

# Healing & Hope News

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

## Anthony's Story: From Foster Care to a Forever Family

Boys Town New England offers many services including foster care in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Often couples become foster parents because they have friends who are a part of the program. That was the case for Laurence and Alyse Cobb. Their friends started as foster parents and ended up adopting. The experience really hit home with the Cobbs and in November of 2019 they began fostering Anthony.



Anthony was just 16 months old when the Cobbs picked him up as he was being released from the hospital. Having lived with abusive parents, Anthony was recovering from rib fractures, jaw and neck bruises related to strangulation, a right femur fracture and a list of other serious injuries.

After several months together as a family, Anthony started displaying significant aggressive behavior as a coping mechanism for his trauma. This included biting and hitting peers at daycare and doing the same to Laurence, Alyse, and his foster siblings.

At this point, the Cobbs began to doubt they were the right placement for him and were worried they might not be able to manage his behaviors. They were also concerned they might not be able to keep themselves and their other children safe. It was an emotional decision, but the Cobbs decided to request that another home be found for Anthony. Luckily, that's when Boys Town Foster Family Services stepped in with assistance.

What makes Boys Town Foster Family Services different from other programs is the detailed and continued support from professionals within our system. In situations like this, Boys Town works with foster parents and connects them with resources that empower them. By learning the Boys Town Model, foster parents

are better able to manage and negate the trauma involved in situations like this.

Thanks to Boys Town Family Services and their love for Anthony, the Cobbs were able to keep Anthony in their family.

*"It is so nice to see everything come together for the kids and family," ...*

In May of 2021, the Cobbs took in Anthony's sister. Although they already had their hands full at the time, they knew it was best to keep the siblings together and were committed to helping both children feel safe and loved. Mira was two weeks old when entering the Cobb's home and was born addicted to opioids.

"It is so nice to see everything come together for the kids and family," said Boys Town Foster Family Services Consultant, Gianna Cavallaro, who worked with the Cobbs throughout the process. "The kids had so many behavioral challenges, but the Cobb's loved them and always felt they were a part of the family. They were tremendous advocates for both kids. I really admire their patience and perseverance and couldn't be happier for all of them. One of the great aspects of Boys Town Foster Family Services is that families work with a consultant, which allows them to really know us and for us to really know them."

Mira is now 3-years-old, and Anthony is 6-years-old. This past April, the Cobbs officially adopted them both. The Cobbs are committed to providing a safe environment for Mira and Anthony and are looking forward to building many happy childhood memories for them. With love and Boys Town Foster Family Services, there's no doubt that's exactly what they will do.



# Boys Town New England's 'Cody' Headed to College After Long, Difficult Journey

For those of you with children or relatives who are high school seniors, you know how stressful this time of year can be — and we aren't talking about the holidays. The college search process can be confusing and challenging from both a logistical and emotional standpoint. Imagine the process if you are a kid who has spent the last four years of your life at Boys Town and is now living in a semi-independent house in Providence, Rhode Island.

This "kid" was introduced to you, and all loyal Boys Town supporters, through our newsletter several years ago. For privacy reasons, we used several different names including "Corey." But on November 30, "Corey" turned 18-years-old, so now we proudly introduce you to Cody, Boys Town alum, senior at Middletown High School, AND a **future member of the Nichols College Class of 2029!**

That's right, Cody, who came to Boys Town from a broken family, successfully went through the Boys Town process of teaching and learning and reached the Achievement Level, which is the highest level possible at Boys Town. He was then moved by the state of Rhode Island to a semi-independent living situation because of his success. Now, after earning a 3.0 grade point average he has been accepted at Nichols College in Massachusetts where he plans to study Hospitality and Sports Management.

"Wow, what an accomplishment," said Boys Town Director of Development, Glenn Hofmann. "It is so wonderful to see how a kid like Cody took advantage of the situation Boys Town offered, worked hard to improve all aspects of his life, and now is going to go to college. This is such a feel-good story. Cody overcame so many obstacles in his life, and to stay positive and become goal-focused... it's just so hard to put into words how happy all of us are to see Cody's success."

Before coming to Boys Town four years ago, Cody was adopted at age three and was then put into congregate care at age 12. He took part in the Newport Restaurant Group's on-boarding program and then immediately was hired to work at a local restaurant, Foodlove. The person behind the partnership with Boys Town is

Tobey Sanborn, Newport Restaurant Group Director of Training and Development, who is also a Boys Town Board Member.

