

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dear Friends of Boys Town South Florida,

It seems impossible to ignore, but it is important to continue to highlight the reality that there is a mental health crisis unfolding in cities and communities across the country. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, parents, caregivers, and children have experienced tremendous stress driven by disruptions in daily routines, social isolation, financial insecurity, and grief. This has magnified the need for improved access to behavioral healthcare and has put further stress on a system that was already facing significant challenges. The needs of children’s mental health must be addressed now. Boys Town South Florida is leading the charge to provide support and help to the families in our community with the most need, but we can’t do it alone. We rely on our supporters, donors, and community partners to affect positive change and enable us to help more families. We welcome an opportunity to share more about what we are doing through our community-based programs to be a change agent in our community!

Bethany Lacey, Executive Director



Suicide rate in 10-14 year-olds has **risen 60%** between 2007 - 2018.
Suicide is now the **second leading cause of death** in that age group.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

Welcome new Board Member: Carmencita Mitchell



Why did you become involved with Boys Town South Florida?

I have known about Boys Town since I was a child and I always wanted to donate back then. As a member of the board, I now have the opportunity to “support” the organization in many ways.

What is your favorite program/service that Boys Town South Florida provides? Why?

My favorite program is the primary project. This offers young children an opportunity for their primary education to be conducive to all their needs, including those that are non-academic. I am passionate about education and for students to make it to and through college. The primary years must, in fact, be successful ones.

What will others be surprised to know about you?

I am writing a book called “The Spiritual Guide to Blindness.”

What do you wish other people knew about Boys Town?

I wish other people knew about the wonderful work Boys Town is doing to help heal and save families and young people at-risk.

Favorite Quote:

I think, therefore I AM ~ Descartes.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Carmencita and our Board of Directors



Care Coordination Services Provides a Lifeline for Children Suffering from Mental Health Issues by Connecting Them with Programs or Resources That Can Provide the Best Care

After numerous Baker Acts resulting from self-harm and multiple suicide attempts, John F. Kennedy Hospital referred 15-year-old Ana* to Boys Town South Florida. Prior to being connected to Boys Town, the undocumented family was having a difficult time accessing much-needed services. Ana had requested admission into a residential treatment facility such as Sandy Pines because her family was having a difficult time implementing healthy coping skills while experiencing distress from repeated Baker Acts.

With the assistance of our Care Coordination Consultant, Ana was able to get connected with Caridad Center for medical and dental services, as well as Legacy Behavioral Health for psychiatric and therapeutic services. These connections were a big step in the right direction for Ana and her family. Ana was accepted into a residential treatment center; however, she chose to continue with outpatient services. Despite all odds, this young lady has continued to utilize outpatient services and bypass residential treatment at this time. She has continued to demonstrate an improved ability to implement healthy coping skills to keep herself and others safe. Ana has expressed feeling empowered and proud of her significant improvement in her ability to keep herself safe. In addition, Ana feels good about being heard and having a say in her treatment, two important aspects in her healing process.

She has earned her mom's trust again.



**To protect the privacy of this family, the child's name and photo have been changed.*

Upcoming Events

May 27 – May 30, 2022

Memorial Day Run 2022: One mission. Many finish lines.

Get active for a good cause by registering for our annual Boys Town Memorial Day Run! Choose between a 1-mile and 5-mile course, and run/walk in support of our life-saving programs. For more information, please visit MemorialDayRun.org.

October 6, 2022

2022 Family Community Action Summit

This is a capacity building effort to bring current key supporters, local leaders, partners, and the media together to share the community problems BTSFL is helping to address through its preventive and intervention programs. In addition, the Family of the Year will be present to share their story and be recognized.

For more great stories, visit

BOYSTOWN.ORG/SOUTH-FLORIDA

Since opening in 1991, Boys Town South Florida has impacted the lives of 60,000 children through life-changing care to area youth and families. This care includes behavior and mental health, social and emotional support for families with children, positive parent-child interactions, home visits for families focusing on language and pre-literacy skills, improvement in students' adjustment to school, and parent training.



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