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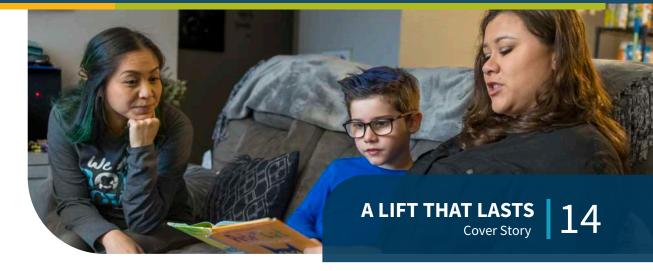
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For more information about how you can support Boys Town's mission to save children and heal families, visit **boystown.org**.







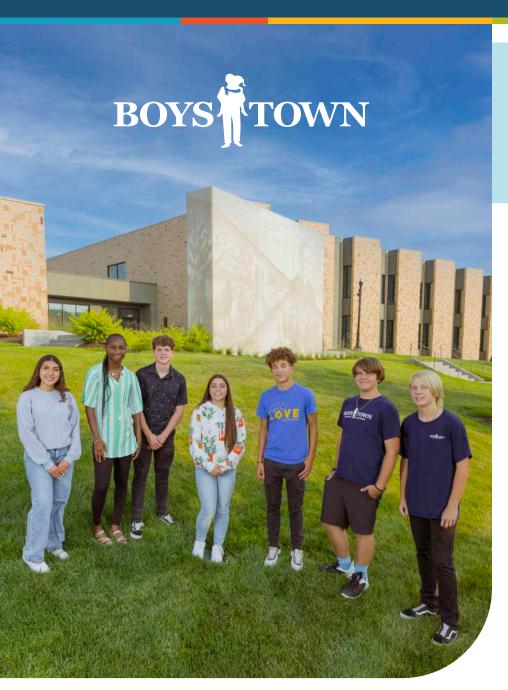




OUR MISSION

Changing the way America cares for children and families.

### MESSAGE TO STAKEHOLDERS Boys Town 2024 Annual Report





Our founder, Father Edward J. Flanagan, recognized that a sense of belonging was key to building confidence and maximizing opportunities to heal and grow.

This past year has been an exciting time of growth for our organization. Our ground-breaking research, now spanning more than 40 years, is transforming innovative care and treatment options for our patients. With 19

different pediatric specialties and a world-class pediatric neuroscience research center, our Boys Town National Research Hospital is bursting at the seams. We're excited about the possibilities for how we can better serve our communities.

We recognize that our growth and efforts to ensure that Father Flanagan's life-changing mission continues for years to come would not be possible without the work and generosity of our Boys Town employees, volunteers and supporters. We are eternally grateful for them. Thank you for joining us as we work together to provide second chances to grow and heal in body, mind and spirit, and to give a sense of belonging to those we serve.

Rod Kempkes

President and Chief Executive Officer

## ME BELONG

In a realm where whispers drift,
They brand us with names, a shameful gift,
Yet from the shadows, we rise and soar,
Our dreams ignite like the dawn's encore.
They label us as "bad" – but look,
We're just young souls eager to write our book,
Learning from each stumble, each fall,
In a space where we can stand proud and stand tall.
Boys Town, our sanctuary, our chance,
A haven where hopes and dreams take a dance,
Where judgment's shroud is cast aside,
And second chances illuminate our stride.
Here, we discover our rightful space,
Wrapped in kindness, embraced with grace,

Together, we rise, lifting each other high,
Sister and brother, united, we fly.
In harmony, our voices blend,
A chorus that reaches the heavens' end,
For we belong, despite what they say,
In Boys Town's embrace, we find our way.
Let them chatter; their words will wane,
As we march forward, free from disdain,
In this place where we learn and thrive,
Planting seeds of love, courage, and drive.
Together, we carve a path that's bright,
In a world where dreams ignite,
For we are not the kids they claim to know,
We belong here, fierce and aglow.

— Poem written by Kaydee, A Boys Town Youth

2024

BY THE NUMBER Boys Town provided resources and services to
OVER 3.5 MILLION
children and families nationwide!





19+
Pediatric
Specialties







#### HEALTHCARE THAT HEALS

Nearly 70,000 patients

received specialized medical and behavioral health care.



