



CIRCLE OF HOPE

Helping to build a brighter future for people in need

December 2016

In This Issue

Annual Campaign
Update

Coming Up

Looking for a fun way to kick start your post-holiday fitness? Circle of Hope has it! Keep an eye on your inbox and mark January 14th on your 2017 calendar. (Hint: get your workout clothes ready!).

2017							January																							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DROP-OFF TIMES:

Monday
9:00 - 11:00 am

Tuesday
9:00 - 11:00 am
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Dear Friends of Circle of Hope,

As we look at the end of 2016 I want to share with you some of the amazing impact COH had this past year thanks to our donors, volunteers, funders and community partners.

We've increased our reach in the community, most recently as we've moved further west from Boston into MetroWest. We're helping more homeless newborns through the growth of our Welcome Baby Program and porta-crib project. The Dignity Project has grown to include "Dignity Runs" to all 20 shelters and clinics we serve.

COH launched its first educational program for young children through Full Circle:Raising Caring Kids. With the huge success of our first family event, this year we'll be adding more important programming and events for children to engage as caring citizens of our community.

Our Annual Campaign is in full swing. I hope you'll consider a gift to the Circle of Hope Annual Fund between now and December 31st. We need your help to reach so many people who are counting on us.

With deepest thanks,

Barbara P. Waterhouse

Barbara Waterhouse
Executive Director

What Growth!

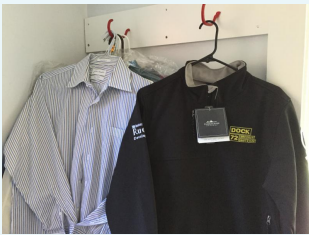
9:00 - 11:00 am
3:00 - 5:00pm

Thursday
9:00 - 11:00 am

Saturday
9:00 - 11:00 am

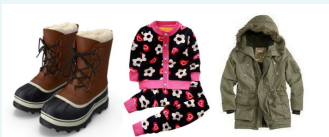
Annual Campaign

The Annual Campaign is underway!
Read [Jerry's story](#) to learn about Circle of Hope's impact and consider [making your gift](#) by December 31st.



Special Requests

- Adult winter boots
- Winter coats (sizes L-3X especially)
- Girl's clothing (sizes infant to 8)



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



In 2016 Circle of Hope increased our reach. We expanded into MetroWest from Boston by forming a strategic partnership. COH provides clothing and necessities for eight families at the Clinton Street Shelter in Framingham. We currently make monthly deliveries to 200 women at Woods Mullen Shelter due to a sudden increase in women's homelessness in Boston.

Our Dignity Program grew dramatically this year with new grant funding, as well as corporate, student, and community collection drives. Circle of Hope now distributes Dignity Bags full of toiletries and necessities to all of our 20 partner shelters and clinics. We even created "Dignity Runs" where our volunteers bring urgently needed Dignity Bags to every partner organization.

This year the growth in Circle of Hope's Welcome Baby Bag program means we give Welcome Baby Bags to homeless mothers in every family shelter and clinic we serve. We created a partnership with Heading Home to reach mothers and newborns in transitional housing in the city's most marginalized communities.

The porta-crib project has seen a growing demand in our shelters. For example, Casa Nueva Vida Shelter opened three new shelters this past year, bringing the total number of families we serve to 120. We provide newborns in these additional shelters with Welcome Baby bags and porta-cribs and are getting closer to closing the gap for these vital needs.

A dream come true this year, **Full Circle: Raising Caring Kids**, is COH's first educational program. More than 300 people volunteered in Needham one morning with age-appropriate activities for young children to learn how to help those in need. From making Dignity Bags, to coloring activities at the Bundle Up Station, children engaged in acts of generosity all the way up to last week's Giving Tuesday. We're planning two more wonderful family events in the coming year. We rely on our generous donors to help build the Full Circle vision of raising caring kids.

Thank you so much to all who've donated to our Annual Campaign so far. Please consider doing so before December 31st.

