



CIRCLE OF HOPE

*Helping to build a brighter future for those in need*

## June 2022

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### 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.](#)

To schedule an appointment to drop off gently used donations, please click [here.](#)

### Support COH

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

Connect with us on social

### Dear Friends,

Hope Blooms was a joyful evening celebrating hope, resiliency, and the power of kindness. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the generous and compassionate sponsors, donors, and guests who helped us surpass our fundraising goal!

Your support allows Circle of Hope to continue responding to emergency requests for help from our partner shelters and programs within 24-48 hours, meeting the exact needs of families in crisis. Below, you'll read about a few of our Emergency Response Program deliveries this spring and the incredible community drives that helped make these rapid donation deployments possible.

Please keep your amazing collection drives and kit-making events coming this summer! Your company, school, and community group donations of vital supplies go directly to people in immediate need. If you have questions about running a collection drive or other ways to help, please don't hesitate to contact us by replying to this email.

Thank you for helping so many people counting on Circle of Hope in times of need!

**With warmest gratitude,**  
Barbara

### Thank you for supporting Hope Blooms!

We are thrilled to report Circle of Hope's signature fundraiser Hope Blooms raised \$150,000 to support families and individuals experiencing homelessness! We are so grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, **Charles River Apparel**, and all of our generous Hope Blooms sponsors for making this impactful event possible.

More than 100 guests came together to celebrate hope at Heritage of Sherborn on June 2. The generosity of Hope Blooms guests, sponsors, and supporters will fuel Circle of

media. Like and share our posts to help spread the word about COH.



### Current Needs



- T-Shirts for all ages
- Shorts for adults
- New, unopened bottles of sunscreen

### You Must Hear This...

*"The donations provided by Circle of Hope really touch every aspect of our program from those living on the street, to those cared for by our Family Team, our adult patients who are being seen in any of our outpatient clinic sites, those cared for in our Transgender Clinic, to patients being discharged from our respite care facility and need clothing or other items to do that in a dignified and healthy manner."*

**-Alyssa Brassil**  
Annual Fund Director,  
Boston Health Care for  
the Homeless Program

Hope's vital work for the next year. Together, we are giving individuals experiencing homelessness the essentials they need to keep themselves and their families healthy and safe. Thank you!



[Full Event Gallery](#)

### COH's Emergency Response Program is Expanding



Volunteers Greg and Phyllis made an emergency delivery to Fenway Health this spring, bringing clothing for a soon-to-be mom receiving treatment.

Circle of Hope's Emergency Response Program is growing in response to the increasing number of urgent requests from

our partner shelters and clinics this year. With the help of generous individual donors and grant funding, we now keep "Emergency Packages" of clothing and shoes, packaged by size and gender identity, on-hand at Circle of Hope. These pre-assembled packages enable us to respond to emergency requests even faster than before.

This past Tuesday, Boston Police Department (BPD) Community Service Officers asked Circle of Hope to help a man experiencing homelessness who had come to the station for support. According to the officers, the man was in "dire need" of new footwear, as his only shoes were ill-fitting and worn through. The very next morning - less than 24 hours after receiving the call for help - Circle of Hope volunteer Rob Ticktin brought hygiene essentials, new sneakers, and an "Emergency Package" of new clothing in the man's size to BPD.



This spring, BPD officers also asked Circle of Hope to help an expectant mom who was hospitalized with pregnancy complications. She needed to stay in the hospital until delivery and didn't yet have any essentials for her baby or her own postpartum recovery. We immediately sent her a New Mom Kit, essential clothing, a Welcome Baby Bag, and a porta-crib so her newborn would have a safe place to sleep after leaving the hospital.

When a high school student fled a house fire without any of his belongings, Mark Goldschmidt from Framingham High School's Resiliency for Life program reached out to Circle of Hope for help. Within 24 hours, volunteer Bruce Goody (right) was on his way to Framingham with new clothing for the student and his mother.



