



SCHOOL on WHEELS MASSACHUSETTS  
Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness

**SCHOOL  
on WHEELS**  
MASSACHUSETTS

**CELEBRATE  
SUMMER!**

**SOWMA  
NEWSLETTER**

*July, 2023*

**Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness**



**MANY WAYS TO  
SPREAD YOUR  
SUNSHINE!**

**Make a Gift**

Did you know more than 24,000 students in our Massachusetts communities are impacted by homelessness and poverty?

These children and teens face educational barriers and hardship due to circumstances beyond their control.

With your help however, we're changing that!

- **SUMMER ESL LITERACY PROGRAM**
  - **SETTING THE STAGE TO PREPARE 7,000+ STUDENTS FOR SCHOOL THIS FALL**
  - **CELEBRATING STUDENT GRADUATES**
  - **CHEERS TO OUR CHAMPION VOLUNTEERS**
  - **YOU MET YOUR MATCH!**
  - **20 RUNNERS KICK UP THEIR HEELS FOR KIDS IN FALMOUTH on August 20th**
  - **SAVE THE DATE! NOVEMBER 9, 2023 GALA**
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## TUTORING NEWS

### *New ESL Summer Literacy Program*

We're so pleased to introduce an ESL Summer Literacy program at our Kingston and Fall River tutoring sites, courtesy of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

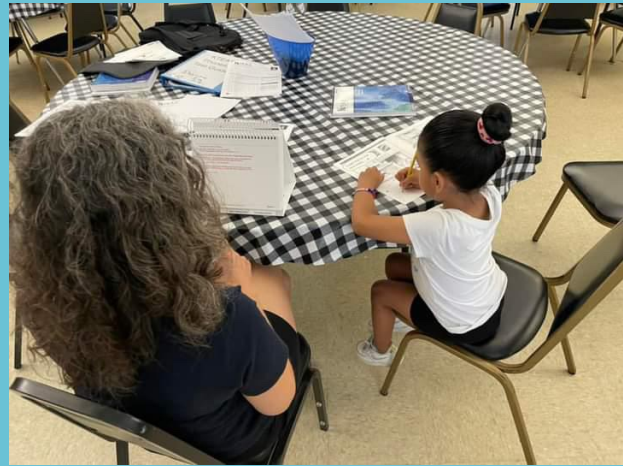
This short-term intensive project addresses urgent literacy needs to mitigate learning loss due to the pandemic, summer vacation and for homeless immigrant/refugee children of color, 90% of whom are English language learners.



The program combines reading, word comprehension and games to keep young children connected as they overcome language barriers and other learning challenges.

Annual *Tutoring Summer Fun* programs are also running at our sites in Boston, New Bedford, Brockton and Rockland.

Be sure to follow us on social media to see our kids rise and shine!



**Consider Tutoring!**

## Backpacks & Tools for School *Getting Ready for Fall!*




Join us as we prepare more than 7,000 students with a personalized grade-level backpack in time for fall.

Gather your family, business or neighbors for a fun and meaningful way to make a difference.

Volunteering to support our "Tools for School" program includes many ways to help. Consider staging a backpack drive, donating books and supplies - or writing notes of inspiration - straight from your heart!

We are especially in need of *Ear Buds!* Click below to stage a drive or donate.

## STAGE A SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE *for kids impacted by homelessness*



**The average age of a homeless person  
in Massachusetts is **8****


Last year Massachusetts public schools identified **24,000** students impacted by homelessness.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Quality backpacks for boys & girls K-12 (size 17" or larger to fit needed supplies and a lunchbox)
- Ear Phones or Ear Buds
- Large Pencil Boxes
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Jumbo Pencils
- Crayons -- 24 box (preferably Crayola)
- Dixon Ticonderoga Pencils
- Fun Whimsical Pencils
- Large Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt Children's Scissors (must be blunt)
- Large Pencil Sharpeners (with cover)
- Pens (blue or black)
- Washable Markers Broad Tip (8 pack) (must be washable)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Red Pens
- Highlighters
- Flexible Plastic Rulers
- Index Cards (100 pack)
- Calculators (square root & scientific)
- Shiny Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Doodle Pads
- Single Subject Notebooks (wide ruled)
- 3-Holed, Lined Paper (wide ruled)
- 1" Binders
- Binder Dividers

New books for all grade levels (pre-k through grade 12). Classics or appropriate subject matter.


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



**TO VOLUNTEER OR  
STAGE A DRIVE,  
CONTACT:**

**BFOX@SOWMA.ORG  
508-587-9091**

Scan  
to Purchase  
and Send  
Direct!



School on Wheels of Massachusetts  
100 Laurel Street, Suite 121  
E. Bridgewater, MA 02333  
508.587.9091  
WWW.SOWMA.ORG

Pop a Wheelie for Kids!

# SEAS THE DAY!



We're looking for a few summer volunteers to serve as a SOWMA "Concierge!" Pick up school supply donations or deliver backpacks to keep our wheels turning. You'll need muscle to handle the backpacks and of course a valid driver's license.

Contact [bfox@sowma.org](mailto:bfox@sowma.org) to get rolling!

[Support our Backpack Program](#)

## **BRIDGE MENTORING** *Meet the New Graduates*

There is much to applaud after an exciting spring celebrating the remarkable achievements of our graduates. These students persevered despite the odds, thanks to the support of the Bridge Mentoring Program.

See all of our 2023 graduates [HERE](#) or click any photo!



DAYSJA - Bridgewater State University



AMBER - Framingham State University



ASHLEY - Craven Community College to Eastern Carolina University



KAHLEB - Broward Community College to Florida Agricultural Mechanical School

Meet Our 2023 Graduates

Volunteer Appreciation 2023



- Champion for our Kids
- Tutor of the Year
- Mentor of the Year
- Companies Caring for Kids
- Special Recognition



Congratulations to all of the volunteers who received special and well-earned recognition at our Volunteer Appreciation dinner last month.

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our mission and we are honored to be the recipient of their time and dedication. Check out the celebration.

See Our Volunteer Champions

Evening Photo Montage

“

*We are thrilled to be supporting the 100 Families Challenge once again.*

*School on Wheels continues to amaze us year after year. This organization is unique in its mission and breathtaking in its triumphs. SOWMA not only addresses the immediate needs of children facing homelessness, it alters their trajectory toward stability and success.*

Jay & Claudia Weed

”

## You Met Your Match!

Many thanks to those who donated to our June "100 Families Challenge," a matching gift initiative courtesy of Jay and Claudia Weed and family.

The Weeds generously match all donations - up to \$10,000 - received during the month of June. That amounts to \$20,000 to bring tutoring, mentoring and customized backpacks to students in need. Thank you!



20 passionate athletes will pound the pavement for kids at New England's premiere road race on Sunday, August 20th. Meet our team by clicking below and consider supporting their run on behalf of the students we serve.

Meet Team SOWMA!

Mark your calendar for our not-to-miss annual fall gala scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023 at Granite



*Gala*

November 9, 2023

Links Golf Club in Quincy.

Details are coming soon but reserve the evening to celebrate our mission, students and community.

Click the graphic so see the festivities from last fall!

DONATE



FOLLOW US  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



- **Tutoring Site Locations:** Attleboro, Boston, Brockton, Dorchester, Fall River, Kingston, Middleboro, New Bedford, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Stoughton, Taunton, Weymouth
- **Backpacks:** 7,000+ Students this school year were equipped with new, customized backpacks, books and supplies.
- **90 Students** are now receiving support through our Bridge Mentoring Program.

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[Visit our website](#)

[Make a Gift!](#)

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