"Cody has made some incredible progress over the past two years since I met him when I started on the board at Boys Town,"

Sanborn said. "It's wonderful to see his emotional growth and confidence have flourished, especially given his initial uncertainties. It has been rewarding to witness him not only building trust and communication skills, but also discovering his passion for the hospitality industry, where he can truly thrive. His journey is a great testament to the power of personal development and finding a career path that aligns with one's passions."

Cody's success in school and at work has continued this year. After spending last summer working in the Experience Newport catering area, Cody has now moved on to work at Hemenway's, one of the most prestigious restaurants in Providence. Boys Town Board member Keith Chouinard, who is the Chief Operating Officer of IDC Inc., helped Cody in this journey.

"Six years ago, I was placed in the state of Rhode Island's child welfare system," Cody said. "I was separated from my parents and grandparents, living in unfamiliar surroundings with people I didn't know. I moved from home to home with no connection to the people I was living with. It was lonely, scary and time moved slowly. There were

many times I felt like I had no escape. And then my life and journey began to change when I came to Boys Town. Boys Town gave me hope to build a better future for myself."

And that is exactly what Cody has done and will continue to do as he soon becomes a part of the Nichols College family.

***If you are interested in specifically donating to Boys Town, which will help to defray the costs of tuition, room and board and other associated college expenses for Cody, please indicate so either on the enclosed donation card or in the online form which is located at [boystown.org/new-england](http://boystown.org/new-england).***





## Boys Town Art Class Designs Special Cleats For NFL New England Patriots Lineman



The “**My Cause My Cleats**” campaign, launched in 2016, is a connection between the National Football League (NFL) and players, allowing them to create their own art and represent their respective philanthropic organizations. Their passions and movements through unique designs will be witnessed in stadiums across the league. The special

cleats can be worn in Week 13 of the NFL season.

For the first time, Boys Town, and specifically, Boys Town New England and its Foster Care program, will be represented by an NFL player, Caedan Wallace, who is an offensive lineman drafted by the New England Patriots in last year’s NFL draft.



**“I grew up within a loving family and I will be always grateful for the guidance, compassion, and memories I had due to my parents,” Wallace explained when asked why he chose Boys Town as his philanthropic organization to represent. “My family provided the guidance and compassion I needed to find success in school, relationships, and life. Boys Town New England provides foster services in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and I want to support these foster services that have can be so impactful in a child’s life.”**

Typically, the NFL will hire a company to design the cleats. That is not the case for the cleats Wallace will be wearing. His cleats were

designed by an art class at Boys Town High School in Omaha. Anne Tompsett, who is now in her ninth year at Boys Town, teaches the class and is excited about the opportunity for the Boys Town kids.

“Sports is such a big deal at Boys Town and really helps our kids be successful,” Tompsett said. “I knew the kids would really want to participate in this. It’s a fun opportunity for my class because they love sports and arts, and you don’t always get opportunities like this.”

Over 1,000 NFL players participate in the “My Cause, My Cleats” program.

“My Cause, My Cleats allows players to shine a light on the causes they hold dear and the incredible work they do to help others year-round,” said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. “We are grateful and humbled by their commitment to make a difference, and this program allows them to share their passions with the world.”

*If you are interested in specifically donating to the Boys Town Foster Program as part of the “My Cause, My Cleats” campaign, please indicate so either on the enclosed donation card or in the online form which is located at [boystown.org/new-england](http://boystown.org/new-england).*



## Boys Town New England Continues Partnerships With Local Colleges and High Schools



**SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY**



Partnerships with local colleges and high schools continue to be an important part of the Boys Town New England experience.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the campus welcomed Salve Regina University students to its Bazarsky Portsmouth campus. Each year, 30 first-year Salve Regina students participate in the Service Plunge, a three-day long service immersion, prior to their orientation week. James Hackett,

who was enrolled in the Boys Town program over a decade ago and currently is an Assistant Family Home teacher, spoke to the group.

“Our time at Boys Town helped me to realize that small actions can change a person’s life,” said Salve Regina University student Ty G. “I would love to volunteer at Boys Town in the future to hopefully be a part of this change.”

In addition to hearing about the mission, the Salve students donated gift bags filled with books and school supplies for the Boys Town students.

“What a wonderful way for us to partner with the local community,” Glenn Hofmann, Boys Town Development Director said. “I was so impressed with how engaged each of the Salve students were during the presentation. They all clearly learned a lot about our mission and are eager to build a relationship with our

organization similar to the ones we have built with Brown University and Portsmouth High School.”

