

From Our CEO

Community Report, Fall 2025

Dear Friends,

When our founding Board of Directors and I created Second Chances in 2005, our goal was simple: get clothing from people who had it into the hands of neighbors who needed it.

Twenty years later, our community continues to inspire me with its profound generosity, compassion, and determination.

Together, we have kept **3,391,003 pounds** of clothing out of landfills, provided carefully selected clothing bundles to more than **7,500 people**, and distributed nearly **18,000 pairs of new socks and undergarments** to folks in our community. That means millions of items reused, thousands of lives touched, and countless obstacles removed.

It hasn't been easy. Over the past five years, we've faced unimaginable challenges. Yet through them, we learned something extraordinary: our network of partners and supporters is stronger than we ever knew.

Because of you, we were able to double our impact during the pandemic and after, reaching more of the most vulnerable in our community. Your support helped us serve with greater care, respect, and consistency, and made sure Second Chances was there when our neighbors needed us.

Now, our community is facing uncertainty again. As always, those who are already vulnerable feel it the most. In these times, the people we serve and our partners remind us every day:

Our **wellbeing** comes from **community**.
From **connection**.
From **compassion**.
From our **shared humanity**.

And it's what continues to carry us forward.

Our 20th anniversary was a chance to celebrate what we've achieved and look ahead at what we can keep doing together.

Thank you for standing by Second Chances and the neighbors we serve. Thank you for helping us deliver not just necessary clothing, but **dignity, strength, and hope**.

You make all the difference.

Your partnership paves the way for even greater impact in the years to come. I hope you'll continue to support us and our mission to empower our neighbors, cultivate community, and protect the planet by keeping clothing in circulation.

With deep gratitude,

Andrea Shapiro
Founder & CEO



Our Team

Board and Staff:

Amanda Adams, Board Clerk
Sarah Bernabei,
Program & Special Projects
Associate
Paul Connolly, Board Treasurer
Daniele Levine, Board Member
Andrea Shapiro,
CEO & Board President
Betsy Ziegler,
Program & Operations
Manager



Second Chances' staff, left to right: Sarah Bernabei, Program & Special Project Associate; Andrea Shapiro, Founder & CEO; Betsy Ziegler, Program & Operations Manager



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Partner Profile: Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services

For more than 50 years, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) has helped older adults and people with disabilities remain safe and independent in their own homes.

Since 2013, Second Chances has partnered with SCES case managers to ensure their clients have the clothing, shoes, and accessories they need.

Alicia had not changed her clothing since January—a reflection of both her circumstances and the challenges she faced. That shifted when she received a clothing bundle from Second Chances. Now, she proudly shows off her “outfit of the day” to her support worker with renewed dignity and joy.

This story sits at the heart of SCES’s and Second Chances’ missions: providing practical support with opportunities for self-expression, hope, and connection.

“We’re grateful to partner with Second Chances, whose team not only provides much-needed seasonal apparel but also deeply understands the connection between clothing and self-expression. By honoring our clients’ preferences whenever possible, they help us deliver on our mission of ensuring older adults can age with dignity,” said **Jeremy Bratt**, SCES Director of Development.

Second Chances is thankful for partners like Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services who share our commitment to help neighbors live with safety, comfort, respect, and pride.



Client Profile

Jess was working with a support provider to rebuild her life, preparing for job fairs and interviews. But the arrival of the cooler season brought a practical and significant challenge: having the right clothes. When she received a thoughtfully assembled bundle, it was more than just clothes—it was a boost of confidence, dignity, and warmth. Each piece empowered her with the reassurance she needed to continue toward stability and self-sufficiency.



Second Chances’ staff delivers clothing to more than 25 Cambridge and Somerville partners, including SCES, so clients can look and feel their best.



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20 Years of Second Chances: A Timeline

2005



Second Chances is founded to provide free clothing to neighbors in need while reducing textile waste.

2009



We surpass **150,000 pounds of clothing diverted** from landfills, serving the clients of **six local nonprofits**.



