

*Illustration courtesy of Lydia Roy  
Massachusetts College of Art & Design  
in honor of SOWMA's 20th Anniversary*

**SCHOOL  
on WHEELS**  
MASSACHUSETTS

**Celebrating 20  
Years!**

**WINTER  
NEWSLETTER**

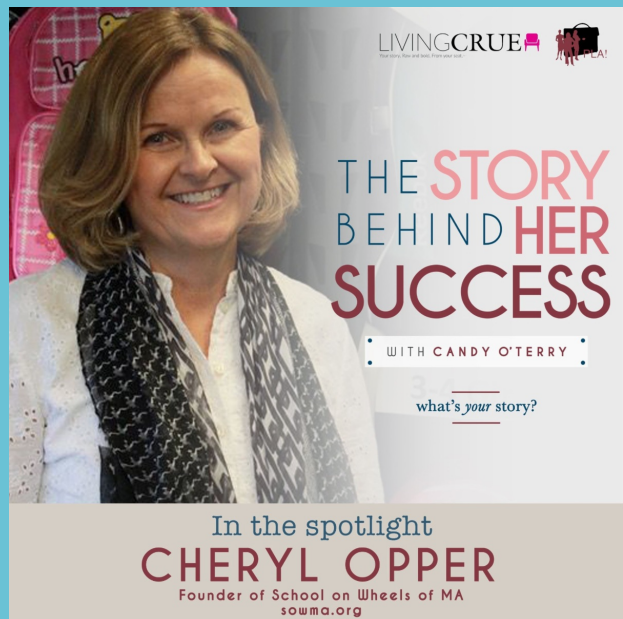
*February, 2024*

[Make A Gift](#)

**Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness**



*2004 - 2024 Illustration by Tori Aliberti, Mass  
College of Art & Design*



For 20 Years, SOWMA has been supporting the academic, social and

# YOU'RE INVITED

To Circle Back to Our Beginning!

Friday, April 19th at 3 p.m.

Join us for an anniversary reception in celebration of our 20th year as we circle back to our first community - The City of Champions!

Brockton City Hall  
45 School Street

with Brockton Mayor Robert F. Sullivan

RSVP

emotional growth of students impacted by homelessness.

Hear all about it in this interview with founder Cheryl Opper and Boston's Candy O'Terry by clicking the podcast image above.

"The Story Behind Her Success!"

Tune into The Story

## TUTORING NEWS

### The Changing Face of Homelessness



Tutoring children impacted by homelessness and poverty looks different today than it did when we began 20 years ago.

SOWMA's first tutoring site was the David Jon Louison Family Shelter in Brockton, Massachusetts. Today our tutoring model includes not only family shelters, but community centers, transitional housing and more recently, hotels.

We couldn't do our work without the heart and dedication of our Tutoring Program volunteers, who come from a variety of backgrounds and professions to champion a child in need. As we continue to reach more students, consider spending an hour a week helping a child with homework, school projects - or during the summer - our Summer Learning Program.

Check out the Many Ways to Get Involved below.

[Learn About Tutoring](#)

[Many Ways to Get Involved](#)

[Our Policy on Migrant Tutoring](#)

## BRIDGE MENTORING PROGRAM

### *Meet the New Graduate*

#### CONGRATULATIONS TAMARA!

SOWMA's Bridge Mentoring Program student Tamara is all smiles as she accepts her high school diploma from MAP Academy Charter School in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Tamara's relied on SOWMA mentor Joanna Fleming to help guide her through her studies. She is currently working for Silver Lining Mentoring in Boston to support students in foster care and recently spoke to the Boston Globe on the state of the foster care system.

MAP Academy is an alternative charter high school founded on the belief that every student – no matter what the life circumstances – has unique strengths and the ability to succeed.

We're so excited for what the future holds for Tamara. She plans to continue her work in advocacy and also holds a special interest in welding!



[BECOME A MENTOR](#)

## Backpacks and "Tools for School"

**10,000+ Strong!**

Thanks to the generosity of community groups, volunteers and



corporate goodwill, more than 10,000 students began the school year with new backpacks, brimming with grade-level supplies, books and learning tools.

These "Tools for School" are neatly arranged in a brand new quality backpack, which often serves as a personal "locker" for students living in crowded conditions.

Work is well underway in preparation for the upcoming summer reading bags and yes, the fall back-to-school season.

Stage a drive with friends, neighbors or at your business and help these students soar!



**GET INVOLVED  
WITH TOOLS FOR  
SCHOOL**



**BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY!** We are honored to receive the 2023 **Community Service Award** by the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce (Foxboro, Mansfield & Norton) for outstanding community service. Presented were proclamations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives - Steven S. Howitt, Edward R. Philips, Adam Scanlon, F. Jay Barrows, and House Speaker Ronald Mariano. An additional proclamation endorsed by State Senate Karen Spilka, Michael D.



