Youth who come to Boys Town move through the healing process at their own speed — some quicker, some slower. All of them, however, require lots of love and expert care so they can begin getting better in their own unique way and time.

The healing process begins the first day a child arrives at Boys Town, when he or she is provided with new clothing and grooming supplies, and a room complete with his or her own bed, dresser and closet.

These brokenhearted kids finally have a safe place to call their own. And they are no longer filled with the constant worry and fear about what they will eat next, where they will sleep and what they will wear.

One of the first places our Family-Teachers® take kids new to Boys Town is the “Clothesline.” The Clothesline is a one-stop shop in the Village of Boys Town where youth can pick out new clothes and accessories.

“It’s sad to see, but many of our kids literally arrive at Boys Town with only the clothes on their back or all their belongings stuffed in a trash bag,” said Barb Real, Clothesline Manager and former Boys Town Family-Teacher who served kids for 25 years. “Their self-esteem is low; they’re frightened and apprehensive about what the future holds. When they come to the Clothesline and see the clothing they get to choose from, it gives them such a hopeful and positive lift, like the feeling most kids get going to school on the first day with new clothes.”

Sadly, the basic needs of many of our boys and girls weren’t being met before they came to Boys Town. Once at Boys Town, they find the safety and stability that enables them to change their lives, learn the skills they need for success and overcome their problems.

For most of our kids, shopping was something that other kids got to do. Having items to call their own, even basic necessities, is meaningful to children, especially when they come from disadvantaged backgrounds.
Gratitude for Secure Present, Optimistic Future Fills Hearts of Boys Town Youth

Dear Friend,

When our boys and girls bow their heads at the dinner table for grace this Thanksgiving, they will have so much more to be thankful for than just the roast turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie they’re about to enjoy.

Anna gives thanks that she’s safe and isn’t being abused anymore.

Ronald is grateful that someone is teaching him to read better. That’s going to help him succeed in all his classes as well as in his adult years.

Maria is happy she doesn’t have to cower under the covers night after night, terrified of the gunshots that ring out in her neighborhood.

And Jacque is thankful he belongs to a family that only wants the best for him.

In addition to teaching life skills and providing a quality academic education and career opportunities, Boys Town also ensures that our boys and girls have the workplace tools they need to succeed as young adults. Through our Career Readiness Center (see page 3), we teach our youth how to look for and interview for jobs, and provide opportunities for them to gain real-life employment experience by working at part-time jobs in the community or within Boys Town. Many youth also participate in our summer work program, where they are able to use many of the social skills they are learning in a workplace environment.

We believe the better prepared youth are to continue their education or enter the workforce after they leave Boys Town, the more likely they are to achieve their goals and develop as productive, contributing members of society.

Our boys and girls also understand that none of the good things they are experiencing would be possible without your generosity and unwavering support. Be assured our kids will be praying for you, and thinking about all you do for them and Boys Town.

May you and your family be abundantly blessed this Thanksgiving.

God’s Blessings,

Father Steven E. Boes
Boys Town National Executive Director
Teaching youth skills that will help them find a job and thrive as adults after they leave our residential program is nothing new for Boys Town. Throughout our 100-year history, we have prided ourselves on preparing our students to make their mark in the real world as productive, hard-working citizens. The Boys Town Career Readiness Center is one significant way we can help prepare our youth to do just that.

The Career Readiness Center is an intensive, close-knit set of programs in which high school students can find their passion, learn specific workplace skills and build connections with potential employers and mentors while completing their required academics courses for graduation. Combined with the life skills and relationship-building strategies they learn as part of their Family Home families, these boys and girls are receiving the care and treatment they need to make huge strides toward a better life.

The Career Readiness Center trains youth in a trade where they work to build and fix homes, cars, roads, bridges, buildings, and many other areas. Tradespeople are essential to society, yet many still believe that trades are a secondary option or are less than compared to other jobs. James Clements and Lincoln Electric, the world’s largest provider of welding and cutting equipment, are both doing their part to destigmatize trade jobs and provide Boys Town youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to have successful trade careers once they’re out of the system.

Clements began his career at Boys Town in the housekeeping department in 2001 and immediately fell in love with the work and support that Boys Town provides. In 2010, he returned with his wife and served as a Family-Teacher for five years before working as a Hotline counselor and, finally, finding his place as the vocational teacher at Boys Town High School.

Now, as the Technical Trades Instructor, Clements dedicates his time addressing the stigma surrounding trade jobs and inspiring youth to follow their passions regardless of what society has to say. “I have always been a firm believer that skilled tradespeople are the backbone of our society,” said Clements. “Teaching trades to our students gives them a sense of purpose and fulfillment that many of them have never experienced. Having a part in that and knowing that the classes I run for these kids might be the catalyst for a lifelong career is humbling and rewarding, and it’s probably the biggest reason I get up every morning and come to work.”

