



Turning clotheslines into lifelines: Second Chances celebrates 20 years of empowering neighbors, cultivating community, and protecting the planet

March 31, 2025, Somerville, Massachusetts - This April, Cambridge- and Somerville-based clothing donation program Second Chances celebrates its 20th-anniversary milestone with a fundraising event.

In collaboration with more than 25 local organizations, Second Chances delivers free, empowering clothing to 1,000+ people experiencing poverty, crisis, or housing instability in Cambridge, Somerville, and adjacent communities each year.

This year, Second Chances celebrates 20 years of turning clotheslines into lifelines with a fundraising event on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Portico Brewing in Union Square, Somerville. This warm, fun community event will feature delicious local food from Taqueria El Barrio, craft beer and non-alcoholic beverages from Portico Brewing, entertainment, awards, and a chance to connect with the wonderful community. Meteorologist Jason Mikell from WBZ and CBS will emcee the event.

As a small organization, Second Chances only hosts a fundraising event every five years, making this a special opportunity to connect with its community. Funds raised will enable Second Chances to build upon two decades of good work supporting individuals, empowering communities, and keeping clothing in circulation.

Over 20 years, Second Chances has supported more than 7,400 individuals through trusted community partners by providing clothing that helps folks feel confident, valued, and ready to chase their goals. These outfits are more than just clothes—they remove barriers to success, offering dignity, self-expression, and choice.

By collecting, sorting, and redistributing clothing, Second Chances helps its partners focus on their core missions while accessing the clothing their clients need to thrive. The community-driven model has united donors, beneficiaries, businesses, and service providers (including more than 25 nonprofits and organizations) for 20 years, forming a powerful network of neighbors helping neighbors.

In addition to providing much-needed clothing to the local community, Second Chances' approach to reuse and recycling has had a positive environmental impact. Over the past 20 years, Second Chances has diverted more than 3.2 million pounds of clothing and textiles from landfills by keeping them in circulation - that's the equivalent of 7.1 Statues of Liberty (which weighs around 450,000 pounds).

The 20th anniversary fundraising event is an opportunity to raise funds to shape the next 20 years of Second Chances. Funds raised will support Second Chances' vision of becoming more accessible to its partners, beneficiaries, volunteers, and generous community members. With additional staff and program space, Second Chances will be able to connect even more deeply with the community, benefiting more neighbors in need.

Andrea Shapiro, Second Chances Founder and CEO, comments: *"In times of uncertainty, our neighbors who are struggling need us more than ever. Now is the time for our community to band together and support each other even more deeply.*

When I founded Second Chances in 2005, our primary goal was to get more clothing from people who had it to folks in our community who needed it. Twenty years later, I continue to be inspired and warmed by our community's generosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.

It's no coincidence that our anniversary celebration is taking place during Earth Month - a time to demonstrate how we care for our planet by reusing and recycling clothing. So far, we've diverted 3.2 million pounds of clothing from landfills, an astonishing amount I'm eager to see grow as we look to the future of Second Chances."

The Second Chances 20th Anniversary Celebration is proudly supported by Presenting Sponsor Triumvirate Environmental, in addition to several leadership sponsors, including the Patricia and Alan Shapiro Charitable Fund, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Eastern Bank Foundation, and Berkshire Bank Foundation.

Join Second Chances in celebrating its 20th anniversary on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Portico Brewing in Union Square, Somerville. Tickets to Second Chances' 20th-anniversary event are \$90 through April 18th, and \$100 after April 18th, 2025.

Tickets are available for purchase via Second Chances' website:

<https://secondchances.org/20-years/>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Second Chances

For 20 years, Second Chances, alongside our donors and community partners, has removed barriers to success, empowered communities, and protected the planet - one piece of clothing at a time. Our two decades of good work pave the way for even greater impact, keeping clothing in circulation and continuing to support our neighbors.

Second Chances puts donated clothing to work for the community, diverting clothing, shoes, and accessories from local landfills while helping neighbors in need take their first steps toward brighter futures.

For more information, contact Andrea Shapiro at andrea@secondchances.org