### KIDS HELPING KIDS!

Samantha ("Sami") Gustufson of Canton held a school supply drive throughout the Canton Public Schools to bring learning activities and all things winter warmth and wellness to 193 students enrolled in our Tutoring Program.

Sami wanted to make a difference and rallied her peers and school officials to stage a donation drive to bring school supplies, fun activities and items to keep warm and healthy throughout the winter months. Many thanks to Lauren Weingold and GenServe for leading the way for this annual winter initiative.



[Learn More About "Tools for School"](#)

## NATIONAL GRID Corporate Citizenship

# nationalgrid



### Corporate Citizenship

Bringing STEM  
science, technology,  
engineering and math

To emPOWER Students

National Grid's Corporate Citizenship program continues to energize School on Wheels and our students!

Last summer National Grid accrued 262 volunteer hours, bringing 79 employees over 7 days to help prepare and customize backpacks and "Tools for School" for our students. In addition, a recent and very generous grant will bring STEM learning to more children - bringing new ways of observing, analyzing and learning!



Stop by their booth on May 4th - at Run, Walk & Wag for Kids - as Team National Grid takes the lead - with pups in tow - and sparks excitement with their Energy Explorer Activities!

Thank you National Grid, for lighting the way toward a better tomorrow for students in need.

## EVENTS!

### Next Up: May 4th Run, Walk & Wag for Kids!

Get your wag on at our annual dog-friendly 5K run and walk - through the trails of Borderland State Park - Saturday, May 4th.

Team up with SOWMA and JM Pet Resort & Veterinary Clinic - and Arbella Insurance Foundation, CrossHarbor Capital Partners, Board Chair Athena Giannaros and Family, Intact Specialty Solutions, Rexel Energy Solutions,

Getfused, Two Men and a Truck, Chris Murphy, Morse insurance, Michelle Wareham and more! Would you like to join this growing list of supporters? Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Music, children's activities, Ask the Vet - and Frosty Paws for the pups!



Pippet

Luna

River

[REGISTER](#)

[SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[2023 PHOTOS](#)

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
 Director of Bridge Mentoring

Inspire   
 Develop   
 Success

**SCHOOL on WHEELS MASSACHUSETTS**  
 Educate Kids  
 Empower Families  
 End Homelessness

**VISIT:**  
[WWW.SOWMA.ORG](http://WWW.SOWMA.ORG)

→ ABOUT US  
 → CAREERS

Email your resume to:  
[vincent@sowma.org](mailto:vincent@sowma.org)



## Director, Bridge Mentoring Program

We are hiring a Director to oversee our Bridge Mentoring Program.

The successful candidate will manage volunteer mentors and students as we build bridges to success!

Check out the full job description and consider applying to a position that fosters the growth and development of high school and college-age students as they find their unique and exciting pathway to success!

[LEARN MORE](#)



**WE ARE HIRING**  
 Part-Time Evenings  
 10 Hrs. / Week  
 Boston Area

Brighton   
 Dorchester   
 Remote Prep

**SCHOOL on WHEELS MASSACHUSETTS**  
 Educate Kids  
 Empower Families  
 End Homelessness

**TUTORING SITE COORDINATOR**

5:30 - 7:30 PM  
 MON. & THURS.  
 + PREP TIME

Contact:  
[Sharon@sowma.org](mailto:Sharon@sowma.org)



## Boston-Based Tutoring Coordinator

*Are you looking to make a difference and love seeing children thrive?*

Consider a role as a SOWMA Tutoring Program Site Coordinator.

We have a part-time position available as a coordinator of tutors, students and partners at two Boston locations, Brighton and Dorchester.

This is an ideal position is for someone who loves bringing and receiving smiles and helping students shine!

Monday in Brighton; and Thursday in Dorchester - each night from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Training, preparation hours and onboarding are included in this rewarding staff position. We'd love to welcome you aboard!

[LEARN MORE](#)



## CAPTURING OUR MISSION

Tell us about our mission without telling us about our mission.





That was the assignment given to students at the Massachusetts College of Art & Design's "Professional Illustration in the Community" class, led by Professor Irena Roman.

See the results! These illustrations tell our story at a glance - as seen through the eyes and talents of these creative students from MassArt.

We couldn't say it better!

Click the illustration and enjoy the work of these emerging illustrators.

*This illustration courtesy of MCA student Kallie Hill*

20th Anniversary Illustrations

DONATE



FOLLOW US  
ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA!



- **Tutoring Site Locations:** Attleboro, Boston, Brockton, Dorchester, Fall River, Kingston, Lowell, Middleboro, New Bedford, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Stoughton, Taunton, Weymouth
- **Backpacks:** 10,000+ students this school year received new, customized backpacks, books and "Tools for School."
- **90 Students** are now receiving support through our Bridge

# Mentoring Program.



**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.

[Visit our website](#)

[Make a Gift!](#)



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