



Eliot Day Center

A program of Eliot Presbyterian Church
273 Summer St., Lowell, Massachusetts

A Welcoming Community

of safety and support
for unhoused neighbors

**Open Weekdays
from 10:00 a.m.
to 2:30 p.m.**



Eliot Day Center staff, left to right: Charly Ott, Director of Operations; Sau Richards, Kitchen Assistant; Kim Gee, Case Manager; Joyce Hughes, Executive Director

Our Mission

The Eliot Day Center is a hub where our unhoused neighbors can access spiritual care, person-centered support, and tangible resources for obtaining and maintaining safe and stable housing.

- Hub means that multiple partners converge at Eliot Day Center to provide services to our guests.
- Spiritual care means we facilitate a welcoming environment of rest, peace, creativity, and community for all our guests, regardless of their faith tradition.
- Person-centered support means that we build relationships with our guests, empower them to identify and use their unique gifts, and respond to the needs they identify for themselves.
- Tangible Resources are the physical things we provide like daytime shelter, meals, clothing, food, ID documents, and referrals to other partners.



Eliot Day Center staff, left to right: Claire Smith, Kitchen Manager, Rich Callahan, Assistant Manager; and Gordon Donkoh-Halm, Director of Client Services

Facts about the Program

- In operation since May 2020
- Open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Averaging 120 guests per day as of February 2025
- Entrance through the side door on Favor Street (handicapped entry at the front door — ring the bell)
- 6 part-time staff on Eliot's payroll
- Volunteers who help out regularly
- Assisting with IDs for 12-15 clients each month
- Providing mail service for 50 of our guests
- Giving out 50-60 items of clothing and personal hygiene products each week
- \$178,000 annual budget

A Day in the Center

Day Center staff arrive at 9:00 a.m. and begin to set up for the day. At 10:00 the doors open, and people come in, heading for the kitchen window, where coffee and breakfast are ready to be served.

Our guests take their coffee and food to the tables in Olney Hall; they eat and socialize, use the bathroom, charge their phones, and use the wifi.

Throughout the day, the staff tidy up the property and clean and sanitize spaces that are in use.

The closets on the stage are stocked with clothing and personal hygiene items; Day Center staff give these to anyone who asks, while supplies last.

Our Director of Client Services and Case Manager meet with any of our guests who desire to take steps toward becoming housed. This includes assistance with applications for low-income or supported housing, obtaining birth certificates and IDs to pave the way toward employment and housing, referrals to detox programs, and obtaining SNAP benefits.

On Wednesdays, the Day Center holds a worship service in the library; communion is served.

Through the week our partner agencies including VinFen, Eliot Human Services, and a nurse from Lowell Community Health Center are available to meet with our guests.

At 2:30 p.m. staff from St. Paul's Kitchen begin to arrive; Day Center staff clean up the hall and kitchen, close their offices, and leave for the day, while our guests may stay until supper has been served.

Ways You Can Help

Prayer

- For the wellbeing of the staff and our guests
- For funding
- For the health and life of Eliot Church
- And pray *with* us at Wednesday worship, 11 a.m.

Funding — tinyurl.com/GiveEliot

- Make a gift designated “Day Center Fund”
- Arrange for a matching gift from your employer

Supplies (for details, contact DayCenter@eliotlowell.org)

- Clothing and hygiene items
- Paper goods and cleansers
- Homemade soup or baked goods
- A supply drive in your community

Time (contact DayCenter@eliotlowell.org)

- Drive to pick up donations
- Inventory supplies
- Come at any time and help tidy up our property

Talent (contact Gordon.DonkohHalm@eliotlowell.org)

- Provide staff training
- Offer educational programs for clients

Day Center Contacts

Phone: 978-452-3386

Executive Director

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Director of Operations

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Director of Client Services

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