

Healing & Hope News

"The work will continue..."
- Father Edward J. Flanagan,
Founder of Boys Town

Your 2023 IMPACT

At Boys Town, we provide an array of life-changing youth care and health care services that meet each child and family exactly where they are, so they get the **right kind** of **care**, at the **right time**, in the **right way**.

*Together, we served and impacted nearly
1,000 children in Central Florida.*

In-Home Family Services

102 children and 53 families learned how to **handle issues after they arise**, but also how to prevent them from becoming more disruptive, while they remain in their home.

Boys Town National Hotline®

3,372 calls from Florida were answered and **9 suicides in progress were prevented** by our Hotline crisis counselors.

Boys Town Common Sense Parenting®

181 families and caregivers learned **new skills by building on their parenting strengths** and developing **healthy relationships** with their children.

Family Home ProgramSM

35 boys and girls lived in family-style residential homes, learning social and independent-living skills to help them on a **path to success**.

Intervention and Assessment

We **provided care for 99** abused, neglected, runaway and delinquent children of all ages by removing them from dangerous situations, **assessing their needs** and beginning to work toward **family reunification** or other permanent care.

Behavioral Health Clinic

331 children and their families who were experiencing any of a wide variety of problems including ADHD, school difficulties, emotional issues, noncompliance and/or relationship concerns found **support and guidance**.

**Let's do even more
together in 2024!**



SPEAK UP WITH STERN

As we embark on the second quarter of the year, it's crucial to reinforce a fundamental aspect of leadership: the recognition that leadership extends beyond individual roles and encompasses the collective efforts of a team. Our journey thus far has illuminated the profound impact of teamwork and the significance of fostering systems that propel our programs forward.



Our recent spring break activities were a testament to the magic that sparks when we work together. The memories created and the joy experienced by the youth were made possible by the dedication and collaboration of our team. Each one of our team members plays a crucial role in making our programs successful. I am consistently inspired by your passion and commitment to our mission. Our youth have many new memories because of the team coming together.

On the path ahead, let us remain cognizant of the value of team leadership and the imperative of establishing systems that facilitate progress. Let us take pride in our strategic pursuit of building our community partnership and becoming more well-known in our community. This means more than delivering impactful programs, but also demonstrating empathy, transparency and a genuine commitment to positive change. Above all, let us cherish the unwavering support of our community, for it is through our collective endeavors that we will realize our aspirations. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work. Together, we are poised to achieve remarkable feats.

Laurie Stern
Executive Director



Behavioral Health Clinic Summer Tips

Happy summer vacation! For kids, summer break is all about relaxation and less-structured schedules. On the other hand, moving away from the school routine can make parents feel a bit more stressed. Here are a couple tips to help you make the most of sweet summertime by getting kids outside more and keeping bedtimes consistent.

» **Less screen time and more outdoor time.** A great idea



is to have kids earn one minute of screen time for each minute they spend being active outside. This will help motivate your kids to get outside and not spend all day on their screens. Sun exposure earlier in the day promotes better sleep at night.

Remember to send kids out with sun protection, a hydrating beverage and avoid the hottest times of day (12 p.m. – 3 p.m.). Since parents are models for their children, we should also schedule time to be outside with our kids engaged in activities (bird watching, bike rides, neighborhood walks, etc.). Also, you can have your kids read books outside or journal outdoors about their summer day.

» **Bedtimes.** Just because school is out, does not mean kids should be permitted to stay up super late. It is recommended to keep regular sleep and wake times consistent during the summer months. Encourage your kids to go to bed at the same time and try to wake up at the same time each morning (i.e., hours before noon). Try to stay within an hour of their usual schoolyear bedtime. Give their electronic devices a bedtime, too; electronic devices too close to bedtime can make falling asleep particularly difficult. It is recommended that an hour or two before bedtime kids should power down their screens and even turn in their devices to parents to avoid sneaking back on them later at night.



The key is to not stray too far from your schoolyear routine. Keeping some structure in your family life will make for a less stressful summer for you and a more enjoyable one for your kids and family!

