



CIRCLE OF HOPE

Helping to build a brighter future for those in need

September 2022

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How to Donate

1. Purchase items from our [Amazon Wish List](#) or your preferred online retailer and ship them to COH at 1329 Highland Ave. Needham, MA 02492.

2. Drop off new and gently used donations in excellent condition in person. All donation drop-offs are by appointment. [Schedule your appointment here.](#)

Support COH

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

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

Dear Friends,

Happy September! Exciting news! Circle of Hope's donation center is open and extended drop-off hours begin 9/26. We're making it easier to donate clothing, hygiene essentials, and other necessities, so please read all about it!

We kicked off our fall shelter deliveries last week, bringing clothing and hygiene essentials to individuals experiencing homelessness at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham, Rosie's Place, On The Rise, and Woods-Mullen Shelter for women.

You can help children experiencing homelessness return to school in good health this season by donating new or like-new back-to-school clothing in all sizes.

In this issue, you'll read more about our new donation guidelines, a change in our partnership with South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham, and exciting updates from summer.

We are eager to see you and so very grateful for your support!

With warmest gratitude,
Barbara

Helping Students Return to School in Good Health



Current Needs



- Back to school clothing for children, including new/like new shirts, jeans, khakis, sweatshirts, sneakers, and new socks and underwear

You Must Hear This...

"They always make sure they are sending things for all family members, from expecting moms to dads. Nobody is left out... Without this huge help from Circle of Hope, we could not help these families."

-Matilde Medina
Pearl Street Family
Shelter Director



Nearly 20,000 students in Massachusetts public schools experienced homelessness during the 2020-2021 academic year. In Boston Public Schools alone, more than 4,000 students experience homelessness every year. Children experiencing homelessness are sick more often than their peers, have higher rates of mental health conditions like anxiety and depression, and are absent at much higher rates than students who have stable housing.

Your donations to Circle of Hope help students stay physically and mentally healthy and attend school with confidence. You can help thousands of children experiencing homelessness attend school in good health:

- **DONATE** your child's outgrown clothing in excellent condition. Visit our [website](#) to view our complete donation guidelines or schedule your donation drop-off appointment.
- **SHOP** for a new outfit (shirt, pants, underwear, socks) for a child who is the same size as your own child (or any size!). [Schedule your appointment](#) to drop off donations or ship them directly to Circle of Hope at 1329 Highland Ave. Needham, MA 02492.
- **RUN** a fall or winter collection drive to gather hygiene products, socks and underwear, winter accessories, or other much-needed items for children experiencing homelessness. View our [Collection Drive Guide](#) for help getting started.
- **JOIN** our [Go-To Crew](#) to receive email alerts about urgent donation needs.

Your generosity has the power to change a child's life. [Read more about how your back-to-school donations help students experiencing homelessness stay healthy and stay in school.](#)

New Family Shelters in Framingham



For the past five years, Circle of Hope has provided clothing, hygiene supplies, baby essentials, and other necessities to families at Pearl Street Family Shelter and Clinton House Family Shelter, both operated by South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham.

Clinton House Family Shelter closed this summer. Knowing these families rely on Circle of Hope for clothing and hygiene essentials, we immediately met with our partners at SMOC, who told us Circle of Hope's donations are most urgently needed by families in SMOC's scattered site shelters throughout Framingham. We made our first delivery of [Emergency Clothing Kits](#) and other essentials in July.

We now provide health and hygiene essentials to 10-12 families in SMOC scattered site shelters every month, up from just 8 families who were formerly at Clinton House Shelter. Unlike families in congregate shelter settings, families in scattered site shelters must buy their own household essentials like toilet paper, laundry detergent, and soap. By providing them with clothing and hygiene essentials for health and dignity, COH eases their financial burden and enables them to reallocate limited income to other necessities as they move to self sufficiency. [Read more about scattered site shelter housing.](#)

Our partnership with Pearl Street Family Shelter has not changed; we will continue providing clothing and essentials to the 12 families in shelter there every month. We're proud to continue serving families in deepest need through our impactful partnership with SMOC!

Donation Drop-Off Hours Expanding!

Beginning September 26, we will accept new or gently used donations

by appointment from 10am - 12pm on Monday - Thursday mornings.

[Schedule your appointment](#) and drop off new or gently used donations any time during your two hour donation window. **Please bag your new and gently used donations separately** and label each bag "new" or "gently used." We



will accept **up to 3 paper grocery bags or white kitchen trash bags of gently used clothing** per appointment; there is no bag limit for new donations.

This change takes effect on 9/26 and does not affect appointments already scheduled before then. If you scheduled a drop-off appointment between 9/12 and 9/22, please proceed with your appointment as planned.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on donation guidelines and don't hesitate to email us with questions!

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.

New Items We Accept

- New casual clothing for all ages, including T-shirts (short and long sleeve), sweatpants, sweatshirts, jackets, sneakers, baby clothing, coats, winter boots, leggings, socks, underwear, and athletic wear.
- Unopened hygiene essentials (hand soap, sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, deodorant, pads, tampons, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Fully-assembled [COVID Kits](#), [Welcome Baby Bags](#), [Dignity Bags](#), [Emergency Clothing Kits](#), and [Get Set packages](#)
- New sheets, comforters, and towels
- New face masks (reusable or packages of disposable masks) for adults and children

Gently Used Items We Accept

T-shirts (long and short sleeve), sweaters, flannel shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, jackets/coats (fall-spring), winter boots (fall/winter), sneakers, shorts (spring/summer), leggings, jeans, khakis, athletic wear, baby clothes

Items We Do Not Accept

Dress shirts, dresses, business clothing, formalwear, out-of-season clothing, used socks or underwear, items with tears, stains, missing buttons, or broken zippers, bathing suits, used bedding, toys, books, furniture, or appliances

[Schedule Your Donation](#)

Summer Highlights at Circle of Hope



This summer, Circle of Hope gave Get Set packages to 30 college-bound Boston Public Schools seniors experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity through our partnership with Boston Police Department District E-13 and celebrated them at a special party at the police station. 50 UMass Boston students received COH's Get Set Packages, as did dozens of students at K-House, Framingham State University, and Framingham High School who are experiencing homelessness.



Circle of Hope celebrated National Night Out with Boston Police Department, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and other elected officials and community representatives in Jamaica Plain in August. We had a great time chatting with our Jamaica Plain neighbors and giving out Dignity Bags and hygiene essentials!



Thanks to donations from our generous supporters and donors, including **47** and **Charles River Apparel**, we provided shorts, T-shirts, hats, and other summer essentials to men at Southampton Street Shelter in Boston. In the shelter dining area, volunteers arrange Circle of Hope donations on tables so guests can select the items they need every month.



Korro Bio, Inc., a **Life Science Cares** member company, ran an underwear drive for COH and donated an incredible 96 packages of underwear (at least 500 pairs!) for people experiencing homelessness (left).

Surface Oncology held a collection drive in their office and donated dozens of brand new infant essentials like onesies, blankets, and wipes to Circle of Hope (right).



Little Kids, Inc. donated an incredible 6,000 mini hand sanitizers to COH (left)! This is their second large donation of sanitizers, which kids can clip to their backpacks and use

throughout the school day.

Raytheon donated many large bottles of hand sanitizer to Circle of Hope to help families in shelter stay healthy this fall (right).



In collaboration with the **Be Kind Needham** Facebook community, **Rafi Nova** again donated accessories and essentials to Circle of Hope (left).

Nina organized a toiletry drive with her Red Cross club and donated dozens of new hygiene essentials and personal care items for families experiencing homelessness (right).



Circle of Hope | 1329 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

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