



CIRCLE OF HOPE

Helping to build a brighter future for people in need

February 2017

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Crew
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Coming Up

Hope Blooms!

Circle of Hope's spring event, Hope Blooms, will be Friday, May 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Save the date! More details to come.

DROP-OFF TIMES:

Monday
9:00 - 11:00 am

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

Wednesday
9:00 - 11:00 am

Dear Friends of Circle of Hope,

Children and adults who are struggling with homelessness face unique challenges to their health and safety in the winter. A gently used coat from a donor, boots, socks, and gloves can mean the difference between just being cold and suffering frostbite, hypothermia, or even worse. Circle of Hope's mission in winter is vital and our donor support is crucial to the survival of people who don't have a place to go indoors to escape low temperatures, wind, and snow. We are the sole provider of life-saving outerwear, clothing, and boots for the majority of the 20 homeless shelters and clinics we serve.

I am so grateful to all of you who donated to Circle of Hope's Annual Fund this year. You brought us over the top - we raised \$10,000 over our goal! Your generosity will help us reach even deeper into the neighborhoods of Boston and MetroWest bringing what's urgently needed directly to our most fragile neighbors. We're expanding our circle and embracing one another in the strength of hope.

With deepest thanks,

Barbara P. Waterhouse

Barbara Waterhouse
Executive Director

Announcing our new Ready, Willing & Able Crew!

3:00 - 5:00pm

Thursday
9:00 - 11:00 am

Saturday
9:00 - 11:00 am

Annual Campaign Update

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Circle of Hope's Annual Campaign! Because of you, we were able to surpass our 2017 goal by \$10,000! These funds enable us to serve more people facing homelessness in the year to come. Thank you!!

Special Requests

- Adult winter boots
- Infant clothes - especially girls'
- Winter coats - sizes XL-3XL
- Warm adult clothing



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



Dave, a COH volunteer, unloading boxes of outerwear from Charles River Apparel.


As you know, Circle of Hope relies on a network of 80+ wonderful volunteers and hundreds of donors to gather, sort, and deliver clothing to the 20 homeless shelters and clinics we serve. The consistent, reliable support of all of these volunteers has allowed us to create a new initiative called the Ready, Willing & Able Crew! This crew is a group of people who are "ready, willing, and able" to pick up donations from community organizations and businesses that have items to donate to Circle of Hope. The ability to do pick-ups will help us bring in more donated items to share with the people we serve. The Crew made its inaugural pick-up in early January, picking up more than a dozen boxes of outerwear from Charles River Apparel. To everyone who has signed up for RWA already and to Charles River Apparel for the donation, thank you so much!

The Ready, Willing & Able Crew is the most recent addition to our volunteer "crews." For several years, our "Go-To Crew" has responded to urgent requests for specific donations by purchasing or collecting specific items and dropping them off to Circle of Hope. This has enabled us to respond to emergency requests from our partner shelters and also replenish our stock of key items when they get dangerously low. We are so grateful to everyone who has made the Go-To Crew so successful and helpful to the people we serve.

If you are interested in being added to the Ready, Willing & Able Crew or the Go-To Crew, please email Barbara at bw@circleofhopeonline.org and Eileen at Eileen@circleofhopeonline.org. We also gratefully accept financial contributions to the Go-To Crew fund. This fund allows us to purchase certain items, such as toiletries or winter outerwear, when a shelter urgently requests them. A financial donation to the Go-To Crew Fund is truly a gift to a homeless individual or family living in Boston.

To donate to Circle of Hope's emergency fund, please [click here](#).

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Giving
Common**

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You Must Hear This..

"Each week your establishment helps us to provide clothing to 70 plus women at one time. THANK YOU!"

-Richelle K. Smith
**Front Door Triage
Case Management
Coordinator, Woods
Mullen Shelter**

Go To Crew Success Story

Thanks to individual donors and community group collection drives, we have received dozens of winter boots, coats, and girls' clothing! Thank you so much to everyone who responded to last month's request for these important items! We can still use boots, coats in sizes XL-3XL, warm adult clothing, and infant clothing.

Ride for Hope Update



Cyclers posing for a picture after the Ride for Hope charity spin class at CycleBar.

Ride for Hope was a great success! Dozens of cyclers came to CycleBar Wellesley to join a charity spin class benefitting Circle of Hope last month. It was a ton of fun and we brought in over \$600 for Circle of Hope! Thank you so much to Kim and Bill of CycleBar Wellesley for welcoming our group and to Circle of Hope volunteers Greg Reardon and Phyllis Uhl for sponsoring this fun event and putting it all together. If you missed the fun this time, not to worry - we hope to plan another class in the future!

Community Partners

The holidays may be over now, but the time for giving is not! We received donations from several community collection drives last month, and we know more drives are in the works for this month as well.

Thank you so much to all of the employees of Dedham Savings, who donated many pairs of adult winter boots to Circle of Hope early in January. Dedham Savings has supported Circle of Hope in many ways, from sponsoring our events to collecting items to share with homeless adults and children. The winter boots they dropped off this month were delivered to the shelters just as temperatures dropped and Boston had its first major snowfall. We are truly grateful for the ongoing support and generosity!



Full racks of boots at Circle of Hope thanks to Dedham Savings employees

In January, you may have read about a toiletry drive organized by the Girl Scouts of Westwood. After collecting items late last year, the group wrapped up their collection drive and donated several big bins of toiletries to Circle of Hope last month! The third grade Girl Scout Troop 86062 enlisted all of the Westwood Girl Scouts to collect toiletries at their schools and local events, and the results are fantastic! These important items have already been packed into Dignity Bags and delivered to the shelters we serve. We are so impressed with this group and grateful for their generosity and hard work!



Westwood Girl Scout Troop 86062 with the bins of toiletries they collected.

Second grade Brownies troop #72328 also collected items to donate to Circle of Hope throughout January! Six of the troop members came to Circle of Hope at the end of the month to drop off seven bags of donated clothing. They also took a tour of Circle of Hope and learned about the incredible impact they had on the people we serve. Thank you so much to this fantastic troop for your generous donation!

Run to Framingham - Volunteer Shout-Out!

You might remember our awesome volunteer, Amy, from a previous article about our rapid response to the 10-alarm fire in Cambridge in December. Once again, Amy jumped at the opportunity to respond to last-minute needs at Circle of Hope. She originally signed up to be a fundraising volunteer, and she came in one day in January to have a fundraising meeting. Soon after she arrived, though, we learned that our scheduled driver was unable to make her delivery to Clinton Street Shelter in Framingham that day. We knew there were several families at the shelter waiting for our clothing, so Amy immediately volunteered to fill in. Within minutes, her car was packed and she was off! She brought the specific clothing requests for four moms and two toddler boys staying at Clinton Street Shelter. Thank you so much, Amy, for all of the ways you help Circle of Hope and the people we serve!



Amy gathering coats to deliver to Cambridge after the December fire.