

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the month of March, National Social Work Month, and the promise of spring, I find myself reflecting on my first year serving as your Council on Aging and Senior Center Director. What a year it has been. Together, we have navigated tremendous transitions, embraced change, and built a stronger foundation for the future of our Senior Center. March reminds us that growth often begins quietly beneath the surface — and then blossoms.

Over the past year, we experienced significant shifts in funding that required thoughtful planning, creativity, and collaboration. As funding streams evolved, we saw a meaningful transition away from reliance on federal resources and toward stronger local investment and community-based support. While change can be challenging, this shift has strengthened our local partnerships and reinforced the importance of community ownership in sustaining our mission. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board, Brookline Senior Center Foundation, and community partners, we are not only stabilizing our resources to new levels, but are positioning ourselves for sustainable growth.

One of our most visible milestones has been the conversion of our building to an electric HVAC system. This important upgrade improves efficiency, reduces long-term operating costs, and reflects our commitment to environmental responsibility. It ensures that our center remains comfortable, modern, and sustainable for years to come.

We also welcomed a new electric vehicle to support our transportation services. This investment expands our ability to serve members who rely on us to stay connected to programs, appointments, and community life. Mobility means independence, and independence is central to our mission.

Beyond infrastructure improvements, we embraced innovation across our programs and operations. From the launch of our new community survey with UMass Boston, to enhancing communication with MySeniorCenter, we have focused on creating a center that is responsive and forward-thinking.

None of this progress would have been possible without you. Your participation, feedback, generosity, and belief in our mission fuel everything we do. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead this extraordinary community and excited about what lies ahead in the next 25 years on Winchester Street and beyond. Speaking of anniversaries, be sure to sign up for ours! See page 3 for details.

Please be sure to always check in on your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Williams

Director

