

# Healing & Hope News

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

## Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time dedicated to bringing awareness to suicide and mental health.



At Boys Town Nevada’s Behavioral Health Clinic, Psychologists like Dr. Alyssa Gallagher, Psy.D., focus every day on suicide prevention.

Although the prevention of suicide and mental health awareness continue to be important every day, dedicating a month to suicide

prevention creates a safe space for difficult conversations.

“There needs to be more conversations about the topic of suicide in children and families,” says Dr. Gallagher. “The month itself gives a lot of opportunity to transform myths.”

One common myth amongst families is that speaking about suicide will lead to more suicidal thoughts.

“Every therapist at Boys Town makes an impact because we are trained to teach parents how to respond to the situation, while normalizing to the kids that we can talk about it, not act on it, and they won’t be judged,” Dr. Gallagher said. “Sometimes kids just need that outlet.”

Boys Town believes it is critical to educate both families and children on suicide prevention. With Dr. Gallagher’s patients, she creates a safety plan with each child, while giving parents a list of tasks to complete such as increasing check-ins and monitoring medications.

“I tell parents to check-in,” Dr. Gallagher said. “Boys Town provides another level of education for parents, so we can support them, so they can continue to support their kids.”

With mental health resources increasingly scarce throughout Nevada, the Clinic’s ability to connect children and families with related resources continues to be a trait that the Clinic’s staff is proud of.

Boys Town Nevada’s Behavioral Health Clinic’s unique access to resources, such as Common Sense Parenting® classes, In-Home Family Services, Your Life Your Voice website and the Boys Town National Hotline, give parents different options of support. Sources like the Boys Town National Hotline allows parents to gain support in various levels of crisis.

“It functions as a hotline and a warm line... sometimes they are needing support in a crisis and sometimes they aren’t always asking for immediate support, but need guidance in the moment,” said Dr. Gallagher.

Access to mental health resources, such as Boys Town Nevada’s Hotline, aid in preventing suicides. In 2023, 881 calls from Nevada were answered and four suicides in progress were prevented by our Hotline crisis counselors.

With our evidence-based programming and community support, Boys Town Nevada’s team turns every month into Suicide Prevention Month.



Download the new app for FREE! Go to the AppStore and Search YLYV. Check it out today!



**Top 5**  
 REASONS FOR CONTACTS

1. Mental Health
2. Relationships
3. Suicide Related
4. Parenting
5. Life Process/ Adjustment

**SUICIDES PREVENTED**  
 Nevada  
**4**  
 (January–June 2024)

**239**  
 TOTAL  
 HOTLINE CONTACTS  
 FOR  
 NEVADA  
 (January–June 2024)

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for aiding Boys Town Nevada in our mission to change the way America cares for families and

children. This has been another impactful year for us, as we continue to provide four unique services to children and families in need across Southern Nevada. With your support, Boys Town Nevada has already impacted over 7,000 children in 2024.

September is a significant month at Boys Town Nevada. From Suicide Prevention Month to Back to School within our

education and In-Home-Family Services programs, our goal has always been and will continue to be preventing behavioral issues at home and in schools.

Suicide prevention is crucial here at Boys Town Nevada, reflecting our commitment to providing vital support and resources to help young people navigate crises and find hope. Since the beginning of the year, the Boys Town National Hotline has had 239 contacts from Nevada, providing critical support to 115 Nevada youth — offering guidance and assistance during moments of crisis. The dedicated team of counselors worked tirelessly to address their needs and provide a safe space for these young individuals.

It is also our objective to provide as many resources as we can to help families be better equipped for events like Back to School. We strive to help parents create a successful foundation for the upcoming school year with resources such as our “10 days of 10 activities to get you ready.” Activities like setting up specific bedtimes, designating a space in your home for studying, and keeping lines of communication open, are all things that parents can do to help their children start the school year on the right foot.

Every successful foundation we strive to create for children and families in our community is built from the pillars of your support. Thank you to all of you who make what we do every day possible.



**John Etzell**  
Executive Director



## Debra March joins the Boys Town Nevada Board of Directors

In April, Boys Town Nevada welcomed former Henderson Mayor Debra March to its Board of Directors.

“We are thrilled to welcome Debra to our Boys Town Nevada Board,” said John Etzell, Executive Director of Boys Town Nevada. “She brings a wealth of expertise and has a proven track record of innovation and progress.”

Since graduating from University of Nevada Las Vegas, serving her community has been at the forefront of her career. She served as Deputy Administrator of the Nevada Real Estate Division, where she created and implemented policies for responsible home ownership. Debra also served as Director of UNLV’s Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies (LIRES) and led efforts to develop livable communities.

From being on the founding board of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Henderson program, to being appointed to the City of Henderson Planning Commission and representing Henderson’s Ward II residents as a City Councilwoman, Debra continuously made an impact on the City of Henderson throughout her career. After being elected Councilwoman in 2011 and re-elected in 2015, she was elected Henderson’s Mayor in 2017.

