



..... *A Campaign to*

Serve More Children and Families in a Welcoming, Therapeutic Environment

.....

The Need

Boys Town North Florida is always looking for unique, innovative ways to deliver our life-changing services to more children and families in the Tallahassee area. Through these efforts, we identify specific needs that are not being met in the community and develop a plan for enhancing and expanding programs so that more people can benefit.

As more families have turned to Boys Town North Florida for help, we have seen the need to add a welcoming facility where:

- Children can access academic resources and receive tutoring and mentoring services that will help them find success in school
- Boys and girls can receive therapy in a kid-friendly therapeutic environment and wait for appointments in a quiet, comfortable, stress-free area

- Children can learn about and enjoy art, music and dance, opportunities that may not have been available to them in the past
- Children who are in out-of-home placements can visit with their biological families in a safe, family-friendly place
- Boys Town Foster Parents can focus on necessary training and meetings while their foster children are cared for in kid-friendly environment
- Parents can improve their child-rearing skills through Boys Town parenting classes

.....

TALLAHASSEE-AREA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP!

.....



ART TOWN AT BOYS TOWN
NORTH FLORIDA IS A RETREAT
WHERE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CAN CONCENTRATE ON
RESTORING THEIR SPIRIT AND
HEALING THEIR SOUL.

ART Town Features

Perhaps the most unique feature of **ART Town** is that it can provide individualized or group assistance, resources and encouragement to children and families that are facing a wide variety of challenges or situations. This includes:

- Families in crisis
- Foster families that need more support
- Parents with adopted children who have special needs
- Children who are struggling in school
- Children who have never had opportunities to express themselves creatively
- Children who are leaving foster care and need support and independent-living skills
- Families that are working toward reunification

➔ The Solution

Boys Town's answer to these needs is ART Town!

ART Town at Boys Town North Florida is a retreat where children and families can concentrate on restoring their spirit and healing their soul.

ART stands for **A**rt, **R**esources and **T**raining. The overall concept focuses on providing a professionally supervised, therapeutic, central location where children and families can experience personal growth in a charming and welcoming environment.

The conceptual design for the **ART Town** building and grounds is to be uplifting and inspiring, with an artistic and inviting beauty. It will be a place of peaceful rejuvenation that children and families look forward to visiting again and again.

Boys Town North Florida has purchased a house on two and a half acres of land adjacent to our Tallahassee campus that will be converted into the **ART Town** facility. A comprehensive renovation will create rooms and open spaces where teaching, training, therapeutic arts-related activities, meetings and counseling sessions can take place in a quiet, private setting. Currently, such activities are not offered due to a lack of space, or children and families have to wait for or receive services in a facility that is designed for business and administrative operations.

New facility expectations:

- ➔ Help an additional 30 to 50 children a year through academic tutoring and mentoring
- ➔ Provide Foster Parent training that will result in safe foster homes for an additional 30 children a year
- ➔ Provide parent training to families from across the Tallahassee area, positively impacting hundreds of children every year



➔ At ART Town Children and Families will find:

ART. Through unique arts experiences designed specifically for the purpose of therapy, children can rejuvenate and restore their sense of self and improve and enhance their physical, mental and emotional well-being. Whether they are enjoying painting, singing, dancing, gardening or other forms of the arts, children will enjoy the stimulation and rewards of creative accomplishments.

The premise of art therapy is that the creative process allows for artistic self-expression, which helps individuals solve conflicts, manage behavior, improve self-esteem, develop self-awareness and insight, manage stress and develop interpersonal skills. The art therapy process integrates theories of human development, the use of visual arts and the process of creating.

Many studies show that creative engagement in arts-related activities has a therapeutic benefit for children and can lead to higher levels of achievement, particularly among disadvantaged youth. For example, Shirley Brice Heath's 10-year study of after-school programs for at-risk youth found that, compared to athletic/academic- or community service-focused programs, art-based programs for disadvantaged youth were associated with the greatest impact on youths' personal lives and academic performance¹. Also, the YouthARTS Development Project, conducted by federal agencies and local art agencies in three major cities, showed promising results from the use of art-based delinquency prevention programs². The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) partnered to conduct a national evaluation of the project.