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## Celebrating Our Team



From left: Stephanie Matern, Jody Barnett, Heidi Wilson, Christine Ruddy, Carolyn Conley-Das, and Barbara Waterhouse. Not pictured: Caitlin Sawicki.

Please join us in celebrating several COH staff promotions!

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, Circle of Hope's operations "dream team," Jody Barnett and Heidi Wilson, immediately transformed Circle of Hope to meet the crisis head-on. Together, they began sourcing new types of essentials like PPE, ensuring that families and individuals experiencing homelessness had what they desperately needed for safety. Their passion, energy, and dedication helped us serve nearly 50,000 people experiencing homelessness over the past two years of the pandemic. We are excited to share that Jody Barnett has been promoted to Director of Operations and Heidi Wilson is now our Distribution Coordinator!

Stephanie Matern has helped Circle of Hope grow and thrive as Administrative Associate since 2016. As adept at database management and budget tracking as she is at event coordination and donor correspondence, Stephanie is truly an asset to Circle of Hope in every area. She tackles each challenge with a calm presence and problem-solving approach and we are thrilled to announce that she has been promoted to Office Manager!

Since joining the COH team as Development Associate in September 2017, Christine Ruddy has successfully secured vital funding for Circle of Hope, enabling us to expand our services to families experiencing homelessness through new partnerships and programs. To reflect her incredible talents as a grant writer and community partnership coordinator, Christine's title is now Grants and Community Engagement Specialist!

Congratulations to Jody, Heidi, Stephanie, and Christine!

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**COVID-19 Policy and Donation Guidelines**

### **COVID-19 Policy**

Anyone entering Circle of Hope must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear an N95 or KN95 mask 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, shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, leggings, athletic wear, and jeans. **We cannot accept button-down shirts, dresses, bathing suits, 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 a drop-off appointment, please click the buttons below. For more information on our donation guidelines and policies, **please visit our website.**

Donate **NEW**  
items

Donate **GENTLY USED**  
Items

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## **Community Action**

For the second year, **Volante Farms** held a Mother's Day fundraiser for Circle of Hope to support the moms and babies we serve who are homeless. From May 7-15, Volante Farms donated \$1 to COH for every ice cream treat sold. "Scoops for Hope" raised an incredible \$2,500, which

we will use to provide Welcome Baby Bags, porta-cribs, clothing, and hygiene essentials to newborns and their mothers in our partner shelters and clinics. Our deepest thanks to Volante Farms for giving so generously to Circle of Hope and our community!



**Brianna Forte** learned about Circle of Hope through her job at Epizyme, a **Life Science Cares** member company. She



immediately began collecting brand new clothing and personally assembled 66 emergency clothing kits for adults experiencing homelessness! Each kit contains a full outfit and is labeled with a list of its contents and a kind note from Brianna herself. One of her kits went right

back out the door just four hours after her drop-off in an emergency response delivery to one of our partner shelters. We are so inspired by Brianna's compassion and very grateful for her generosity!

**Nandini and Ella** created an innovative new club at **Lexington High School** called Cycle to collect and distribute feminine products to organizations serving women who are homeless. They donated more than three dozen



packages of pads and tampons along with a large assortment of toiletries to Circle of Hope! These supplies are vital for health and dignity and we are very grateful to Nandini and Ella for their compassion and generosity!



We're very grateful to **Sharon Samuels** for donating new clothing from her store in Newton Highlands. Her generous donations went straight to women experiencing homelessness in Boston and MetroWest. Thank you for your generosity, Sharon!

For the second time, employees at **Walker & Dunlop** collected the contents of Circle of Hope's Welcome Baby Bags and assembled the bags together as a team. Now, 26 newborn babies in shelter will have the essentials they need for health in their first few weeks and months! We immediately sent some of the bags to our partner shelters and healthcare clinics and we have more on hand for emergencies. Thank you to everyone at Walker & Dunlop for your incredible generosity!