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2006



Gentle Giant Moving Company becomes our lead in-kind services donor, moving our first four outdoor clothing donation bins to locations throughout our community.

Celebrating 20 Years of Second Chances

This spring, we gathered with more than 125 sponsors, partners, volunteers, and community members to celebrate Second Chances' 20th anniversary—together, generously raising **\$75,000** to fuel our future! The event, at **Portico Brewing** in Boynton Yards, Somerville, provided an opportunity to connect, reflect, and honor two decades of providing clothing, shoes, and accessories to neighbors in need across Somerville and Cambridge.



Left to right: Andrea Shapiro (Second Chances) with Jason Mikell (WBZ-TV meteorologist and event emcee) at Second Chances' 20th Anniversary Celebration in April 2025.

We were delighted to welcome meteorologist **Jason Mikell** of **WBZ/CBS** as our emcee. With warmth, humor, and energy, Jason brought the crowd together for an especially memorable evening.

A short film screening featuring one of our early clients, **Norma**, allowed guests to witness the impact of our work. Nearly 20 years ago, Norma received support from Second Chances and our provider partner, **Transition House**.

Today, Norma is thriving and serving others through her work at **Cambridge Health Alliance**—a powerful full-circle moment that illustrates the lasting impact of dignity and support. It was an honor to celebrate alongside Norma at the event.

We presented awards to several outstanding partners and volunteers, including **John McQuillan, Jr.**, and **Triumvirate Environmental**—steadfast partners since our founding. Triumvirate's early event sponsorship ensured that every dollar raised would deepen our impact, keeping clothing in circulation and strengthening our community.

Dedicated volunteer **Korinne Manders**, whose years of service have made a real difference, and longtime board member, **Daniele Levine**, whose leadership has been instrumental, were also recognized and celebrated for their valuable ongoing contributions.

It was an unforgettable night of celebration, gratitude, and community. We are deeply thankful to everyone who joined us and to the many individuals and organizations who have served alongside Second Chances for the past 20 years. Thank you for continuing to help us build a thriving community.



Get Involved

Second Chances depends on 75+ skilled, motivated, and creative volunteers each year. You can participate in many of our volunteer opportunities right in your own community, workplace, or gathering place. We occasionally have in-person opportunities at the Second Chances office, as well.



Volunteers and staff working on Second Chances' year end appeal.

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



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2013



We expand and strengthen partnerships with **15 local shelters and service providers**, increasing access to clothing for homeless and low-income residents.

2017



Bombas begins donating socks, becoming our lead in-kind clothing donor and providing thousands of pairs of new socks each year. Bombas deepens its partnership in 2022 with the addition of donated underwear and undershirts.

2011



We serve our **2,000th neighbor** in need with a carefully selected bundle of clothing, shoes, and accessories.

2015



We celebrate our **10th anniversary** by investing in **10 new clothing donation bins** to expand our reach across Cambridge and Somerville, making it easier for community members to contribute.

Volunteer Profile: Maria Montgomery, Berkshire Bank

Nearly ten years ago, **Maria Montgomery** first connected with Second Chances by hosting a clothing drive at her workplace.

“From the start, I was inspired by Second Chances’ commitment to fostering dignity and opportunity for people in need in our own community,” Maria shared.

When she transitioned to a new role at Berkshire Bank (now operating as a division of Beacon Bank & Trust), Maria was excited to bring Second Chances along as a community partner, introducing her colleagues to our mission. This year, Maria deepened her commitment by chairing our 20th Anniversary Event Planning Committee.

“Through Berkshire Bank’s financial and volunteer support of nonprofit organizations, I’ve been fortunate to continue my involvement with Second Chances—organizing clothing drives, stuffing envelopes, volunteering at events, and most recently, serving as Chair of the 20th Anniversary Event Planning Committee. The event was a powerful celebration of community and shared purpose. Supporting Second Chances is more than volunteerism; it’s a meaningful partnership built on shared values.”

We are deeply grateful to Maria for her volunteerism, leadership, and partnership, and appreciate Berkshire Bank’s ongoing support of our mission.