Boys Town is also excited about kicking off a mentoring program with the Brown University Athletics Department. In the past, Brown student-athletes have volunteered at various Boys Town events. This year the partnership is taking the next step, with plans to match a Brown student-athlete with each of the boys and girls in the Boys Town Family Home program as part of an overall mentorship program.

“We are excited about the opportunity to expand our partnership with Boys Town through a mentorship program,” Brown Student-Athlete Development Senior Manager Vicki Mealer-Flowers said. “As a Rhode Island native born and raised in Providence, I know the impact of the work of Boys Town and know our student-athletes can contribute to the growth of these children while building relationships through mentorship.”



**BROWN**

One of the longer partnerships for Boys Town is with the Portsmouth High School soccer teams and National Honor Society members. Once again, this group joined Boys Town staff to volunteer at the Amica Newport Marathon and the Pell Bridge Run, both held in October. This

capped a busy volunteering season, as this same group also worked with Boys Town staff at the U.S. Senior Open in June, which was held at the Newport Country Club.





## BOYS TOWN NEW ENGLAND KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON WITH TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Boys Town New England officially kicked off the holiday season with our annual tree lighting ceremony. Heart-warming testimonies from a Boys Town New England graduate and current resident set the tone for a fabulous evening.

*Three, two, one...*

As the crowd counted down to the tree lighting, the Portsmouth Fire Department delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus in style. Santa listened to every child's wish and both Santa and Mrs. Claus posed for photos.

"We aim to encourage community spirit during the Christmas season, and inspire traditions," said Sarah Galvan, Executive Director of Boys Town New England. "Thank you to each of our staff, donors and supporters for your support throughout the year and especially during the holidays."

All five Family Homes were lit and shining, with several homes open for visitors. Serving up Boathouse Hall of Fame Chowder, chili and homemade baked goods, the open house made the Bazarsky Campus a happy engaging location for the children and families of Boys Town New England to begin the holiday season.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation to the Boys Town Adopt A Child campaign, which provides gifts for the boys and girls on our campus and in the community programs we work with, please indicate so either on the enclosed donation card or in the online form which is located at [boystown.org/new-england](http://boystown.org/new-england).



**Development Office**

**Glenn Hofmann**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

401-608-9532 | 978-882-1675  
[glenn.hofmann@boystown.org](mailto:glenn.hofmann@boystown.org)



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

## RHODE ISLAND SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE VISITS BOYS TOWN NEW ENGLAND CAMPUS

On a postcard fall afternoon, Boys Town New England welcomed Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse to campus. For two hours the Senator spent time with staff learning more about each of the programs Boys Town offers and how collectively they impacted more than 20,000 boys, girls and families in 2023.



Senator Whitehouse also spent time in one of our Family Homes, meeting with our kids and answering questions they had ranging from what a typical day in the senate looks like, to what his biggest challenges are. The senator was also given a tour of the Family Home.

"We are deeply grateful to Senator Whitehouse for visiting Boys Town New England," Boys Town Executive Director Sarah Galvan said. "His time and attention to our kids mean the world to us, and his support inspires our community to continue striving for a brighter future. We especially appreciate his efforts on the re-authorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which is crucial for the well-being and future of our youth. Thank you, Senator Whitehouse, for your continued dedication to kids and paving a better path forward."

Senator Whitehouse has represented Rhode Island in the Senate since 2006. He is the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, and the Caucus on International Narcotics Control. He also serves as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Finance Committee.

Whitehouse joins several state legislators who have also visited campus. In each case, they have been able to meet the boys and girls on campus, as well as staff members who carry out the Boys Town model of services each day.



**For more great stories, visit**  
**BOYSTOWN.ORG/new-england**

Since opening in 1991, Boys Town New England has brought life-changing care to tens of thousands of children and families in Rhode Island and surrounding states.

Boys Town New England has five Family Homes that serve adolescents and young children at our Bazarsky Portsmouth Campus. We also offer Foster Family Services, In-Home Family Services, the Lift with Boys Town program in Pawtucket schools and other Community Support Services. For children who have completed Boys Town New England out-of-home programs, Reunification Services are available to help them make a smooth transition back to their families and maintain and improve their treatment gains.



Like us at [facebook.com/BoysTownNewEngland](https://facebook.com/BoysTownNewEngland)



Follow us at [BoysTownNewEngland](https://BoysTownNewEngland)



Connect with us [@BoysTownNewEng](https://@BoysTownNewEng)