



CIRCLE OF HOPE

Helping to build a brighter future for those in need

January 2022

In This Issue

- Urgent need for face masks
- New grants
- Charles River Apparel Partnership
- COVID-19 Policy Updates
- Welcome, Caitlin!
- Community Action

How to Donate

1. Purchase items from our [Amazon Wish List](#) and have them sent to COH.

2. Drop off new and gently used donations in excellent condition in person. All donation drop-offs are by appointment.

To schedule an appointment to drop off **brand new** donations, [please click here.](#)

Gently used donation appointment sign-ups will resume in February [here.](#)

Support COH

To make a financial contribution to Circle of Hope, [click here.](#)

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a healthy start to 2022.

Circle of Hope kicked off the new year with deliveries to our largest adult shelter partners, Southampton Street Shelter and St. Francis House in Boston, bringing vital donations to nearly 1,000 adults experiencing homelessness. Last week, we brought health essentials to families and individuals at Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Fenway Health, Framingham State University, and more.

With COVID-19 surging and temperatures at their lowest, the people we serve rely on Circle of Hope more than ever for warm clothing, coats, hygiene essentials, and PPE to protect themselves and their families. I am deeply grateful to everyone who gave a gift to Circle of Hope's Annual Campaign and I'm thrilled to report that we surpassed our fundraising goal! Your generosity is already protecting health and saving lives this winter. Thank you!

I am very excited to introduce you to Circle of Hope's newest team member, Caitlin Sawicki, who joined Circle of Hope in December as our new Development Manager (see below). There is so much news to share as we start this new year together!

With warmest gratitude,
Barbara

Urgent Need for Face Masks

With the Omicron variant surging, we desperately need your help protecting the health of the vulnerable families and individuals we serve, who are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and becoming seriously ill.

Please donate new face masks for adults and children to Circle of Hope. We specifically need KN95 and N95 masks in all sizes, but we will also accept surgical masks and new reusable cloth masks for kids and adults.

Ship new masks from our [Amazon Wish List](#) or your preferred retailer directly to Circle of Hope at 1329 Highland Ave. Needham, MA 02492. Or [make an appointment via Sign Up Genius](#) to drop off new masks in person.



Connect with us on social media. Like and share our posts to help spread the word about COH.



Current Needs



- New face masks for adults and kids (surgical, KN95, N95, reusable cloth)
- Unopened bottles of hand soap and sanitizer
- **COVID Kits**

You Must Hear This...

"As a result of [your] donations, members of our community are warmer because they have the correct clothing and bedding for the winter months, and feeling better about themselves because they have access to toiletries and towels to help take care of themselves. Thank you COH for all that you do!"

-Robin Hamilton Kurkomelis,
Framingham State University

Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep each other safe. Thank you for your life-saving support!

New Grants Fuel Impact

We are deeply grateful to Circle of Hope's most generous funders for fueling our impact on people experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston.

Life Science Cares awarded Circle of Hope a generous 2-year grant for our Get Set program supporting homeless Boston public college students, and our new pilot expansion helping Boston Public Schools college-bound seniors experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity get a healthy start in college.



Life Science Cares has supported Circle of Hope in several ways over the years. Employees have hosted collection drives for Circle of Hope and many Life Science Cares member companies have assembled COVID Kits or Dignity Bags for the people we serve. Their generosity has impacted the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Circle of Hope received a \$25,000 grant from **Rockland Trust** to support our operations and shelter deliveries in Boston and MetroWest in 2022 and 2023. This impactful grant will help us serve thousands of children and adults experiencing homelessness over the next two years.

Dedham Savings awarded Circle of Hope a \$5,000 grant for one-time capital expenditures. This generous grant will support technology and new equipment at Circle of Hope's donation center.

"The Dedham Savings Community Foundation is proud to support organizations like Circle of Hope that work tirelessly to address the greatest needs in our communities," said Mark Ingalls, Executive Vice President & CFO/COO of Dedham Savings.

We are very grateful to these generous funders for powering Circle of Hope's vital work when our neighbors need us the most! Thank you!!

Charles River Apparel: A Powerful 11-Year Partnership

Last month, Charles River Apparel (CRA) donated more than \$28,000 worth of clothing and outerwear to Circle of Hope!

For more than a decade, CRA has given brand new apparel to Circle of Hope at least once a year - and often more. This most recent donation consisted of 875 pieces of apparel, which will help hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness stay warm and healthy.



“We know that clothing is about so much more than just something to wear—it has a direct impact on mental and physical well-being, whether it’s feeling confident or staying warm through winter,” says Deb Lipsett, co-owner of CRA. “Circle of Hope recognizes the struggle of clothing insecurity and approaches the problem with a level of compassion and care that we admire, and that we are proud to be a part of.”

CRA has also supported Circle of Hope over the years through generous event sponsorships and employee volunteer events. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering dedication to the health and safety of the vulnerable families we serve. Read more about this impactful partnership in a recent article published in [Promo Marketing Magazine](#).

COVID-19 Policy Updates and Donation Guidelines

In response to new public health recommendations during the Omicron surge, we have updated our COVID-19 mask policy. Anyone entering Circle of Hope must now wear a KN95 or N95 face mask over the nose and mouth at all times while inside.

