

Healing & Hope News

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

Your 2024 IMPACT

At Boys Town North Florida, we provide an array of life-changing youth care and healthcare 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 North Florida.*

In-Home Family Services

416 children and 154 families learned how to handle issues and **prevent them** from becoming more disruptive in the home.

Care Coordination Services

199 children and 90 families received intensive, family-centered case management services to help them navigate through complex systems such as the mental health care system, school systems and available community resources.

Boys Town National Hotline

2,887 calls from Florida were answered and **3 suicides in progress were prevented** by our Boys Town National Hotline Crisis Counselors.

Boys Town Common Sense Parenting

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

Family Home Program

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

Foster Family Services

Foster Parents, trained and supported by Boys Town, opened their homes to **24 children** with behavioral, medical or emotional needs who needed a safe place to live.

Let's do even more together in 2025!



A LETTER FROM MARCUS

Summertime at Boys Town North Florida: A Season of Hope and Continual Commitment



As we embrace the new season of summer, we reflect on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the children and families we serve. This summer, while the world continues to navigate its complexities, Boys Town North Florida remains steadfast in our mission to bring hope, healing and brighter futures to those who need it most.

In today's climate, the struggles faced by many of the youth and families we serve are more pressing than ever. Rising adversity, economic uncertainties and mental health challenges continue to take a toll. However, "amid every crisis lies great opportunity!" In these challenging times, we are uniquely situated and must continue to embrace our holistic, forward-thinking approach to supporting youth and families and providing comprehensive care.

We rely on the compassion and generosity of supporters like you to continue this very important work. Your continued support is vital in helping us provide life-changing services — everything from emotional healing and education to life skills and family support.

Our commitment to being a constant source of support, love and guidance indeed remains firm. As we head into this new season, we ask you to join us in our ongoing efforts. Together, we can ensure that our mission of hope, healing and transformation remains strong for the children and families who depend on us. Thank you for your unwavering support.

In service and partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Lampkin".

Marcus Lampkin

Executive Director

Mildred Bryant Adoption Story

For over a decade, Mildred Bryant has been a steadfast advocate for children in need, providing a safe and loving home as a licensed foster parent. Since 2021, she has partnered with Boys Town North Florida's Foster Family Services program as a Therapeutic Foster Parent, opening her heart and home to eight children over the years.

Fostering has always been a calling for Mildred. She attributes her dedication to her deeply rooted desire to help others, saying "I've always had a heart for caring and supporting those in need." When asked what advice she would offer to those considering fostering, she emphasized the importance of community. "Relying on other parents, foster families, teachers and loved ones is crucial. No one fosters alone — you need support."

Mildred credits Boys Town's training and resources with transforming both her approach to parenting and the lives of the children she fosters. She shared that what may seem like negative behavior is often a child's way of expressing unmet needs or trauma. Through extensive training, she has gained valuable skills in effective communication, understanding trauma responses and tailoring care to each child's unique developmental needs. These strategies, she explains, are essential to fostering success.

One of the most defining moments of her journey came this year. Since May 2023, Mildred has been fostering a young boy, and in March 2025, she finalized his adoption! Reflecting on the experience, she shared, "I want every child to feel safe. Fostering is incredibly rewarding, but it also requires deep self-awareness. We all have something to heal from, and that motivates me to provide a space where children can find peace. Learning new skills and strategies through Boys Town helps me ensure that my home remains a place of healing."

Boys Town North Florida proudly congratulates the Bryant family on this incredible milestone. Foster Family Services remains committed to partnering with the Tallahassee community to ensure children have safe, loving homes where they can thrive.



Boys Town North Florida Youth Lead Black History Month Celebration



Boys Town North Florida's Family Home Program hosted a vibrant Black History Month celebration that brought the entire campus together. The day was not only a celebration of history and culture, but also a heartfelt tribute from the kids to Executive Director Marcus Lampkin, honoring his leadership and the impact he's had on their lives.

The celebration began with the inaugural Marcus Lampkin Black History Month Yard Golf Tournament — an idea the youth developed and organized themselves. Played across a nine-hole course on campus, the tournament highlighted trailblazing Black golfers at each hole, including Charlie Sifford, the first African American to play on the PGA

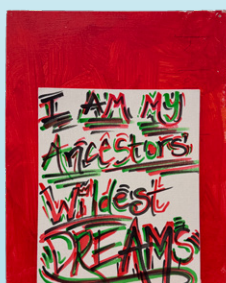
Tour and a World Golf Hall of Fame inductee. Naming the event after Marcus was the kids' personal way of recognizing his leadership and support.

The festivities continued with card games, football and a lively fish fry prepared by Family-Teacher Mr. Longley. Staff contributed homemade sides and desserts, while the youth created a playlist filled with uplifting, culturally relevant music. A Pan-African flag — designed and proudly displayed by the kids — added another meaningful touch to the day.

A highlight of the celebration was the ART Town gallery, featuring original artwork from Boys Town youth and staff. The collection reflected themes of history, identity and resilience, offering powerful expressions in honor of Black History Month.

The day concluded with a talent show featuring poetry, music and dance. Family-Teacher Aiysha Longley shared an original poem that reminded everyone of the strength found in identity and community.

In the spirit of Father Flanagan's belief in equality and belonging, this celebration reflected the heart of Boys Town: young people lifting one another up, creating joyful moments and honoring those who support them with love, unity and pride.



Boys Town North Florida Welcomes Florida State University Jazz Ensemble



Boys Town North Florida celebrated the start of Black History Month by welcoming Florida State University's Jazz Ensemble to campus. The event

was designed to expose youth to jazz, a music genre that originated in the African American communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The jazz quintet educated Boys Town youth about how jazz originated from blues and made ties to how the music influences contemporary artists of today. Youth were treated to pieces by notable jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis.

Lawrence Turner, Florida State student and jazz musician said, "Being at Boys Town to perform means that I am giving back what I've learned. As a young person, listening to other people inspired me to become better at my instrument. I'm very glad to give back to people who deserve it. The youth had great questions, and I could tell they were really listening."

After the performance, youth and music enthusiasts approached the ensemble for advice on how to improve their musical talent.

Boys Town North Florida wishes to thank the Florida State University College of Music for helping coordinate this successful event.



Boys Town North Florida Next Gen 2024 Cohort



Our Next Gen 2024 Cohort recently completed their training, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate their hard work and dedication! These young individuals have taken a big step forward in building the skills, confidence and leadership qualities that will guide them toward success in the future.

Throughout the course, they've worked hard, learned new things and supported each other every step of the way. It's inspiring to see the growth and commitment they've shown, and we're so proud of each of them for completing the program!

We would like to congratulate the graduates of this year's cohort:

- » **Glen Williams** from the Family Home Program
- » **Shamara Folks** from the Family Home Program
- » **Precious Baker** from Foster Family Services

This accomplishment is just the beginning for these amazing young people, and we can't wait to see what they will achieve next.

Congratulations, Next Gen 2024! You've earned this success, and we're here cheering you on as you continue to grow and thrive.



Development Office

Mary Rose McCarron
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

850-559-4401
maryrose.mccarron@boystown.org

Ryleigh Egros
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

850-504-5015
ryleigh.egros@boystown.org

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

The first of Boys Town's national sites, Boys Town North Florida has been serving children and families since 1983.

We partner with area agencies and businesses to constantly enhance the quality and variety of care we provide in the community. Every year, our services touch the lives of more than 5,000 people in North Florida.



Like us at facebook.com/BoysTownNorthFlorida



Follow us at boystownnorthflorida



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