Hello All,

Fall is here, and with it our Annual Meeting. We are one quarter into FY27, and I am so proud of the momentum we have built. This summer brought new partnerships, a celebration of the people who make Empower possible, and a first quarter of program growth well ahead of last year. There is a lot to share, and a lot ahead of us.

Please refer to the BOD Webpage for all meeting prep, fundraising progress, meeting minutes, and more. You can add comments about any of the materials within the form on the webpage after you have reviewed. **Please bookmark this page!**

WHEN WE LAST LEFT:

At our July Board meeting, Sam shared our FY26 year-end program results: 10 community-based events, 34 matches, 138 mentor screenings, and 123 youth enrolled. We shared plans to begin a partnership with Red Sox pitcher Payton Tolle and to host our first-ever Gratitude Garden Party. Payton and his wife Devin joined the kids and Mentors at Empower for a fun morning in Boston walking the Freedom Trail and riding the infamous Codzilla! They had a really impactful time and immediately wanted to do more. We are grateful for all of the Tolle's support, most especially for how his partnership has escalated our male mentor and enrollment applications.

The Advancement Committee is helping drive donor stewardship with some of our major donors and we are looking forward to hearing more about those conversations. We are still awaiting confirmation if our CDS funding request is approved. The budget discussion is taking longer than expected, but we hope to hear back soon.

We closed FY26 with $714,910 in income against a $735,000 goal, and $682,921 in expenses, for a net income of $19,326 after the UK write-off.

WHY THIS BOARD MEETING IS IMPORTANT:

This is our Annual Meeting, and the Board will be asked to review and vote on the FY27 budget. Shannon will also walk through our Q1 FY27 financials so the Board has a clear picture of where we stand as we head into year-end giving season.

We will share the program growth we have seen since partnering with Payton Tolle, along with our FY27 goals and our plan to bring Mother's and Father's Day events to five cities. This will help guide a conversation about how the Board can help us turn new interest into lasting mentor matches.

Together, these discussions will keep us aligned around the decisions and opportunities in front of us.

PROGRAM

What's happening now:

- Q1 FY27 (July – September 2026) compared with Q1 FY26:
    - Mentor applicants: 60, up 110% from 29
    - New youth enrollments: 47, up 115% from 22
- September 2026 was our strongest month, with 32 mentor applicants and 28 new enrollments.
- Our partnership with Payton Tolle is off to an incredible start. Mentors, mentees, and families joined Payton for a Boston adventure on the Freedom Trail and Codzilla, and on Thursday, September 10th, Payton and his wife Devin hosted the Tigger Tournament, honoring his mother Jina and her motto, "Be a Tigger, not an Eeyore." 20 Mentor matches along with their families

came together for the event to golf, connect, and have fun! Together we raised $88,000 for Empower's programs and met a lot of special guests!

- On Saturday, August 22nd, we hosted our first-ever Gratitude Garden Party at Terrain Gardens in Wayland, MA, an evening created simply to thank our mentors, donors, volunteers, and families. Terrain and all of the vendors generously donated their time, talents, and goods completely in-kind to Empower.
- FY27 Program Goals: 40 mentor matches, 110 new enrollments, 150 new mentors, and up to 20 community events.

What's on the Horizon / How you can help:

- We have an amazing kid's event coming up on Nov. 1 in Brookline, MA hosted by Mentor and Volunteer, Alexandra Goresh. It will be held at Alexandra's salon, Petalouda. This is a great opportunity to see our programs in action for yourself, or with a potential supporter. Reach out to Sam if you are interested in attending.
- We are planning Mother's and Father's Day events in Denver, Boston, Hartford, New York City, and Boca Raton. If you have connections to venues, hosts, or sponsors in any of these cities, or know anyone who would like to volunteer for the events, please reach out!
- Our biggest focus this year is turning our growing pool of mentor applicants into matches, including continued recruitment of male mentors as well as bringing back Mother's and Father's Day events in cities outside of Boston. Introductions to employers and community groups are always welcome.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

What's happening now:

- We are building a dedicated page on our website to highlight our partnership with Payton Tolle.
- We are actively working on updating our website and increasing engagement on social media based on feedback we have received.

What's on the Horizon / How You Can Help:

- If you know any talented web developers and/or designers, or anyone skilled in social media please let us know!
- We are still working on our podcast! If you have anyone in your network who has connections to podcast studios, please email Cara HERE.

ADVANCEMENT/DEVELOPMENT

What's happening now:

- Click HERE to view the fundraising tracker (this is updated weekly).
- We have great momentum from Payton Tolle's partnership and the Tigger Tournament. We are looking forward to the next event, potentially a Comedy Night at the Sam Adams Tap Room in May – stay tuned!
- Members of the Advancement Committee will start to reach out to Empower donors to support donor stewardship.
- Our Impact Report has been finalized. You can view it on the BOD Webpage. Please feel free to share within your networks or to any potential donors.

What's on the Horizon / How you Can help:

- End of year giving is right around the corner! We will not do a typical digital event, rather we will send out a holiday mailing. Please send us any names/addresses of anyone we should include!
- We are always strategizing on other cause-marketing opportunities, and if you have any connections, please reach out to me.

ORGANIZATIONAL

What's happening now:

- The Governance Committee is working together to revise and restructure our expansion materials.
- We hired a new Admin Assistant, Molly, who has stayed on with us for the Fall. She has been a great addition to the team and lives locally in Scituate.

Financials:

Q1 FY27 Budget to Actuals (July – September 2026)

YTD Income Goal: $96,500
YTD Income Actual: $114,167

YTD Expense Goal: $165,094
YTD Expense Actual: $174,973

FY27 Income Goal: $704,000
FY27 Expense Goal: $704,000

What's on the Horizon / How You Can Help:

- Help us build a strong culture of philanthropy heading into year-end; your introductions, personal outreach, and presence in donor meetings make a real difference.
- We are always brainstorming new Directors and non-directors and as always, please share your nominations on the nomination form on the webpage.

With gratitude,

Cara