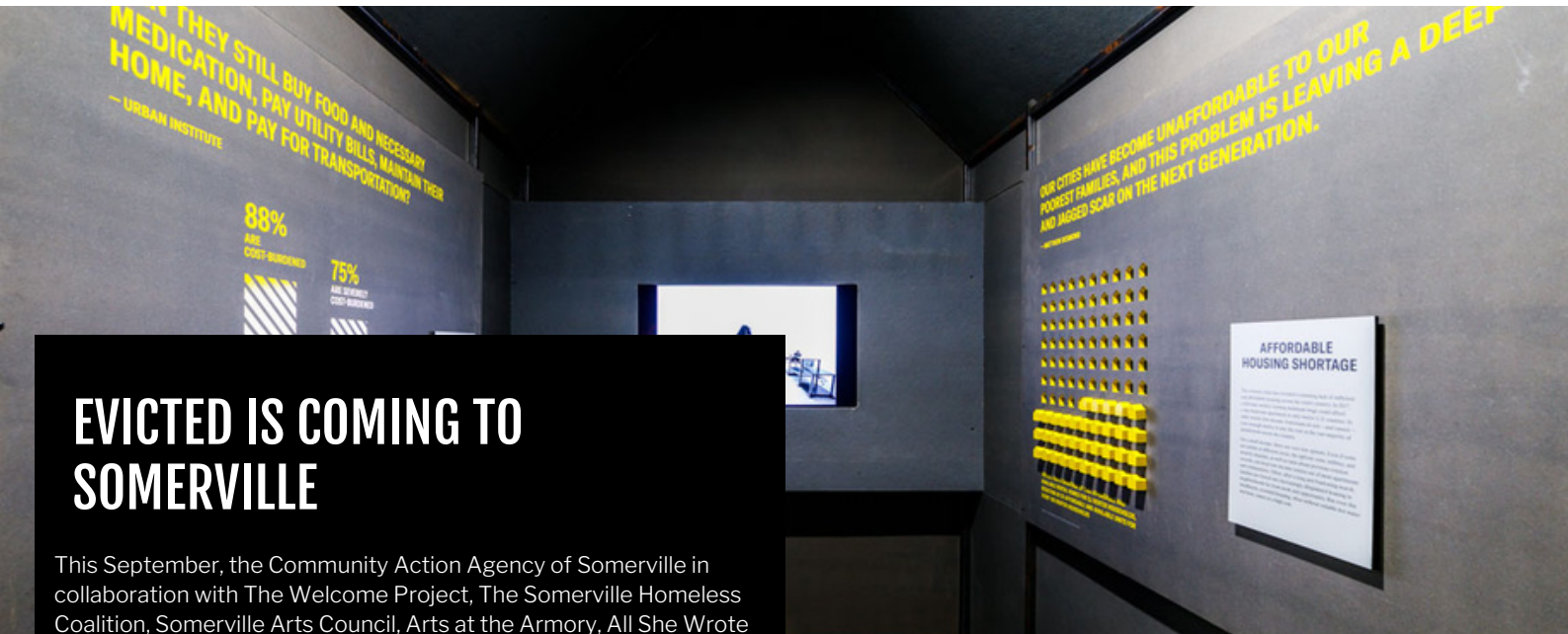


COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF SOMERVILLE



EVICTED IS COMING TO SOMERVILLE

This September, the Community Action Agency of Somerville in collaboration with The Welcome Project, The Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Arts Council, Arts at the Armory, All She Wrote Books, the Office of Housing Stability, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Denovo Legal and local artists will open Evicted at The Center for Arts at the Armory.

This immersive exhibition based on Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer prize-winning book uses new data developed by the Princeton Eviction Lab to examine the reasons for and fallout from the millions of American evictions each year.

After a year spent living in a trailer park and a rooming house in Milwaukee, Desmond wrote Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. He interviewed landlords, realtors, and his neighbors who, already spending most of their income on rent, faced hard choices and ultimately eviction for nonpayment.

Audiovisuals, photos, infographics, as well as physical items, and "houses" the viewer can enter provide an immersive, tactile context that tells their stories in a way that numbers can't.

The exhibit will open in September 2022 at The Armory in Somerville and will be free to the public. We invite you to join us at the exhibit and ask for your support in bringing attention to this issue.

To learn more, go to <https://www.caasomerville.org/evicted-exhibit>. For information on sponsoring the exhibit, email sohara@caasomerville.org.

