



welcome spring!



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Greetings!

It seems the world is waking up from a 14 month slumber. People are getting vaccinated. Our tele-friend volunteers are making plans to meet their quarantine/holiday buddy [safely] in person. Our program team is working with our senior housing partners to evaluate the best time to bring our students and older friends back together. The staff are making their way back into the office. We're **hoping** to host our annual summer picnics and a live gala in September. There's a lot to look forward to. And that feels good.

Like everyone, I find myself thinking a lot about the lessons learned this year and what LBFE should take forward into the future.

In June [I issued a statement](#) in support of Black Lives Matter and that LBFE Boston is committed to taking a look inward and how we could be a more equitable organization. To honor this commitment you'll see in our FY21-24 Strategic Plan (below) that many of our goals are centered around diversity, equity, inclusion and sustainability. We have already taken steps on our DEI journey and are seeking to engage with consultants to continue this important work. Through this process we will continue to create spaces where **all** are welcome to better achieve our mission to relieve isolation and loneliness among the elderly.

We also learned this year that tech access is a social determinant of health. The Digital Divide has left many older adults behind. Even with the pandemic nearly behind us, the world will not go back to how it was. Telemedicine, virtual civic meetings, remote learning, access to benefits will all remain online. To contribute to the City's efforts of Digital Equity, [LBFE will continue building programs](#) that provide devices, connectivity and training to older adults. Below, you'll read more about our testimony at the Boston Human Rights Commission's hearing on the digital divide and our call to keep older adults centered in conversations about increasing tech access.

With a future that looks different than the past, there are some things that will always remain the same. LBFE will always work hard to build relationships that span cultures and generations to prevent and relieve loneliness and isolation. We will always focus on friendship as a way to change the lives of the older adults, volunteers, and the whole LBFE family.

Whether through a screen or across a table, LBFE will always be there. And thank YOU for always being there, too.

Warmly,

Nikki Shults
Executive Director



LBFE In the News

Our friends at Good Morning Emerson featured LBFE Boston and our intergenerational CitySites program last month. Watch now to get a look into our program with Grove Hall Senior Center in Roxbury!

[Watch Here](#)

LBFE Boston Annual Report 2020

Hot off the presses! Take a look at our 2020 Annual Report. Thanks to the flexibility and resourcefulness of the



LBFE Family we had a year full of friendship, laughter, and comfort despite the challenges.

[Read Here](#)

LITTLE BROTHERS FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY Boston Chapter

LBFE BOSTON

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-24

Our Mission: To relieve isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of goodwill the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

www.littlebrothersboston.org



The Future of LBFE Boston

After nearly a year of information gathering, surveys, research, adjusting, and reimagining, the LBFE Boston Strategic Planning Committee is proud to share our Strategic Plan FY21-24. The next three years will be all about Intentional & Inclusive Growth.

[Read Here](#)



NEW Volunteer Opportunities

In alignment with our new strategic plan, LBFE Boston is creating new volunteer opportunities for volunteers and older adults to play a larger role in the organization's operations. We are currently seeking volunteers to serve on our board-led Communication and Development Committees.

[Learn More](#)



Bridging the Digital Divide

LBFE Boston's Executive Director Nikki Shults delivered testimony before the Boston Human Rights Commission's April Hearing on the Digital Divide. She advocated for including older adults in all conversations, infrastructure, and work done in expanding tech access.

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