



Aces for Boys Town New England

Boys Town New England was chosen by the International Tennis Hall of Fame as one of 10 local nonprofits to receive donations from the “Aces for Rhode Island” initiative at the organization’s 2019 Hall of Fame Open.

“The opportunity to be a charity partner for the International Tennis Hall of Fame’s ‘Aces for Rhode Island’ provides us incredible exposure at a nationally recognized tennis tournament. Not only does this give us the chance to spread awareness of the great work we do for local children and families, but it provides our youth a chance to get involved as well,” said Amanda Baker, Development Director, Boys Town New England.

On July 16, two world-renowned tennis players, Zhang Ze and Gong Maoxin of China, visited the Boys Town New England campus and conducted a mini-clinic to teach our youth how to play tennis.

Boys Town Assistant Family-Teacher® Amaury Tavarez shared how one youth thought it was “awesome to learn a new sport from a professional athlete.” Amaury thought it was incredible to hear this from a child who normally doesn’t like outdoor activities.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience we could not have offered without the Hall of Fame’s support,” Amanda said.

“It was wonderful to get our kids, none of whom have ever played or knew much about the sport, out of their comfort zone, learning something new. After this experience, it looks like we might have some budding tennis players here at Boys Town New England.”

The youth who attended the mini clinic were invited out to watch Zhang Ze and Gong Maoxin’s second Open match on July 18.

“Aces for Rhode Island” is a community initiative that uses the Open as a vehicle to raise funds to support important local causes. Every ace scored in the tennis tournament results in funds raised for local nonprofits, including Boys Town New England.

Boys Town New England extends a huge thank you to the International Tennis Hall of Fame for choosing us as one of the nonprofits in the “Aces for Rhode Island” initiative this year. We appreciate the special experience our youth enjoyed and the opportunity to raise funds that will help us continue to save children and heal families in the local community.



Spotlight on: Community Partnership

LIFT Together with Boys TownSM

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 on land generously donated by the Bazarsky family 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. At Fallon Memorial, 15% of students experience chronic absenteeism, and the suspension rate is 14%, compared to only 4% statewide. Meanwhile, at Elizabeth Baldwin, the suspension rate is 15%, 88% of students receive subsidized lunch and 21% of students receive bilingual education services.

In 2016, with the support of the United Way, the LIFT Together with Boys TownSM community partnership emerged. LIFT Together with Boys Town aims to address the complex underlying familial issues that prevent children from succeeding. These issues also often lead to abuse and neglect, and to children being removed from their homes. When grades suddenly slip and truancy and behavioral problems increase, the root problems most often lie outside of the classroom. Boys Town New England's team partners closely with school teachers and administrators to identify those children in need of help as soon as possible, because school is where the first warning signs of family strife most often appear. The schools alert our team

when red flags pop up and we make immediate contact to provide assistance.

If a family accepts help, our Consultants then begin meeting regularly with family members. Consultants work to foster improved parent engagement and communication between home and school by bridging the cultural divide between Spanish- and Creole-speaking families and predominantly English-speaking teachers, and help families build sustainable support and resource networks within their own community. Boys Town New England also provides parents with Common Sense Parenting[®] classes to help them address behavioral issues they may be working through with their child.

The LIFT Together with Boys Town partnership is different because it does not just treat symptoms like truancy, acting out in school, bad grades, etc. Instead, it uses those symptoms to identify the bigger problem, and then tackles that problem at its heart. Our Consultants work tirelessly to build trust and rapport with families, and are on call constantly to help resolve crises. They help families and form long-term plans and tackle overarching issues such as job instability, relationship problems, mental health issues, addiction, immigration and other legal issues.

Thanks to the support of the United Way, Pawtucket's school administration and you – our dedicated, generous donors – we can continue to work toward our goal of keeping families together and keeping children in school, out of trouble and on track to graduate.

WELL-MANAGED SCHOOLS

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 47 administrators and teachers in grades 3-5 at Elizabeth Baldwin and Fallon Memorial elementary schools participated in Boys Town's Well-Managed Schools training, positively impacting 560 students.

560
Students

CARE COORDINATION SERVICES (CCS)

During the past three years, funding from the United Way has supported Care Coordination Services for 67 families, which included 164 youth and 109 adults.

164
Youth
109
Adults

IN-HOME FAMILY SERVICES (IHFS)

During the past three years, funding from the United Way has supported In-Home Family Services for 75 families, which included 173 youth and 107 adults.

173
Youth
107
Adults

COMMON SENSE PARENTING (CSP)

During the past three years, funding from the United Way has supported Common Sense Parenting[®] classes for 214 families, which included 406 youth and 273 parents.

