

Healing & Hope News

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

Boys Town Nevada Expands North: Lift with Boys Town Program Launches in Elko and Winnemucca

As the 2025–2026 school year approaches, Boys Town Nevada is proud to announce the expansion of its Lift with Boys Town program into Northern Nevada. This exciting milestone brings our proven support model to students, educators and school communities in Elko and Winnemucca.

The launch of Lift with Boys Town education programs in these regions is the result of years of planning and collaboration. We are especially grateful to our partners at Intermediate School, French Ford Middle School and Grass Valley Elementary School for their dedication in helping bring this vision to life.

The start of a new school year brings renewed energy and opportunity. Last year alone, our behavior interventionists worked with 5,339 students to build stronger social skills and foster more positive learning environments. We also trained over 600 Clark County School District educators, equipping them with tools to better support students' behavioral and emotional needs.

As we look ahead, we carry with us powerful stories from the past year. School Support Specialist Danell Ellingson recalled a student who nearly missed a field trip due to behavioral challenges. After working with him through the

Lift program, his behavior improved significantly, and he not only attended the trip but also earned a spot in field day events. His teacher noted fewer anger outbursts and a more positive classroom presence.

"The biggest impact Boys Town makes is just by being present and consistent," Ellingson shared. "Many students live with trauma, and having a safe space to express themselves makes a profound difference."

With our expansion into Northern Nevada, Boys Town remains committed to creating safe, supportive spaces where students can thrive. We look forward to continuing this important work and bringing lasting change to even more communities across the state.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

In these uncertain times, Boys Town Nevada remains a steady source of hope and healing for the children and families we serve. Our commitment to providing consistency, safety and compassionate care has never been stronger.

I recently had the honor of attending the Charity Networking Luncheon hosted by First Lady Donna Lombardo. It was a meaningful celebration of shared purpose and a powerful opportunity to be a voice for those we serve. Events like this help ensure that legislation reflects the needs of every Nevadan.

Thanks to the continued support from our community, Boys Town Nevada served over 7,400 children in 2024. We're excited for the impact we will be making this year and look forward to the lives we'll touch along the way. Thank you for being a part of the journey.

With Gratitude,

John Etzell
Executive Director



Hop on Board with RTC: A Summer of Support and Connection

During the peak of summer in Southern Nevada, Boys Town Nevada partnered with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to launch the first “Hop on Board” summer bus pass initiative. This program provided hundreds of RTC bus passes to families served by Boys Town Nevada, ensuring safe access to work, summer programs, medical care and other essential services during the extreme heat.

Throughout July, RTC played a key role in expanding the initiative's reach. They promoted the campaign on social media to over 56,000 followers and featured it in their blog, reaching more than 45,000 subscribers. Boys Town Nevada also participated in RTC's “Beat the Heat” event, which offered free resources to hundreds of transit users. Attendees received items like sun visors from SilverSummit HealthPlan and pizza from Marsigliano's Pizzeria & More. The event highlighted RTC's dedication to community well-being and left Boys Town Nevada grateful for their support.

For many families, “Hop on Board” was more than a transportation solution—it was a lifeline. Paula Lawrence, Director of Development at Boys Town Nevada, emphasized the importance of reliable transit during dangerously high temperatures. The bus passes allowed parents to commute to work, children to attend enrichment programs and families to stay connected to vital services.

The impact was deeply felt. One family shared, “The bus passes help me and my kids so much. I can spend money on food, clothes or laundry instead. Because of our disabilities, walking is hard for me and my husband, so taking the bus to appointments or the park is a huge help.”

Thanks to this collaboration, families across Southern Nevada stayed cool, connected and cared for during one of the hottest times of the year.

Ponce Family Finds Hope and Stability Through Boys Town



The Ponce family came to Boys Town after a referral from Jack Dailey Elementary School, where 10-year-old Micah was struggling. His older brother Elisha had recently become his full-time caregiver following the death of their mother and their father's incarceration. With no other relatives able to take Micah in, Elisha, just 25, stepped up to raise his younger brother and provide a safe, loving home.

