

solutions at work

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Celebrating a Life Well Lived Dr. Alice Kidder 1941-2024



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our cherished President, Dr. Alice Kidder, who passed away on March 10, surrounded by her family. Since the early 1990s her leadership has been the driving force behind our numerous programs and the establishment of the Green Street Shelter, a full-service 50-bed facility for homeless community members in Cambridge.

Dr. Kidder's life was a testament to her commitment to social justice. After earning her bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and a PhD from MIT, she dedicated her academic career to researching critical social issues before turning her focus to Solutions At Work. Her legacy includes not only the programs she developed but also

the relationships she cultivated with individual donors and institutional supporters, which have been vital to our mission.

Our organization has grown and evolved under Dr. Kidder's visionary leadership. One example is the clothing exchange program, which provides essential clothing to those who cannot afford it, ensures individuals have access to appropriate attire for various occasions, from winter coats to professional clothing for job interviews. We will carry on Dr. Kidder's legacy as we remember her life.

HNTB, Solutions At Work Distribute Back-To-School Backpacks to Dorchester Families

Thanks to generous support for HNTB and the Church of God in Dorchester, Solutions At Work distributed 200 back-to-school back packs to children and families in Dorchester on Saturday, August 24. A special thanks to Reverend Othon Noel for hosting the event at the Church of God's Christian Life Center on Washington Street in Dorchester. Volunteers from HNTB were on hand to help distribute the backpacks to help the kids get their new school year off to a great start.



Harvard Student Volunteers Assist With Our Annual Appeal

Solutions At Work got a big assist with our Annual Campaign when a group of Harvard students helped us stuff nearly 400 appeal letters into envelopes as part of Harvard's Day of Service program. They were a wonderful group of earnest young people who were truly happy for the opportunity to do their part. They had such a great time that they pledged to help again at our next volunteer opportunity. A big thanks to Katie, Qiainyi, Julia, Paulet, Aiden, Ben, and Kaylee. With their help we got our largest mailing out the door and sent out to our donors.





Message From Board President Paris Swindle: Board of Directors Expands To Meet New Challenges

Solutions At Work carries on the noble mission of Dr. Alice Kidder, and her recent passing only strengthens our resolve to continue her fine work. We have recently added several members to our Board of Directors as well as our staff to help us achieve this goal.

Tara Riopelle has been promoted as the Director of the Clothing Exchange Program at 1151 Massachusetts Avenue. Tara has been with Solutions for more than 18 years and remains as committed to the mission as the day she started.

Tamra Blake is our new Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer. A lifelong Cambridge resident, Tamra has vast experience working in the banking industry in Massachusetts.

Steve Lehman recently joined the Board of Directors, having recently served at the Norwell Community Development Corporation in their homeless outreach efforts. Steve has also enjoyed a successful business career in the seafood industry, having owned several fishing vessels, restaurants and catering businesses.

Richard Phipps also recently joined the Board of Directors and brings more than 25 years of experience as a real estate developer, and owns and manages Consumer Financial Services, Inc which provides education in financial literacy, real estate, home ownership and wealth management opportunities in historically underserved communities. He also serves as the President of the Mattapan Community Development Corporation.

Todd Hedley has been brought on as our new Marketing & Fund Development Specialist. Todd has more than 20 years' experience raising funds for various non-profit organizations through both grant writing and events. Todd also has joined the Board of Directors.

Solutions At Work has also reached out to other social service non-profits to share its program model for homeless individuals and families as well as returning citizens, including the Norwell Community Development Corporation, the Mattapan Community Development Corporation, and Bright Morning Star, Inc. located in the South Shore.

Thank You City Councilman *Quentin Zondervan*



Solutions at Work would like to express our thanks and appreciation for Cambridge City Councilman Quentin Zondervan, who recently announced he would not seek reelection for another term.

Councilman Zondervan was a stalwart ally in our mission to end homelessness in Cambridge, and was instrumental in marshalling City support to establish the Green Street Shelter.

We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Solutions At Work Hosts First Gala







Mental Health Awareness

Fighting homelessness requires a multi-pronged strategy. Thanks to a grant from the City of Cambridge, Solutions at Work provides Cambridge residents and shelters in Cambridge with assistance in dealing with their mental health challenges. The grant also funded additional resources in the form of an informational website as well as a physical brochure which shares vital information on treating mental health.

The Mental Health Program at SAW provides mental health services to our clients and other members of the Cambridge community through psychiatrists, psychologists, case managers and therapists. We reach out to individuals currently staying at various shelters but primarily the Green Street Shelter.

Solutions at Work has also forged several community partnerships to fight homelessness in Cambridge. SAW works with the African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE) to operate the Green Street Shelter as well as New Vision, a private company which specializes in mental health services. SAW has also reached out to several homeless shelters in Cambridge to provide mental health services to their residents. We hope to secure additional funding to continue this vital program for combatting this often overlooked but root cause of much of our homelessness.

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