

# HEALTHY FAMILIES

## MSPCC EXPANDS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHILDREN'S TRUST TO A NEW REGION — BOSTON!

Healthy Families, supported by the Children's Trust, is a unique, evidence-based program that matches young, first time parents with trained home visitors who provide support during pregnancy and the child's first three years of life. Home visitors teach parents about proper baby care, promote nurturing and attachment, practice effective parenting skills and ensure parents have a solid understanding of healthy child development. They also counsel parents on achieving personal goals such as going back to school or securing a job. Healthy Families has been shown to lower parent risk behaviors, reduce corporal punishment, and decrease parenting stress, making Healthy Families an important part of MSPCC's toolkit to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Being a young parent is hard enough, but Healthy Families participant, Natalie, was faced with additional challenges having a daughter born with Down Syndrome. Natalie felt overwhelmed and confused. Natalie's home visitor, Ana, connected her baby to Early Intervention services to support her development, found a specialized day care and supported Natalie in managing medical appointments. With Ana's coaching, Natalie gradually became more comfortable allowing her daughter to be away from her, which allowed her to focus more on her own education goals. At a recent Healthy



Healthy Families participants before their graduation at MSPCC Holyoke

Families graduation ceremony, Natalie shared, *"The program helped me accomplish a lot of goals and get further in my education. I would recommend this program to every new parent or single parent out there in need of support because if it wasn't for this program and all the supporters, I would never have broken out of my shell. Thanks to them, I am who I am today."*

With existing Healthy Families programs in Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, and Worcester, MSPCC already serves 620 parents each year. The expansion to Boston will add another 360 families across 19 Boston neighborhoods. Suzin Bartley, Executive Director of the Children's Trust expressed, "We look forward to expanding our work with MSPCC in stopping child abuse and neglect." With more than 75 referral partners — ranging from hospitals to high schools — calling our offices to request services for young parents, the Boston Area Healthy Families team is already working hard in the community. "MSPCC is thrilled to provide Healthy Families services to families in Boston – a city so rich in its diversity of language, cultures and resources. We feel fortunate to continue our partnership with the Children's Trust, which is not only committed to the success of the Healthy Families program, but also to the success of **each individual young parent and baby** that Healthy Families serves," said Mary McGeown, Executive Director of MSPCC.

**For more information on the Boston Area Healthy Families program please call MSPCC at 617-587-1553**

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Fall 2016



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## From the Desk of Mary A. McGeown, MSPCC Executive Director

Dear Friends:

On a beautiful summer day in August, young men and women across Holyoke donned caps and gowns to celebrate their achievements in perhaps the most important, rewarding and difficult job in their young lives—parenting. And although they don't know it, they could not have done it without your help.

Each year, MSPCC helps more than 600 young, at-risk parents learn the skills and gain the confidence to raise children who are safe, healthy and thriving. Through our longstanding and strong partnership with Children's Trust, MSPCC is proud to offer Healthy Families in Holyoke, Worcester, Lowell, Lawrence and now, Boston.

We are also fortunate to count the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation among our partners. For the fourth year, children and families served by MSPCC enjoyed a wonderful day at Canobie Lake Park, squealing with delight as they rode the rides with Celtics forward Kelly Olynyk and Celtics owner and Foundation President Steve Pagliuca.

Finally, we are excited to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Children's Mental Health Campaign, a collaboration of over 160 statewide organizations leading advocacy efforts for access to children's mental health services. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the CMHC will host the *Pediatric and Adolescent Boarding Summit: A Call to Action*, bringing together industry leaders for a day of information sharing and problem solving.

As you can see, 2016 has been a very busy and highly successful year for MSPCC. You had a tremendous impact on our success – your support makes a real a difference and for that I am grateful.

Sincerely,



Mary A. McGeown, Executive Director



## WISH LISTS

### THANKSGIVING:

MSPCC wants to bring feasts into the homes of 200+ families in need. You can:

- Give cash towards a Thanksgiving meal. The average turkey costs \$25 and a full Thanksgiving meal for a family of four is estimated at \$75.
- Provide gift cards for a turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, and boxed pie.
- Donate cash online through [mspcc.org/donate/thanksgiving](http://mspcc.org/donate/thanksgiving).

