Dear Friends of Circle of Hope,

In less than 2 weeks we'll be finished with all the summer deliveries of clothing and necessities from Circle of Hope to the homeless shelters and programs we serve. We reached out to all the nurses, shelter directors, case managers, and program directors to ask what people need and we've been working energetically to make it happen.

Our volunteers brought pants, dress shirts, a pair of shoes, belt and tie to a man receiving care from Fenway Health's Violence Recovery Program so he could go to court. Each time he came to the clinic he wore the same sweat pants and T-shirt. Thanks to COH the program's caregiver could reach out to offer clothing to help this man further along his path to healing. "Go To Crew" funds enabled us to buy "gently used" clothing in his exact size. One of the domestic violence shelters we serve, the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, just completed a renovation to add more beds to house more women and children seeking help. We're bringing sheets and blankets this week to welcome the new families. We're also part of the
Baby girl clothing: size 18 - 24 mos.
Toddler boy clothing: size 2T - 4T

If you would like to make a financial donation to Circle of Hope, click here.

You Must Hear This...

It's notes like this that motivate us to work harder. You, our supporters, will especially be moved by these words...

"A lovely woman came in on a Saturday with some clothes to donate. She thanked us and said she had been a recipient at one time and now it was her turn to give back! I almost cried....not hard for me to do sometimes...but her kindness and words of thanks were wonderful!

Thanks for all you do!"

Tedi

Theodora K. Eaton, MMC
Town Clerk
Town of Needham

new hope and help for men now housed in the shelter that replaces Long Island Shelter in Boston. Circle of Hope donations have been a lifeline to the men displaced by the shelter closure. Thanks to our generous donors we're bringing the size 34" and 36" waist pants they've run out of to the new location, along with all the shirts, pants, socks, and underwear left on our men's shelves upstairs at COH.

In an email following our recent delivery of clothing for patients cared for in the Outpatient Clinic at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, staff member Catie Colliton said, "Wonderful! Thanks so much! I don't know what we'd do without you all!"

Thank you for your donations that make it possible for COH to help so many people in need. My heartfelt thanks also goes out to the COH team of sorters, order pullers, drivers, school and business liaisons, and "emergency responders" who give of themselves to make life better for thousands of poor and homeless children, women, and men in Boston. What a team, what a summer!

With deepest thanks,

Barbara Waterhouse
Executive Director

Creating a Neighborhood Partnership
Go To Crew Update

Our special thanks to the generous donors who arrived with spring jackets when we needed them! Also, thanks to the donor who arrived in the nick of time with the men’s pants for immediate delivery. So great!

Or simply donate to our Go To Crew emergency fund by clicking here.

The Go To Crew is a small group of supporters who receive an e-mail if a special need arises. Being a member of the Go To Crew does not obligate its members to donate every time there is a need. If you would like to be a member of the Go To Crew, or know someone who would like to be on this e-mail list, just respond to this e-mail, or click here.

Just 6 miles south of Boston’s financial district is Dorchester’s Bowdoin Geneva neighborhood. In the heart of this neighborhood is the Teen Center at St. Peter’s. That’s where we met with Fr. Richard "Doc" Conway and created a Circle of Hope outreach program to serve the children and youth who live in this area, more than one quarter of whom live below poverty level.

Every few weeks Circle of Hope calls Fr. Conway to see what the neighborhood children need. Fr. Conway is a priest at St. Peter’s Church and has walked the streets of the Bowdoin Geneva neighborhood for decades, seeing changes and touching the families and children affected by poverty and violence.

"Over the years I have always found it important to get out of the office and try to be present with people," Fr. Conway told a journalist from the Dorchester Reporter last July. "Students go to many different schools all over the city. The best thing for me to do here is to walk around the neighborhoods, say hello to people on their porches or their front steps, stop by the playgrounds to watch some basketball or soccer, and after a while people begin to talk to you." Father Conway went on to say, "I ask young people if they are involved in any summer programs and try to encourage them to join something. Others I ask if they have jobs. If I have any leads, I try to pass on the information. I keep an updated list of possible opportunities with me for quick reference."

After he gets the call from Circle of Hope Father Conway reaches out to his extensive network, calling counselors at Boston International High School and others like Sister Nancy, a nun who connects with families of young children in need of our clothing donations. This winter, for example, Sister Nancy was visiting a family who couldn’t
Christine Sullivan, COH Volunteer

afford their heat so the children needed warm jackets to wear inside their apartment. COH provided jackets for each of the children, as well as warm clothing to wear to school. More recently, we delivered maternity clothes to Fr. Conway for residents at a homeless shelter in Dorchester. In that same delivery we also brought children's and teen summer clothing that were given to children before school closed for the summer.

So it's one more call from Circle of Hope to Fr. Conway before we close for the summer to make sure the children of Bowdoin Geneva have the clothing they need for a healthier summer. We'll be back in September to help the children prepare for the chillier fall days of their new school year.

**Because of YOU...**

Because of people like YOU, Circle of Hope is able to help hundreds of people in Boston area homeless shelters and programs serving refugees and disadvantaged youth. Here are some of our stories from this month...

**Thank You to Our Volunteers**

A special COH thank you goes to **Christine Sullivan** for entering all of our donation delivery logs into our database every month for 2 years. Thank you, Christine, for helping us track our impact and tell our story with numbers/dollar values of the clothing from our generous donors.

We welcome **Carrie Closuit**, who has taken over the database duties from Christine.

Thank you to COH volunteer **Donna Mulrenan** for entering all of our donors into our database. Donna is also a devoted weekly COH sorting volunteer. Thanks
Toiletries donated by Temple Beth Shalom in Needham for helping in so many ways!

Book Inspires COH Donation

Recently a COH donor, inspired by the book *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, donated seven bags of clothing from her closet. She said, "the enthusiasm and appreciation the staff showed for my donation made me realize that although I am done with them, these clothes are once again bringing joy to women in need."

Thank you to our generous donor!

Donation by Temple Beth Shalom in Needham

Thank you to our friends at *Temple Beth Shalom* in *Needham* for all the wonderful toiletries you donated this month! What a gift of good health to the folks at the shelters!

Shout Outs

A special COH thank you to Grayson Moran and Maddie Tishman, two Wellesley High School students who ran a clothing/sock collection at Beacon Hill Athletic Club in Wellesley.

Your efforts are a wonderful way for COH to broaden our reach in the community. Thank you very much for your clothing drive!