



Open Spirit

2023 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Dear friends,

On October 22nd, as we gathered for our tenth anniversary, we lit ten candles to celebrate the light of Open Spirit over the last decade. Rosanne Kates, founder of the Nourishing Teachers/Strengthening Classrooms Project, spoke about the power of love in this community:

"This extension of unconditional love supports miracles to indeed happen."

Her words highlight a profound truth: miracles happen at Open Spirit. As we light candles that afternoon, we heard about some of those miracles:

"I didn't tell anyone I was a veteran for ten years. Open Spirit created this situation where, at least for me, that pain left, and I'm happy to be a veteran again.... I love light, and there's nothing like the light of the soul."—Andy Lord, long-time participant in Veterans Yoga and Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

"It's been really life-giving for me, creative and a little disturbing, because I have to rethink a lot of things.... I think I'm a better person now, a better person of faith, because of my encounter with others who are different than I am."
—Father Carl Chudy, member of our Multi-Faith Collaborative.



"[Open Spirit] has allowed me to be the person that I am—to live into my passions and be of service—holistic well-being, trauma-informed yoga, community, my work building inclusive spaces...the anti-racism courses, the Nourishing Teachers programs."—Dr. Danielle Rousseau, founding member of Open Spirit.

"I am so blessed to be serving with you and learning what it means to stand up and not just be in our own houses of worship, not just open the doors and invite people in, but to open the doors and walk out into the community and say 'Here we are.'"—Rabbi Allison Poirier, Temple Beth Sholom, leader of our new Multi-Faith, Multi-Cultural Book Club.

"Courage is something we all need. You have it."—Lino Covarrubias, CEO of Jewish Family Services of Metrowest, reflecting on our partnership offering Training Active Bystanders to schools and community groups.



Extending unconditional love. Kindling the light of the soul. Being changed as we encounter differences. Living into our passions. Walking out of our comfortable spaces and saying, "Here we are." Claiming courage. Surely these are miracles.

Fran Graveson, former Open Spirit intern, talked about the power of invitation and how it enables these Open Spirit miracles:

"Open Spirit showed me that community is invitations that are accepted. The invitation to join; the invitation to bring your talents; the invitation to dedicate your time. Accepting those invitations brings even more to you and creates community."

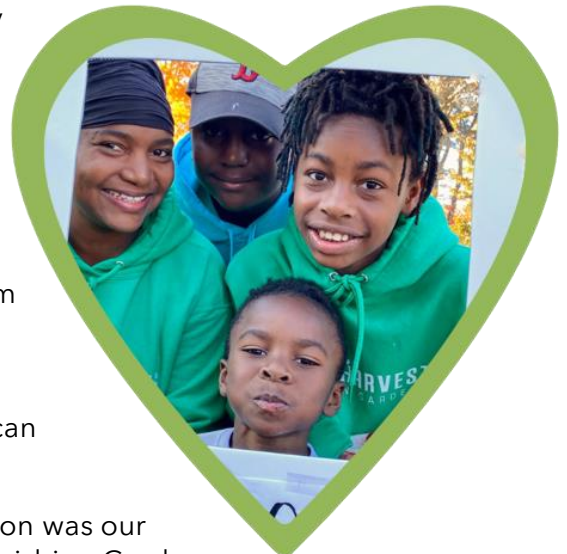
On this tenth anniversary of Open Spirit, we extend an invitation to you. Bring your talents. Dedicate your time. Join in. Give as you are able. We thank you for the ways you have accepted this invitation over the last decade, creating a truly miraculous community.

To continue to be a strong, sustainable community as we move into our second decade, we need your support at so many levels, including financial. **We invite you to make a gift to our Annual Fund.**

Your gift is an investment in our future, an investment in miracles of understanding, healing and transformation. Your financial contribution supports the infrastructure that enables everything we do at Open Spirit—staff, physical and virtual space, technology, marketing, program planning, and so much more. For our tenth anniversary Annual Fund campaign, we aspire to raise \$18,000.

Every gift matters. If you can give \$2500, it matters. If you can give \$250, it matters. If you can give \$25, it matters.

The final candlelighter for our Tenth Anniversary Celebration was our newest program leader, Safiyat Hamiss. She leads our Nourishing Gardens project, partnering with Hoops and Homework and Pelham Lifelong Learning Center to help children plan, plant, tend and harvest gardens. Her words call us forward as we move into our second decade:



"Let's keep on connecting. Let's keep on growing together."

Will you join us?

With gratitude,
The Open Spirit Steering Committee