## COMMUNITY REACH

More than 192,000 youth and families

served.



### SCHOOL IMPACT

Improved school experience for

nearly **153,000** students.

#### **CRISIS RESPONSE**



Almost 100,000 people in distress reached out to our Hotline for immediate assistance.

(800) 448-3000

#### LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTION



Our crisis teams **prevented 435 suicides in progress**, offering immediate help when it mattered most.



## GENERATING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The documentary follows the stories of eight teen boys and their experiences over the course of a school year in a Boys Town family home. In the film, viewers see the ups and downs of these young men as they learn the importance of social skills, the value of family, and their own worth as they grow towards adulthood. Since this documentary was filmed, Boys Town has continued to develop support for youth in our Family Home program,

while also increasing investment in assistance, guidance and resources to support the young men and women in the program after high school graduation. Blue Baby is available to purchase and stream on Apple TV, Prime Video and Google Play.



## POSITIVITY AND SELF-PRAISE IMPROVES OUTCOMES

Actor Trent Garrett is visiting classrooms around the country to talk to students about the power of praise and positive self-talk. Boys Town research shows that praise in school and at home can increase positive behaviors and improve outcomes and success for youth. Working with Boys Town education experts, Garrett developed a lesson plan for teachers and then helped students make bracelets – or "praiselets" – that can help remind them to use praise with themselves and others often throughout the day. Request your free praiselets at **boystown.org/praise** 



#### YOUR LIFE YOUR VOICE

LAUNCHES APP

The **"Your Life Your Voice" app**, created by the Boys Town National Hotline, goes beyond a simple mood journal. It's a powerful tool for supporting youth and families in crisis, directly contributing to the ongoing

mental health focus at Boys Town. A recent revamp of the app offers more tools and resources for those in crisis or looking for daily support in the palm of their hand. Download the app for iPhone and Android.

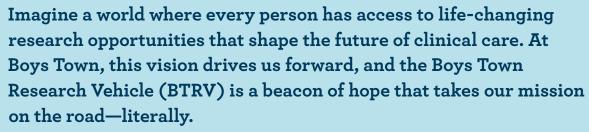


## TURNING A SECOND CHANCE INTO A D-1 SCHOLARSHIP

Boys Town senior Darien moved from Baltimore, Maryland, to Nebraska, entering his freshman year. Darien was in middle school when COVID hit. He struggled academically in seventh and eighth grade which limited his options for high school. His mother, Jayme, said she wanted to give her son a second chance. Boys Town head football coach says Darien is a leader off the field as well. While at lunch, the linebacker noticed a new student was sitting alone. Darien got up from a table full of his friends and walked over to the student and sat down so she wouldn't be alone. It was that talent on the gridiron that landed him multiple offers from schools like Washington State and South Florida. Eventually, Darien chose Kansas State where he plans to major in Psychology.

## RESEARCH with a focus on belonging.







"Our goal is to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome have the most full ... lives. Anything we can do to improve that is really the mission of our project."

Dr. Heather Porter
 Clinical Audiologist

#### **SERVING COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE**

BTRV is short for Boys Town Research Vehicle, a mobile research laboratory that features hospital-grade equipment to test hearing and speech. Recently the BTRV visited Denver, collaborating with the Linda Crnic Institute, a leading research center for Down syndrome. This partnership, part of the National Institutes of Health's INCLUDE Project, focuses on a crucial aspect of health that is often overlooked—hearing loss in individuals with Down syndrome. Figuring out the causes of the high incidence of hearing loss in individuals with Down Syndrome is the focus of this project and the focus of this trip.

"The BTRV allows us to do so much. It is not just a vehicle; it is a mobile clinic. We can customize the RV for various research studies, community outreach programs and clinical uses," said Heather Porter, Au.D., Ph.D., clinical audiologist and research scientist.

During our journey, we encountered a young girl with Down syndrome, whose spirit lit up the room as she underwent extensive testing. Her enthusiasm and cooperation reminded us that each child is unique and deserving of inclusive settings where they get the chance to shine.



Gabrielle Merchant, Au.D., Ph.D., director of the Translational Auditory Physiology and Perception Laboratory, noted, "Her

experience reinforced our commitment to adapting our testing methods to meet the unique needs of each participant." This is what we strive for—a world where every child feels seen, heard and valued.

