

SPRING



APPEAL

Dear friend,

Since 1999, UTEC has helped young adults in the Merrimack Valley overcome the cycles of violence and poverty. I'm writing to you with immense pride and excitement as we prepare to celebrate our **25th Anniversary!**

Over the past 25 years, I've witnessed countless young adults address barriers to success and recognize their potential. Some of them have even returned as staff members to give back to the next generation of young people. They are now part of a movement providing a wide range of services, at no cost, that creates a positive impact far beyond our building's walls. **That's why your support is so critical and why we hope you can make a contribution by June 30th.**

← *Read David's and Jocelyn's stories on the back of this letter!*

Between 1998 (the year before UTEC was founded) and 2020, **violent crime in Lowell declined by 66%** (Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer). This statistic is a testament to all the partners that we work alongside. As we reflect on these positive outcomes, we know that this collaborative approach works. But we also recognize the challenges and needs that still lie ahead, including:

- **Housing.** As the average cost to rent soars, many of the young people we serve face homelessness. Your support will help us invest in transitional housing options for them.
- **Employment.** Many of the young adults we serve are just starting to develop the skills they need to be gainfully employed. Your support will help us bridge this gap to provide employment opportunities to every young adult at UTEC who needs one through our Social Enterprises.
- **Mental health.** UTEC employs full-time mental health clinicians to work 1:1 with young adults. Your support will help us expand our capacity to provide mental health services at no charge.
- **Support behind the walls.** 18-25 year olds represent the highest recidivism and incarceration rates in our state. Your support will help us expand our services behind the walls to prepare young adults for a successful return to our community.

All of this work wouldn't be possible without the support of people like you. I invite you to **invest in the next 25 years of our work by making a donation before June 30th.** To give, please visit [utecinc.org/donate](http://utecinc.org/donate) or mail the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 7066, Lowell, MA 01852. Thank you for believing in our mission!

With gratitude,

Gregg Croteau, MSW  
Chief Executive Officer  
UTEc, Inc.



**We never give up on a young adult.**

To contribute to our next 25 years of service, scan the QR code with your mobile device or visit [www.utecinc.org/donate](http://www.utecinc.org/donate).

SPRING



APPEAL

**Over the past 25 years, your support has helped thousands of young adults in our community. Today, some of them have returned to UTEC to pay it forward to the next generation of young adults.**

**To donate online: [utecinc.org/donate](https://utecinc.org/donate)**

### Meet David, a Lowell Streetworker



“I started at UTEC as a young adult in programming. So much has changed in my life since then, a lot of it for the better thanks to the support I received there. Today, I'm proud to be a UTEC Streetworker in Lowell.

The young adults I work with are like mirror images of myself where I used to be. My own experience helps me build the relationships and trust it takes to help someone make a change for the better in their life.

Consistency is the most important part of my job. My team routinely shows up for the young adults we meet on the street, many times in ways and places they don't expect. We're there for them when other people in their life aren't, and we meet them wherever they are on their journey.

Today, my son is my 'why.' I want him to grow up with different opportunities and more support than I had. I'm proud to say that I'm working to correct the wrongs of my past and set a better example for him.”

### Meet Jocelyn, a Transitional Coach



“Having spent my entire life in Lowell, I hold a deep connection to this vibrant city. Graduating from Lowell High School was a significant milestone in my journey. Now, as a parent of three wonderful children, my priorities have expanded beyond myself.

In 2003, I embarked on a new chapter by joining UTEC. Growing up I wasn't particularly talkative, but my journey led me to value the power of education and community engagement.

What drove me to UTEC were its empowering classes and its commitment to criminal justice reform. Through UTEC, I've found a platform to not only further my own growth but also contribute to meaningful change within my community.”



**We never give up on a young adult.**

To contribute to our next 25 years of service, scan the QR code with your mobile device or visit [www.utecinc.org/donate](https://www.utecinc.org/donate).