

Second Chances reuses and recycles clothing, shoes, and accessories so that homeless and lower-income people feel confident and valued as they take their first steps toward brighter futures and, as a community, we can minimize the amount of apparel going into local landfills.

Learn more:  
[secondchances.org](https://secondchances.org)

# COMMUNITY REPORT

Fall 2020



## From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

This year marks Second Chances' 15th anniversary, and to say that 2020 hasn't been the year we expected is an understatement.

Our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and I were looking forward to celebrating our 15th anniversary with many of you, but instead, we're sending you our gratitude and best wishes from our home offices. This year, being apart is the best way we can honor our community and serve our vulnerable neighbors, so we canceled two in-person anniversary events. **As a small organization that does not have an annual fundraising event, this will have a significant financial impact.**

On a cold, rainy day in April, I delivered 50 pairs of new socks to one of our partner programs – a residence for formerly homeless and very low-income elders. I sat in my car, put on a mask, left a bag on the porch, and called Jeffrey, the program manager, to let him know that the socks had arrived. He emailed later to let us know how much the residents appreciated the socks, especially during such a strange and isolating time.

Jessica and I miss the close in-person connections we have with the staff and residents of the programs we serve. But we know that extra distance will protect our clients, for now. Getting an email from Jeffrey and imagining the residents' joy at receiving warm new socks on a rainy spring day reminded me of why we continue to do this work.



As our community began to reopen, Second Chances experienced an influx of clothing donations. So many of you spent your time at home cleaning out closets and drawers to support others! Our retail partners have donated surplus fashion jewelry, prom dresses, and Easter outfits for our clients. We are deeply grateful for all of this generosity.

We've been heartened by the understanding and flexibility shown by many of our financial sponsors and grant funders this year. Cambridge Savings Bank provided Second Chances with a COVID-19 grant from their charitable foundation and helped us access funding through the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program. Without those resources, we would not have been able to quickly resume services when it became possible. We will still have a difficult time raising our budget for the year, but we're confident that we can weather this storm, with help from our community.

With job and income loss, health issues, and tenuous housing and shelter situations, our assistance has become more important than ever before. Since our partner programs began reopening in June, we've delivered free, empowering clothing and new socks to a record number of people in need, ensuring that our neighbors had appropriate clothing for the warm weather ahead. **The good news is that so far this year, we've been able to fulfill 100% of requests for our services, because of generous support from friends like you.**

The COVID-19 pandemic deeply and disproportionately affects the people Second Chances serves. The impacts of prolonged unemployment and limited opportunities for returning to work will become more apparent during the next few months as Federal unemployment funding runs out. Because of the free, empowering clothing, shoes, and accessories, Second Chances delivers, the homeless and lower-income people we serve can stretch their reduced budgets a bit farther. Our support enables people to go to work, an interview, or a housing appointment in clothing that promotes self-esteem and wellbeing. It also creates some financial breathing room for folks, so they can focus on paying for housing, food, and medication.

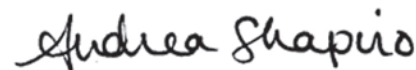


We can't know what the future holds or how long it might be before we can gather in-person to celebrate our community and impact. However, we do expect an increasing need for our services in the months ahead.

**If you're able, I hope you'll help sustain Second Chances and the homeless and lower-income people we support by donating online ([secondchances.org/donatefunds](https://secondchances.org/donatefunds)) or in the enclosed envelope.**

Your contribution delivers free, empowering clothing, shoes, accessories, and gift cards to local women, men, and children at a time when they most need our help.

Wishing you and your loved ones health and harmony,



Founder and CEO



Visit Theresa Briggs Yoga at [theresabriggsyoga.com](https://theresabriggsyoga.com) for the current virtual yoga schedule.

