

SCHOOL on WHEELS MASSACHUSETTS

Educate Kids
Empower Families
End Homelessness



SUMMER 2026 Newsletter



[MAKE A GIFT](#)



A Note from Executive Director Athena Giannaros

Dear Friends,

As mid-summer reaches its peak, so does our busiest season for the backpack program. Thousands of students are hoping to walk into school this fall with a grade-level backpack filled with the supplies they need to begin the year with confidence. If you're looking for a meaningful way to make a difference this summer, helping prepare a child for school is it. Stage a drive or visit our office with friends, family or colleagues.

We're proud to recognize this year's Bridge Mentoring graduating seniors and scholarship recipients. Their determination and resilience remind us why this mission matters.

Our Summer Tutoring Program is in full swing, helping students strengthen academic skills, explore the arts - and build confidence while connecting with our volunteer tutors.

Finally, we're planning some very special events this summer and fall, including the Falmouth Road Race, SAM Golf Tournament, and our Annual Gala. We hope you join us!

Thank you so much for believing in our students. Every hour you volunteer, every donation you make, and every opportunity you create reminds a student that they are not alone. Together, we're helping our youth not only prepare for school, but discover what's possible within them and for their future.

With deep gratitude,

Athena

*Athena Giannaros
Executive Director*

BACKPACKS & TOOLS FOR SCHOOL



Our Community Room has been teeming this summer - with teams - and we welcome yours!

Thanks to the volunteers who are hosting drives, dropping off school supplies, managing inventory and customizing every backpack with tender loving care.

We're hoping to deliver more than 10,000 backpacks before the school bells ring this fall!

We're especially in need of middle and high school level backpacks and school supplies.

Every backpack packed reminds one child that they matter and the world has their back.

Click any of the smiling faces to get started!



Bella and Jemimah



**ROCKLAND
TRUST
BANK**
Where Each Relationship Matters®



Lauren Weigold + Mikala Oxley
Running Falmouth, Collecting Backpacks,
Packing it Forward!

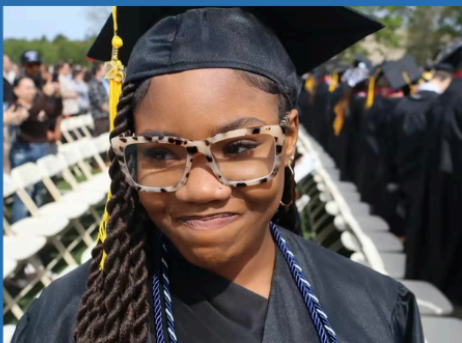


Volunteer With Our Backpack Program

**Bridge Mentoring
Congratulations Graduates!**

Aysia

2026



Bachelor of Arts Philosophy

“

*Next Fall, I will
return to Umass
Dartmouth to
pursue my Master's
in Professional
Writing and
Communications.*

”

I have been with SOWMA
since I was in kindergarten.
I am now graduating from a
4-year university!

Through SOWMA, I have
realized more than ever that
patience builds competence.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! Meet our most recent graduates, a group of incredible students who have worked hard, stayed focused, and pursued their goals! We are so grateful for the volunteer mentors who walk beside them as they accomplish what's possible.

Take a moment and meet all of our 2026 graduates!

[Meet our 2026 Graduates](#)

20 Students Receive Soaring Scholarships!

The “Soaring Scholars” scholarship program just celebrated its five-year anniversary with another record-breaking year, passing along \$61,000 to 20 Bridge Mentoring students.

Founded in 2022 by friends Bill and Annmarie Harlor, the initiative has generated more than \$190,000 for 29 students active in our Mentoring Program.

“We are grateful to our family and friends who have joined us in this effort to help these remarkable young people achieve their goals,” said Bill Harlor.

“We love spending time with these students and hearing about their journeys. They are the definition of perseverance,” added Annmarie.



Dayanie

School: Bunker Hill Community College

Major: Health Science

Mentor: Nancy Guerland

As a first-generation college student, Dayanie has worked hard to build her future. The Soaring Scholarship helped relieve financial pressures and just as importantly, it connected her with a mentor whose encouragement and guidance have helped her navigate college and setbacks with greater confidence.

Through the scholarship and mentorship, Dayanie has found more than support, she has found a community that believes in her potential and is committed to helping her succeed as she prepares for a career in healthcare.

