

COMMUNITY REPORT

From Our CEO

Dear friends, community members, and supporters,

This year has reaffirmed Second Chances' mission and highlighted the positive changes our neighbors are making. With your generous contributions of clothing, funding, and volunteer time, you've provided comfort, safety, and a sense of belonging. Your support directly impacts vulnerable neighbors who are facing rising rents, increased costs of essentials, and limited resources for basic needs.

For nearly 20 years, our community has enabled Second Chances to deliver free, empowering clothing to thousands of neighbors who are experiencing poverty, housing insecurity, and crises. **You've made life easier for people like Debra**, who depend on having specific clothing for work. Debra shared,

"Second Chances gave me clothes to wear at my catering job. I was washing my clothing every other day because I didn't have enough outfits for work. The clothes Second Chances delivered made things so much easier for me."

Testimonials like Debra's highlight the importance of the carefully selected bundles of clothing we provide to support the wellbeing of folks who are struggling.

This year, Second Chances was able to make critical investments in our infrastructure, enabling us to operate more efficiently and respond more effectively to community needs. We're grateful for the one-time post-pandemic relief funding from the City of Somerville and City of Cambridge which made it possible to complete several projects that will contribute to our long-term sustainability and stability.

As Second Chances approaches its 20th anniversary, we look forward to celebrating with you and sharing our plans for the future with our community. Together, we are providing a safety net and crucial resources for community members who are experiencing difficult transitions.

If you're able, **I hope you'll continue supporting our mission and our neighbors** by donating online at secondchances.org/donate-funds or by mail in the enclosed envelope.

With gratitude,



Founder and CEO



Our Team

Board and Staff:

Amanda Adams, Board Clerk
Paul Connolly, Board Treasurer
Daniele Levine, Board Member
Andrea Shapiro, CEO and
Board President
Betsy Ziegler, Program and
Operations Manager

With gratitude to additional staff and interns who worked with us this year:

Claire Ammirato
Jessica Callaghan
Stefanie Hymovitch
Winnie Lee



Left to right: Betsy Ziegler and Andrea Shapiro at our Provider Partner Appreciation Event at Forge Baking Company & Ice Cream Bar

"It's easy to provide a place for people to donate clothing to help others, and our clients and neighbors truly appreciate that their donations support people in need in our community."

- Rachel Foy,
Hillman Homes

Client Profiles

Jamie found new hope when they received clothing from Second Chances tailored to their specific needs and preferences. Overwhelmed with gratitude, they exclaimed, "This is all for me?!" For Jamie, receiving personalized clothing was more than just a material benefit - it was a way to regain a sense of identity and a feeling of being seen and acknowledged.



Previously, **Miles** had to make do with whatever clothing was available from the van, often feeling his individuality had been stripped away. Now, with clothing that reflects his personal style, Miles shared, "I feel like myself again instead of just wearing whatever is given to me off the van, I have my style back!"

Maria expressed that having an empowering outfit for apartment viewings is a step toward achieving her goal of securing housing. Maria told her case manager, "My plan is to be housed and I now have an outfit to wear when I go to see apartments. I can imagine it hanging in my future closet."

These heartfelt and simple testimonials highlight how the carefully-selected outfits Second Chances provides are vital to supporting our neighbors' self-esteem, wellbeing, and practical needs.

Volunteer Profile: Rachel Foy, Hillman Homes

For 15 years, Rachel Foy has been an active volunteer with Second Chances, contributing her time, energy, and resources to support our mission. Her volunteer connection with Second Chances began when she was working as a real estate agent in Somerville and Waltham, and decided to organize annual clothing drives to support folks in our shared community. Now, as the owner and broker at Hillman Homes in West Newton, Rachel has deepened her volunteer commitment to Second Chances and brought her team of agents along as well.

Each year, Hillman Homes hosts two clothing drives as part of their business plan - a tradition Rachel has fostered. "It's easy to provide a place for people to donate clothing to help others, and our clients and neighbors truly appreciate that their donations support people in need in our community," Rachel explains. "Second Chances makes it super easy to host a clothing drive - from creating the webpage and posters to publicizing the event via social media to organizing the pickup. For us, it's a great partnership and way to give back." These efforts result in nearly 1,000 pounds of high-quality clothing, shoes, and accessories donated each time Hillman Homes hosts a drive.