Lincoln Electric originally took an interest in Boys Town after hearing that the welding program needed equipment. After learning about Boys Town and the youth who come through the program, Lincoln Electric officials knew they wanted to partner with Boys Town and generously donated a multi-process welding machine, a plasma torch, a TIG welder and a number of their high-quality...
For Many, the Boys Town Clothesline is Their First Stop

Continued from Page 1

This is evident in how a young person’s attitude and outlook quickly improves after a visit to the Clothesline.

“When kids come to the Clothesline and start looking, they are a bit apprehensive because they aren’t sure what they can have.” Real said. “They make comments to me like, ‘I’ve never been able to pick out my own clothes,’ or ‘My mom or grandma could never afford to buy me a pair of jeans!’”

Once the kids start to shop, try on clothes and find their size, their faces light up.

“They look at me in awe,” Real said. “They can’t believe they can have the clothes. They are extremely appreciative and leave with huge smiles on their faces. I get lots of hugs, too!”

“Being able to get new clothing when they first arrive not only makes kids feel better about themselves but also helps them to feel like they fit in, and that’s important.”

— BARB REAL
CLOTHESLINE MANAGER AND FORMER BOYS TOWN FAMILY-TEACHER®

Boys Town’s Family Home ProgramSM gives a much-needed second chance to youth with serious behavioral or emotional problems. Youth live in family-style homes and receive teaching and care from professionally trained married couples called Family-Teachers. The couple and a full-time Assistant Family-Teacher® provide structured supervision and teach youth social, independent-living and educational skills. Every year, hundreds of kids benefit from this life-changing experience and go on to lead successful lives after Boys Town, whether they reunite with their families, go to college or trade school, join the military or enter the workforce.
welding helmets. “The fact of the matter is that we simply could not have made this class work as well as we have without these generous donations,” said Clements.

“As I learned and began to understand more about what Boys Town was about, I started to really get into the story,” said Craig Coffey, Director of Marketing and Communications at Lincoln Electric. “We saw a lot of benefit to being involved with the program here at Boys Town after it was being started up again after 30 years of nonexistence. It supports the idea that trades are not a secondary choice but can be a first choice. If we want to be a country that can make and fix things, then we need to have people who know how to make and fix things, and Boys Town is doing just that.”

With the rising cost of tuition at four-year universities, more people are beginning to understand the value of trade careers. With passionate teachers like James Clements and companies like Lincoln Electric who are dedicated to supporting welding education for Boys Town youth, we are ensuring that our students are going out into the world one step ahead of the competition.

“My humble opinion is that maybe it’s time for us to turn that philosophy on its head and start asking our kids if they have the skills to become a tradesperson,” said Clements.

Your support helps build youth who are independent, skilled and ready for the real world once they leave Boys Town!

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**Boys Town Career Center Course Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auto Mechanics:</strong></td>
<td>This course focuses on basic bumper-to-bumper auto repair, teaching students how to diagnose and repair basic systems, including brakes, electronics, suspension, electrical and engine performance. Students work on actual cars, learning how to use computerized diagnostic equipment and utilize online materials related to the automotive industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communications &amp; Media Sciences:</strong></td>
<td>These courses help prepare students for a career in journalism, writing, graphic design, photography or broadcasting. All of the skills and expertise students acquire through this course of instruction also can be applied to marketing-related professions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction:</strong></td>
<td>These courses help prepare students for a career in residential or commercial construction. Students learn applied math, blueprint reading, and basic tool and equipment use, and explore building construction techniques, including framing, dry wall installation, concrete and masonry, electrical and plumbing, and painting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graphic Design:</strong></td>
<td>This course helps students learn and apply the fundamentals of various software applications, web design, image editing, drawing and graphic animation. Students create documents that look like professionally designed and printed products, including inserting photos, graphics and line drawings for text copy. Students produce and are assessed on a number of projects in which they create an original layout for newsletters, catalogues, logos and brochures.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health Occupations:</strong></td>
<td>These courses are designed to help students meet the state training requirements for a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant). They combine classroom lecture with laboratory application to develop the basic skills needed to care for the elderly. Field trips to nursing and assisted-living facilities and other off-campus experiences are part of this curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Small Engines:</strong></td>
<td>This course provides an overview of working with small engines. Students develop problem-solving skills by identifying the relationship between the resources and the requirements of a project/problem in order to accomplish realistic planning. Students complete several small engine projects using their problem-solving/planning skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welding:</strong></td>
<td>This beginner-level course introduces students to foundational knowledge and skills of welding manufacturing. Safety, measuring, planning and production processes are addressed and practiced. While general fundamentals of welding are discussed, there is a specific focus on Shielded Metal Art Welding, Oxy-acetylene Welding and MIG Welding.</td>
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**Future Courses**

- **Culinary Arts**
- **Landscape Design**
Helping troubled youth contact Boys Town in ways that are comfortable for them and offering effective assistance in serious, even life-threatening, situations is the overall goal of the Boys Town National Hotline® and all its services. No matter which of the following Hotline services teens use, they can count on the professional advice and guidance Boys Town provides as part of our mission to change the way America cares for children and families.

