

Quarterly Newsletter | February 2024



Recent Digital Dividends Graduates from Franklin Field Apartments Display Their Certificates of Course Completion

Hello!

As I begin to wrap up my time at LBFE Boston I have had the pleasure to meet with several of you on what I've started calling "my farewell tour." We've shared memories and stories of the last decade, reflected on the changes LBFE Boston has experienced, discussed the exciting opportunities the future holds for the organization, and most of all the importance of our mission to relieve isolation and loneliness.

With Steve, we thought about how LBFE Boston can help identify individuals who need more advocacy and support and help create connections to additional services and care. David and I spoke about the "calling" we both feel towards this type of work and how creating these human connections feels like life's purpose. Emily shared her appreciation of LBFE's strong community partnerships and our ability to adapt to the needs of older adults in Boston. Everyone has been wonderfully supportive and kind. Thank you.

While I am thinking about winding down, LBFE Boston is ramping up. We

are hosting more programs than ever before as Uju fully steps into her role as Program Manager and takes on 10 additional CitySites locations. Stephenie and Teresa have full program slates for CitySites and Digital Dividends. Our four new co-ops (Liv, Meredith, Yongjae, and Olivia) and college students from across the city are ready to begin a new semester, and excited to make friends 50, 60, and 70 years their senior. We've welcomed our newest staff member, Zachary – LBFE Boston's first Development Assistant. And we're hiring an additional Program Manager to expand our Digital Dividends program. 2024 is shaping up to be a banner year for LBFE!

As always, thank you for your continued support of LBFE Boston and dedication to our mission of relieving isolation and loneliness among older adults. It's a joy to do this work with you. If you'd like to connect and be a part of my "farewell tour" please feel welcome to reach out, or if you'd like to meet with other members of LBFE Boston's leadership team, [Jean](#) and [Cynthia](#) are always just an email away!

Warmly,

Nikki Shults
Executive Director

LBFE Boston in the News



**From Google Docs to FaceTime:
How a digital literacy program is
empowering older adults**

GBH News Associate Producer, Elena Eberwein, recently visited a Digital Dividends program at Thomas Atkins Apartments in Roxbury, and shared our efforts to bridge the digital equity gap in Boston using an intergenerational model. [Read the article here](#), which garnered a lot of attention in the nonprofit space appearing in the *Point32Health* and *Executive Office of Elder Affairs* newsletters!



WBZ NewsRadio 1030 Evening News anchor and host of New England Weekend, Nichole Davis, recently invited LBFE Boston Executive Director, Nikki Shults, on the weekend show to discuss our mission, programs, and holiday plans. [Listen to the segment here](#), which was featured on nearly 10 iHeart radio stations.

Holiday Festivities



It was a festive December at LBFE Boston! Volunteers from around Boston and across the country were busy making holiday cards for older adult program participants, donating program supplies and gift cards to LBFE Boston and our

community partners too! Our Board of Directors came in for gift assembly and delivery to older adults, and the fall session of intergenerational social CitySites wrapped up, including many holiday parties!

Thank you to the many community partners, student participants, businesses, and individuals for making this season so bright for older adults in our community including Stratos Consulting, Google, Amazon, Mass General Brigham Office of the Chief Medical Officer, American Tower Corp, students from Harvard Undergraduate Consulting on Business and the Environment (CBE), Brenna Jones, Life Biosciences, and Bridget O'Brien.

Program Updates



Program Director Cynthia Wilkerson is hard at work getting ready to launch our newest program, Gen2GenQ! Cynthia along with LBFE Boston co-op, Meredith, recently attended **First Event** to network and raise awareness for the new program!

Connecting college-age folx and older LGBTQIA+ people for conversation, support, storytelling, and activism. Do YOU want to be part of it? Contact Cynthia at **cwilkerson.bos@littlebrothers.org** to learn more.

Meet our friend, Charles, an older adult CitySites participant from St. Cecilia's. "If you guys are here, I'm here." He said that alongside his family calls, weekly LBFE Boston programs give him things to look forward to.

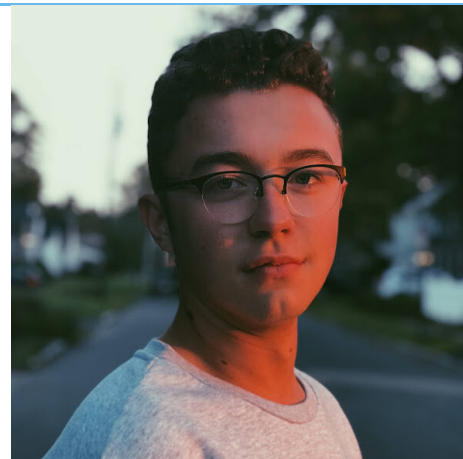


“Programs allow me to discover new hobbies and activities and play games with folks who wouldn’t want to otherwise.” [Get to know Charles.](#)

Staff Updates



In January, we welcome four new co-ops from Northeastern University who will work as program coordinators for the next six months. [Hear what they're most looking forward to during their time at LBFE Boston.](#)



We also welcomed Zachary Roy, a current senior from Suffolk University as our new, part-time Development & Communications Assistant. [Get to know Zach.](#)

Kendra Scott Gives Back Event

Thank you to everyone who purchased jewelry online and in person at the Kendra Scott Gives Back event in December! LBFE Boston received 20% of all sales that weekend totaling nearly \$800!



IMPACT: End-of-Year Appeal

Did you know that more than 40% of LBFE's *individual* donor contributions

come in the last quarter of the year? Thanks to YOU, our holiday/end-of-year campaign was a BIG success...raising nearly \$140,000. That amount FULLY funds three CitySites and Digital Dividends locations for an ENTIRE year! THANK YOU!



Career Opportunities

We're Hiring! After 10 successful and dedicated years, Nikki is moving on from her position and LBFE Boston is looking for its next **Executive Director**. Additionally, we are hiring our second **Digital Dividends Program Manager**. Do you know someone? **Share this information!**

Join Our Monthly Giving Program



, you know firsthand that LBFE Boston's programs make a REAL impact on the lives of so many older adults! You believe in our mission and the work we do and know that connections build stronger communities.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor! Just \$10/month gives one older adult in our Digital Dividends program free internet for three months AND provides new arts and crafts materials for one CitySites program! **Join here.**

Follow LBFE Boston on Socials

Stay involved with our programs and participants. We welcome you to share our posts and spread our mission to prevent social isolation and connect the young and old alike in friendship through weekly programs.



1,007 Posts 880 Followers 1,246 Following

LBFE Boston | Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly

@lbfeboston

Nonprofit organization

Connecting older adults and college students at weekly social, tech & arts programs to foster friendships and prevent isolation.

2 Park Plaza, Suite 400, Boston, Massachusetts

www.lbfeboston.org

Visit our website