

Good News Tuesday: Project 351 kicks off 12th annual Cradles to Crayons spring service project

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Cradles to Crayons

Project 351 Alumni Leadership Council members (left to right) Calvin Lewis of Cambridge, Maddie Cronin of Sherborn, Yasmine Laabadla of Everett, and Francesca Forcellati of Revere join Michaela Campbell, Alumna & Program Manager, Project 351 (third

from right) and Aubrey Henderson, executive director, Cradles to Crayons (far right.)

Good News Tuesday highlights the good works that make our community stronger: companies or employees going the extra mile for employees or customers or unique volunteer & charitable efforts. Share your Good News here.

Two nonprofit organizations recently banded together in a spring project to support children throughout Massachusetts. Project 351, a youth-led movement for change powered by eighth-grade service Ambassadors representing the state's 351 cities and towns, joined forces with Cradles to Crayons, which provides services and supplies for homeless and low income youth. This is the 12th year the two nonprofit organizations have partnered in this statewide campaign to support children throughout the commonwealth.

Project 351 youth Ambassadors develop the knowledge, confidence, and skills to lead transformative social change. Spring Service, a clothing drive in support of Cradles to Crayons, is the Class of 2023's first statewide campaign of their service year. An annual rite of the season since 2012, Ambassadors have impacted more than 159,000 children served by Cradles to Crayons.

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive—at home, at school, and at play—for free. During Spring Service, Project 351 Ambassadors and Alumni mobilize their communities to donate thousands of bags of new and high-quality used children's clothing for Cradles to Crayons.

Both organizations strongly believe in the power of young people doing good. Project 351's mission is founded on that belief, developing a new generation of change makers in every region of the state. Cradles to Crayons welcomes volunteers as young as 5 years old and has many engagement opportunities for youth including its Teen Leadership Program.

"We're inspired by our Ambassadors' compassion and conviction in support of Cradles to Crayons, and by their unifying leadership in

support of children in need of our care," said Carolyn Casey, founder and executive director of Project 351. "And we are most grateful for our enduring partnership with Cradles to Crayons. We share a common vision for equity and opportunity, and a fierce belief in young people as a catalyst for extraordinary good."

Cradles to Crayons is always in need of new and high-quality used children's items, and the Spring Service clothing drives with Project 351 represent the largest donation of clothing that Cradles to Crayons receives annually.

"We're proud to have a partner like Project 351 and we're so thankful for their support each spring," said Aubrey Henderson, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons Massachusetts. "One of my favorite times of the year is drop-off weekend when the Ambassadors drop off their collected donations and we see the bags pile up. The items in those bags will help thousands of children throughout the state and it's all thanks to Project 351 and their incredible youth service leaders."

The Project 351 Spring Service drives kicked off in March, and donations will be delivered to Cradles to Crayons drop-off locations across the state in April.

For more information on Cradles to Crayons go to www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston and for Project 351 go to <https://project351.org/>



Doug Banks

Executive Editor - *Boston Business Journal*

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