Rachel believes, "as essential as it is to nurture and grow my business, it is equally important to give back. I personally enjoy giving to local organizations that focus on positive change." In 2022, Rachel took on an even bigger role, volunteering to chair Second Chances' COVID-delayed 15th anniversary "Spring Refresh" fundraising event. Her leadership helped raise more than \$35,000 to provide clothing, shoes, and accessories to those in need. Additionally, Rachel has been a dedicated advocate, sponsoring our grant applications to the Greater Boston Association of REALTORS® (GBAR) on multiple occasions.

Rachel Foy embodies the community spirit of Second Chances, and we are deeply grateful for her longstanding commitment to our work and the folks we serve.



Clothing donated by generous neighbors and Hillman Homes clients and agents.



Michael and Rachel Foy at Second Chances' Spring Refresh fundraiser. Rachel volunteered as Chair of the Event Planning Committee.





Partner Profile: CASPAR / Bay Cove



Cora's smile reflects the warmth and compassion she shares with her clients and partners. Photographed at CASPAR's ESC with clothing from Second Chances.

Since 2005, CASPAR's Emergency Services Center (ESC) has been a vital partner to Second Chances, serving as a lifeline for homeless men and women in Cambridge. Located between Kendall Square and Cambridgeport, this unique shelter - now a component of Bay Cove Human Services - is one of the few in our area that accepts individuals who are actively using drugs and alcohol.

The relationships formed at the ESC often serve as a critical turning point in the lives of shelter guests, helping them move toward improved wellbeing. The compassionate care provided by the ESC staff, like social worker Cora, makes a significant difference in the lives of those they serve.

Cora shared her appreciation for our longstanding partnership:

"Our clients get the biggest smiles on their faces when they receive clothing from Second Chances. I want to thank you again, so much, for what you do. I had no idea your organization was so small! Your turnaround time for requests is incredibly impressive as it is, so to learn that there are typically only 2-3 members of your staff ... I'm at a loss for words except thank you."

It is an honor for Second Chances to support the dedicated staff at CASPAR ESC, making their jobs a little easier while contributing to the wellbeing and success of their clients and shelter guests.



Get Involved

Second Chances depends on 75+ skilled, motivated, and creative volunteers each year. Many of our volunteer opportunities can be conducted in your own community, workplace, or gathering place, and we have occasional in-person opportunities as well.

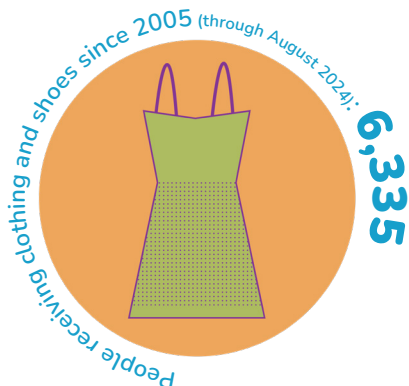
Learn more and get in touch about volunteering or other ways to support our neighbors at secondchances.org/ways-you-can-help.



Staff and volunteers enjoying an in-person activity at Second Chances' office. Pictured: Andrea Shapiro from Second Chances (back), Maria Montgomery from Berkshire Bank (front).

Socials: @SecondChancesMA





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 made possible by our generous community. We are grateful for hundreds of compassionate donors of funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; compassionate 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 sponsors and funders for their financial support this year:

(through August 31, 2024)

Sustainer (2021-2025)

- The Cummings Foundation

Capacity Builders

- City of Somerville ARPA
- City of Cambridge ARPA

Catalyst

- Arbella Insurance Foundation

Cashmere

- Alan and Patricia Shapiro Charitable Fund
- Signature Flight Support
- The TJX Foundation

Silk

- Berkshire Bank
- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation
- Corderman & Company

Silk (continued)

- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- Lincoln Property Company
- Northern Bank

Wool

- Microsoft

Linen

- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation
- Cambridge Community Foundation
- Ginder and Adams families and the Gates Foundation
- Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
- Whole Foods Market

Cotton

- Bank of America
- Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation
- Hillman Homes
- Metro Credit Union
- Naveo Credit Union
- William & Karen Tell Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental
- Tufts University

For graciously hosting our clothing donation bins:

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

For additional generous supporters, visit

secondchances.org/sponsors-funders

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/donate-funds

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