At the time of referral, the family was experiencing housing instability, financial hardship and difficulty accessing basic necessities. Elisha was doing everything he could, but without transportation, childcare or consistent work hours, he was barely staying afloat. Still, he welcomed Boys Town's help with openness and determination. As members of the Crow Tribe, the family also faced unique challenges navigating both tribal and federal systems, especially when it came to securing

documents needed for benefits and long-term support. Elisha spent weeks pushing through red tape, undeterred in his commitment to Micah.

With help from Boys Town's In-Home Family Services (IHFS), Elisha made incredible strides. He applied for jobs, attended hiring events and connected with local support services. Eventually, he secured transitional housing, a safe place to stay while he worked toward stability. Though legal issues made finding full-time work difficult, he landed a part-time job to support the household.

Elisha also participated in parenting classes to build structure and trust at home and became a strong advocate for Micah at school. With Boys Town's guidance, he initiated an evaluation for learning concerns, and during follow-up care, it was confirmed that Micah now has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in place and is receiving the academic support he needs to succeed.

*It was a small gesture
with a big impact,...*

In one touching moment, after Micah was teased at school for a bad haircut, Boys Town staff arranged a free cut that helped restore his confidence. It was a small gesture with a big impact, reflecting the care and teamwork behind the family's progress.

The holidays brought another boost. Thanks to the generosity of Boys Town donors, the Ponce family received a Thanksgiving meal and Christmas gifts, bringing joy and comfort during a season that might have otherwise felt heavy.

While challenges remain, Elisha and Micah are moving forward with renewed strength and hope. Elisha is building a future for his little brother and is deeply grateful for the support that helped them take the first steps.



UPCOMING EVENT

Boys Town Nevada Named Benefitting Charity for 2025 Best of Henderson Awards



Presented By:  Desert King Windows
We Knock Out The Weather

Unlike traditional award programs, the Best of Henderson Awards are entirely powered by the community—nominations and votes come directly from Henderson residents,

Boys Town Nevada is honored to be selected as the benefiting charity for the 2025 Best of Henderson Awards! You're invited to this prestigious, community-driven celebration taking place on October 23 at the Water Street Amphitheater, recognizing the businesses and professionals who make Henderson a vibrant and thriving city.

making each recognition a true reflection of local trust and appreciation. The ceremony will feature a dynamic lineup of presenters, including our very own Development Director, Paula Lawrence, alongside Henderson Mayor Michelle Romero and other local leaders.

As the spotlight shines on Henderson's finest, we are grateful for the opportunity to share our mission and expand awareness of the work we do to support children and families across Nevada. We are deeply grateful to the organizers and the Henderson community for including us in this meaningful evening.

Join us or stay tuned here! (scan QR code)
Home | 2025 Best of Henderson Awards.



 SCAN NOW

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

No matter how you're feeling, you can always talk to one of our counselors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. To make it easy we have many options to choose from. You can call, text, email or use our new Your Life Your Voice app to journal your feelings until you're ready to talk! Whatever way you choose, we're here for you.



4 WAYS TO GET HELP

- 1 Call: 800-448-3000
- 2 Text: "VOICE" to 20121
- 3 Email: YLYV@boystown.org
- 4 APP: Your Life Your Voice (YLYV)

[your Life your Voice.org](https://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org)



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

For more great stories, visit **BOYSTOWN.ORG/nevada**

For more than 30 years, Boys Town Nevada has positively impacted and changed the lives of thousands of children and families through its transformative care and services. Boys Town believes today, as our founder Father Edward Flanagan did over 100 years ago, that every child deserves a future, every family deserves to stay together and every community deserves to thrive. Boys Town offers hope. But we offer hope as more than just an abstract concept; we substantiate it with programs and solutions grounded in our deep experience and supported by our decades of research.

Boys Town Nevada has brought life-changing care to tens of thousands of children and families in Nevada since opening its doors in 1991. In 2024, the site's services impacted the lives of over 36,000 people in Nevada.

    @BoysTownNevada