

Healing & Hope News

“The work will continue...”
– Father Edward J. Flanagan,
Founder of Boys Town

13th Annual Blue Water Bash was an Overwhelming Success

The 13th Annual Blue Water Bash was an overwhelming success, drawing a vibrant crowd and delivering a memorable experience at Okoboji Classic Cars. The event featured a mix of lively entertainment, engaging activities and a sense of community that made it a standout occasion. We raised \$250,000 which will be used towards camp repairs, restoration and preservation!

We are so thankful for all those who attended and contributed to this year’s event. Your generosity ensures this special place remains for all the youth who call Boys Town home. Thank you again to all who joined us at the lake and a heartfelt shout out to our Event Chairs, Susan Haddix and Laura Luther and

Honorary Chairs, Joel and Beth Johnson. Thank you for holding a cherished place in your hearts for this camp and our youth. A big shout out to those who joined us in Luau and Hawaiian inspired outfits!

If you were not able to attend, it isn’t too late to support this amazing place. A gift today helps another child experience the true joy of summer fun. Supporters and donors like you will help to fund our camp repair and restoration efforts. Camp Okoboji is just one of many ways you can support Boys Town. To learn more, please reach out to me directly at melissa.steffes@boystown.org.

Thank you again!
Melissa Steffes,
Development Director





Pursuing Passions: Bella's Story

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

Honestly, that's a sentiment we often hear from parents at Boys Town graduations. Children on a path to self-destruction often need to get out of their homes of origin to find a new way of being themselves.

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."

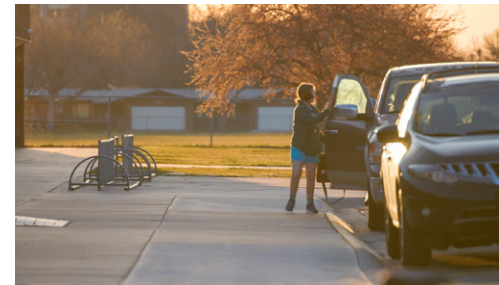


To learn all about her journey, scan the QR code to watch her short video.



Public School System Sees Big Gains in Attendance

North Platte, Nebraska, is a blue collar, hard-working community. The schools had long struggled with chronic absenteeism, disruptive classroom behaviors and disengaged students and parents. When absenteeism hit an all-time high, the North Platte Public Schools began working with Boys Town to



implement the Lift program that uses proven tools and strategies to teach social skills that can be used to manage behaviors and build relationships. Since working with Boys Town's Lift program, the district has experienced big gains in attendance numbers by working directly with staff, students and parents, and a significant reduction in school



suspensions and office referrals. "I can't think of a better intervention than Boys Town that we could put into place to positively work with all aspects of a child's life," said Brandy Buscher, Director of Student Services.

Scan Here to watch the short North Platte Success Story.



Boys Town Youth Shine at RSM Putting Challenge

In an inspiring display of skill and spirit, a group of Boys Town youth recently showcased their talents at the RSM Putting Challenge, which was held during the Pinnacle Bank Championship, a Korn Ferry Tour golf event located at The Club at Indian Creek. The RSM Putting Challenge, which pairs youth with PGA Tour Professionals, invites participants to test their putting precision on a specially designed course.

The RSM Putting Challenge provided an excellent opportunity for these young participants to apply their skills in a competitive yet supportive environment. The challenge not only tested their putting skills, but also allowed them to engage with the community and experience the excitement of a professional golf setting. In addition to the putting challenge, the tournament featured a variety of activities and attractions that drew golf enthusiasts from across the region.

As the RSM Putting Challenge concluded, the Boys Town participants walked away not only with a sense of accomplishment but also with cherished memories of their time on the putting green. Their participation underscored the power of community events to uplift and inspire, proving once again that sports and collaboration can create meaningful opportunities for growth and connection.

The success of the Boys Town youth at the RSM Putting Challenge serves as a reminder of Boys Town's ongoing mission to empower young individuals and help them realize their full potential. With continued support from community partners and events like the Pinnacle Bank Championship, Boys Town remains dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of its youth.

Boys Town launched a golf program this year, spear headed by Campus Resource Officer, JT Wheeler. The two youth participating in the putting challenge are members of the newly established golf club at Boys Town.

Thank you Bridgepoint Investment Banking for sponsoring our team and Brice Williams for golfing with us!





Boys Town Institute for Human Neuroscience Welcomes New Lab Director

Boys Town National Research Hospital is proud to welcome Rachel Spooner, Ph.D., as the director of the Translational Motor Imaging Laboratory at the Institute for Human Neuroscience. Dr. Spooner specializes in translating data from neuroscience methodologies, including magnetoencephalography (MEG) and MRI, directly into clinical applications. Her work helps to develop state-of-the-art clinical therapies serving numerous populations with nervous system disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, HIV, Parkinson’s disease and cerebral palsy. The focus of Dr. Spooner’s research is to comprehensively characterize motor deficits such as balancing, walking, speaking, swallowing and vision with the goal of improving the speed and accuracy of diagnosis and treatment across all ages and disease types.

Dr. Spooner received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, under the direction of Dr. Tony Wilson. She recently finished her postdoctoral fellowship with Drs. Esther Florin and Alfons Schnitzler at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf in Düsseldorf, Germany.

With the addition of Dr. Spooner’s Translational Motor Imaging Laboratory, there are now seven laboratories within the Institute for Human Neuroscience.

Foster Care Awareness

Truman, a young boy from Bellevue, Nebraska, befriended a neighborhood child in the foster care system. He heard his friend talk about having his belongings moved in trash bags. Truman saw a problem with this and raised money to collect duffel bags for kids in foster care. He connected with Boys Town Foster Family Services to gift these bags. Recently, Truman and his father came out to our office to see our foster care closet and the bags and suitcases we use. As we continue to give these away to kids in need, Truman’s donation helped replenish our supply.



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.

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Development Office

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