**Please drop off Thanksgiving items  
on or before November 18<sup>th</sup> to:**

MSPCC • 3815 Washington Street #2 • Boston, MA 02130 • Monday–Friday 9am–5pm

For more information, please call 617-587-5204 or email [jclerc@mspcc.org](mailto:jclerc@mspcc.org)

### HOLIDAYS:

MSPCC is requesting your assistance to help us give the children we support a very special holiday.

- Donate toys, books, or clothes for children of all ages.
- Toys R Us, Target, Best Buy, or Walmart gift cards or cash allow parents to shop for their own children easily.
- Donate cash online through [mspcc.org/donate](http://mspcc.org/donate).

**Please drop off holiday items  
on or before December 16<sup>th</sup> to:**

# CANOBIE LAKE PARK

MSPCC had a great day at Canobie Lake Park with our friends from the Boston Celtics and the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation this August! For four years, Kelly Olynyk, Steve Pagliuca, and Lucky the Leprechaun have teamed up to give our kids a day to remember. This year, twenty-five of our foster and adoptive families participated. This dedication makes an incredible impact on our children and we are so grateful to everyone involved for their commitment to kids!



Above: Kelly Olynyk and four MSPCC kids walk the park, eager to go on the next ride

Left: Kelly Olynyk, Steve Pagliuca, and Lucky the Leprechaun stand outside of Canobie Lake Park with children served by our adoption and foster care programs

## We are the voice of the child

For over 138 years, MSPCC has been a tireless advocate for child welfare and we are proud to announce that we will soon add another important milestone to this great legacy. This year, the Children's Mental Health Campaign (CMHC) celebrates 10 years as a leader in advocacy for access to children's mental health services. Managed by the advocacy team at MSPCC, the CMHC includes coalition leaders from Boston Children's Hospital, The Parent Professional Advocacy League, Health Care For All and Health Law Advocates as well as more than 160 supporting organizations statewide. This fall, the CMHC demonstrated leadership in youth substance use prevention at two bold events:

- On September 14<sup>th</sup> youth led the conversation at the *Youth Voices Forum* organized by the CMHC in partnership with the Massachusetts Organization For Addiction Recovery and sponsored by Senator Jennifer Flanagan. MSPCC's Courtney Chelo stated, "This is an opportunity for young people to be front and center in the conversation."
- On October 6<sup>th</sup> the CMHC participated in a *Public Information Forum* which provided an opportunity to listen to experts discuss the potential impact of Ballot Question #4, the legalization of marijuana.

Learn about MSPCC's advocacy work at [www.childrensmentalhealthcampaign.org](http://www.childrensmentalhealthcampaign.org)

## THE MARY ELLEN SOCIETY

Named for a little girl whose landmark child abuse court case led to the establishment of MSPCC in 1878, the Mary Ellen Society honors supporters whose generosity via bequests or life income gifts assures MSPCC's future excellence. Mary Ellen Society members receive invitations to all MSPCC events and donor appreciation gatherings. Other Society benefits include publication of the members' roster in MSPCC's annual report and on our website. There are no dues, fees or minimums associated with membership in the Mary Ellen Society. If you have already included MSPCC in your estate plans, or would like to learn more, please contact Melanie Lima, Director of Development at 617-587-1587, or via email at [mlima@mspcc.org](mailto:mlima@mspcc.org). We would love to invite you to join the Mary Ellen Society, attend a private reception and help children and families for years to come.

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Children  
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mspcc.org

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## SAVE THE DATE

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)

# Together Against Abuse Dinner

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Fairmont Copley Plaza

Proudly honoring Stephen G. Pagliuca for his years of  
dedicated service to at-risk youth and leadership at MSPCC.

For more information, please contact Julie Clerc at [JClerc@mspcc.org](mailto:JClerc@mspcc.org) or 617-587-5204