

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Brookline Senior Center! A Silver Jubilee! L'dor V'dor. Together, we are truly building community for the next generation and the generation after that. It's a good feeling. This year is particularly meaningful as we begin celebrating our 25th anniversary—a milestone that reflects a quarter century of connection, advocacy, learning, and support for older adults in Brookline. Over the coming months, we will be reflecting on where we've been and looking ahead to where we want to go. Our vision for the next chapter is one where the COA continues to grow as a vibrant hub for healthy aging—expanding opportunities for creativity, lifelong learning, social connection, and services that help residents remain engaged and independent in the community they love.

I'm especially excited to share that we recently received a new Creative Arts grant that will allow us to expand arts programming for older adults. Through this initiative we will introduce new workshops, performances, and opportunities for participants to explore visual arts, music, storytelling, and intergenerational creativity. The arts are not just enjoyable—they foster wellness, connection, and self-expression, and we look forward to seeing this program flourish.

April also brings the excitement of the Boston Marathon, and we are proud that the Brookline Senior Center is part of Team Brookline this year. Two dedicated runners are taking on the 26.2-mile challenge while fundraising to support programs and services at the Senior Center. Their effort represents the spirit of community that defines Brookline—neighbors showing up for one another and investing in the wellbeing of older adults. We are grateful for their commitment and will be cheering them on every step of the way.

None of this work would be possible without the remarkable people who make the COA what it is. Our staff bring skill, compassion, and creativity to their work every day, ensuring that our programs and services are welcoming.

Our volunteers are truly the heart of the Senior Center. They greet participants at the front desk, lead activities, deliver meals, help organize events, and offer the simple but powerful gift of their time and presence. Their generosity creates the warm, welcoming environment that so many people value here. Volunteers don't just support our work—they build relationships, strengthen community, and help ensure that every person who enters through our doors feels seen and connected.

As we celebrate this 25th year together, I invite you to join us—whether by attending a program, volunteering, sharing your ideas, or simply stopping by to say hello.

The COA belongs to the community, and our future will be shaped by the creativity, energy, and voices of the people we serve.

Please be sure to always check in on your neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Emily J. Williams*  
Director