## THERESA BRIGGS YOGA

# Community Member Profile: Theresa Briggs

Theresa Briggs, founder of Bow Street Yoga and Theresa Briggs Yoga, has been a treasured colleague, donor, and partner to Second Chances since 2009 when she met Andrea Shapiro, Second Chances' founder, at a Somerville Local First event. Although Bow Street Yoga closed at the end of 2019, Theresa continues to use her knowledge of yoga and teaching skills to support people moving through the heightened stress and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This spring, Theresa began teaching online yoga and donated the proceeds from March, April, and May classes to Second Chances. Her employer, AIG, offers a 200% match for all employee charitable donations. Theresa's goal is to maximize AIG's gift-matching benefits this year, to sustain organizations that are working on issues and supporting communities she cares about.

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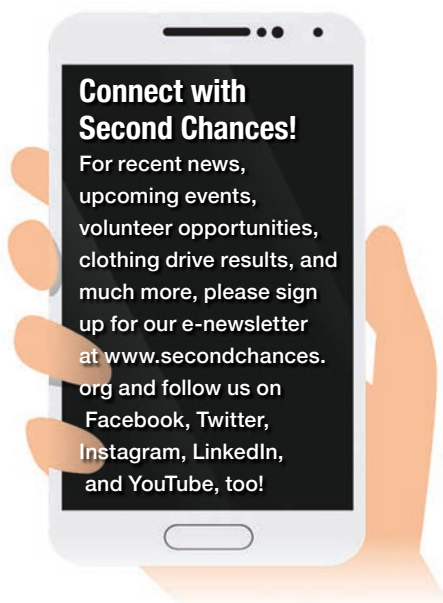


Theresa credits her childhood for shaping her nurturing and giving nature. As one of four children born to young parents, she believed her role was both the peacekeeper and caretaker of her younger siblings. In middle school, she was active in a youth group, where she learned about discipline, connection, compassion, and the value of quiet time. She began practicing yoga after college and was drawn to similar aspects: the community, discipline, and comfort of the practice. These experiences have helped keep her grounded during tumultuous times.

Yoga continues to be part of Theresa's life and ongoing learning that she enjoys sharing with others. At Bow Street Yoga, Theresa and her team created a welcoming place where anyone from beginners to experienced practitioners could feel comfortable. The community they created offered sustenance to each other and helped folks in the broader community through clothing drives, fundraising events, and by supporting members who were experiencing tough times. Theresa continues to make her online classes welcoming, accessible, and supportive.

Theresa's fundraising for Second Chances, including AIG's generous match, totals more than \$6,000 this year. Currently, her online yoga classes are raising funds for the Loveland Foundation, which provides financial support to Black women and girls, so that they can access high quality, culturally competent therapy and mental health services.

We are deeply grateful for Theresa's compassion and generosity and the support of the Bow Street Yoga / Theresa Briggs Yoga community.





# Community Member Profile: Sylvia Leaphart and Triumvirate Environmental

In 2006, the human resources manager at Triumvirate Environmental contacted Second Chances because the staff was interested in hosting a clothing drive. We were excited to work with a local employer, especially one focused on waste and the environment. After the successful initial clothing drive, members of the Triumvirate staff wanted to continue donating clothing, so they repurposed a new container like the ones used for their waste collection events, added Second Chances' signage to it, and have been donating clothing to support people in our community ever since.

One of the constants in our 14-year relationship with Triumvirate has been Sylvia Leaphart, who has been with the company for more than 22 years, in a variety of roles. Since that first clothing drive, Sylvia has been our contact for donation pick-ups. Sylvia is retiring this fall, and we were excited to catch up with her recently to talk about our longstanding partnership and Triumvirate's engagement in our community.

"The staff at Triumvirate is involved in the local community and strives to give back, even beyond the Somerville area," Sylvia explained. "Our company's CEO sits on several nonprofit boards and advisory committees. Staff members have traveled to help out after natural disasters, like the earthquake in Haiti. People still donate funding and clothing – regularly – after all these years. The company has grown in my 22 years here, and new staff members have gotten involved in the community and in giving back."

