



**Social
Impact
Center**
Roxbury Presbyterian Church

Making a Difference Your Support in Action

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRYSTAL PEGRAM

Dear Friends and Partners,

Every dollar you give does more than sustain a program — it restores voice, builds resilience, and creates spaces where healing becomes possible.

This past year, your generosity supported youth leadership employment, expanded trauma-sharing communities across multiple states, strengthened community partnerships serving thousands of families, and elevated leaders whose work is being recognized.

But most importantly, you helped individuals connect and heal.

It is with gratitude to share highlights of what your partnership has made possible.

FEATURE IMPACT – Youth Ambassador Program

Four Young Leaders. Real Investment. Lasting Impact.

In 2025, four youth were selected to serve as RPCSIC Youth Ambassadors — a healing-centered youth employment and leadership initiative for young people ages 14–18. Through structured summer employment, these Youth Ambassadors:

- ◆ Facilitated peer sessions within the Youth Exchange Program
- ◆ Modeled healthy communication and leadership
- ◆ Practiced emotional literacy and reflective dialogue
- ◆ Built workforce readiness and professional skills

Rather than teaching leadership as performance, the program builds character, self-awareness, and resilience as the foundation for long-term success. Because of your support, four young people were not only employed — they were equipped with tools that will shape how they lead, relate, and contribute to their communities.





Growing the Can We Talk. . .[®] Healing Community

Growth in the CWT network means more safe spaces built on consistency, compassion, and community.

WELCOME TO:

- ♦ Pilgrim Baptist Church – Washington, DC

CURRENTLY IN TRAINING:

- ♦ Cotuit Federated Church – Cotuit, MA
- ♦ High St. Congregational UCC – Auburn, ME
- ♦ Allen AME Church – Providence, RI

“ Can We Talk... has helped me by being a place full of consistency, love, communication, and community. ”

The Demakes Family YMCA CWT site in Lynn, MA, invited Rev. Liz Walker, Colleen Sharka, and Debra Fitzpatrick to a joint Can We Talk... session and book discussion of *No One Left Alone*, expanding outreach to individuals navigating trauma and loss. We are planning more joint sessions with other CWT sites. More information about the CWT program and sites can be found at (<https://canwetalknetwork.org/>), along with the Feb. 12, 2026 Boston Globe opinion editorial (<https://rpcsocialimpactctr.org/how-communities-help-us-get-through-trauma/>) written by Rev. Liz Walker.

Strengthening Community Partnerships

Shondell Davis, Community Trauma Healing Specialist, continues to serve as a vital connector between the Social Impact Center and partner organizations across Greater Boston.

Through partnership with Union Capital Boston — an organization of more than 3,000 members with a mission to transform social capital into opportunity by rewarding community engagement — Shondell is connecting individuals to SIC’s trauma-informed resources and healing spaces that strengthen long-term stability.



UCB HOLIDAY GATHERING



Recognizing Leadership and Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS to Debra Fitzpatrick, Community Companion Coordinator and facilitator of the Roxbury Can We Talk..., for receiving the 2026 Spirit of Compassion Award, presented by the Massachusetts General Hospital Endowment for the Advancement of Psychotherapy. The award, presented at the Annual MGH Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Conference, is in recognition of Debra’s important contributions to the advancement of mental health in the community.

We also celebrate Shondell Davis, Community Trauma Healing Specialist, who will receive the Valeria Payton Parent Leadership Award at the Families First Breakfast: Together for Families in March. This award recognizes Shondell’s vital work in the advancement of parenting education.



Extending Our Trauma-Informed Model

In October 2025, Rev. Liz Walker, Colleen Sharka, and Rev. Dana Baker were invited to participate in a three-part international webinar series, *Wounds that Don’t Bleed: Embodied Solidarity*. This was part of an ongoing global conversation on trauma and grief in partnership with Churches for Middle East Peace and its women’s empowerment initiative, *And Still We Rise*. The series provided education on the effects of trauma and shared resilience practices for women navigating prolonged conflict. We’re grateful for the opportunity to open broader conversations on healing by sharing SIC’s trauma-informed model.

“ It’s because of those who embrace your tears that you can heal. ”



“ This is where I find my journey of healing. ”

Become a Partner in Healing

All programs of the Social Impact Center are funded entirely through philanthropic contributions. Your tax-deductible gift provides real-time support for adults, children, and families navigating trauma and grief.

For more information contact Kathleen Brittan, kbrittan@rpcsic.org or 617-618-8352

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