

# Progress Report for the 2025 Boston Charity Concert (BCC) JB Line, Inc.

## About JB Line, Inc.

JB Line, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established on October 26, 2010.

Our mission is to support individuals—primarily within the Japanese community in New England, though not exclusively—by helping them address challenges in their daily lives. We do this by providing consultations, sharing essential information, offering direct support services, and connecting them with other social resources.

The services we currently provide include:

- Japanese/English Support Line
- Community-Based Support (Case Management)
- Domestic Violence/Divorce/Parental Rights Support
- Senior Support
- Young Family Support
- Outreach

## About Uta-no-kai (Sing-along in Japannese) Support Group

Thanks to your generous donation, we were able to continue offering our Uta-no-kai support group to the community throughout 2025.

- Participants in Uta-no-kai enjoy singing, guided by a music therapist, approximately ten songs during each one-hour session held every other Monday. These include nostalgic Japanese songs, folk songs from around the world, and seasonal melodies. We offer both hybrid and online formats.
- Participants can request songs that hold personal meaning for them. We already have more than 300 songs in our songbook.
- We prepare lyric booklets for attendees so they can sing along and enjoy the music.

#### **Use of Your Donation**

We held a total of 24 Uta-no-kai sessions from January through December 2025.

The support funds were used to cover music therapist fees, songbook materials, and other administrative costs.



Photos: Uta-no-kai in-person at the Belmont Senior Center

#### **Uta-no-kai Outcomes**

Singing nostalgic and culturally meaningful songs offers comfort and peace, fostering mental well-being among older adults facing the challenges of aging in New England.

Singing is also accessible to individuals with cognitive challenges. Many participants find joy in singing familiar childhood songs or melodies they recall from their parents. It is profoundly moving to witness their smiles and tears as they sing these cherished tunes together. JB Line staff and volunteers also experience joy in singing alongside them.

In 2025, we transitioned our in-person gatherings from the Belmont Senior Center to the Watertown Senior Center. Holding sessions in this public venue allowed other senior center users to join freely, fostering community connections through music.

Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to organize a special event to actively promote our in-person singing sessions and encourage broader participation. We also plan to prepare dedicated lyric booklets for participants who cannot read Japanese.

# **Voices from Attendees:**

"Sing-alongs are one of our most favorite events! We sincerely hope that this gathering will continue to thrive for many years to come."

"As we have limited opportunities for social interaction, this singing gathering is especially meaningful to us. We deeply appreciate the unwavering dedication and support of the staff."

"Despite the changes in venue, we are truly thankful that the singing gathering has endured, sustained by the staff's devoted efforts. Although I am now elderly and no longer drive, I continue to look forward to joining everyone and sharing the joy of singing together."