Donation Guidelines

In addition to brand new items, we accept donations of gently used **casual** clothing in excellent condition, including: T-shirts (short and long sleeve), sweatpants, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, coats, winter boots, leggings, athletic wear, and jeans. **We can not accept button-down shirts, dresses, business clothing, formalwear, out-of-season clothing, or used socks or underwear.**

We can accept no more than **3 paper grocery bags or white kitchen trash bags of gently used clothing per drop-off**. There is no bag limit for brand new donations.

Appointments are required for donation drop-offs and can be scheduled via Sign Up Genius. To schedule an appointment to drop off **new** donations, [please click here](#). Gently used donation drop-off appointments will resume in February [here](#).

Anyone entering Circle of Hope must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear an N95 or KN95 mask at all times while inside.

[Donate NEW items](#)

Welcoming Our Newest Team Member

We are so excited to introduce our new Development Manager, Caitlin Sawicki!

Caitlin joined our team last month and has hit the ground running. In this new position, Caitlin oversees Circle of Hope's fundraising, including our annual fundraiser, HOPE Blooms, which is coming up in the spring. Stay tuned!

A native New Englander, prior to joining



Circle of Hope Caitlin channeled her skills and talent working in development at a domestic violence shelter in Alaska. Outside work, she enjoys hiking and camping with her family and vows to have a successful vegetable garden someday.

Caitlin is excited to get to know everyone in our incredible Circle of Hope community. If you have questions for Caitlin, please don't hesitate to email her at caitlin@circleofhopeonline.org or reply to this email to say hello!

Community Action



Apellis in Waltham celebrated the holidays by organizing an amazing collection drive and fundraiser for Circle of Hope (left)! Employees donated 52 fully assembled Welcome Baby Bags and Dignity Bags for infants and adults experiencing homelessness and gave generously to their online fundraiser, tripling their original fundraising goal.

Again this year, **Bombas** donated thousands of pairs of brand new socks to Circle of Hope (right)! This delivery arrived just in time for the coldest months. During a recent pick-up, Dwayne from Southampton Street Shelter told us shelter guests urgently needed socks. We were able to immediately add 75 pairs to his car because we knew Bombas socks were on their way and we would soon be able to help even more people!



Members of the **Northeastern University Black Athletic Caucus** (left) collected, laundered, and donated an incredible 30 bags of winter coats and clothing for families and individuals experiencing homelessness this winter!

The fabulous children and families of **Temple Beth Shalom Children's Center** (right) loaded the Circle of Hope van with hundreds of brand new winter coats they purchased and donated for families experiencing homelessness! A COH volunteer brought them straight to Casa Nueva Vida family shelter in Boston, fulfilling their request for 116 new coats for toddlers and children.



Catherine from **Cocotree Kids** (left) donated 1,000 brand new pairs of children's underwear at Circle of Hope! Together, we're protecting health and dignity for thousands of children experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston.

COH Board Member Courtney Doyle coordinated a donation drive at **Beaumont Capital Management** in Needham. The new coats and socks (right) immediately went to our partner shelters and clinics to protect the health of our most vulnerable neighbors who are homeless this winter.



Akili Interactive, a **Life Science Cares** member company, donated 30 brand new winter coats to Circle of Hope (left)! These beautiful coats are already keeping 30 vulnerable individuals warm this winter.

The team at **Well** donated 32 fully assembled Dignity Bags (right) for adults experiencing homelessness. Each bag provides a woman or man who is homeless with everyday essential toiletries for dignity and wellness, including body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, and more.



Goldfish Swim School Needham generously donated two batches of gift cards (left) to Circle of Hope so that we can purchase much-needed clothing and toiletries for families experiencing homelessness.

Employees at **MSPCA - Angell** ran a toiletry drive for Circle of Hope and dropped off two large bags of hygiene essentials (right) for families experiencing homelessness just before the holidays.



Carrie (left), a COH volunteer, organized a sock drive with the **Needham High School Touchdown Club** and donated many pairs of brand new socks last month! Our partner shelters always need socks for their residents and this donation is helping us meet this urgent need.

Longtime COH supporter Carolyn Pope (right) collected and donated clothing to Circle of Hope last month. Carolyn's generosity over the years has impacted thousands of lives and we are very grateful for her support!



Our thanks go to our friends at **Dedham Country Day School** who ran a school-wide collection for winter accessories (left). Julia and her son Jack dropped off four large bags of winter accessories in December.

A generous donor named Jocelyn (right) gave five bags of brand new clothing, towels, and hygiene supplies to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.



The Bulfinch Group in Needham for donated brand new coats to Circle of Hope (left)! Their incredible team has given generously to COH for many years, helping thousands of children and adults experiencing homelessness stay warm, healthy, and safe.

In memory of her beloved sister, Natercia, Anesia and her daughter Kiana crocheted an incredible 211 scarves for people experiencing homelessness (right)! These beautiful scarves are keeping the people we serve warm and healthy this winter and we are deeply grateful to Anesia and Kiana for honoring Natercia with this generous, compassionate gift.