Career Goal

To build a career in healthcare while providing compassionate care and serving others in her community.

“

My mentor Nancy is the kind of dependable adult I never had growing up. Knowing that I have someone I can turn to has changed not only my life, but my outlook on life.

”

Meet the Class of 2026 Soaring Scholars

Tutoring News



Our summer tutoring program combines learning and creative expression to inspire curiosity, strengthen academic skills, and remind students they are surrounded by people who believe in them.

We are setting the stage for fall tutoring and looking for volunteers at all of our site locations. See locations below and consider spending one hour a week making magic happen for a child in need!



[Learn About Tutoring a Child](#)

COMING UP!

AUGUST



AUG. 16th Meet our team of 18 athletes, who have formed Team SOWMA and will hit the ground running at the Falmouth Road Race next month. Each runner has pledged to raise \$1,500 to keep our programs on track. Check out our team and please consider sponsoring a team member!

MEET OUR TEAM!

GOLF BLACK ROCK!
SEPTEMBER



SEP. 21st Join S|A Maraia (SAM) Charities at Black Rock Country Club Hingham and tee off at one of the nation's premiere residential golf courses. Proceeds benefit our students, so bring your best game and chip away at helping kids soar like eagles!

SIGN ME UP - GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE!
11 - 12 - 2026



NOVEMBER 12th

Join us as we celebrate our Tutoring Program and the volunteers and students who form life-changing bonds.

See them rise, thrive, and soar! Tickets and details coming soon.

Sponsorship opportunities now available. Email Tammie Heinrichs at theinrichs@sowma.org

GALA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Thank You!



The SouthCoast Community Foundation consistently champions youth-focused programs throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

We're honored to have their trust in our mission - and their investment in the students we serve in our New Bedford tutoring site locations. This grant is a generous response to urgent community challenges and will provide a more resilient and sustainable future for students and families in the region.

Thank you for investing in the academic, social and emotional growth of New Bedford students.

SUMMER INTERNS!



Our summer interns are keeping the Community Room humming, and getting ready to ensure some 10,000 students arrive at school with the tools they need!

Welcome aboard Isabella Dias-Lam (L), a graduate of Boston University - and A'Lani Renelien Hannigan of Wheaton College. Both interns plan

to pursue education as a career, particularly in advancing educational opportunities in underserved communities.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

You're a click away



PACK IT FORWARD!

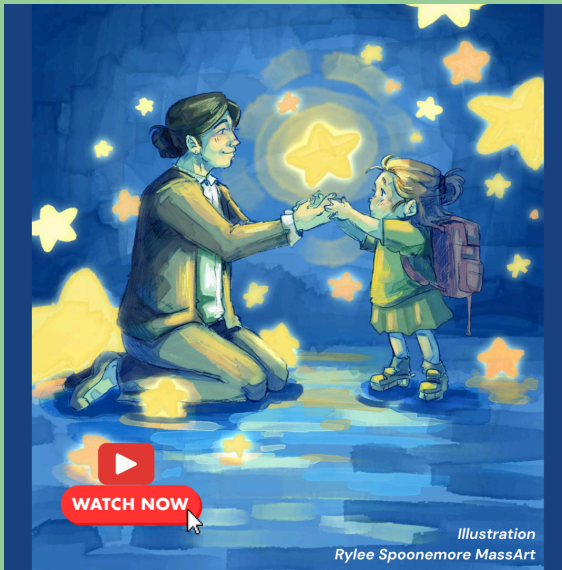
At A GLANCE

Every backpack packed, tutoring session delivered, mentoring conversation, and scholarship awarded brings one student closer to breaking the cycle of homelessness through education. Thank you!

- **Tutoring Site Locations:** Boston, Brockton, Dorchester, Fall River, Middleboro, New Bedford, Norwell, Rockland, Stoughton, and Taunton
- **Backpacks & Tools for School:** 10,000+ students received a new, customized backpack, books and "Tools for School" during the 2025 - 2026 academic school year

- [Bridge Mentoring](#): 504 students have received high school, college, vocational and career guidance through our Bridge Mentoring Program

Join Us - For Good!



**SCHOOL
on WHEELS**
MASSACHUSETTS

Educate Kids
Empower Families
End Homelessness

The mission of School on Wheels of Massachusetts is to support the academic, social and emotional growth of students impacted by homelessness and poverty.

Click Illustration For Video

Make A Gift

Visit Our Website

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