Debra’s contributions to Southern Nevada have been recognized by organizations such as the Leid Institute for Real Estate Studies, Nevada American Society of Landscape Architects, National Association Industrial Office Properties of Southern Nevada Chapter, National League of Cities, and the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors. In 2018, she received the Chairman’s Award from the Urban Chamber of Commerce and the Glass Ceiling Award from the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) of Southern Nevada, which recognizes women who demonstrate aiding and securing opportunities for other women’s careers. Debra was also recognized by VEGAS Inc.’s Women Inspiring Nevada, and in December 2021, she was awarded the Michael O’Callaghan Public Sector Award for her dedication to her community.

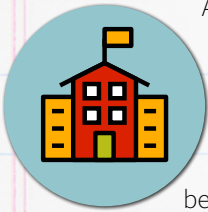
Boys Town Nevada proudly and excitedly welcomes Debra, whose devotion to Nevada has shown throughout her career.







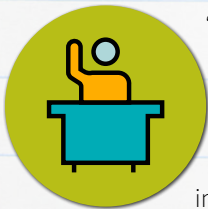
# Back to School with Boys Town Nevada



As the new school year started, Boys Town Nevada’s education team was hard at work preparing to bring Boys Town models to schools across the valley.

At Boys Town Nevada, building a child’s behavioral and social skills is one of the most powerful ways to positively impact their school environment. In 2023, our Behavioral Interventionist worked with 6,046 students in their classrooms to develop stronger social skills that promote more positive learning. In addition, we trained over 2,000 Clark County School District (CCSD) educators in our Well-Managed School model and supported 83 schools in the 2023/2024 school year.

Kellyann Scalise (picture on the far-left backrow), Educational Services Supervisor with Boys Town Nevada, looks forward to showing schools the unique “magic” that our staff provide to make sure kids excel.

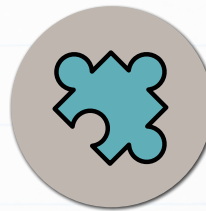


“One of the biggest differences between Boys Town and other programs in local schools is that we are not just a one and done training. We are there to support teachers and schools with implementation. We are there to coach, encourage and celebrate their wins,” said Kellyann. “We don’t just give schools something to do to help kids. We back up our practices with our supervisors acting as consultants in their schools. We give them a person on campus every day to make sure that we are making a difference in kids’ lives.”

Originally trained as a special education teacher and participating in Boys Town’s Well-Managed School program, it was a natural move for Kellyann to come to Boys Town in 2021. She loves what she does and the schools she works

with love her. She has seen many remarkable success stories throughout the schools served by Boys Town Nevada.

During the 2023/24 school year, Behavioral Interventionist Lisa Falcon (pictured to the right of Kellyann) experienced one of these success stories. A student was experiencing behavioral challenges and struggled to follow directions, causing constant disruption in the classroom.



“The teacher was not having any success and was resistant to Boys Town’s help in her room at first,” said Kellyann, Lisa’s supervisor. However, Lisa continued to work with the student to improve his behavioral skills. After working with the young man, Lisa connected the child and his family to Boys Town Nevada’s In-Home Family Services where the same behavioral skills are taught within the child’s home.

After seeing improvement in the student’s behavior, the teacher was finally open to some coaching and help with her classroom management skills.

“She was having big struggles, and I was able to help her turn her class around,” said Kellyann. “Even the school administration saw the improvement.”

This year, it is our goal to continue to positively impact children in schools and their families.

“Students who had been labeled a ‘discipline case’ are given the tools and treatment they need to be successful in school and into the future,” said Kellyann. “A family being torn apart by the inappropriate behavior of a student can now have access to new skills so everyone in the family gets the attention they need.”



## SMITH'S AND KROGER INSPIRING DONATIONS

Did you know you can make an impact with your everyday shopping? By linking your Smith's or Kroger Rewards Card to the Inspiring Donations program you can support Boys Town Nevada. Simply scan the QR code to the right or visit <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations> and select Boys Town Nevada, number DU997, as your charity of choice. Then every purchase you make earns a donation for Boys Town Nevada at no extra cost to you. It's an easy way to turn your shopping into support for the thousands of children and families we serve every year. Sign up today and make your impact for a positive change really felt in Southern Nevada.

Smith's INSPIRING DONATIONS  
Link your Rewards Card to support  
BOYS TOWN Nevada

Support Boys Town Nevada when you shop at Smith's or any Kroger branch. Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, 0.5% of your total order will be donated to BOYS TOWN Nevada.

SIGN UP TODAY!

BOYS TOWN Nevada



## DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION

We are excited to announce our Donor Appreciation Reception on Monday, December 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please plan to join us at the Boys Town Nevada offices, 821 N Mojave Rd, Las Vegas, NV, 89101, as we celebrate and thank the incredible supporters who make our work possible. Your generosity truly changes lives, and we cannot wait to show our gratitude. Mark your calendars and join us for a night of appreciation and inspiration!



## 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 day 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](mailto:YLYV@boystown.org)
- 4 APP: Your Life Your Voice (YLYV)

[Your Life Your Voice.org](http://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](http://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. Every year, the site's services impact the lives of more than 4,000 people in Nevada.

@BoysTownNevada