Dr. Amanda Anderson

Psy.D., Clinic Director

Common Sense Parenting® Classes

Build your parenting skills each week with an interactive 6- to 7-week course. We teach easy-to-learn techniques to address issues related to communication, discipline,



decision making, relationships, self-control and school success. All courses feature a fun, intimate and small class setting with an experienced Common Sense Parenting instructor.

The proactive skills and techniques have helped parents from diverse backgrounds create healthy family relationships that foster safety and well-being at home, in school and in the community. This program is research-proven and based on the successful Boys Town Model® that focuses on delivering a consistent structure and lasting, positive results.



Learn More



Meritage Home's Comes to Boys Town Central Florida

We are overwhelmed with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for the incredible support and generosity extended by Meritage Homes, FG Colors Painting Inc. and Sherwin Williams.

Their collaborative effort in painting our Intervention & Assessment Center at the Boys Town Central Florida campus has not only transformed an old facility but also put a brighter shine on the futures of the youth we serve. As the only all-youth shelter in Seminole County, their contributions hold profound significance in helping to create a safe, nurturing and pleasant environment for those in need. We are immensely grateful for their partnership and for joining us in our mission to provide a safe haven for youth in Seminole County. Together, we're making a difference and spreading hope in our community.

Once again, we are grateful to these three organizations for their kindness, generosity and commitment to our mission. Here's to brighter days ahead, filled with compassion and support!



We Are HIRING!



OPEN POSITIONS

- » Family Teaching Couple
- » Post-Doctoral Clinical Psychology Fellow
- » Overnight Program Staff
- » Assistant Family Teacher

Apply Today at jobs.BoysTown.org



Apply Now

Celebrating Our Newest Family-Teachers

At Boys Town, we rely on our Family-Teachers to create a stable, family-centered lifestyle for all of our residential youth. The Family Home Program provides a home for children ages 9 to 17. Six to eight boys or girls live in each single Family Home with a married couple called Family-Teachers. In our homes, youth learn social and independent-living skills that help them find success at home, in school and in their community. This year, we are honored to announce our newest Family-Teaching couple: Mike and Joanie Dunn!

Although they are the newest addition to our Boys Town Central Florida campus, Boys Town is not something new to Mike and Joanie. In fact, Boys Town runs in their bloodline. Joanie's father is a proud Boys Town alum and was raised at the main campus in Omaha, NE after his family members passed away in a house fire in 1959... he was only nine years old. He went on to age out of Boys Town at 18, became interested in mechanics and had a career of 35 years with General Motors. It was Joanie's father who inspired Mike and Joanie to come and join Boys Town as Family-Teachers.

The two met in their twenties at a telemarketing office job. Joanie was Mike's supervisor and he fell hard for her. Eventually, after he was promoted several times, they got together and have never looked back. Their love for their work as well as each other grew. While their time in telemarketing was wildly successful, it was never quite fulfilling enough. In 2018, they transitioned from their 25-year careers in telemarketing to focus on mission work. Joanie's passion for travel collided with their commitment

to community service, leading them to Boys Town. Their tenure at Boys Town North Florida has seen them become catalysts for change, impacting over 100 young lives so far. Joanie reflects, "It was faith that brought us here," expressing their unwavering dedication to leaving every place better than they found it, guided by divine timing.

Their journey wasn't without challenges. They recount a transformative experience with a defiant young girl who initially resisted their help at Boys Town. Through relentless dedication and love, they witnessed her remarkable transformation, culminating in early graduation and becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. Despite leaving the program, she remains connected to Mike and Joanie, a testament to their enduring impact. When asked about their approach to serving, they emphasize tradition and joy. Beach days and movie nights are staples in their home, with plans underway for Boys Town Central Florida's inaugural "Drive-In Movie Night." Their belief is Boys Town isn't just a place; it's a beacon of hope and transformation, fueled by love, faith and a commitment to service.



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For more great stories, visit
BOYSTOWN.ORG/central-florida

Boys Town Central Florida has brought life-changing care to tens of thousands of children and families in Central Florida since opening its doors in 1986 in Oviedo. Boys Town provides a wide range of services, each dependent on the individual needs of the child and their family. Every year, the site's programs and services touch the lives of more than 7,600 children and families in Central Florida.

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our mission
Changing the way America cares
for children and families.