We also met a family whose daughter, diagnosed with both autism and Down syndrome, faced barriers in traditional testing environments. The BTRV provided a safe, welcoming space, allowing their daughter to participate in assessments that were previously out of reach. The family's gratitude for the opportunity was unmistakable.

Our commitment goes beyond just conducting tests. Each family receives a full report of our findings, and we take the time to answer their questions, fostering a relationship built on trust and support. Dr. Porter summed it up perfectly: "Our goal is to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome have the most full and inclusive lives. Anything we can do to improve that is really the mission of our project."

Last year, the BTRV traveled across the country, touching the lives of children who otherwise may note have had access to hearing healthcare. We discovered numerous cases of hearing issues that routine screenings had missed, prompting us to seek grants for more screenings. Looking ahead, we are excited to expand our reach even further.

Lori Leibold, Ph.D., senior director of the Center for Hearing Research, emphasizes the importance of removing barriers for children in need: "Once we've screened participants, we work hard to help those with hearing loss find avenues for follow-up care in their communities."

The BTRV is more than a mobile laboratory; it is a bridge connecting families to the care they deserve. We visit schools, parks, businesses and health fairs, bringing vital health services right to the doorsteps of those who need them most.

This outreach fosters community involvement and support, creating a network of care that empowers families to advocate for their children.

In 2025, we will travel to Florida, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Illinois, while continuing to serve rural Nebraska, Iowa and the Omaha metro area. Your support makes this possible.

Together, we can ensure that every child has access to the resources they need to live their best life—because every child deserves that chance.



## YOUTH CARE with a focus on belonging.



At Boys Town, we believe in second chances. Our programs are designed to offer a fresh start, helping children and families rebuild their lives and create a brighter future.

No matter the challenges they face, Boys Town is committed to standing by their side, offering the guidance and support they need to succeed.

#### **EMPOWERING FAMILIES** THROUGH BILINGUAL EARLY LEARNING

Boys Town South Florida's ParentChild+ (PC+) program is making a big difference, especially for children like Landailove, a shy and nervous child, whose family migrated to the United States a few years ago.

This initiative focuses on early learning literacy for parents with children aged 21 to 42 months. By teaching parents how to make learning fun and

preparing their children for school, PC+ sets the foundation for a bright and successful future. Early Learning Specialists visit homes twice a week, bringing interactive toys and books that families can keep, providing personalized support and fostering an environment where children can thrive.

Landailove's family spoke mainly Creole when they arrived in the U.S. Initially, Landailove struggled to

engage in the lessons, fearing she might not say the right words in either English or Creole.

As the sessions progressed, Landailove made significant progress, transforming from a shy girl into an open and expressive child. Her vocabulary expanded, her interest in learning grew and her social skills improved.



## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ROOKIE CAEDAN WALLACE TEAMS UP WITH BOYS TOWN: 'MY CAUSE MY CLEATS' CAMPAIGN

Drafted by the Patriots in 2024, Wallace has quickly become a standout in New England, earning a reputation for his dedication, resilience, and strong on-field performance. A former All-American at Penn State, Wallace has also shown a deep commitment to giving back off the field. His partnership with Boys Town New England is a way for him to make a positive impact, supporting an organization that uplifts youth through care, education, and advocacy.







creativity into the design, and did an amazing job capturing the spirit of Boys Town."

Caedan WallaceNew England Patriots

The custom cleats were designed and hand painted by students from Boys Town High School's art class at the organization's headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. In total, the process took more than a week to complete. The colorful creation embodies Boys Town's mission of empowering youth and promoting resilience. Spelled out on the cleats are the words "Teach Love," "Foster Care," "Compete with Character," "Saving Children, Healing Families," and the iconic Boys Town phrase, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother," which originated with the founder of Boys Town, Father Flanagan.

"Seeing the cleats for the first time tonight was a really special moment," said Caedan Wallace. "The kids put so much thought and creativity into the design, and did an amazing job capturing the spirit of Boys Town. I'm honored to wear these cleats and raise awareness for an organization that makes such a positive impact on young lives."

### HEALTHCARE with a focus on belonging.



Boys Town was founded to provide a second chance of belonging to homeless boys on the streets in Omaha, but our mission has grown to include life-changing healthcare programs. These are providing those needed second chances to patients across the country.

Marshall's Story:

Scan the QR code to watch video!





#### **MARSHALL'S STORY**

#### A SECOND CHANCE TO HEAR

Aaron and Karen Thompson were over the moon with excitement when they welcomed their third child, a darling baby boy they named Marshall. On their first day in the hospital, however, they received some alarming news – Marshall had failed his hearing test.

"I'm an engineer, so I immediately went into problem-solving mode to determine what was the best thing we could do to help our son," said Aaron. "For us, Boys Town has been phenomenal. They have been everything we needed for Marshall, and we couldn't have done it without that team."

KarenMarshall's Mother

"I got online and talked to people in our area, and I quickly learned that Boys Town is tops and one of the premier facilities for children with hearing issues."

"From our first visit, Boys Town felt right," said Karen.
"We learned that there are solutions out there for children with severe and profound deafness and I think for me, that was the biggest comfort," added Aaron.



At this appointment, the Thompsons learned that the best initial path for Marshall was hearing aids, and before his first birthday he received bilateral cochlear implants. "To see Marshall first recognize a sound and turn his head was amazing," said Karen. "It is truly a technology that creates miracles." On their visits to Omaha, Marshall was often seen by an entire team of Boys Town providers specializing in speech pathology, cochlear implants, ENT, ophthalmology, and pediatrics.

Once the Thompsons settled into a new routine at home, they began bi-weekly appointments with a Boys Town speech pathologist based in Omaha via Zoom, eliminating hours of tedious travel. It wasn't long before Marshall began using words. "That is the reason why we went to Boys Town," said Aaron. "We want him to develop speech. One of his first words was 'please.'"

#### **BUILDING BELONGING** THROUGH CELEBRATION

Boys Town's commitment to helping every child reach their full potential was on full display at the annual Cerebral

Palsy Awareness Day Celebration Carnival, hosted on our Nebraska campus.

In partnership with the Boys Town Institute for Human Neuroscience, the Boys Town Center for Human Performance Optimization, United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska and Special Olympics Nebraska, the event brought together more than 265 children, families and friends from the community for a joyful day of connection and celebration.

The carnival was designed to be welcoming and accessible for children of all abilities. Activities included a wheelchair obstacle course, bounce houses, therapy dog visits, a photo booth, face painting, carnival games and classic treats making it a day filled with laughter, learning and belonging. Six resource booths offered families valuable information. about local services and support for the cerebral palsy community.

Miss Nebraska added a special touch of fun, taking photos, playing games with families and enjoying a slushie alongside attendees.

With the help of more than 60 volunteers from Boys Town and partner organizations, this meaningful event was a true community effort.

Thanks to donor support, the Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day Celebration Carnival continues to grow—raising awareness, building relationships and reminding families that at Boys Town, they are seen, celebrated and never alone.







#### **BUILDING STRONGER SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**

At Albert Edwards Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada, Principal Emily Petosa believes in leading with purpose—and in giving every student the chance to truly belong.

That purpose became clear the moment she stepped into her role six years ago: bring Boys Town to her school.

"As a teacher, I saw firsthand how Boys Town strategies changed the classroom. As a principal, I knew they could transform a campus."

Emily Petosa
 Principal, Albert Edwards
 Elementary School
 Las Vegas, Nevada

Lift with Boys Town is a schoolbased partnership that provides comprehensive behavioral and emotional support for students, teachers and families. It includes inhome family services, school support specialists and parenting classes—all focused on helping children develop social skills, emotional regulation and academic confidence.

At Edwards, those services are making a measurable difference. Since implementing Lift with Boys Town:

- Office referrals have dropped by 60%
- Chronic absenteeism has decreased from 43% to 25%
- Teacher turnover has remained low thanks to a more positive school culture

Petosa credits this to Boys Town's proactive, skills-based model. "We're not just reacting to behavior with consequences. We're teaching kids what to do before the behavior becomes a problem. We're teaching them how to be good students."

Teachers and parents alike speak a common language, one rooted in consistency, calm and compassion. Students are taught simple, repeatable skills, like how to follow directions or disagree appropriately.

These lessons empower kids with the tools they need to succeed—not just in school, but in life.

One student, Ryan, is living proof. Ryan entered kindergarten as a bright but impulsive child who struggled to keep a calm body and interact positively with peers.

With help from the school support specialist and the in-home services team, Ryan and his mom, Ashley, got the support they needed. Ashley attended parenting classes and learned new strategies to create structure and calm at home. Ryan learned how to follow directions, manage frustration and take responsibility for his actions.

"I was constantly repeating myself, yelling, frustrated," Ashley says. "But Lift with Boys Town taught me to breathe, to teach, to parent with confidence. I learned it's not a lost cause to be patient."

Today, Ryan is thriving in first grade. Office visits are rare. His behavior is steady. He knows when he makes a mistake—and how to make it right. Ashley, now an advocate for the program, shares her experience with other parents at Parent Café events.

"We're not just surviving. We're flourishing."

Ashley says stories like Ryan's show how Lift with Boys Town changes lives. "Without Boys Town, we'd be stuck reacting to behavior and never get to the real work—teaching," she says. "With Boys Town, our kids are happy, our teachers are supported and our families are strong. It's 100% worth the investment."



## FINDING HER VOICE: HOW BOYS TOWN HELPED BELLA RECLAIM HER LIFE

Bella's Mom, Tristan, often says, "I felt like I was losing my daughter, and I had to give her to Boys Town to get her back."

That's a sentiment heard often from parents at Boys Town graduations.

Bella certainly blossomed during her time at Boys Town. In fact, reflecting on her graduation, Bella said, "Amazing things happen here every day. Miracles happen. Without Boys Town, I would not be graduating. And I definitely wouldn't be going to college."

Bella was born into a military family. In her early childhood, she moved around a lot. According to her, it took its toll, and she didn't handle things very well.

"I used to say I'm here for a good time, not a long time," Bella said. "So after getting repeat charges, I was ordered to Boys Town."

That placement, and working with Boys Town Family-Teachers, helped her get back on track.

"I'm the healthiest I've ever been in my life mentally and physically," Bella said. "And I care about my life and my future, and I know that others do, too."

Bella's father, Mike, said seeing Bella on her graduation day was a dream come true.



"I couldn't help but shed some tears," he said. "Two and a half years ago, I wasn't sure if Bella was going to be alive. What Boys Town has done, and what Bella has done with the help of Boys Town, has just been tremendous. To see her successful today, graduating high school, I know she has a bright future ahead of her." Bella knows that, too.

"Amazing things happen here every day. Miracles happen. Without Boys Town, I would not be graduating. And I definitely wouldn't be going to college."

BellaBoys Town Graduate



#### When Father Flanagan chose saints for the stainedglass windows in the Catholic Chapel at Boys Town, he chose two who were designated "Blessed": Herman Joseph of Steinfeld (1150-1241), who was canonized in 1958 and Martin de Porres (1579-1639) who was canonized in 1962.





#### THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD:

## NOTES ON THE CAUSE FOR FATHER FLANAGAN'S POSSIBLE SAINTHOOD

In 1999, lay Catholics from the Omaha community and Boys Town alumni created the Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion. They serve as the "actors" in the path to sainthood. On March 17, 2012, Father Flanagan finished the Diocesan step of the path and was declared a Servant of God. Father Flanagan's cause for sainthood is currently in the Roman phase.

Edward J. Flanagan's life began as something of a miracle. Born prematurely in a stone cottage in 1886, he was not expected to live through the night. Refusing to give up, his grandfather Patrick held him all night, keeping him warm and praying over him.

Young Eddie grew up on a farm in Ireland, always knowing that he wanted to be a priest. Suffering ill health as a young man, it took him two tries at seminary before he was healthy enough to be ordained.

But rough beginnings did not deter his will to serve God. During his 61 years of life, Father Flanagan of Boys Town changed the lives of countless atrisk boys in America and eventually the lives of orphans around the world, offering children the second chance that society had denied them.

Stress and overwork often led to ill health for Father Flanagan, yet he always put the needs of children ahead of his own. During the 1920s and 1930s, Father Flanagan faced opposition, yet he resolutely stood by his promise that Boys Town would accept any boy in need.

After World War II, President Truman asked Father Flanagan to visit Japan and Germany to advise on what should be done to support the orphans of war. During his visit to Germany in 1948, Father Flanagan died while serving the children to whom he devoted his life's work. Because of his lifelong devotion to God and his tremendous impact, Father Flanagan is currently on the path to Sainthood.

#### **PRE-DIOCESAN**

- A grassroots devotion starts among the laity toward someone they believe lived a holy life.
- Supporters, called "actors," pray for the individual's intercession and share their inspirational impact.
- Clergy may support but cannot lead this devotion.
- Devotion at this stage is not yet an official "cause."

#### **DIOCESAN**

- The actors appoint a postulator (a canon lawyer) who formally petitions a bishop to open a cause for canonization.
- If accepted, the bishop seeks Vatican permission to form a tribunal and investigate. Investigation includes a Historical Commission and an Episcopal Commission.
- If findings are favorable, the individual is titled Servant of God and the cause is officially opened.
- All evidence is sealed by the bishop and sent to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

#### **ROMAN**

- The Dicastery conducts an in-depth review of the candidate's life and any miracles attributed to them.
- The postulator advocates for the cause, while the Dicastery may provide a counterargument.
- If the Pope confirms the person lived with "heroic virtue," they are declared Venerable.

#### **BEATIFICATION**

- A verified miracle must be attributed to the candidate's intercession.
- · Upon papal approval, the individual is beatified and given the title Blessed.
- Beatification allows for limited public veneration, often in the candidate's local region.

#### **CANONIZATION**

- A second verified miracle is required, occurring after beatification.
- Upon confirmation, the Pope declares the individual a Saint.
- Canonization allows for universal veneration across the global Church.



# FATHER FLANAGAN: FRANK CARLOTTO'S

STORY

In 1935, a frightened 13-yearold, Frank Carlotto, arrived at Boys Town after aging out of an orphanage in Superior, Wisconsin. Never did he imagine that Boys Town would become his forever home. He dreamed of one

day becoming a dentist and it was Father Flanagan who encouraged him and assured him that he would find a way to achieve his goal.

After graduating from Boys Town, Frank joined the military, serving for four years in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return, he attended the University of New Mexico, where he received his undergraduate degree and after getting married, he and his wife moved back to Omaha, where Frank went on to receive his dental degree from Creighton University.

Eventually, Frank made his way home to Boys Town, where he served for many years as the resident dentist. Frank's son, John, also returned to Boys Town this past holiday season, where he played the saxophone in the annual Christmas concert for our youth.

"It always meant a lot to my Dad to give something back to the place that meant so much to him."

— John Carlotto



### SUCCESSFUL FUTURES with a focus on belonging.

A child's journey to adulthood doesn't end at graduation. In some respects, it brings a whole new set of challenges for these youth who may not have the support or guidance they need to succeed.

Lexi's Story:

Scan the QR code to watch video!



A parent would do anything to help their child in trouble. But for those without a family support system, where do they turn? Boys Town's Successful Futures program provides structured support that includes:

- Life Skills Training
- Workforce Development
- Crisis Intervention
- Housing
- Transportation





#### **BLOSSOMING:** LEXI'S STORY

Lexi's story is a powerful example of how Boys Town can save lives. After losing her mom and being rejected by her dad, Lexi was in a really dark place. But with the unwavering support and guidance of her adoptive parents and the amazing staff at Boys Town, she blossomed into a confident, driven young woman.

Discovering her love for horses, Lexi is now following her dreams at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture,

where she's earning degrees in equine management and beef production.

Boys Town with her adoptive family.

But she's not stopping there - Lexi wants to pay it forward by opening her own ranch and becoming a foster parent to help kids just like Boys Town helped her. Her incredible journey showcases the strength and resilience that Boys Town nurtures in the young people it serves.



#### **2024 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

For more than 100 years, Boys Town's growth and success in saving children and healing families has been possible thanks to generous donations and the foresight and courage of Father Flanagan. Boys Town maintains high standards of fiscal responsibility, working to ensure that its resources will last for generations to come to serve America's children, families and communities.

#### HELPING CHILDREN TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE

Father Flanagan's Fund for Needy Children, established in 1941, is operated as a de facto restricted fund for the purpose of helping children today and into the future. All current unrestricted donations are spent on the direct care of children. None of these donations are put in the Fund for Needy Children unless directed by the donor. Today, as Boys Town continues to balance the competing needs of current and future generations, the Fund for Needy Children is as important as the day it was established. Based on expected investment returns and inflation factors, the Fund for Needy Children can spend, on average, 5 percent of its market value in order to maintain its purchasing power.

#### **SOUND INVESTMENTS, SOLID MANAGEMENT**

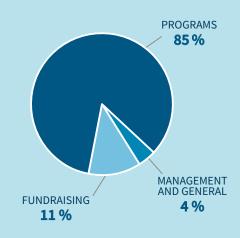
During 2024, the Father Flanagan's Fund for Needy Children provided more than \$53 million of support. This was 5.2 percent of the Fund's January 1, 2024 value.

Sound investments and solid management of the Fund for Needy Children has allowed it to provide stable support for Boys Town at times when markets have been volatile.

Boys Town always strives to be prudent with the dollars received from outside sources, including donations from the public. In 2024, 85 percent of every dollar received was spent on the care of children. Supporting services comprised only 15 percent of total expenses, which is significantly lower than the national benchmark of 35 percent the not-for-profit industry utilizes.

#### **YOUR DOLLAR**

EVERY DOLLAR DONATED HELPS A CHILD



Data from 2024

## RECOGNIZED FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Boys Town has been named a *BBB Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity* by the
Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

*Charity Navigator*, one of the nation's largest and most-respected charity rating systems, has awarded Boys Town its highest ratings for the sound management of its finances.

Boys Town was recently recognized for its transparency with a *Platinum Seal* on its Nonprofit Profile on *GuideStar*, one of the world's largest sources of information on nonprofit organizations.







## **VOICES** of Boys Town



"What stands out most to me is the unwavering guidance and support I received. They taught me how to plan for my future, stay motivated, and manage challenges like depression and mental health struggles. The program gave me a sense of community, a safe space to grow, and the confidence to never give up on my goals."

— JaNyriaFormer Boys Town Youth

"If I really put my effort to do the work that I need to, anything's possible."

— Ahmani Current Boys Town Student





"Boys Town was crucial in my upbringing because I didn't have any stability or discipline in my life. I always knew I wanted to be a pro wrestler from the time I was 3 years old, so when I went into Boys Town, it instilled that discipline and structure in my life for me to be able to be successful."

Luke Hawx
 Former Boys Town Youth, Pro-wrestler, Acto

"I felt like I was losing my daughter, and I had to give her to Boys Town to get her back."

TristanMother of Boys Town Graduate

"Boys Town kept opening doors for me. I knew this is the place I was meant to be."

Matt Priest
 Director of Boys Town
 Foster Family Services



## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Dear Friends,

A sense of belonging is an essential part of what makes us human. It allows us to feel safe, protected and loved—a foundation on which we can build our future. More than 100 years ago, Father Edward J. Flanagan created a place of belonging for youth—kids on the street who had nowhere else to go.

Then, as now, he understood that belonging is the first step to both being and becoming. From the foundational support children find in Boys Town Family Homes to the transformative impact of our programs in communities, schools and families, your generosity makes the Boys Town mission possible.

In keeping with Father Flanagan's vision, we continue to do more in ways he could not have imagined. Beyond emotional and behavioral healing, we provide innovative pediatric healthcare and world-class research in pediatric neuroscience and other specialties.

Thank you for your continued contribution to Boys Town's mission. Together, we all share a sense of belonging in our shared commitment to change the way America cares for children and families.

#### Kathleen F. Driscoll

2024 Board Chair

Trustee Since 2018 Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer UMass Memorial Healthcare | Worcester, MA

#### **OUR GOVERNING BOARDS**

#### 2024 BOYS TOWN NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Boys Town National Board of Trustees and the Father Flanagan's Fund for Needy Children Board of Directors selflessly support Boys Town's Mission with monetary gifts and gifts of their time, talent and guidance. On behalf of the children saved and the families healed by their generosity, Boys Town extends heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to our Trustees and Directors for their contributions and leadership.



Kathleen F. Driscoll
CHAIR
Trustee Since 2018
Senior Vice President
and Chief Philanthropy Officer
UMass Memorial Healthcare | Worcester, MA



Trustee since 2024
Director, Foster Children Evaluation Services:
Vice-Chair, Department of Pediatrics
UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center
Professor of Pediatrics;

University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Heather C. Forkey, M.D.





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