

OPEN YOUR HEART to a child in need

The Foster Care team at Boys Town New England needs your help to find safe, loving families that are willing and able to open their hearts and homes for New England foster children.

Our foster families provide care and guidance to children in-need, all with 24/7 support from our team. Our program encourages stability, connection and healing for both foster youth and foster families. All Boys Town foster parents are trained to utilize an evidence-based behavioral program, which assists to realign youth behaviors and teach emotional regulation. When you become a foster parent, you are provided with 24-hour on-call support from our team, weekly in-home consultations, on-going training and monthly compensation to help care for the child.

Below are the guidelines for becoming a Boys Town New England foster parent:

1. Complete state (MA or RI) foster parent training.

This training is 30 hours total and is usually done in 3-hour sessions on weeknights. There is also weekend flexibility available. You will work with our licenser to find the best schedule for you.

- ✓ The state training will give you an introduction of what to expect when becoming a foster parent. There will be discussions around trauma, behaviors, reunification/adoption goals, your role as the foster parent, etc.

2. Complete Boys Town Model training.

This training is approximately 6 hours total and is usually done in 2-hour sessions over 3 days.

- ✓ This training is designed to teach the foundation of the Boys Town Model, with a focus placed on proactive vs. reactive parenting. You will also have regular refreshers on this training with your Boys Town consultant as needed.

3. Must pass a background check.

4. Must have a driver's license and auto insurance.

5. Must pass a home safety inspection.



In addition to these legal requirements, Boys Town New England foster parents must:

- **Be honest and open with the Boys Town Foster Care team.** We are here to guide and support you and ensure safety for all involved.
- **Have some flexibility in your schedule** to bring child to doctor's appointments, school and extracurriculars, weekly consultations with Boys Town team, monthly meetings with state worker, etc.
- **Be able to support child in areas of emotional, physical and educational needs.**

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent please email sara.hinchcliffe@boystown.org (MA) or carol.wild@boystown.org (RI).

ANSWERS TO SOME COMMON QUESTIONS...

*In case you're
wondering...*

- ♥ **No, you don't have to be a parent!** You do have to be 21 years or older.
- ♥ **No, you don't have to own a home!** You can be a renter. Your home just needs to be safe.
- ♥ **Yes, you can have pets!** They just need to be up to date on vaccines. Massachusetts does have some dog breed restrictions.

Update from Boys Town New England's Development Office

Valued Supporters,

I can hardly believe how quickly this past year has flown by. As we approach the one-year mark of COVID changing our society entirely, I have found myself spending some time reflecting on the incredible community surrounding us here at Boys Town New England. Despite everything that happened in 2020, your support did not waver. Our children and families were able to access the resources and assistance they needed, experience the love and opportunity they deserve and open doors to more successful futures. This was all because of you, our donors. While our operations changed to accommodate health concerns, our programs and reach did not. With your generosity, we kept our doors wide open to those we serve throughout what was most likely the toughest year many of us have ever endured.

I am hopeful that, with your partnership, we can continue this momentum in 2021. We have many exciting things happening in the coming year that I would love to share with you.



First, 2021 is our **30th Anniversary**. In 1991, the Bazarsky family of Newport, Rhode Island, donated the land our campus is now built on in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and we opened our doors to New England children in-need. Slowly, over the years, we built

onto our programs. We currently offer our Boys Town Family-Home Program®, Foster Family Services and Community Support Services.

Our 30th year is marked by the goal of expanding **LIFT Together with Boys TownSM**, a branch of our Community Support Services, which currently serves some of the neediest elementary schools in Pawtucket, RI. Pawtucket is a city marked by poverty, racial disparity and crime. LIFT Together works within the Pawtucket school system to connect with parents at-risk. These parents may be struggling with housing, job and food insecurities, or dealing with issues such as drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence and crime. They work with our team voluntarily to improve their situations, and provide a safe, loving home for their children. Our team helps to connect them with whatever resources they need to find stability, acts as a liaison between parents, who are often not native English speakers, and their children's school, and provides emergency support if any such situation arises.

In 2020, our LIFT Together team served 159 children and 68 families, with 35 families successfully discharged from our program. As the year progresses, we will be sending out a few mail pieces that will share success stories from this program, as well as information that will help provide a more

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comprehensive understanding of what LIFT Together does for our community. To learn more about LIFT Together with Boys Town, or make a monetary donation to the program, please visit LIFTNewEngland.givesmart.com.

Lastly, I am excited to share our event update for the year with you. Currently, we are still in limbo when it comes to any in-person events. We are hopeful 2022 will be the year that we are finally able to celebrate our first **Racing for the Roses Kentucky Derby** event! In the meantime, we have a handful of fun things planned.

On April 1, 2021, we will be participating for the second year in a row in United Way of Rhode Island's **#401Gives**. This statewide day of giving brings people together to make a difference for Rhode Island-based nonprofits that deliver vital services throughout the state. Last year we raised close to \$10,000 for our children and families. This year we are hoping to increase that to \$15,000. We will be sending out more information as we get closer to that date; you can also learn more at 401gives.org.

In May, our entire organization will participate in the **Virtual Memorial Day Run**. More information on that can be found at memorialdayrun.com.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you have done for our children and families. When you give to Boys Town New England, you give to children and families who most others have given up on. You are a beacon of hope, and your support is a helping hand for someone who may be out of options. We are so grateful for you and for your faith in our work.

