DEAR FRIENDS,

The challenges of 2020 persisted through this year in our community, as they did for so many, especially those who are already unseen or in the margins. Demand for our services remained high, and our staff and volunteers worked creatively to meet the demand and stay true to our ethos of welcoming all who come to our door. I have been sustained by the many examples of kindness at Haley House, and I am grateful for your support and continued interest in this work.

Since April, outdoor dining at our soup kitchen has allowed us to engage again personally with guests, breaking bread together and building community. Thanks to dedicated Cantonese-speaking volunteers — who broke down the language barrier with our food pantry guests — a needed service transformed into a vibrant weekly gathering. We were grateful to gain full ownership of Interfaith Apartments, 69 units of affordable housing spread across the South End, ensuring that those units will remain affordable in perpetuity.

The resilience of the Thornton Street Farm in Roxbury and McKinley Garden in the South End has been a testimony to the importance of growing food and sharing it with our neighbors. In so many ways, this year has been one of growth, transformation, and rebirth, manifested explicitly in the process to relaunch our reentry program.

There is always more work to be done because there is always another need to address. The stories in this newsletter are a few among many.

In this season of giving, I hope that you will consider supporting the work here at Haley House. Your partnership makes all things possible here.

With best wishes during the holiday season,

Bing Broderick, Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

850+ meals served weekly in our soup kitchen in 2021

78,000+ pounds of food distributed in our food pantry in 2021

669 new people joined our volunteer program in 2021

1 Brand New greenhouse built and installed at the farm by YouthBuild Boston, expanding our growing season by 2 months

8 dedicated Live-In Community members kept our doors open 6 days per week

511 Nubian Square sandwiches sold at Haley House Bakery Café

72 science classes taught to Boston Public School students in our community garden

103 units of affordable housing owned and operated by Haley House
After a difficult winter, opening an outdoor dining area for the soup kitchen in April made it feel like “the old Haley House” again. Outdoor dining allowed us to return to what we do best: sitting together to share a meal!

Our Live-In community (with the help of guest Salvator) built an enclosed dining area bordered by large planters filled with herbs. The result was worth every splinter!

“It feels like the old Haley House again.”

Benny, pictured playing Chinese chess with one of our guests, is one of the many volunteers that rejoined Haley House this past year. He shared the following reflection over the summer:

“The mission of using food and community to break down barriers deeply resonates with me and my Chinese heritage. Haley House’s use of food as a sort of cultural glue to connect people is a mission that I can stand behind and is one of the reasons I choose to volunteer.”

Since 1966, our soup kitchen has been a vibrant and welcoming home for our guests. Yet the pandemic gave us a unique opportunity to step back and see where we had room to grow and continue to build upon this history. This past year, we witnessed a community blossom during our weekly food pantry.

For many years, there was a language barrier with those guests, who primarily speak Mandarin and Cantonese, and though gestures and creative thinking got us by, we knew there could be more.

As we slowly welcomed volunteers back, we put out a call for Cantonese and Mandarin-speakers, and the result was incredible. Friendships have suddenly flourished with pantry guests as they always have with our English and Spanish-speaking community members. Volunteers and Live-Ins learned Chinese chess and joined guests for afternoon tea, often swapping family photos.

Thanks to an amazing group of dedicated volunteers, we have fundamentally changed the relationship between Haley House and our food pantry guests. Where a wave used to suffice, we can now say “jo san,” (good morning) and “joi gin,” (see you soon).

If you’d like to volunteer, visit: haleyhouse.org/volunteer
Haley House Bakery Café
Persisting & Adapting

Mel King, long-time social activist, state legislator and the first African American to run in a final election bid to be mayor of Boston, once described the Haley House Bakery Café as “a community center disguised as a café.” Since opening in 2005, Haley House Bakery Café (HHBC) has been a beloved community space and home to a wide range of successful community-based programs.

This year continued to challenge us to pivot quickly and respond creatively and safely to the needs of our community. Our team worked together to bring new and exciting dishes to our menu, highlighting recipes brought in by our staff. In June, the HHBC leadership organized the first ever Roxbury Restaurant Week, bringing many Bostonians to the neighborhood to explore the incredible culinary offerings.

