



## DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF ACC,

Happy Holidays from our family at ACC to yours! For many, the brightest weeks of the year lie just ahead of us as loved ones gather around to share memories both old and new. However, this season will also be the busiest time of year for ACC as many will go without a hot meal or warm bed as shelters in the region are squeezed harder than ever.

It was just over a decade ago that I started ACC in a tiny downtown office space so that no member of this community would ever have to face such a grim reality. In its short lifespan, your generosity has pushed our organization closer to this goal every year, with 2021 being no exception. This summer we experienced our busiest season on record thanks to an influx in small donations. Under your support, we helped our community navigate a complete overhaul of the MA emergency rental assistance application and began a new collaboration with Craig's Doors Homeless Shelter. We also expanded resources for victims of domestic violence and helped dozens of families access new funds for rent, food, and utility relief.

As we all learn to navigate the new rules of a post-pandemic world, the housing scene is changing in unprecedented ways. At ACC, we have made it our mission to educate the community on the processes that are essential for securing housing because we know first hand how discouraging they can be to navigate on your own. We do the research—even if that means calling agency officials one-by-one—so that participants can focus on the issues that deserve their attention.

With the coldest nights of the year quickly approaching, ACC is committed to serving all those who walk through our doors. Their stories and kindness are what motivate us to fight as hard as we do, but your generosity is what makes our work possible. As you gather in the company of loved ones this holiday season, please consider helping us warm the lives of other families in the region by writing a check out to **Amherst Community Connections**. Our team is beyond grateful for all the enduring love and support you have shown us. May your homes be filled with warmth, laughter, and cheer this holiday season!



GRATEFULLY YOURS,

HWEI-LING GREENEY  
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR