



# Open Spirit

## 2025 Annual Campaign

Dear friends,

### “Why give to Open Spirit?”

When there are so many urgent needs and so many community groups working to address them, it is a good question. I'd like to share my own response - why I believe in Open Spirit, why I choose to give my time and resources to support this community.

In so many ways, at so many levels, it feels as though the fabric of our lives, our society, and our planet are being torn apart.

**Open Spirit offers a different vision.** Open Spirit weaves that vision into reality, creating a rich tapestry of hope, health and harmony. Through our programs and partnerships, we bring people together - across differences, through shared struggles and in celebration of resilience. These efforts may feel small, but their potential to heal and strengthen our lives and communities is immense.

In the last year, as we have woven our tapestry of hope, beautiful designs of promise and renewal have emerged. I'd like to share just a few of them with you:

- Our November textile art show, “Threads of Connection - Honoring the gifts we weave together,” featured over 60 quilts, weavings, and textiles created and contributed by community members. Each piece told a story of connection, love, and creativity. Valarie Poitier, our new artist in residence, spoke of resilience and the power of creativity to heal and inspire. Her words and our art were vivid reminders that we are all creators, weaving beauty and hope into our shared world. When we bring our creative gifts together, the result is truly wondrous.
- Each month, over 30 mind-body-spirit programs take place at Open Spirit. Through yoga, Qi Gong, and meditation, we honor our bodies, minds and spirits as we become stronger, wiser, and more flexible. We practice mindfulness, cultivating awareness that enables us to respond rather than react, so we can make a positive contribution to healing our world.
- Twice a month, children at Hoops and Homework and Pelham Lifelong Learning Center afterschool programs join our Nourishing Garden program leader, Safiyat Hamiss, to plant, grow, and harvest vegetables. They cook, eat and share what they have grown. They build connection with the earth; they learn patience and perseverance; they come to love tasty, healthy food.

- Once a month, folks gather in Edwards Hall, carrying bags of yarn. They bless the prayer shawls they crochet, infusing them with healing energy. A basket of shawls went to Oak Knoll Nursing Home; others have gone to folks facing cancer or grieving a death. With every stitch, they send warmth, healing and love out into the world, reminding us of the quiet power of community care.
- This summer, amidst a contentious and divisive time in our nation, people gathered for a two-part workshop called “Learning to Listen.” We focused on how to engage with people with whom we disagree - listening deeply, moving beyond debate to genuine connection. We agreed it is very difficult; we also agreed to keep trying.
- This year, we have begun to offer creative writing opportunities: a monthly poetry group and a 6-week Writing for Healing workshop. The two programs invite participants to claim the power of their words to heal and inspire.

I need Open Spirit, for it reminds me that beauty and hope and creativity are more powerful than the struggles we face. I believe our world needs Open Spirit, for we do more than talk about hope, health, and harmony. We weave it into being. That is why I give to Open Spirit.

## **Will you join me in supporting Open Spirit?**

Your gift to Open Spirit’s Annual Fund is an investment in this tapestry of hope, health, and harmony we are weaving together. Your contribution supports the infrastructure that makes everything we do possible: staff, physical and virtual space, technology, marketing, program planning, and so much more. This year, we aspire to raise \$19,000. Every gift matters - whether it is \$25, \$250, or \$2,500.

Thank you for being part of this beautiful, resilient, and transformative community. Together, may we continue weaving a tapestry filled with joy and possibility.

With gratitude,  
Debbie

Rev. Dr. Debbie Clark  
Interfaith Coordinator  
Open Spirit



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Open Spirit

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