406
Youth
273
Parents



From left to right: LIFT Together with Boys TownSM Supervisor, Julia; LIFT Consultants Alba, Laliza, Rossana and Kyleah; and Director of Community Support Services, Eli.

Thoughts from Eli

Hello! My name is Eli Escrogin. I joined the Boys Town New England team in 2014. Currently, I am the Director of Community Support Services, which includes overseeing LIFT Together with Boys TownSM. I began my work in youth services as a case manager right out of college, working for a large social service agency in Rhode Island. While there, I had an opportunity to work with the Providence Police Department as a Police Liaison, and assisted children and families who had fallen victim to crime. I ended my tenure there as Site Director of the Full Service Community Schools, an opportunity that I loved as I was able to work with the children and teachers in their school environments and truly help make a difference!

When I heard about Boys Town's mission to "change the way America cares for children and families," I was intrigued. I soon learned that Boys Town wanted to turn from working reactively to working preventatively in supporting at-risk children and families living in Pawtucket and Central Falls, Rhode Island. That is when I knew it was the perfect place for me! My passion is to help underprivileged children and their families gain a fighting chance. I work hard every day to help break the cycles of poverty, abuse and trauma experienced by these families, and to provide them with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to do so.

These past few years with Boys Town have been a blessing. I've had the distinct pleasure of seeing the changes my team has set into motion snowball each and every day. I see families that previously would have had no place to go – families that oftentimes just needed a hand to hold and a bit of guidance –

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Meet the Team

"I enjoy working at Boys Town because I have endless learning opportunities through the trainings that Boys Town provides, as well as support from my management team and co-workers."

– **Rossana**

"I work here because I believe in the mission and the vision of this organization, and I want to make an impact in the lives of families in my own community. Working with parents to provide different strategies for them to implement to see positive behavior changes in their children is rewarding."

– **Laliza**

"There are a lot of programs focused on reactively helping families in crisis. I come from one of those, and I wanted a first-hand experience working with families on a preventative approach that would effectively assist parents in being successful."

– **Alba**

"I wanted to be a part of a mission that was bigger than me. With Boys Town, not only do they care about children and families, but they believe in and care about their employees. I have worked at the New York and Iowa sites, and am now here in Rhode Island. The endless possibilities for growth as a professional and for the families we serve are incomparable."

– **Julia**

Thoughts from Eli continued...

thriving. The LIFT Together with Boys Town team is not limited in who we serve; we do not turn away those without insurance, we do not check immigration status, we do not ask for income information. We provide support and guidance to any parent or child in need. Through our hard work and the community's support, we are seeing a deeper cultural change in these schools. Teachers are actively referring families to our programs, they are excited to participate in our Well-Managed Schools training and are advocating for more of it, and discipline referrals in both elementary schools we work in have declined. I'm thrilled

with this progress, and am excited to see what's next for the LIFT Together with Boys Town community partnership!

Thank you for believing in Boys Town New England and our work. I see the positive effects your support has on our children and families each and every day, and I can't tell you in words just how beautiful and important it is.

Warm Regards,

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 27 | 6 – 9:30 pm

Spirit of Youth Annual Fundraiser
International Tennis Hall of Fame | Newport, RI

Catering by local eatery Binge BBQ. Tickets can be purchased on our website. For tickets, sponsorship or gift-in-kind donation information, please contact Amanda Baker at amanda.baker@boystown.org or 401-608-9532.

Sunday, October 13

Amica Newport Marathon
Easton's Beach Rotunda | Newport, RI

Run for Team Boys Town New England! We have bibs available and plenty of volunteer opportunities for both Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Amanda Baker at amanda.baker@boystown.org or 401-608-9532.

Sunday, October 20

Citizens Bank Pell Bridge Run
Newport Visitors Center | Newport, RI

Boys Town New England is honored to be a charity partner for the Citizens Bank Pell Bridge Run, especially in the 50th anniversary year! We have bibs and volunteer opportunities available. Run for Team Boys Town New England! Please contact Amanda Baker at amanda.baker@boystown.org or 401-608-9532.

Thursday, December 5 | 5:30 – 7 pm

Annual Campus Christmas Tree Lighting
Bazarsky Campus | Portsmouth, RI

Join us to kick off the holiday season! Admission is free. Staff and youth will be on site to share more about Boys Town New England's programs and services. Light refreshments, caroling and home tours available. More information will be posted on our website and Facebook page as the date nears.

Be The *ONE*

Be a Foster Parent.

- Interested in becoming a Rhode Island Foster Parent? Call **Carol Wild** today at **401-608-9530**.
- Interested in becoming a Massachusetts Foster Parent? Call **Sara Hinchcliffe** today at **401-608-9535**.

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 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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