

## From Our CEO:

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to present some highlights from the past year at Second Chances and a peek into what's ahead for us. Thanks to you and so many generous people in our community, Second Chances will be moving into its first real office this year! For years, Second Chances has shared my home office with my nonprofit consulting practice. While this is extremely convenient for me, it's not especially accessible or accommodating for volunteers, partners, interns, donors, and others. And if we're going to reach more people in need in our community, Second Chances needs more staff and volunteers, and that means we have to be more accessible.

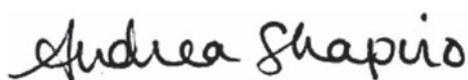
We considered a variety of space-sharing and temporary space options, and I'm excited to announce that this fall (or sooner), Second Chances will be moving to a shared nonprofit office space in Union Square, Somerville. This opportunity evolved out of years of conversations and longstanding relationships with partners and colleagues from our community. By co-locating with other small- and medium-sized nonprofits serving a range of community needs, Second Chances can be a welcoming place for partners, clients, donors, and our community, and we can provide more free clothing, shoes, and accessories to even more people in need.

So many of you have reached out to see how you can help, and we're grateful for all of your generous offers! Fortunately, we don't have much to move since we don't have any furniture, printers, and computers of our own, and our future landlord has already painted and fixed up the office for us. But we do have lots of other needs—furniture, computers, software, technical expertise, and so much more.

The best way for you to support our growth and sustainability is by donating online or in the enclosed envelope. Your contribution not only supports our move, it provides free clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to local women, men, and children while recycling and reusing textiles. [www.secondchances.org/donatefunds.html](http://www.secondchances.org/donatefunds.html)

**Stay tuned for a festive and casual Fall Open House** at our new office! Details will be online and an upcoming e-newsletter, so be sure you're on our mailing list.

Thank you, always, for being part of our generous community,



Founder and CEO

## By the Numbers

(March 2005 through June 2017)

Budget in 2005:	\$6,557
Budget in 2017:	\$107,223
Number of people served since 2005:	2,945
Pounds of clothing reused and recycled since 2005:	1,164,000
Donation bin locations in 2005:	0
Donation bin locations in 2017:	7
Clothing drives in 2005:	2
Clothing drives in 2017 (through June):	22
Provider partners in 2005:	3
Provider partners in 2017:	10



Some of the hardworking volunteers from our Board of Directors take a little time out for snacks and smiles.

## Get Involved

Second Chances depends on lots of self-motivated, creative, dependable volunteers each year and we're so grateful for the help!

- Volunteer your time and/or professional services
- Host a clothing drive at home or work
- Host a clothing donation bin on your property
- Host an event to support our work
- Pick up clothing donations
- Help with marketing and outreach through social media
- Serve on a committee or as an advisor

Let us know what you'd be interested in doing and learn more:

[www.secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp.html](http://www.secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp.html)



## Coming Soon!

We're unveiling new designs on eight of our clothing donation bins! Keep an eye out for the colorful and eye-catching graphics.

Find a clothing donation bin:  
[www.secondchances.org/donateclothing.html](http://www.secondchances.org/donateclothing.html)



An undecorated donation bin, shown here with Niles and Mitch, a couple of rock stars from Gentle Giant Moving Company. This one is located at Architectural Openings in East Somerville.

## Partner Profile: Somerville Homeless Coalition

One of Second Chances' longstanding nonprofit partners is Somerville Homeless Coalition: we provide free clothing and gift cards for their homeless and recently housed clients, who face an array of challenges and barriers. Somerville Homeless Coalition's clients are individuals and families and generally have very low or no income. Some clients are elderly, disabled, single parents and/or immigrants.

Case Manager Andrés Bueno shared one of the ways local people benefit from the services offered through our partnership: "Many of the families we work with are choosing which necessities to pay for: rent, food, clothing, or transportation." Liz Fuller, Assistant Manager of the Adult Shelter, emphasized that clients are trying to improve their current situations so that they can move ahead.

Free clothing and gift cards from Second Chances help Somerville Homeless Coalition's clients financially. Andrés described a family that was moving into a new apartment but did not have money to cover the rent and security deposit in addition to sorely needed winter clothes. Winter clothing donations from Second Chances gave the family the financial flexibility to pay the security deposit on their new apartment in full.

The staff at Somerville Homeless Coalition helps clients to access resources and services beyond housing and clothing. To maximize their clients' incomes and improve their chances for success, referrals are made to many local service providers including the YMCA, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, Somerville Community Corporation and Healthcare for the Homeless.

Andrés and Liz are inspired by their clients' resilience. "We see so much growth in our clients," said Liz. "Once they're housed, we follow up through regular meetings to help ensure their continued success."

***"Many of the families we work with are choosing which necessities to pay for: rent, food, clothing, or transportation."***



Andrés and Liz show us where donated clothing is stored. Clients can pick out empowering outfits to wear to important interviews or appointments.

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We're grateful for our partnership with Eileen Fisher, especially the team at the Chestnut Hill store. They've hosted creative events to support Second Chances, empower people in need, and promote sustainability and reuse of textiles.