To make a donation, please [click here](#).

You Must Hear This..

"I wanted to send out a big Thank you to Circle of Hope! We received our first delivery today, it was very generous and the residents and myself are so appreciative of everything that was sent.

Thank you for all that you do, it really makes a difference for the families that we serve!"

Rebekka Hayes
**Program Director of
Clinton Street House
in Framingham**

Go To Crew Success Story

Thank you so much to those who brought adult boots in response to our urgent request! We can use more warm boots throughout the winter, so if you have them, please keep them coming!



Children decorating donation bags at Full Circle.

The Gift of Warmth

One of our newest partner shelters, the Woods Mullen shelter for women, recently held a coat giveaway using donations from Circle of Hope! The shelter staff was able to distribute winter coats, sweatshirts, hats, and scarves to 65 guests in one day.

As we move into the winter season, these warm items are becoming increasingly important and we are thrilled to be able to provide them to the guests at Woods Mullen and the rest of the shelters and clinics we serve. According to the Vice President of the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance, Kaye Wild, there has been a sudden increase in the number of homeless women seeking shelter in Boston recently. The Woods Mullen shelter shelters 200 of these women every night.

In an email following the coat giveaway, Woods Mullen's Case Management Coordinator, Richelle Smith, said to Circle of Hope: "The work you all do is amazing and I am grateful for the connection we share." We, too, are incredibly grateful for our partner organizations and for the wonderful donors and volunteers who make all of our work possible!



Circle of Hope's "coat corner."

Season of Giving

Our generous donors and supporters have really gotten a jump-start on giving this holiday season! There are several active collection drives going on right now and we have also received several donations of handmade seasonal items that we are excited to share.

For the fourth year in a row, **Christ Episcopal Church** member **Katie Chiappinelli** is hosting a St. Nicholas Day Boot Drive on behalf of Circle of Hope. Donations of new boots and sneakers in all sizes can be dropped off at Christ Church or at Circle of Hope during our usual drop-off hours. Thank you so much to Katie and everyone at Christ Church for making the boot drive a yearly tradition!



Our friends at **Aqua Leisure Industries** are hosting a winter clothing drive on behalf of Circle of Hope. Seasonal clothing is so important to the people we serve and we are very grateful for the efforts of everyone at Aqua Leisure.



Aqua Leisure staff with the collection drive box - full of donations!

Temple Beth Shalom in Needham has organized the sixth annual coat drive on behalf of Circle of Hope. The past five coat drives have been very successful, bringing in dozens of warm winter coats for the people

living in shelters we serve. This year's coat drive is running from December 1 until December 19. We also received a generous donation from Temple Beth Shalom member **Peggy Lowenstein** for Circle of Hope to purchase brand new coats. Thank you so much to Peggy and everyone at Temple Beth Shalom for your thoughtful efforts!

The wonderful people at **Wellesley Dental Group** generously donated dental hygiene products to Circle of Hope last week. These items will be delivered to the shelters as part of our Dignity Program in the coming weeks and will help promote the health and wellbeing of the people we serve. Thank you so much to Wellesley Dental Group for the wonderful donation!



Dr. Zarah Ali of Wellesley Dental Group holding a box of dental hygiene products to be donated to COH.

We received several boxes of scarves made by **Mary Jo Hollender**. Mary Jo makes a batch of scarves like these every holiday season for Circle of Hope. In addition to being warm and soft, they are fun and colorful. Thank you so much, Mary Jo, for all of your work making these beautiful gifts.



Scarves made for Circle of Hope by Mary Jo Hollender.

Last week, **Lisa Sherman** dropped off a batch of handmade hats, blankets, and a scarf. They are warm,

colorful, and gorgeous! They were delivered to Casa Nueva Vida's family shelter right away to be shared with the shelter residents. Thank you so much, Lisa, for your generosity!



Hats and blankets made by
Lisa Sherman.