

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from
newhope



Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays! As the New Year approaches, many of us take time to reflect on the past and look forward to the coming year. In my reflection and anticipation of what is to come, I have made the decision that it is my time to pass on the leadership of New Hope to the next generation.

I joined New Hope in 2014, as the fourth Executive Director of this amazing agency. In my time leading New Hope, I strived to honor the past and to position the agency for the many changes ahead. Back then, who could have anticipated where the road would take us. As the anti-violence movement shifted from grassroots to more professional, we began to reflect on those survivors who were “left behind,” including persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ persons, persons of color and immigrants. The years since 2014 saw the emergence of the #MeToo movement, the racial reckoning that was so long overdue, and the COVID pandemic. We came to understand that domestic and sexual violence work intersects with a survivor’s sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, ability, sexual orientation and so many more.

Through these years, I have learned and grown from my time with survivors, staff, and community members like you. I have come to appreciate the depth and breadth of the work that staff provide and the importance of self-care in doing this intense work. I have come to understand that this movement must include a focus on changing systems that oppress.

While these years brought challenges, New Hope has much to celebrate. Since 2014, we have seen an increase in diversity of board and staff and in 2021 hired our first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In 2018, we opened a counseling office in Southbridge, MA. We have increased our community collaborations including partnerships with The Arc of Bristol County, Taunton’s Family Resource Center, Taunton Diversity Network, and local Community Health Network coalitions in Milford and Southbridge. In 2019 New Hope moved our administrative offices to a larger and more functional space allowing for increased educational programming. When COVID emerged and challenged all of us, staff responded with a shift to remote work, creating even greater opportunities for survivors to access services. And finally, through the generosity of many individuals, businesses, foundations and political leaders, we raised \$7 million dollars to build a new state-of-the-art emergency shelter.

I often say we cannot do this work alone. Each of you have played a role helping those struggling with the impact of violence, as they seek to not only to survive but to thrive. Each of you have played a role in supporting the incredible staff who do this work. For your support, I am humbled and grateful.

As New Hope transitions to new leadership, I trust that you will continue on the journey with us to create communities free from violence and exploitation.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023,

Marcia Szymanski
Executive Director

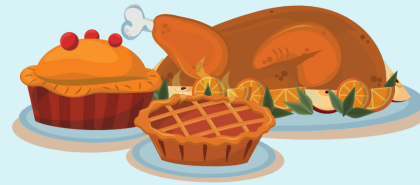
**Did you miss Giving Tuesday?
it's not too late to give!**



your gift of \$250 provides survivors and their families with shelter for one night.



**Thank you,
Personal Best Karate**



*for donating 65
Thanksgiving baskets to
survivors and their families*

Donate

**Donate items directly
to survivors at our
shelters via our
Amazon Wishlist!**

**Sign up for
AmazonSmile and a
portion of eligible
purchases will be
donated to New Hope!**

**Amazon
Wishlist**

AmazonSmile

**We're excited to welcome our new Vice President of
Communications and Development in 2023!**

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