

Healing & Hope News

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

A Place Our Girls Can Call Home

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that Boys Town also helps girls? On the Demetree Campus in Oviedo, our Residential Home Program, provides homes for youth to stay with us long-term in a family style environment. One of those homes is for our girls. Each home can accommodate up to six youth. Our girls' home is very special for many reasons, including Mr. and Mrs. Moore, the Family-Teaching couple who live there.

After raising their own grown children, the Moore's left corporate America as they felt called to Boys Town to serve youth in need of a stable, loving home. Boys Town is fortunate they answered that call more than a year ago!

"As a Family-Teacher, I believe that Boys Town is the place where love truly makes the difference," said Mrs. Moore. "We have a youth who has been in more than 30 placements and she is only 16 years old. Although she continues to display some inappropriate behaviors and ran away in the middle of the night, once she returned home, there was someone waiting for her with open arms to love on her and

to help her to trust again. She now realizes there is a place called Boys Town Central Florida that will never give up on her, or any other youth.

Mrs. Moore praised those who support Boys Town and help youth. "She is living her best life because people like you care and continue to give. Your efforts are making a difference in showing her what love truly is and she continues to thrive because at Boys Town, love keeps no record of wrongs."

*"...I believe that Boys Town
is the place where love truly
makes the difference."*

The Moore's pour their heart and soul into caring for these young ladies. As a family, they enjoy going to the beach. When a youth mentioned she had never been to the beach, they changed that right away. Experiences like these open up the world for the girls and strengthen their relationships with one another as they experience these "firsts" together!

The Demetree Boys Town Central Florida Campus is filled with stories like these. It is a special place with some of the most extraordinary "hearts to serve" you will ever find.



The girls living life together...as a family.

A LETTER FROM LAURIE

It's hard to believe, but summer is over and fall is in full swing! Thanks to the efforts of our wonderful community partners and staff, our youth had an incredible summer! Your amazing support enabled our youth to enjoy catered lunches and dinners, fun games, lots of activities on campus and special outings. A few of these special trips included a behind-the-scenes look at Central Florida Zoo, a Sanford Theatre High School

Musical production, an Optimist Club celebration of summer birthdays, SeaWorld, Aquatica, lots of trips to the gym, special beach days and summer internships. To say our youth remained busy and engaged is an understatement!

Thank you so much to all who assisted in making this summer truly memorable. We know many times this is the first opportunity our youth have ever had to participate in these activities, and we love creating positive summer memories for them.

Many of our youth started back to school on Thursday, August 10th. Back-to-school can create a lot of anxiety for them, especially for those starting in a brand-new school. We are so appreciative of the outpouring of support from our community to ensure Boys Town youth were ready. From purchasing everything from new undergarments to school supplies, our youth looked the part for their first day of school. Having these supplies assisted in the reduction of that first day of school anxiety.

As we move into the holiday season, please make sure you save the dates for our upcoming Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 9th. You will genuinely enjoy the tree lighting. It is magical.

Again, we can't thank you enough for serving a special role by ensuring our youth have a fresh start. We know that the holidays are a difficult time for many of our youth, and we know, with your support, they have an opportunity to have the best season of their lives.



Laurie Stern
Executive Director

Want to Get More Involved

We are looking for committee volunteers for Year-Round Needs, Community Engagement and Special Events!

Have no free time, but still want to help? We invite you to donate toward our year-round campus needs. Our youth and families stay busy and active, and we have our generous donors to thank. Here are some ideas:

- » restaurant gift cards
- » family outings like movies, bowling and mini-golf
- » help connect us with someone to host an onsite activity

Donate to our new **Making Memories Drive** by donating gift cards to Ross, Walmart, Target, Marshalls, Publix, movie theatres, restaurants, bowling alleys, ice skating rinks, zoos, museums, Orlando Magic games, Solar Bear games and any other activity you can think of! Your generous support will help us to provide our families with opportunities to make memories for kids.

If you would like to contribute to any of these efforts or have additional questions, please email Melissa for more information: Melissa.Parsons@boystown.org





Empowering Youth for Better Lives

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Our Boys Town Behavioral Health Clinic opened in 2012 to serve youth and families in Central Florida. We offer outpatient services for individuals and families from infancy to age 22, who are experiencing social/emotional, academic and behavioral concerns.

Our focus is on Behavioral Pediatrics and we are here to support our colleagues in the pediatric field and local teachers in search of a resource for parents.

Our three clinicians treat a wide range of needs, from young children who are acting out in class to young adults who have suicidal tendencies. One of our clinicians recently partnered with the mother of a 6-year-old who presented with ADHD and aggressive behavior concerns. After working closely with Dr. Nguyen, the family reported great progress and indicated that second grade was off to a great start!

“We’ve got an amazing teacher, who is a huge advocate for our son,” said his mom. “He’s coming home with purple (top color) ribbons for his behavior every day. Just yesterday, he earned an eagle feather, the school’s on-the-spot



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acknowledgment of good behavior, from his PE teacher. Today he was recognized as the Dean’s list winner for his class. He has come a long way!”

The clinic also recently witnessed great success with a young adult who was feeling stressed about school, had no appetite and suffered from frequent stomach aches and insomnia. There also were self-harm behaviors involved.

The client shared, “I went to see a Boys Town clinician who has helped me work through all of these. I cannot imagine where I’d be now without that help. I learned skills to prevent relapse, how to communicate better and to set appropriate boundaries with others. I also continue to be empowered to strengthen my coping mechanisms for dealing with long standing depression and anxiety.”



Special thanks to Dr. Amanda Anderson, Dr. Joe Clemens and Dr. Anhtony Nguyen for taking excellent care of our youth and their families! Welcome to the team Dr. James Nguyen, the clinics second post-doctoral fellow.



Dr. Anhtony Nguyen, Sandy Cuello; Clinic Services Representative and Dr. Amanda Anderson

You and your family
won't want to miss this year's holiday celebration!

Christmas Tree Lighting & Festival



Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Boys Town Central Florida
Demetree Campus
Flanagan Loop I Oviedo, Florida



Scan here to
Sponsor or Register
for Event



Development Office

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DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

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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.