With some sense of normalcy creeping back, our catering efforts are ramping up, we are hosting more community events each month, and we are now open four days each week. We look forward to sharing more about the evolution of the Bakery Café in 2022!

Interested in supporting the café?
Visit us for dine-in or order takeout or delivery
Open Wednesday - Saturday
Order catering for your next event!
Join us for one of our events, or book our space for your own!

ReEntry at Haley House: A Reimagining Process

Twenty-five years ago, our soup kitchen was bustling — even during the off hours — when guests who had been impacted by the criminal justice system began the Bakery Training Program, baking and selling fresh bread to our South End neighbors.

Over the early years, the product line and trainee demographics varied. In 2010, with support from our community and a clear need for a more formal reentry program, we launched the Transitional Employment Program (TEP) at our Bakery Café. Between our 2019 café hiatus and the pandemic, TEP has been on pause, and we are excited to share the work we have done to reimagine how we can serve our community in this way once more.

Returning from incarceration is a stressful and daunting process, so we wanted to reflect on our past and develop an enhanced program to better support our community. At a day-long gathering earlier this year, program partners, alumni, and other community members (pictured) shared wisdom and identified the strengths that Haley House can bring to the reentry landscape in Boston.

The resounding message was that access to community, life skills, and caring mentorship were vital for reentry. The foundation of our old program came from these values, and they will continue to guide us as we draft our new program.

With constant input from those most impacted, we are building a reentry program that expands community resources, introduces new training opportunities, and builds up the life skills necessary for job readiness and employment longevity. As we pilot the program in 2022, we look forward to once again welcoming returning community members home to Haley House.
**Abundance Through the Generations**

Reflections from the Thornton Street Farm

As the pandemic amplified many fragilities in our social ecosystems, the last two summers at the Thornton Street Farm showcased an additional story - one of strength and abundance. We talked to two people who participated in our Highland Park Senior Produce Program - Ms. Tena and Sophia - to hear their stories of resilience and joy.

**Ms. Tena** lives in Highland Park and heard about the program through the grapevine from her neighbor. Going strong in her 80s, Ms. Tena walks every day, and after stopping by the farm in the spring, joined our produce distribution program as part of Sophia’s route.

During the pandemic, getting to the grocery store to find the freshest, nutrient-dense food, “that most seniors my age like to cook,” proved difficult, so having a farm in the neighborhood and people who “put so much work into it, made it so much easier than going to the store.”

“In the process, you really get to learn about the other person.”

Ms. Tena shared about the personal touch from each of the teenagers - “In the process, you really get to learn about the other person...their likes and dislikes, what they want to cook. It seemed that the teens knew exactly what we wanted and that was the beauty of it. I didn’t throw one thing away.”

Ms. Tena grew up on farmland herself. “We grew our own food, and if we wanted to eat it again, we saved the seeds.” To this day, she saves seeds from crops we brought her and brings them back to the farm for the teen farmers to plant next season.

**Sophia**, now 19, grew up in Roxbury, so when she saw the farm getting built a few years back, she was excited to get involved. Sophia describes the farm as “an oasis in a big city. You wouldn’t expect to see a piece of land look like that in Boston. It’s tranquil, calming, exciting, and a place where a lot of kids feel comfortable.”

There was a lot of work involved before any produce ever found its way to Ms. Tena and the other seniors on Sophia’s route. She shared that she realized how much work it takes to get food to the point you can eat it.

“Over the summer, lettuce taught me a lot of lessons. It takes so long to harvest, but you learn to appreciate the food and the process. I discovered new things and it made me proud of myself.”

When she finally got out to deliver the bags, Sophia shared that it felt like Christmas Day. “We really built connections, just talking about our days and checking in weekly. They would give me advice, and they saved everything we gave them.”

“It’s an oasis in a big city.”

Though they are generations apart, both Sophia and Ms. Tena reflected on the closeness they were able to build. Despite so many feelings of isolation during the pandemic, the farm proved fertile ground for deep nourishment and lasting connections.
It's not often you witness 7, 8, and 9-year-olds fighting over the last piece of kale, but that tends to be the case in our Take Back the Kitchen (TBK) classes. After a pause in 2020, our TBK program returned this year with the vigor it had before the pandemic, with dozens of students excitedly cooking fresh, nutrient-dense food often harvested from our own garden.