RESOURCES. Children can benefit from working on computers, reading books and tapping into other resources that provide much-needed individualized tutoring and mentoring. **ART Town** also will offer therapy sessions and a psychiatric clinic that can help elevate children to a better place emotionally. Staff also will oversee supervised visits for children and families that may be separated and are working toward reunification or finding another permanent placement.

TRAINING. Parents will be able to attend Boys Town Common Sense Parenting® (CSP) classes, where they can learn skills and strategies for praising their children's good behavior, using effective discipline and consequences, and developing healthy family relationships. Also, Boys Town Foster Parents will receive professional training in a centralized, familiar gathering place designed specifically for meetings and instructional sessions. This training provides valuable tools for all caregivers and better prepares them to help children overcome the challenges they face and move toward a happier, healthier future.

- 1 Heath, S.B. (1999). Imaginative actuality: Learning in the arts in the nonschool hours. In E.B. Fiske (Ed.), *Champions of change: The impact of the arts on learning*. Washington, DC: Arts Education Partnership.
- 2 Clawson, H.J., & Coolbaugh, K. (2001). The YouthARTS development project. *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, May.

Tallahassee-area families that can benefit from ART Town's many offerings may come from Boys Town North Florida services like our Family Home Program (residential), Foster Family Services, Care Coordination Services and In-Home Family Services. Members of community groups like Circle of Parents and the Foster Parent Association also will discover valuable services that can help meet their needs.



➔ How You Can Help Build ART Town

The total estimated funding needed to make **ART Town** a reality for area children and families is \$400,000, which includes the cost of the building and property, necessary renovations, furnishings, program development and work on an access road. This amount covers only the costs associated with developing and opening the **ART Town** facility, and does not include funding for future sustainability and continued operations.

We are asking our loyal supporters to help pay for this project and bring a whole new level of care and treatment to those in greatest need in the Tallahassee area.

By donating to our campaign, you will become an Honorary Citizen of **ART Town** and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that children and parents are receiving much-needed services that will create healthier, happier families and a stronger community.

For more information on how you can support our ART Town Fundraising Campaign, please call **850-575-6422 (Ext. 227)** or visit boystown.org/north-florida.

ART Town Development Costs

Estimated Development Costs	COST
Mortgage	\$150,000
Art Studio	\$32,047
Reception / Gallery	\$17,777
Training Room	\$14,057
Lounge	\$4,750
Kitchen	\$5,122
Bathroom	\$11,120
Counseling	\$1,174
Computer Room	\$3,271
Resource Library	\$4,651
Replace Lighting	\$12,000
A/C Replacement	\$13,623
Interior Lighting	\$12,000
Exterior	\$71,949
Furniture Allowance	\$40,000
Site Improvements	\$91,225
Utilities	\$20,000
Contingency	\$15,000

TOTAL: \$519,766

➔ About Boys Town North Florida

We've helped over 4,000 children and families over the past 30 years in the Tallahassee area.

About Boys Town North Florida

Boys Town North Florida, Inc., as an Affiliate Corporation of Boys Town and incorporated as its own 501(c)(3) in 2003, serves the community of Tallahassee

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.

Each year, Boys Town Integrated Continuum of Care® programs touch the lives of more than 5,000 people in North Florida.



Boys Town North Florida

3555 Commonwealth Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-575-6422 | info@boystown.org | boystown.org/northflorida

OUR MISSION: Changing the way America cares for children, families and communities by providing and promoting an Integrated Continuum of Care® that instills Boys Town values to strengthen body, mind and spirit.

About Boys Town

Boys Town has been a national leader in the care and treatment of children since its founding more than 96 years ago by Father Edward Flanagan.

As one of the largest child and family service organizations in the United States, Boys Town offers a broad spectrum of services through our Integrated Continuum of Care®. We also provide health and medical care through Boys Town National Research Hospital® and other resources.

In addition to the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, our national headquarters, we have a network of sites nationwide that offer services through the Integrated Continuum.

Boys Town youth, family, community and health care programs touch the lives of more than 2 million people across the country yearly.