

The Connection

March 2026



Congratulations to the 2026 Light of Dawnn Award Recipients

Last week, we commemorated the 12th annual Light of Dawnn Awards, honoring the legacy of Dawnn Ashley Jaffier. Among the honorees were three nonprofit professionals and two students, recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community.



Sandra Andrade
The Dee Kennedy Project
Michael Gonzalez
Boston HERC
Tiffany Sheets
Ellis Early Learning

Micaela Phelan-Burgos
Emmanuel College
Alyssa Mascarenhas
UMass Lowell

Winter Walk Boston

We were honored to partner with **Winter Walk Boston** for the 10th annual walk to increase awareness and resources for the unhoused population in Boston. More than **3,000** people joined forces to walk and demonstrate the power of community coming together to address a challenging issue.



Special thanks to our partners who were part of our special initiative and whose efforts helped provide shelter and stability to thousands of individuals and families during an extraordinarily difficult winter.

Caritas Communities
FamilyAID Boston
Father Bill's & Mainspring
Heading Home
St. Francis House
St. Mary's Center for Women & Children

Spring Week coming soon!

Stay tuned for details around our April school vacation programming. It will be a week filled with free, fun entertainment and enrichment.



Attention Nonprofit Partners: Important Improvements to Massachusetts CORE Plan

The state-sponsored Massachusetts 401(k) CORE plan was designed by the State Treasurer's office specifically for nonprofit organizations. It offers unique benefits to help nonprofit employees save and invest for a financially secure retirement. **Two significant changes** have been made to the CORE Plan that make it even more accessible and affordable for Massachusetts nonprofits.

1) The CORE Plan's pricing has been reduced. This update strengthens the CORE Plan's mission to continue to support nonprofits through a cost-effective retirement solution backed by the Commonwealth.

2) Eligibility has been expanded. A newly passed provision in the Massachusetts FY26 budget now allows nonprofits with up to 100 employees to join the CORE Plan. This change opens the door for more organizations to provide a retirement plan that is simple to administer and designed specifically for the nonprofit sector.

To learn more, contact Lisa Cardinal, at Lisa.Cardinal@Empower.com or 617-510-4036. For more information, visit www.ma-employer-core.com.



Highland Street Foundation | 3 Newton Executive Pk STE 104 2223 Washington Street | Newton, MA 02462 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!