, Board Clerk



Client Profile: Bella

Second Chances sees a rise in clothing requests as seasons change. Bella*** needed summer outfits before entering training to be a camp counselor. We were happy to be able to provide clothing, shoes, and accessories to her from summer clothing donations by generous members of our community.

Cambridge Housing Authority shared that “Bella loved all the clothing items and talked about how she is going to be the best-dressed girl at camp. The selection Second Chances delivered was perfect! Thank you for playing a huge role in Bella having all the items she needs for camp.”

We're grateful to be able to provide free clothing to community members who are managing tight budgets, so they can achieve all their professional and personal goals. Thank you to our partners like Cambridge Housing Authority for working with us to serve neighbors in need.

*** Name and identifying information have been changed.



Generous donors made it possible for Bella to train to be a camp counselor in fun, attractive, empowering clothing.

How Does Second Chances Work?

We are often asked how donated clothing gets to folks who need it. Here's how:



Once it's sorted and checked, the best of the donated apparel is distributed to local shelters and service providers for their clients. Our provider partners request specific items, colors, and sizes based on their clients' needs and preferences. Some items that can't be used by clients are redistributed to other clothing donation programs, and some items are sold wholesale with the proceeds supporting our clothing donation program. Items that are not wearable are sent to recyclers, where they are ground up and used to create things like car mats, commercial carpets, and futon stuffing. Each year we reuse and recycle more than 300,000 pounds of clothing, shoes, accessories, and textiles to benefit folks in our community.

Learn more at secondchances.org/whatwedo

Partner Profile: On The Rise

Second Chances has partnered with On The Rise since 2005, filling their clothing room with essential clothing like winter coats, sweatpants, and t-shirts. We also provide specific outfits for their program participants who are going to housing and job interviews, training, and employment.

On The Rise is a day program providing safety, community, and advocacy for women and trans/nonbinary individuals who are moving through and recovering from homelessness, cultivating long-term relationships that foster safety and belonging. We are grateful for our longstanding relationship and for the exceptional support On The Rise's staff provides for their program participants.

Just last month Second Chances outfitted an On The Rise participant for an upcoming family wedding. They shared, “I'm so thankful, I have clothes to go to a wedding with my partner and reconnect with family I haven't seen in 20 years. I wasn't sure what cocktail attire meant, but you nailed it. It really means a lot to us to be able to access people and services like yours, you can tell that you really care.”

Second Chances deeply appreciates its partnership with On The Rise to nourish the well-being of folks in our community.

Volunteer Profile: Amanda Adams, Rockland Trust



We're deeply grateful to the staff of Rockland Trust's branch in Davis Square, Somerville for their long-standing partnership and commitment to our community.

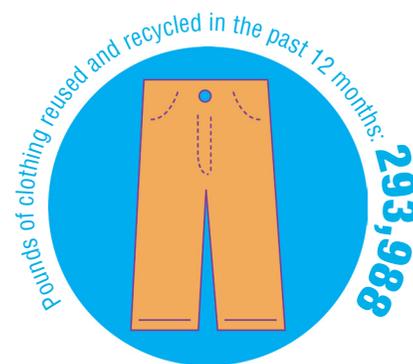
Rockland Trust has been a generous supporter of Second Chances for many years, hosting annual public clothing drives and providing generous financial contributions. Our partnership has grown to include Amanda Adams, Rockland Trust's Davis Square Relationship Banker, who joined Second Chances' Board of Directors in 2022, and now serves as Clerk and a member of our Finance Committee.

Amanda first connected with Second Chances at a Somerville Chamber of Commerce event, where she met our CEO and Founder, Andrea Shapiro. In learning about Second Chances' mission, Amanda decided to host a clothing drive at Rockland Trust's Davis Square branch to give back to our shared community. Amanda noted, "Rockland Trust is heavily involved in the community so this was a great opportunity for us to work together."

The bank hosted its first public clothing drive in 2017, before Amanda joined the Davis Square team, so she wasn't sure what to expect. Amanda knew Second Chances would help market the event and answer any questions. The clothing drive was a huge success, bringing in 800 pounds of clothing and inspiring neighbors and local business owners to stop by the bank branch. Amanda shared, "My expectations were blown away by the support of the community and Second Chances. We posted flyers about a week before the drive and donations started pouring in almost immediately."

Amanda served as a member of the planning committee for Second Chances' Spring Refresh fundraising event in 2022. When members of Second Chances' Board of Directors asked her to join the board, she said "I love the work Second Chances does and want to help it grow as much as I can."

Second Chances is honored to have such committed and hardworking board members, volunteers, and community members like Amanda and we're grateful for Rockland Trust's support for our community.



Get Involved

Second Chances depends on 50+ skilled, motivated, and creative volunteers each year. Many of our volunteer opportunities can be conducted in your own home, workplace, or gathering place.

Learn more and get in touch about volunteering or other ways to support people in our community at secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp



Our Earth Day event at Naveo Credit Union in Somerville was lots of fun, thanks to terrific volunteers from our community. Our work would not be possible without more than 50 volunteers each year.



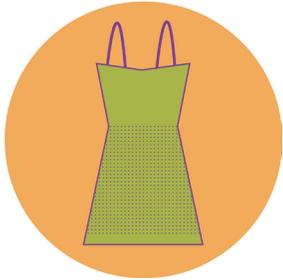
 **Second Chances**

Clothing connecting community

secondchances.org



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 is only possible because of you – our generous community. We are appreciative of the hundreds of compassionate donors of funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; wonderful clothing drive hosts; dedicated and skilled volunteers; and so many talented colleagues and advisors who have provided free and discounted services to Second Chances.

We're grateful to the following companies, foundations, and organizations for lead financial support of our work this year:

(through August 31, 2023)

Sustainer (2021-2025)

- The Cummings Foundation

Capacity Builder

- City of Somerville ARPA

Catalyst

- Arbella Insurance Foundation

Cashmere

- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation
- Lincoln Property Company
- Alan and Patricia Shapiro Charitable Gift Fund
- Signature Flight Support
- The TJX Foundation

Silk

- Boston Bruins Foundation
- Corderman & Company
- Northern Bank

Wool

- Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
- Tufts University

Linen

- Berkshire Bank
- Cambridge Community Foundation
- Ginder and Adams families and the Gates Foundation
- Greater Boston Real Estate Board
- Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
- Whole Foods Market

Cotton

- Theresa Briggs Yoga and AIG
- Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation
- East Cambridge Savings Bank employees and Charitable Foundation
- The William & Karen Tell Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental

For graciously hosting our clothing donation bins:

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

For additional generous supporters, please visit secondchances.org/oursponsors

We are thankful for each of our donors 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.

There's still time to help our neighbors find strength, community, and stability as a sponsor, funder, 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

