



CIRCLE OF HOPE

Helping to build a brighter future for those in need

July 2021

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

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You Must Hear This...

"This collaboration with Circle of Hope allows BID Needham to respond to not only the physical and mental health needs of our patients, but also to very important social needs. Being able to provide shoes, clothing and hygiene products for patients so they can safely leave the hospital is an especially important piece of being healthy. We are so

Dear Friends,

Throughout June and July, Circle of Hope has been supplying our partner shelters and programs with summer clothing, flip flops, sunscreen, toiletries, and hygiene essentials. Our donations will help protect the people we serve from the dangers of heat and sun exposure.

We're already preparing for September and the increasing number of requests for Circle of Hope's help. Please keep an eye on your inbox for details about our fall plans and ways you can help the vulnerable families and individuals we serve.

In this issue, read about our exciting new collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham, a leadership change at Southampton Street Shelter, and the many donations we received from our incredibly generous community this summer.

Thank you for being on our team!

With warmest gratitude,
Barbara

New Collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham



Circle of Hope was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham to support homeless individuals with clothing and essential personal items when they are treated in the hospital's Emergency Department. This new collaboration is an expansion of our Emergency Response Program, which helps individuals in crisis.

grateful for the chance to work with this organization in support of the communities that we serve."

-Kathy Davidson

Chief nursing officer and
chief operating officer at
BID Needham

BID Needham has had a dramatic increase in Emergency Department use by patients transported by ambulance from neighboring towns. Circle of Hope fully stocked the Emergency Department in May and will provide new clothing, shoes/sneaker, toiletries, and hygiene products to at least 80 Emergency Department patients who are homeless during the first six months of our collaboration.

[Read more about this exciting new collaboration in the Needham Times.](#)

COVID-19 Updates

Summer deliveries are scheduled and nearly all completed! Circle of Hope's headquarters will be closed Monday, August 2, through Monday, September 6, while some of our team works remotely. We will resume shelter deliveries Tuesday, September 7.

We will announce our updated donation drop-off hours and policies in September. We hope to welcome back on-site volunteers and begin accepting gently used clothing again on a limited basis. We are monitoring the COVID-19 and Delta variant infection rates and will update our plans as information evolves. We are mindful of **very low vaccination rates in some Boston neighborhoods**, as well as the barriers to vaccine access some homeless individuals face.

Our top priority is the safety of our volunteers, staff, donors, and the people we serve who are homeless and still at risk of COVID-19 infection and complications. We are closely monitoring the public health data and we will keep you posted about our fall plans. Please stay tuned!

Congratulations and Gratitude



After 31 years, our friend and partner at Southampton Street Shelter, John Comaschi, has retired from the Boston Public Health Commission.

Circle of Hope's partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission has grown these past 13 years with John at the heart of the program, serving more than 400 men in-shelter each night. John prioritized the clients in most need of Circle of Hope's clothing and necessities at Southampton Street Shelter and at the former Long Island Shelter before that. John's respect for the dignity and agency of these men is amplified by the quality of clothing, outerwear, and essential hygiene items Circle of Hope provides.

When COVID-19 testing tents made it impossible for our volunteer drivers to access Southampton Street Shelter, John hit the road and began picking up donations from Circle of Hope and continued to do so until his recent retirement. John spent his career committed to the health and wellbeing of the shelter guests. A dedicated partner of

Circle of Hope, we will miss him!

John reached out to us and thanked Circle of Hope for our donations, unwavering determination, generous support, and impactful partnership.

"No other group has been as dedicated in all my years," John said. "I could never have stayed all this time without Circle of Hope."



We will continue providing clothing and other essentials to the men staying at Southampton Street Shelter. Dwayne Brown, Volunteer Services Coordinator at Southampton Street, has already taken over donation pick-ups at Circle of Hope. We are excited to work with Dwayne and deeply grateful to continue this impactful partnership!

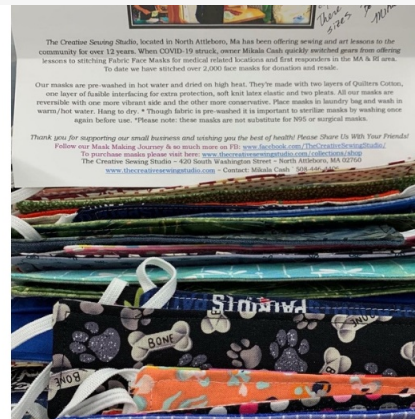
Community Action



Sarah (left) from **Life Science Cares** assembled and donated COVID Kits to help protect the health and safety of homeless families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Allison from **MPG Promotions** in Newton dropped off a generous supply of hand sanitizer for homeless families and individuals (right).



For their annual day of service, "RED Day," the team at **Keller Williams** held a sock drive and donated an astounding 575 brand new pairs of socks to Circle of Hope (left). Jean (right) from **Be Kind Needham** generously donated more than 2,000 face masks to Circle of Hope to help families and individuals experiencing homelessness stay healthy and safe.



Members of **St. Luke's Church** in Dedham assembled and donated 12 Welcome Baby Bags full of essentials for new moms and babies experiencing homelessness (left). Mikala from the **Creative Sewing Studio** in North Attleboro sewed 100 new face masks for homeless individuals (right).



Libby (left) and her daughter Lisa (right) came to Circle of Hope with brand new clothing for homeless women and a generous check from the **Rotary Club of Needham**.



COH Board member and volunteer Bruce Goody (left) dropped off a large supply of unopened soap, sanitizer, toiletries, and PPE. Again this year, Madi (right) held a collection drive at her school and donated brand new underwear for children experiencing homelessness.



Two Natick High School students, Emily and Lily (left), collected and donated hygiene essentials and PPE for homeless adults. Alex organized a collection drive for his Mitzvah Project and donated hygiene supplies to Circle of Hope (right).

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