I wish you the best in 2021,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Baker'. Below the signature is the printed name 'Amanda Baker' and the title 'Development Director'.

Amanda Baker
Development Director

Mom Turns Life Around for her Daughters

Since its founding more than 100 years ago in Omaha, Nebraska, Boys Town has been a safe haven for children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect and other challenges. Boys Town New England was established in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1991, so that Father Flanagan's mission could benefit the children and families of Rhode Island and its surrounding states. As programming expanded over the years, a need in the Pawtucket school system, specifically at Elizabeth Baldwin and Fallon Memorial elementary schools, became clear. In 2016, with the support of the United Way, the **LIFT Together with Boys Town** community partnership emerged.

As 2021 progresses, we will be sharing more information about our LIFT Together program with you so you, too, can experience the joy of families overcoming their struggles, eliminating obstacles, and finding success and stability. Today, we will share one such story; that of the **Britto-Marquez family**.

Yanielis and her family began working with Boys Town in the fall of 2019. At the time, they had several issues plaguing them. Homelessness, mental health concerns for both mother and children, no stable income, unclear immigration status, a limited support network and previous instances of domestic violence, which had Yanielis fearing for her safety, all prevented her and her kids from finding success and stability. Yanielis struggled with thoughts of self-harm and suicide and felt she had no way out.

From day one, LIFT Together Consultant Rossana championed success for this family. She worked diligently alongside Yanielis to create a plan that would systematically address every problem area identified. The biggest hurdle faced by this family was the behavioral and mental health needs of the children, which

were exacerbated while the family struggled to find stable housing. Rossana constantly checked in on Yanielis' and her children's well-being, and ensured detailed plans were set in place to keep them all safe. These step-by-step plans (*If you are considering self-harm you will first call so-and-so, then you will. . .*) were vital in guiding Yanielis as she addressed the mental well-being of both herself and her kids.

As time went on, Rossana worked to empower Yanielis' ability to advocate for herself and independently enact change to improve her children's futures. Rossana modeled things such as phone calls and in-person interactions with providers and proper completion of job applications. She employed empathy and teaching by suggestion to help Yanielis develop problem-solving skills and gain confidence all on her own.

Throughout their time together, one thing stood out to Rossana and the LIFT Together team—Yanielis' unwavering commitment to securing the best life possible for herself and her children, regardless of the obstacles she faced.

Yanielis went from being a shy, timid woman, to one who relentlessly advocated for herself. With Rossana's coaching, Yanielis learned how to express her needs, appropriately disagree, ask for help, and accept "no" as an answer. These skills proved invaluable as Yanielis successfully secured employment for herself and safe housing for herself and her children.



As we assemble this story in early January, Yanielis is days away from signing a lease on her own apartment. With Rossana's help, she has employed a budget system to plan for her and her children's futures and has found resources to help her acquire furniture and other essentials for her future home.

Yanielis has spoken of her gratefulness for Boys Town time and time again. No matter how many times she lashed out due to her frustration and anger, Yanielis said Rossana never stopped supporting her. She showed endless compassion, patience and understanding.

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Through her guidance and grace, Rossana showed Yanielis that she could do this. She could provide for herself and her children and find hope and healing from her past traumas, while moving towards a brighter, better future for her family.
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TO SUPPORT Boys Town New England's LIFT Together program, please visit LIFTNewEngland.givesmart.com.

Local Community Knocks It Out of the Park This Christmas

As we approached the 2020 holiday season, the Boys Town New England Development team were nervous.

“2020 was a tough year for everyone,” said Elizabeth Rose, Development Coordinator. “As Christmas drew closer, I wasn’t sure what would happen. Between social distancing restrictions, illness, job loss, and the incredible amount of stress our community has been under, I wasn’t sure what would happen for our children.”

That worry was pointless.

Our local community once again knocked it out of the park for the youth of Boys Town New England this year. We pivoted our **Adopt a Child Holiday Gift Drive** by adding a virtual fundraising portion, which allowed for less contact for our staff, youth and community.

We also had multiple local businesses go above and beyond for our youth which resulted in hundreds of toys donated and over \$10,000 raised. **Together, we supported over 300 youth this Christmas.** 2020 has been hard on our kids; they’ve dealt with virtual learning and quarantine, which meant less time with their friends, families and doing the things they enjoy. **Thanks to our community, we ended this year by ensuring every single one of these kids had a Christmas morning like no other.**



Thank you to everyone who donated, and a **special thanks** to each of these businesses who graciously supported our youth during the 2020 holiday season: ➔

Thank You

- Allen’s Wine and Spirits
- BankNewport
- Cowesett Pizza
- Elevated Nutrition
- Fired Up Nutrition
- FoodWorks Family Restaurant
- Johnson & Wales University
- LaForge Restaurant
- Pare Corporation
- ParsonsKellogg
- Pruitt Chiropractic
- Raise the Bar
- Strategic Point

For more great stories, visit

BOYSTOWN.ORG/NEW-ENGLAND



Development Office



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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 its Bazarsky Campus. The site also offers Foster Family Services®, In-Home Family Services® and 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.

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