



Director's Message



I wish you all a great holiday season. As I connect and reconnect with friends, I am reminded, once again, how we all belong to each other.

As we experience the year's shortest days, I reflect on how many ways you are increasing the light. Here is just one example--the wonderful volunteers who give their time to support local nonprofits, like yesterday's wrapping of Holiday Meals for local residents at Mt. Calvary Community Supper, pictured above.

Thank you for making 2019 a terrific first five months for me at ABUW. We had a record turn out of community volunteers and project sites for our Day of Caring. Dr. Ruth Potee's lecture on addiction and the teen brain was simply eye-opening. You can still watch [the recording here](#). A special thank you to so many of you who made time for sharing your hopes and dreams during my listening tour.

The Casino Royale evening last month was a great success. Read all about it below.

And many neighbors have already responded to our Annual Appeal that arrived in your mailbox about two weeks ago. Thank you for your generosity and support. [View the Appeal here.](#)

Finally, don't miss a special ABUW storytelling event on Friday, February 21. Come and listen to Jamie Eldridge, Kim Walsh's Korean roots, and my own story about belonging.

Thank you for walking with us,

Griet Dehandschutter
Executive Director

Casino Royale: A Vibrant Celebration

Thank you to everyone who supported, attended, bought raffle tickets, and donated to Casino Royale. It was a splendid evening, shared with friends and neighbors, in support of our community.



A special thank you to our planning committee, chaired by Cheryl Witty, Judy Rowland (left) and Lisa Pratt (right).

Together, we raised more \$44,000 and welcomed a record number of attendees.

[Thank you to all our corporate sponsors!](#) Your support is integral to our community, helping us all Live United.



#Giving Tuesday Dedicated to Assist Grants

On Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019, you helped raise close to \$4,000 for our Assist Grant Fund that provides emergency financial assistance to cash-strapped residents facing an acute crisis and needing short-term help to pay rent, a medical or utility bill.

Hear about recent requests through [these videos on](#) our "ABUnitedWay" Facebook.



Meet our Student Board Members



Every year, Acton-Boxborough United Way offers a unique opportunity to two high school juniors to become active members of the Board of Directors. Elizabeth Li (left) and Prisha Dayal (right) are continuing a great tradition. Thank you for your strong voices and dedication!

Six years ago, Elizabeth and her family received great support from neighbors when they immigrated from China to Boxborough. Elizabeth wanted to give back to the community that helped her belong. Through ABUW, she hopes to help children with disabilities and seniors who feel isolated.

Prisha cares deeply about teen mental health and equal opportunities for all. She is passionate about progressive politics and youth empowerment. Prisha brings her youthful voice and smart questioning to our Board.



The Acton-Boxborough United Way Fall Appeal arrived two weeks ago.

[See a digital copy here](#)

Job Opportunity

[Assistant Director](#)
(32 hr)

Volunteer Opportunity

Office tech support. We love help with setting up new office equipment and troubleshooting.

To learn more, contact abuw@abuw.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Volunteer Orientation](#), 1/14
- [Suicide Prevention Training](#), 1/21
- [Storytelling](#) in collaboration with Fugitive Stories, 2/21
- ["College and Mental Health" Panel](#), in collaboration with NAMI, 3/16

JOIN THE FIGHT

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED®.