During one memorable class, the students learned about the different kinds of kale we grow, picked all of them, and baked delicious kale chips. The chips were devoured, and as usual, the students brought the recipe — and their newfound knowledge — back to their own kitchens.

“Can I take the recipe home for my mom?”

Our TBK program teaches cooking and nutrition classes for children and families and we are excited to have it back. To book a class, email us: tbk@haleyhouse.org.

On a sunny day this past spring, a student in our community garden shouted, “look at my babies growing!” as he inspected the radish seeds he had planted earlier that season. Through the ups and downs of the last year, the McKinley School Garden continued to be a place for both plants and young minds to grow. Students and community members alike got their hands dirty, bit into the peppery petals of nasturtium flowers, and watched tiny seeds become the foundation of dishes served in our soup kitchen next door.

“Look at my babies growing!”

During the off-season, the soil is busy building nutrients to support the plants to come, and we are busy planning for more lessons in the garden this spring. We can’t wait to see who and what blooms!
Kenny’s Story
20 Years at Home at Haley House

A native of Franklin, MA, Kenny arrived in Boston as a young adult in search of opportunity and financial independence. The reality was starkly different. Struggling to find stable income to pay for surging rents in the city, Kenny lived on the streets for over seven years.

In 1998, Kenny connected with members of the Haley House community and moved into his own Single-Room Occupancy room on Columbus Avenue. For Kenny, Haley House was “always there for me through everything,” especially while overcoming addiction. For the first time in his life, he had a built-in support system with individuals who cared deeply about his health and wellbeing.

Thanks to the persistent and patient efforts of Resident Managers and Haley House staff, he committed to his sobriety in early 2010. Having been in the community for so long, and through his dedication to working towards a better future, Kenny became a model resident in his community: organizing events, caring for his neighbors, and volunteering in the local area.

Twenty years after he first arrived, Kenny said goodbye to the affordable housing community after taking a full time job with the AA Central Service Committee of Eastern Massachusetts. Kenny plays a critical role in organizing AA meetings and providing resources for recovery across Massachusetts. Kenny seeks to bring the same feelings of hope and dignity to recovering alcoholics that he found at Haley House.

Today, gratitude is the one word Kenny uses to describe his experience with Haley House. In a stage of his life filled with ups and downs, Haley House served as a permanent support system, a community of people that granted second chances, a place to call home.

Reflections
from Mary Lou Bozza

This year, Mary Lou Bozza left her role as Director of Development at Haley House to work in campus ministry at Regis College. She shared the following reflections.

When I started working at Haley House, plans were being hatched to purchase 12 Dade Street, start a pizza shop, throw a big 50th anniversary celebration, and transform the Thornton Street Lot into a thriving urban farm.

The last seven years have held tremendous growth and real challenges, great joy and profound loss. Through it all, the overwhelming spirit of care and generosity has never faltered at Haley House. I had the privilege of hearing countless stories of encounters in our community, and no two have been the same. Haley House contains multitudes.

For 55 years, Haley House has been a complex and dynamic force for good and it will continue to be for years to come. I am richer for having been a part of this community, and it is with gratitude that I leave the staff and re-join the volunteer community, where I first began.
GET INVOLVED

No matter who you are and what you have on your plate, there’s always another seat at our table.

Lend a Hand:
Organize an in-kind donation drive for our most-needed items (haleyhouse.org/give/in-kind)
Join us for a volunteer shift (haleyhouse.org/volunteer)

Fund our Impact:
Monthly gifts ($30, $50, $100+) ensure we can sustain our daily operations throughout the year, even when the demand is high and giving is low
Matching gifts double your money and your impact; ask your employer about a matching program
Planned gifts ensure you leave a legacy of service in your will and make your mark on the history of Haley House

Join Us Everyday:
Order food or visit us at Haley House Bakery Café in Roxbury and get to know our hard-working employees (12 Dade Street, Roxbury)
Let us cater your private events or rent our space to enjoy great food for a great cause (haleyhouse.org/catering)
Follow us on social media for up-to-date information on our many events

“Food for the body is not enough. There must be food for the soul.”
-Dorothy Day

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SAVE THE DATE!
Covid- Friendly!

SOUPER BOWL XIV
Sunday, February 20, 2022
www.haleyhouse.org/SouperBowl14