Maria and her Berkshire Bank colleagues host annual clothing drives supporting Second Chances’ partners and clients.



Maria Montgomery (left) and David Coughlin (right) from Berkshire Bank enjoying Second Chances’ 20th anniversary celebration.



Client Profile

Mark faced the harsh realities of homelessness and unemployment before beginning treatment. The simple, yet powerful gift of clean, everyday clothing reignited his sense of self-worth, marking the beginning of change. His bundle included professional outfits that filled him with confidence to walk into job interviews with his head held high. These clothes became more than outfits—they symbolized a fresh start and a crucial step towards a new chapter.



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2021



Selected as a **Cummings Foundation grantee**, securing consistent, multi-year support for continued growth and impact.

2025



We celebrate **20 years of service**, with **3,391,003 pounds of clothing reused and recycled**, **7,500+ community members served**, and more than **600 volunteer-led corporate and community clothing drives**.

2020



Our impact doubles during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, reaching more of the most vulnerable members of our community, ensuring dignity and stability during unprecedented times.

2023



We serve our **7,000th client**, providing free clothing, shoes, and accessories across Cambridge and Somerville through **25 mission-driven partners**.

Special Appreciation

Our generous community (that's you) makes helping people and clothing find second chances possible. We are grateful to the hundreds of compassionate donors for their funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; charitable clothing drive hosts; dedicated and skilled volunteers; and the many talented colleagues and advisors who offered us free and discounted services. Thank you!

Special gratitude to the following sponsors and funders for their financial support this year (through August 31, 2025):

Sustainer (2021-2025)



Pashmina

Patricia and Alan Shapiro
Charitable Fund



Cashmere



Silk



Wool



Linen

The Boston Foundation
Cambridge Savings Charitable
Foundation
Greater Boston Association of
REALTORS
M&T Charitable Foundation
Rockland Trust Charitable
Foundation
Tufts University

Cotton

Bay State Federal Savings
Charitable Foundation
East Cambridge Savings Bank
Everett Co-Operative Bank
Charitable Foundation
HarborOne Bank
Heather Wells, Inc.
Hillman Homes
Innerbelt Industrial Center LP -
Hamlen & Company
John's Auto Sales
Massachusetts Association of
REALTORS Charitable
Foundation
Middlesex Federal
Naveo Credit Union
Somerville-Cambridge Elder
Services

Lead In-Kind Clothing Donor



Lead In-Kind Services Donor



Clothing Donation Bin Hosts

Town of Arlington (through March 2025)
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.

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

You can help our neighbors find strength, community, and stability as a sponsor, funder, or individual donor. Every dollar donated empowers members of our community by providing clothing that helps them feel confident, valued, and ready to chase their goals.

Sponsorship benefits and information at secondchances.org/sponsor.

Individual donations at secondchances.org/donate-funds.



P.O. Box 441328
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-1328



Second Chances, alongside generous donors and compassionate community partners, removes barriers to success, empowers communities, and protects the planet—one piece of clothing at a time.

Learn more at secondchances.org.



www.secondchances.org



20 Years of Empowering Second Chances

For two decades, your partnership and support have had an incredible impact on our neighbors, community, and environment. Since 2005, Second Chances has:

- Supported **7,552** individuals with free clothing, shoes, and accessories.
- Kept **3,391,003** pounds of used clothing and textiles in circulation and out of landfills.
- Partnered with **36** local nonprofits, organizations, and community programs, helping them focus on their core missions.
- Distributed **17,926** pairs of new socks and underwear, meeting a vital and often overlooked need.



Behind each of these impressive numbers is a story: of a client confidently walking into a job interview, a student starting school with pride, a domestic violence survivor finding the strength to rebuild. Together, we're helping people and clothing find second chances for success while minimizing textile waste and honoring the Earth's natural resources.



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Celebrating 20 years of impact—our anniversary gathering was a joyful opportunity to gather with friends, partners, and neighbors to honor the power of community and collaboration, and to showcase what we can accomplish when we support one another.