



For immediate release

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The Second Step Receives \$2 Million Gift From the Yield Giving Open Call

Newton, MA, March 19, 2024 – Today, MacKenzie Scott's Yield Giving announced The Second Step as one of the Yield Giving Open Call's awardees who work with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States. The Second Step received a \$2 million gift.

The Second Step provides critical assistance to individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence. We offer a diverse array of comprehensive services, including safety planning, legal representation, counseling, peer support, transitional housing, and other essential services to adults and families across Eastern Massachusetts. From a lens of healing-focused, trauma-informed care, The Second Step works with survivors and their families to achieve long-term independence, safety, and stability.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources.

"We are thrilled with this gift from Yield Giving. Domestic violence is often a hidden issue. This tremendous investment in the work we do to help survivors gain safety and stability is not only transformative programmatically, it also tells survivors that they are important, that they deserve the support and commitment this wonderful grant provides." – Susan Ross, Executive Director.

The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In the Fall of 2023, organizations top-rated by their peers advanced to

a second round of review by an external Evaluation Panel recruited for experience relevant to this cause and underwent a final round of due diligence. Considering the incredible work of these organizations, as judged by their peers and external panelists, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount. As one of the highest-ranking applicants, The Second Step has been awarded \$2 million.

"We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations," said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. "In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain unseen."

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at www.leverforchange.org.

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The Second Step (TSS) is a community of survivors, advocates, and volunteers who foster the safety, stability, and well-being of those who have experienced domestic violence.

Dedicated to ending the cycle of abuse, we provide comprehensive assistance including safety planning, legal representation, counseling, peer support, transitional housing, and other essential services to help survivors remove obstacles to independence, rebuild their lives, and achieve long-term stability. Based in Newton, we serve those living in Greater Boston and the MetroWest area.

Please know THERE IS HELP if you need it. The Second Step is here if you or someone you know is or may be in a dangerous relationship. We can help assess the situation; create a comprehensive safety plan including obtaining a restraining order and other legal protection, accessing shelter, and identifying key resources; provide information and emotional support during this difficult time.

The Second Step Intake Line: 617-965-2538

www.thesecondstep.org

Yield Giving

Established by MacKenzie Scott to share a financial fortune created through the effort of countless people, Yield Giving is named after a belief in adding value by giving up control. To date, Yield's network of staff and advisors has yielded over

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\$16,500,000,000 to 1,900+ non-profit teams to use as they see fit for the benefit of others. To learn more, visit www.yieldgiving.com.

Lever for Change

Lever for Change connects donors with bold solutions to the world's biggest problems—including issues like racial inequity, gender inequality, lack of access to economic opportunity, and climate change. Using an inclusive, equitable model and due diligence process, Lever for Change creates customized challenges and other tailored funding opportunities. Top-ranked teams and challenge finalists become members of the Bold Solutions Network—a growing global network that helps secure additional funding, amplify members' impact, and accelerate social change. Founded in 2019 as a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Lever for Change has influenced over \$1.7 billion in grants to date and provided support to more than 145 organizations. To learn more, visit www.leverforchange.org.