

# YOUR IMPACT. OUR GRATITUDE.

FriendshipWorks Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send along this year's **Impact and Gratitude Report**, and update you on how your generosity is enhancing the quality of life for hundreds of adults 60+ throughout Greater Boston. Within these pages, a few of the special people you helped connect through FriendshipWorks will also share their heartwarming stories.

As you review this report, I hope you feel inspired and proud of the progress we are making together in reducing social isolation and loneliness pervasive in the lives of many older adults, and in making Boston and our surrounding communities safer, healthier, connected, and more resilient. (FriendshipWorks is now in every neighborhood of Boston, Brookline, Newton, Cambridge, and Somerville!)

FriendshipWorks accomplished its ambitious goals for Fiscal Year 2021, despite the pandemic and the subsequent economic shutdown, which sadly forced many other nonprofits to freeze their services or lay off essential employees. How fortunate are we to have people like you, who include FriendshipWorks in their philanthropic journey during times like these? **Thank you!**

This past year emphasized the importance of being safe and secure at home, regardless of where you live. Your past contribution ensured we could continue bringing connection and joy to hundreds of older adults living on their own in the Greater Boston community while promoting their mental and physical wellness, independence, and safety. **Most importantly, through your kindness, our elders now have a friend to count on!**

This year marks my 37th year at FriendshipWorks, and every year I am overwhelmed by the goodness of people like you, who **understand how critical human connections and a sense of belonging are in preserving the dignity of our elders.** Thank you for trusting us and motivating me and the staff at FriendshipWorks to do our important work every day. Your ongoing support means the world to us.

Yours in friendship,



Janet Seckel-Cerrotti  
Executive Director



People, pets, and music are inherent to the human soul. Despite needing to stay physically distanced, FriendshipWorks ensured human connections continued, and provided support to isolated older adults.

**YOUR philanthropic kindness makes our programs possible!**



## FRIENDLY VISITING

Friendships continued and new ones were built. Nearly 600 older adults were connected through:

- Weekly phone calls
- Handcrafted cards and letters
- Email and online visits
- Program expansion into Somerville & Cambridge in 2020.

## FRIENDLY HELPING

Volunteers provided 96 individuals with 171 assists of Friendly Helping such as grocery delivery, tech help, vaccine access, library book pick-up, and clearing of walkways for access to mailboxes.



## MEDICAL ESCORTS

Our volunteers navigated a complex system of safety protocols while providing 207 medical escorts to older adults who otherwise would not have gotten to their appointments or received their medications.



## PETPALS

PetPals teams were unable to visit their friends in residences, so to stay in touch, they:

- Gifted 273 plush stuffed animals to provide meaningful comfort
- Delivered 170 personally crafted cards to residents in assisted living, providing connection
- Sent videos of volunteers & their pets to PetPals participants.

*“Without this program, far too many seniors would not get the care they need.”*  
—Russ Colton,  
Medical Escort Volunteer

 **FriendshipWorks**  
*Ending Elder Isolation. Creating Connections.*

www.fw4elders.org  
617-482-1510

## MUSICWORKS

In collaboration with Goddard House Community Initiatives, our staff successfully adapted its MusicWorks programming by:

- Bringing 10 outdoor concerts to six senior residences
- Creating & distributing bilingual CDs to 850 older adults
- Producing four cable TV music programs accessible to all viewers.



## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

FriendshipWorks was also able to:

- Host the 3rd Low-Vision Forum (this year online)
- Hold online educational and support programs for Low Vision & LGBTQ+ communities
- Create and mail its first Interfaith newsletter, 'The Companion' to 2000 elders
- Send 2000+ personalized cards to isolated older adults.

# ***No Matter the Age...FriendshipWorks***



Although there's a span of nearly 60 years between Marian MacLennan and her FriendshipWorks volunteer match Steve Watson, the two have been enjoying a meaningful connection since they were "matched" through FriendshipWorks' Friendly Visiting program almost 15 years ago.

"By sharing his interests in the new technology and being able to put my music and photos on CDs—Steve has helped introduce me to what's going on," says Marian, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Their visits evolved from staying home to playing tourists in and around Boston, visiting museums, and eventually collaborating on a genealogy project.

"I think I'm pretty strong if I've lived to be 100, so I didn't ask him to do errands for me," explains Marian. "We explored."

Like other FriendshipWorks volunteers, Steve has also mutually benefited from the companionship and wisdom of his elder match.

"It's special to get the kind of insights from someone that age with different values and views of the world," says Steve. "It also makes me feel good that she's not isolated in this world."

*Your continued support ensures that isolated elders...*



Find comfort in a furry friend



Receive a helping hand when it's needed



Share meaningful friendship and laughter



Experience intergenerational relationships

***THANK YOU FOR MAKING AN IMPACT!***