

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**.

*In 2023, you made a real impact
and we appreciate your support!*

In-Home Family Services

5,311 children and 2,253 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®

111,243 Hotline contacts were made and **468 suicides in progress were prevented** by our Hotline crisis counselors.

Behavioral Health Clinic

6,135 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**.

Boys Town Common Sense Parenting®

1,109 families and caregivers learned **new skills by building on their parenting strengths** and developing **healthy relationships** with their children.

Foster Family Services

Foster parents, trained and supported by Boys Town, opened their homes to **362 children who needed a safe place** to live.

On the Way Home

Consultants helped **331 youth** transition from Boys Town programs to return home, go back to school or prepare for a career and **continue on the path of success**.

Lift with Boys TownSM

Our **School Support Specialists** have worked with **7,663 students** in their classrooms to develop their social skills to promote learning.

Family Home ProgramSM

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

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



Boys Town Care Coordinator Brings Praise, Positivity and Unwavering Support to Family with Five Adopted Children

At Boys Town, we know that parents and caregivers with unique circumstances can struggle to get the right kind of care and support they need from schools, agencies and service organizations to best meet the individual needs of their children so they can grow, thrive and succeed. That's where Boys Town staff members like Megan Oakley come in as positive, passionate advocates to support and guide parents and caregivers in their selfless journeys of loving and caring for children in need. Here's one story told in the words of an extraordinary and grateful mother.

Hello from the Creutzberg family! My name is Alece, my husband is Mark...and we adopted five very active and fun boys! Noah is 14, Ruxin is 9, Jaxson is 8, Maverick is 7 and Lucas is 5. There's never a dull moment in our home! It's the perfect amount of excitement and controlled chaos seasoned with an abundance of love.

With that being said, it's been a challenge to find someone who can keep up with and really support our family. But we found a real gem in Megan Oakley, our Boys Town Care Coordinator Supervisor, who took on the challenge of helping our family. She has gone above and beyond to help us not only survive but thrive these last several months. Her outstanding communication skills, not only with us, but with our children's schools, agencies and services has been incredibly helpful. Her knowledge of school systems and programs has been invaluable as we have advocated for our kids and family.

Not only does she help me with paperwork, but she also interacts with our children. She comes up with all sorts of creative and new ideas for us to implement that are helping our family be successful! She took the time to get to know each one of our kids, which has meant that her recommendations are both kid-specific and designed to help the family as a whole. She has been able to find things they

like and that would help them individually be successful.

One of the most valuable things to me that she does is always affirms my kids and tells them how wonderful they are. She compliments them and speaks to their strengths in a positive way. This means the world not only to them but to me, because my kids have a variety of high needs, strong personalities and lots of activity it can be so easy to focus on the negatives. At times, my family requires unconventional and unique accommodations that aren't always supported or viewed as positive compared to "normal" families. But not Megan! As our Care Coordinator she always sees these as positive, advocates for them and helps us keep moving toward our goals, together.

As a busy mom of five children, I am so thankful for Megan's positive support and understanding. It's challenging raising five boys, all of whom have special needs. It can feel lonely and overwhelming at times, but Megan is always there – positive, understanding and supportive. She helps me feel like we're not the only ones going through this, and that we're not alone in our journey! She has been with us every step of the way, from the mountains of laundry and dishes, to those hard conversations with schools.

Mark and Alece Creutzberg
Creutzberg Family Chaos Coordinators 🥰



Mark and Alece Creutzberg Family. Noah is 14, Ruxin is 9, Jaxson is 8, Maverick is 7 and Lucas is 5.

*The success of this family would not have been possible without the generous investment from Clarkson Regional Health Services.

Boys Town Foster Parents Receive Foster Parents of the Year Award

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to youth in foster care, Boys Town foster parents, Jim and Rose Schuman, recently received the 2023 Foster Parents of the Year Award from the Nebraska Association of Homes and Services for Children (NeAHSC). Jim and Rosie have been Boys Town Foster Parents for several years, working with sibling groups, teens and adolescents.

Each year, the NeAHSC receives award nominations from throughout the state seeking to honor foster parents who provide a role model to foster children, leading by example and going above and beyond every day in dedication and service to youth and their families.

In the Schuman's nomination, it stated that Jim and Rosie are strong advocates for the children in their home and work diligently to ensure that they have the life skills to be successful. They have helped teens obtain scholarships, safe housing, citizenship and post-education. They also have given young adults, who have aged out of foster care, the opportunity to enjoy a bright future. In fact, Rosie was featured in a local news story for her amazing work.

In addition, the Schuman's are actively involved in the community and have opened their home to countless children and families, including providing a safe space to children and families of all races and backgrounds including neurodivergent, non-binary and LGBTQIA. Everyone is welcome at the Schuman home and all are treated with understanding, kindness and empathy.

Please join the Boys Town family in extending congratulations to Jim and Rosie Schuman – Nebraska Foster Parents of the Year!

If you are interested in learning more about Boys Town's rewarding foster parent opportunities available, please visit boystown.org/foster.



Jim and Rose Schuman



Janece Ferris (representative with NeAHSC) and Rose Schuman



Boys Town is looking for 24 homes in 2024.

Take the first step toward becoming a foster parent today.

Sign up for more information today!



boystown.org/foster

Upcoming Events



April 24-27, 2024

SHARE Omaha Do Good Days

Join SHARE Omaha for DO GOOD Days, inviting the metro area to come together by giving dollars, in-kind items and time to make Omaha stronger.



April 30, 2024

Booster Banquet

Each spring, Boys Town student athletes are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during the school year. Join us for the 2023 Booster Banquet to raise funds for sports equipment, uniforms and other necessities.

Visit boystown.org/Boosters for more information.



July 27, 2024

Blue Water Bash

Save the date for the Camp Okoboji 70th Anniversary Celebration Blue Water Bash in West Okoboji. This fun filled summer party will benefit Boys Town Okoboji Camp. With your help, our youth can have a safe and memorable summer vacation.

Event Chairs: Susan Haddix and Laura Luther

Honorary Chairs: Joel and Beth Johnson

Visit boystown.org/Okoboji for more information.



September 23, 2024

2nd Annual Boys Town Golf Event

Stay tuned for details!



Development Office

Melissa Steffes

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

531-355-1795

melissa.steffes@boystown.org



our mission

Changing the way America cares for children and families.

For more great stories, visit BOYSTOWN.ORG/nebraska

For more than a century, Boys Town has provided help for children, strength for families and hope for communities of high need. From Prevention to Intervention, Boys Town provides a wide range of services dependent on individual needs of more than 150,000 children and families in the region each year. In addition to our campus, Boys Town expanded its programs and services to the community with neighborhood offices in North and South Omaha, as well as additional services in Central and Western Nebraska to include Grand Island, Duncan, Kearney and North Platte.



Like us at facebook.com/BoysTownNebraska