We're going to miss Sylvia's positivity and compassion when she retires and we know her coworkers will too! We appreciate our ongoing work with Triumvirate Environmental and their generous and engaged staff.



Tim Mooney, Chief Operating Officer (left) and Douglas Youngen, President (right) congratulate Sylvia Leaphart, Receptionist and Admin (center) for her long tenure at Triumvirate Environmental.



Some of our youngest volunteers involved their entire congregation in a clothing drive through their Sunday School. We're so proud of these compassionate kids!



We look forward to a time when we can have in-person volunteer opportunities again. Until then, we hope you'll consider some of these options.

## Get Involved

Second Chances depends on many self-motivated, creative, dependable volunteers each year and we're so grateful for the help! We've temporarily adapted these opportunities to provide virtual and safe experiences for volunteers and our community.

- Volunteer your time and/or professional services virtually
- Host a clothing drive
- Safely pick up clothing donations from people in your area and drop them off at our donation bins
- Host a clothing donation bin on your property
- Host a virtual event - like a Facebook fundraiser, an online fashion show, entertainment, or an online auction - to support our work
- Help with marketing and outreach through social media
- Serve on a committee or as an advisor

Learn more and get in touch about volunteering: [secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp](https://secondchances.org/waysyoucanhelp)

# Partner and Client Profile: Norfolk Street Congregate and Robert

For more than a decade, Second Chances has provided clothing, socks, and gift cards to clients of Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES). Norfolk Street Congregate, one of SCES's programs, promotes independence and aging-in-place through permanent and affordable housing with social support for lower-income elders and adults with disabilities.

Robert\* is 68 years old and has been a resident of Norfolk Street Congregate for 11 years. A forklift operator for most of his adult life, he is an avid Red Sox fan and likes to listen to rock and roll records in his free time. This spring, Robert lost his wife of 28 years to cancer.

The loss of his wife and the process of arranging her funeral was extremely emotional and stressful for Robert. He also needed a suit to wear to the funeral. Jeffrey Clement, the Social Services Coordinator for Norfolk Street Congregate reached out to Second Chances to request a suit for Robert, and we were able to meet that need. Jeffrey told us, "Robert typically tells me a joke every day, but he hasn't during this time. He's been too sad and overwhelmed for jokes. Arranging the funeral was hectic, but at least Robert didn't have to worry about looking nice for his wife's funeral with the three-piece suit, shoes, socks, and tie that Second Chances selected and delivered for him." Jeffrey added, "As I helped him tie his tie before he left, Robert told me more about the challenges of planning a funeral during the COVID-19 pandemic. He'd hoped to get a fresh haircut, but all the neighborhood barbers were closed. He would have liked to have more than 10 guests at the funeral, but that wasn't possible. Finally, he said it was the most difficult day of his life, but he is so thankful for Second Chances for making it a little bit easier!"

**"...he said it was the most difficult day of his life, but he is so thankful for Second Chances for making it a little bit easier!"**



Robert was grateful for the clothing Second Chances delivered so he could attend his wife's funeral this spring.

\* Client's name and identifying information have been changed.



## How Your Clothing Helps Our Community

Your donations of women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, and accessories in good (or better) wearable condition enable our homeless and low-income clients to spend their extremely limited budgets on more urgent needs like food, housing, and health care.

The people we serve need clothing, shoes, and accessories for all kinds of activities including work, school, casual and dressy events, sports, and more. Donations our clients cannot use can be recycled or sold wholesale to support our work.

### We accept:

- Clothing from any era for women, men, and children (all ages and sizes)
- Footwear including shoes, sandals, sneakers, and boots
- Outerwear including all kinds of coats and jackets
- Belts
- Hats and scarfs
- Costume jewelry
- Purses and bags (not suitcases)
- Blankets (not comforters)
- Sheets and pillowcases (not pillows)
- Towels
- Curtains
- Tablecloths, placemats, and cloth napkins
- Aprons

### Most needed items:

- Men's clothing (all types and sizes)
- Women's clothing, especially larger sizes
- Footwear in good condition for both men and women

Right now, many of the offices and congregations that hosted regular clothing drives for us are closed because of COVID-19. Our donation bins are open and being emptied three weekday mornings each week, and our warehouse is operating with safety precautions in place.

