

## TFC Community Service Project at “Cradles to Crayons”

By Susan Frodigh



*Back Row: Elisabeth Christino, Tom Hudson, Leann Sullivan  
Middle Row: Renée Kwok, Jodi Coochise, Scott Swartz, Betty Harris  
Front Row: Connie Wyllie, Michelle Volpe, Susan Frodigh, Cara McCartin  
Missing from photo: Jane Barney, Kathy Chianca, Jim Joslin, Dan Kern*

On January 7, 2016 TFC staff closed the office for a half-day community service project. This year we ventured over to **Cradles to Crayons** in Brighton. This marked our third such project but a first with this fantastic organization.

The mission of Cradles to Crayons (C2C) is to provide children (from birth through age 12) living in homeless shelters or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive—at home, at school and at play. C2C collects new and “like new” children’s items such as clothing, shoes, toys, books, and baby essentials, through community drives and private and corporate donations.



Dave Cotugno, C2C’s Sr. Manager of Family Philanthropy, gives a tour of the “Giving Factory.”

The donations are then processed and packaged by a total of 35,000 volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 85 and then distributed to disadvantaged children across the Commonwealth through a network of 123 social service agencies and school partners. In 2015, through the assistance of these volunteers, 119,000 packages were provided to needy children. Sadly, the need is great--about 300,000 live in low-income situations in Massachusetts.



A bin of donated sneakers.

Prior to our visit, we learned through TFC's Kathy Chianca that there were no pajamas in stock. So Kathy hastily organized a "Pajama Party" at the office. Through work colleagues, commuter train friends and family, she was able to collect 100 new pairs of PJ's!

On the afternoon we volunteered, we partnered up in pairs to "shop" in the "Giving Factory." We were given a shopping list with a child's first name, age and sizes and went around the factory gathering the requested items (eg, pre-sorted clothing pack, school supplies, boots).

We then had to check them in with C2C staff to make sure the list was completed properly before being given another list to fulfill. By the end of our shift, we shopped for 137 children in need. Sadly, there were NO boots in any size.



Renée Kwok and Susan Frödigh fill their shopping cart.



Leann Sullivan and Jodi Coochise get their shopping bag approved by C2C staff.



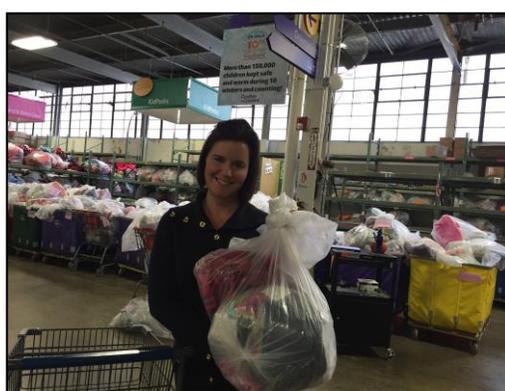
Cara McCartin readies her bag for check-in.

We unanimously agreed we enjoyed this community service project the best of the three in which we've participated to date.

How can you get involved? You can donate children's items, volunteer, host a collection drive, or contribute funds. If you'd like to learn more, visit [www.cradlestocrayons.org](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org) or call 617-779-4700.



Elisabeth Christino and Tom Hudson fulfill their shopping list.



Michelle Volpe completes her shopping bag.



Betty Harris and Connie Wyllie check for sizes.