The Power of Community

In a year of change and uncertainty, we are reminded of the generosity that empowers the Council to adapt, remain resilient, and stay true to our mission: serving Needham's unmet needs with dignity and compassion.

The Council could not do this work without you, and we are profoundly grateful for our community. Whether it was the donor who gave not out of surplus but out of kindness, the neighbor who delivered groceries to homebound seniors, the local businesses and partner organizations who restocked our shelves when they were bare, or the tutors who offered one-on-one support to inspire neighbors to learn—we dedicate this report to every person who said "yes" to community.

Through moments of hardship and joy, the power of our community has been the foundation of our success. Here are some key accomplishments:

- **Provided fresh food and pantry staples** to 370 households—serving 11% more families than in FY2024 amid rising costs, food inflation, and egg shortages.
- **Adapted transportation services** to keep neighbors connected to critical appointments despite funding cuts.
- **Launched a Board-led Giving Tuesday match** that doubled last year's results, helping drive our highest annual fundraising total since 2012.
- **Increased Council Thrift Shop revenue** by 11% from FY2024, with every dollar funding our programs.
- **Engaged a network of 327 volunteers** to contain costs, deliver vital programs, and foster a true sense of community.
- **Launched the Dementia Care Partners Support** program to meet a critical community need.



As we face the uncertainties ahead, we trust that the power of our community will guide us and help us meet each challenge, together. On behalf of our board, staff, volunteers, and the neighbors we serve, we thank you for another year of community, support, and compassion.

With warm appreciation,

Sandra Robinson
Executive Director

Linda Farley
President, Board of Directors