**The Boys Town National Hotline (1-800-448-3000)** is a free resource and counseling service that assists callers 24/7, 365 days a year, in the United States, the U.S. territories and Canada. Open to everyone, but with an emphasis on helping children and parents, the Hotline has trained professional Crisis Counselors who provide emergency or direct assistance, or refer callers to community resources.

Through our extensive computer database, counselors can refer callers to people and services in their own community and quickly provide up-to-date information on thousands of agencies and services nationwide.

**144,149 Hotline Calls* Received in 2016**

* Calls only; does not include emails, texts or chats

![Map showing the number of hotline calls by state](image)

**Boys Town National Hotline® Saves Children and Heals Families Across the Nation.**

- California: 16,433
- Texas: 13,058
- Florida: 6,551
- New York: 3,290
- Other states: 99

*Outside the U.S.:
- Canada: 2,633
- Guam: 41
- Puerto Rico: 187
- Virgin Islands: 40
YourLifeYourVoice.org is a website created by the Hotline especially for teens. The site gives young people a safe online environment where they can share information with other teens, ask questions, get answers to challenges they are facing and access assistance from trained Hotline counselors in crisis or emergency situations. Contacts on the website can be made through emails or online chats with Hotline counselors, and teens are encouraged to share their problems, concerns and challenges in positive, creative ways.

The popularity of YourLifeYourVoice.org has risen dramatically since the Hotline launched the site in 2009. Today, about 65,000 teens visit the website each month, and the service reaches young people from all socio-economic, ethnic, racial, religious and cultural backgrounds.

A Texting Service is the Hotline’s newest innovation, developed to connect with teens through their favorite way of communicating. Thanks to corporate sponsors like Yahoo! and Century Link, this service is making a difference and saving lives.

For teens who are more comfortable sharing their problems and asking for help through texting rather than talking on the phone, the Texting Service provides that opportunity. This means that young people who might not otherwise have reached out for assistance now have a way to do so.

Brianna is a recent example of how this new service has already made an impact.

The first text Brianna sent to a Boys Town National Hotline Crisis Counselor said she had cut herself as part of a suicide attempt.

The next time Brianna texted the Hotline, she thanked the counselor and Boys Town for saving her life. It was last April when the 16-year-old sent a text message from her home on the East Coast to the Hotline. Brianna said she’d been having trouble in school and at home, and that she’d been cutting herself as a way to cope with depression. The teen hadn’t been able to talk to anyone about how she was feeling, and now she had cut herself again, this time intending to end her life.

The trained Crisis Counselor who received the text via the Hotline’s computer system responded by trying to call Brianna at the number the teen had provided. But no one answered. The counselor then quickly called the local police, who determined where Brianna lived and went to her home. Once there, they found the teen, bleeding from a deep cut to her arm but responsive. A rescue squad took her to the hospital, where she spent several days recovering. After being discharged, she began receiving counseling through a local program.

Two weeks later, the Hotline received another text from Brianna:

“I just wanted to thank you for saving my life. I am doing much better.”

Teens text about a wide range of problems and concerns, including depression, boyfriend-girlfriend relationships and break-ups, self-harm and self-injury, friendships and thoughts of suicide. Currently, Hotline Crisis Counselors receive and respond to text messages from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. (CST), seven days a week. The new service is available by texting VOICE to 20121 to start.

Keep all three of these services in mind and please share this information with anyone you know who is in need of help!
If you are like many people, you have seen the value of your investments fluctuate with the markets. You might be wondering if there is a way to find true security for you and your loved ones. The good news is that with a charitable gift annuity’s fixed payments, you or a loved one can find the peace of mind that you are looking for.

What is a charitable gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a way to make a gift to support the causes that you care about. You make a gift of cash or stock to us. In return, Boys Town will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one or another person. Each payment will be fixed and the amount of each payment will depend on the age of the person who receives the payments. After all payments have been made, Boys Town will receive the remaining value of your gift.

There are a number of benefits with a charitable gift annuity. Your payments are fixed as of the date of your gift. This means that your payments will never change, even if interest rates or the stock market changes. Depending upon your gift, you may receive the added benefit of mostly tax-free payments. You will also receive a charitable deduction in the year that you set up the gift annuity.

Deferred charitable gift annuity

If you would like to make a gift to Boys Town today but do not need the payments until a later date, we can also create a deferred gift annuity arrangement to meet your needs. While you benefit from a charitable tax deduction at the time you make your gift to us, we can begin making payments to you at a future date or even be flexible about when your payments begin.

Call Boys Town at 888-332-3219 or email giftplanning@boystown.org to learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities. You can also visit us online at boystowngift.org. With a little planning, we can help you provide for your family and give to the causes you care about.