JOIN THE CAAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CAAS is looking for 2 private sector volunteer directors to join our tripartite board, with at least one having child development experience preferred. Past private sector board directors have come from Tufts University, Century Bank, and Cambridge Health Alliance.

Right now is a pivotal time for our city. CAAS needs as much help as possible to make sure that Somerville remains a place for all.

Jordan Harris
Connexion UMC, Pastor
CAAS Board of Directors, President
pastor@connexionumc.org
(617) 776-4172

A NOTE FROM DAVID GIBBS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that June is already upon us!

In just a few short months, we've continued our work preventing housing insecurity and homelessness in the community; providing free, high-quality education to Somerville children and families; and developing a team of community advocates who can rise to meet the challenges of rising gentrification. We've done all this, while also taking on the ambitious goal of bringing the groundbreaking exhibit, Evicted, to Massachusetts.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support allows us to keep families in their homes, contributing to the vibrant, diverse community of Somerville. On behalf of the CAAS team: Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

David Gibbs,
Executive Director

CAAS has hit the ground running this year

2022 has been a busy year for CAAS, and we're only half-way through! Here's a glimpse at our program impacts so far.

These outcomes wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you!

- 34** Evictions blocked
- 27** Households assisted in securing housing
- 174** Parents enhanced caregiving skills
- 210** Children enrolled in preschool
- 174** Somerville residents assisted in tax filing
- \$440k** In tax refunds for Somerville residents

Spring into Action with CAAS

CAAS Leads Efforts to Prevent the Displacement of Somerville Residents Following Green Line Extension

CAAS Community Organizers are on the ground educating and organizing Somerville renters who are at risk of displacement. We're building the leadership of working class and immigrant tenants to resist unaffordable housing costs and lead systemic change.

This spring, more than 70 residents joined our Organizing team at the MBTA Lechmere Station re-opening for our Somerville Community Press Conference: Don't Let the Green Line Become the Gentrification Line! We celebrated the arrival of the Green Line Extension (GLX), heard from residents who are experiencing gentrification first hand, and set forth a vision for an anti-displacement plan for Somerville to slow this crisis. After waiting decades for equitable transit access, it's an absolute injustice that the residents the GLX was built for are also the first ones being priced and pushed out of our city.

We know our work to prevent displacement is far from over. CAAS looks forward to continuing this struggle for housing justice in Somerville with you!



CAAS Housing Advocacy Program Helps Somerville Low-Income Residents Stay in Their Homes

CAAS' Housing Advocacy Program (HAP) provides a wide range of services to low-income households at risk of homelessness. Despite new challenges presented by rising gentrification, we've helped households secure permanent, stable housing, and filled crucial gaps in service provision.

Eviction Prevention: Our rental assistance program has prevented 34 evictions since January. Housing Advocates also receive the supervision needed to provide legal information related to the eviction process, keeping tenants in their homes.

Emergency Relief: Since February, the CAAS Emergency Relief Fund has distributed \$30,207 to 21 households for expenses such as broker fees, moving trucks, and security deposits— many of which often lack funding sources. The fund has also kept the heat and lights on for households with unpaid utility bills that were unable to secure assistance to prevent a shut-off.

Dismantling Barriers to Affordable Housing: Rising gentrification has led to a shortage of apartments within the rent guidelines for Section 8 Housing in Somerville, creating a challenge for Housing Advocates and leading to the displacement of our community members. Despite this, Advocates continue to support clients filing complaints with the Fair Housing Division following instances of landlords' discrimination.

Observing Changing Seasons in and Out of the Classroom with Head Start

Our May curriculum theme is Growing and Changing. This curriculum unit brings joy and wonder, and is a celebration of the amazing growth and change all around us!

In this unit, the children learn, explore, and discover things that have changed in their environment - including themselves! They notice that the season has changed from Winter to Spring and soon enough Summer. Classrooms plant seeds and watch them grow, talking about growing and changing in nature and within their own bodies and minds. They notice the ways they are growing taller, bigger, older, able to do more things, and some prepare to go to kindergarten next year!

Each year, teachers bring caterpillars into the classroom to feed and observe as they go through their metamorphosis. The children observe them build their chrysalis, and wait for the exciting day that they emerge and spread their beautiful new wings! After watching them mature into healthy young butterflies, the children release them to live their lives wild and free.

