

Your Impact. Our Gratitude.

Fiscal Year 2026
(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)



“Each volunteer and older adult match, program, and community location creates an opportunity for an older adult to feel seen, valued, and connected.”



Dear Friend,

What defines success and impact at FriendshipWorks? It's a question I think about often.

I think about it when reflecting on my own performance, as I recently did with our Board of Directors at the end of my first year, and when reviewing our financial statements and making difficult budget decisions. I think about it when supporters share unsolicited praise for our staff - how passionate they are, how quickly they step in to help an older adult in need, or ensure a PetPals team or MusicWorks location is successful.

I think about it most when I call four or five volunteers and program participants each month. These conversations keep me connected to our mission and provide me with tremendous motivation. More importantly, they demonstrate examples of dedication, compassion, and a deep belief in community.

This Impact & Gratitude Report is filled with numbers and stories that help illustrate what success and impact look like at FriendshipWorks. Together, they tell a powerful story of connection, generosity, and community. I am incredibly grateful for our staff, Board of Directors, supporters, volunteers, and program participants for contributing to our success.

Every connection we make is possible because of you, the members of the FriendshipWorks community. Each volunteer and older adult match, program, and community location creates an opportunity for an older adult to feel seen, valued, and connected. Your generosity makes these meaningful relationships possible and strengthens our ability to reach more older adults and deepens the impact of FriendshipWorks.

With gratitude,

Kyle Robidoux, Executive Director

Here's how our community brings companionship, care, and joy to older adults all over Greater Boston.

Thank you for helping to reduce social isolation and sustain our critical programming. Here's a glimpse of the positive impact you are making!

Program Impact by the Numbers

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



1,800

Older Adults
Participating



611

Volunteers
Caring & Assisting



494

Friendly Visiting
Matches Thriving



475

Medical Escort
Trips Provided



700

Older Adults
Connected Through
MusicWorks



500

Older Adults
Comforted
by PetPals Visits



131

Errands & Tasks Completed by
Friendly Helpers (Newton Only)

Turning Ordinary Visits into Memorable Adventures

When Abeba moved to the Boston area during the coronavirus shutdown, she found herself isolated and unable to explore her new community. Then she met Friendly Visiting volunteer Heather through FriendshipWorks.



What began with a little uncertainty about what they might have in common quickly became a deep friendship. "We got right into chatting like we had known each other forever," Heather recalls. Four years later, they've discovered that almost anything can become a fun adventure when they're together— like sharing an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, spending time at the beach, creating terracotta mosaic planters, or even scooter-shopping.



"Now I'm her family too. I go with her everywhere," Abeba says. "She gave me life."

That feeling of friendship and family is mutual. Heather says Abeba is like a grandmother to her, someone she can be vulnerable with, someone whose presence has shaped how she moves through the world. Heather says, "My heart is full. I am so grateful for this connection."

Thank you to our volunteers and program participants who personify our mission. And thank you to our donors for making these moments of laughter, learning, and connection possible.

Scan here to read Heather and Abeba's full story, or visit:
fw4elders.org/40stories



FriendshipWorks in the Media

- WCVB TV Chronicle (3x)
- Boston Globe Media Podcast
- WGBH Online Article
- Boston Public Radio
- Boston Herald Article with YMCA of Greater Boston
- Brookline CAT

Thank you to all those who connected us to these outlets.



Supporter Success: Friendly Visiting Program Up 45% in Southwest Boston!

Thanks to a multi-year grant from Sailors' Snug Harbor of Boston and the combined efforts of our Friendly Visiting Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Community Ambassadors, and additional FriendshipWorks staff, we have seen a 45% increase in the number of Friendly Visiting matches and older adults in our Southwest Boston neighborhoods including Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and Jamaica Plain (FY25 to FY26), far exceeding a proposed 10% year-to-year increase.



We were able to increase visibility and build trust by having a consistent presence and engaging with community members by:

- Attending community events
- Establishing key connections
- Raising awareness of mission and programming
- Recruiting and hiring Community Ambassadors
- Expanding our network of colleges and universities

Program participant Michael says, "It was worth the wait!" And volunteer Calvin told us, "I think you may have inadvertently or intentionally connected me with one of my best friends in the world. So thank you for that."

We are grateful to Sailors' Snug Harbor of Boston for their belief in our work. We are excited by the possibilities of what continued support like this can do!

Creating Meaningful Opportunities for Social Connection Through Music

Over the last year, our MusicWorks program brought the joy of music to older adults in 17 buildings across Boston.

Here's what Rosangela, the Resident Service Coordinator with The Community Builders said:

"Our music program continues to be one of the programs our residents truly enjoy and look forward to...From a Community Life perspective, we have seen how meaningful this program is for our residents. It provides more than entertainment—it creates opportunities for social connection, participation, movement, joy, and community building."

The MusicWorks Program is provided in partnership with Goddard House Healthy Aging Initiatives.



Thank you for helping us bring the magic of PetPals to older adults in Greater Boston.

"I can't begin to say how profoundly the dog visits affect the residents here at Hale House."

One resident puts such a high priority on these visits that he arranges his schedule around them.

For some residents, it is one of the only times I've seen them smile. Others become much more animated when there's a dog in the room.

As older, single residents we have very limited opportunities for physical contact. Interacting with a dog can provide that function.

P.S. Prior to coming to Hale House, I wouldn't describe myself as a dog person. Now I am a convert!"

— Heather, Hale House Resident



PetPals Volunteers
Roxy (L) & Shaula



A Cause for Connection

Changing the View on Aging, Together



Whether you were in the room, made a pledge, or donated to this campaign, **THANK YOU!** Your commitment has built incredible momentum toward healthy aging in Greater Boston.

As we look ahead, we're excited about what's possible.



Scan here or visit our website for our exciting lineup of upcoming events: fw4elders.org/events

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Thank you for running for FriendshipWorks!

Training for 26.2 miles takes determination. Running to reduce isolation takes heart.



Estee



Sarah



Jennifer



Kyle & Olivia

We are deeply grateful to Sarah, Estee, and Jennifer who took on the Boston Marathon on behalf of FriendshipWorks to help ensure that older adults in Greater Boston can age with connection, dignity, and joy. And to all those who supported them, thank you!

As a qualified runner, our own Executive Director Kyle Robidoux also used his bib to raise funds for FriendshipWorks. Thank you to Misty and Olivia for being his sighted guides.

A special thank you to City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune for awarding official Boston Marathon bibs to FriendshipWorks.



FriendshipWorks

Creating connections to end elder isolation.

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