You can find the nearest clothing donation location on our website: [secondchances.org/donateclothing](https://secondchances.org/donateclothing)





## Special Appreciation

Our work – and the successful transitions our clients are making – is only possible because of you, our generous community. We are grateful to hundreds of donors of funding, clothing, accessories, gift cards, and other goods; companies and organizations that host clothing drives; our amazing volunteers; and so many colleagues and advisors who have provided free and discounted services to Second Chances.

And we're immensely grateful to the following companies, foundations, and organizations:

### For graciously hosting our outdoor clothing donation bins

- Town of Arlington
- City of Cambridge
- Cambridge Crossing/NorthPoint
- Tufts University
- Whole Foods Market, Arlington

### For lead financial support of our work in 2019 and 2020

(through August 1, 2020)

\*Contributors in 2019 and 2020 to date

#### Cashmere

- City of Cambridge
- The TJX Foundation

#### Silk

- Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation\*
- Corderman & Company\*
- Theresa Briggs Yoga and AIG\*

#### Linen

- East Boston Savings Bank
- Greater Boston Association of REALTORS®
- Agnes M. Lindsay Trust

#### Cotton

- Community Credit Union
- East Cambridge Savings Bank\*
- Eastern Bank
- Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
- William & Karen Tell Foundation
- Triumvirate Environmental\*
- Tufts University\*
- Webster Bank\*
- Women in Business Connection (WIBC) in memory of Rosemary White

## Other generous sponsors

(\$500 and above)

- Redman Family Foundation
- Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation
- Cambridge Trust Company
- Hillman Homes\*
- Naveo Credit Union\*
- Wells Fargo Foundation

### In-kind donors

We are thankful for the following small businesses, companies, and other organizations for supporting our work with donated goods and services:

**Amador Bilingual Voiceovers** contributed professional recording services for our voicemail system.

**Gentle Giant Moving Company** has donated moving services for our clothing donation bins countless times over the past 15 years.

**The Law Office of William A. White, Jr. and Lawyers Clearinghouse**, through its law firm partners, have provided Second Chances with pro bono legal expertise and representation.

**Scout Magazines** has regularly publicized our events and donation locations through *Scout Somerville* and *Scout Cambridge*.

**Kristen Willcox** contributed editing services for our 15th Anniversary Community Report.

### The following companies and organizations have donated new and gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories:

- Adamas Fine Jewelry and Impulse by Adamas
- Bombas Socks
- Charles River Apparel
- Converse
- Cradles to Crayons
- Designers Circus
- Donii
- Eileen Fisher
- Macy's
- Sufi Service Committee of Boston
- TJX Companies

And hundreds of individual donors of clothing, financial support, and more.

## Board and Staff

- Katherine Berliner, Board Clerk
- Jessica Callaghan, Program Manager
- Paul Connolly, Board Treasurer
- Fiona Crimmins, Board Vice President
- Daniele Levine, Board Member
- Andrea Shapiro, CEO and Board President

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this year's Community Report. If you've been inadvertently overlooked, please let us know so that we can properly acknowledge your generosity!

There's still time to sponsor our work during our 15th anniversary year and beyond! Help neighbors in need as they find strength, community, and stability, and reach thousands of community members with your brand. Sponsorship benefits and more information at [secondchances.org/sponsor](https://secondchances.org/sponsor).

Use the enclosed envelope to donate by check or, you can donate quickly and securely online at [secondchances.org](https://secondchances.org).



THERESA  
BRIGGS  
YOGA

CORDERMAN  
& COMPANY