## Earth Day 2017

The wonderful team at Eileen Fisher, Chestnut Hill hosted a shopping and clothing recycling event to benefit Second Chances, for the second year in a row, on Earth Day in April 2017. Friends and customers enjoyed refreshments, discounts for recycling their Eileen Fisher clothing, and a pop-up store with Fisher Found—Eileen Fisher's line of reused, renewed clothing.

Second Chances received five huge boxes of donated Eileen Fisher clothing for our clients and a generous cash contribution to support our work. We're grateful for partners like Eileen Fisher, who share our values of empowerment and sustainability!

## Looking Ahead

This year and for the past few years, Second Chances has been working with a group of nonprofits in our area called Somerville CAN (Somerville Community Agencies Network) to identify ways that we can share resources, and knowledge to serve our mutual clients more holistically, effectively, and efficiently. So far, we've collaborated on several collective community-building events, marketing efforts, and fundraising initiatives. Through one of the many relationships built with our Somerville CAN colleagues, Second Chances was able to connect with the business owner of one of our most popular new donation bin locations in East Somerville. We're continuing to work with our colleagues on collaboration strategies, including collective staff training and professional development, sharing space and staff, and other ways we can jointly reach and support people in our community.

## Upcoming Events

### Public Clothing Drive

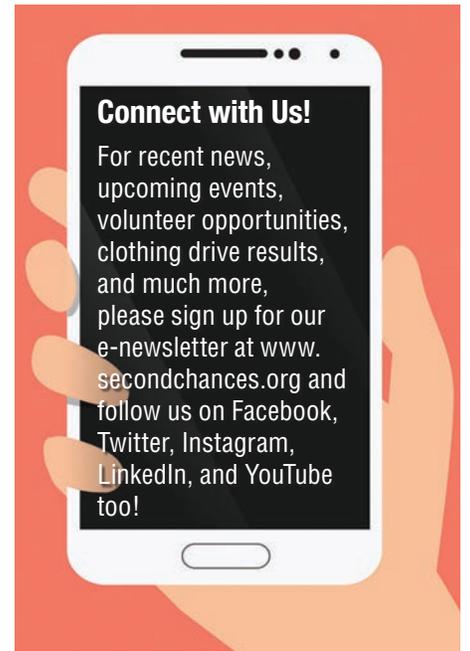
Stop by, learn more about Second Chances, and donate your un-needed clothing, shoes, and accessories to support people in need in our community while recycling and reusing textiles.

When: Wednesday, September 27th  
from 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: Somerville Community  
Growing Center  
22 Vinal Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

### Office Warming Open House

Details soon at [www.secondchances.org](http://www.secondchances.org)



### Connect with Us!

For recent news, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, clothing drive results, and much more, please sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.secondchances.org](http://www.secondchances.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube too!



Clothing connecting community

*(Partner Profile continued)*

Additionally, Second Chances continues to support clients with free clothing and gift cards as long as they need our help.

Liz added, "It's gratifying to see community residents donate and volunteer. It gives our clients confidence when they see complete strangers giving their time and money to support others. It reminds us and our clients that there are good people in the world, especially when times are rough and there doesn't appear to be much hope or love."

We feel the same way at Second Chances: your generous contributions of talent, time, funding, and clothing remind us and the people we serve what it means to be part of a caring and compassionate community. Thank you for working with Second Chances and our partners to support hundreds of clients—including the resilient and inspiring clients of Andrés, Liz, and Somerville Homeless Coalition—every year.

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:  
[www.secondchances.org](http://www.secondchances.org)

## Special Appreciation

Our work—and the successful transitions our clients are making—wouldn't be possible without you, our generous community. We are grateful to hundreds of donors of funding, clothing, 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.

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

### For graciously hosting our outdoor clothing donation bins

- Architectural Openings, East Somerville
- City of Cambridge
- Delaney Uniform Services, Watertown
- Whole Foods Market, Arlington
- Whole Foods Market, Prospect Street, Cambridge
- Whole Foods Market, River Street, Cambridge
- Whole Foods Market, Beacon Street, Somerville

### For lead financial support of our work in 2016 and 2017 (through July)

- Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation \*
- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation \*
- Community Credit Union \*
- Corderman & Company \*
- East Cambridge Savings Bank \*
- Eastern Bank
- Eileen Fisher, Inc. \*
- Google
- Greater Boston Real Estate Board Foundation \*
- Hammer & Ingle, LLC
- Heather Wells, Inc. \*
- Leader Bank \*
- M.J. Adams & Associates \*
- Naveo Credit Union
- OMR Architects
- William & Karen Tell Foundation
- TJX Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental
- Tufts University
- Webster Bank \*
- Whole Foods Market
- In memory of Amy Winder, from her family, friends, and colleagues

\*2016 and 2017

Apologies for errors or omissions: please let us know so we can properly acknowledge your generosity.



There's still time to sponsor our work in 2017! Reach thousands of community members with your brand and help neighbors in need as they move forward. Sponsorship benefits and more information at [www.secondchances.org/sponsor.html](http://www.secondchances.org/sponsor.html). You can use the enclosed envelope to donate, or donate quickly and securely online at [www.secondchances.org](http://www.secondchances.org).