Friends of the Children-Boston

We Are Relentless, So They Can Be Resilient
Who We Are

Our Courageous Mission

Impacting generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors – 12+ years, no matter what.

*Friends-Boston* is the only organization in Massachusetts committed to supporting Boston’s most vulnerable children for a minimum of twelve plus years through professional mentoring services.

*From kindergarten through graduation. 12+ years. No matter what.*
Friends of the Children was built around a simple solution: enter their lives early, provide them with a dedicated, caring adult and stay by their side, no matter what.

Our Model consists of six (6) critical components:

1. Seek out and select the most vulnerable children;
2. Commit to each child from kindergarten through graduation, No Matter What;
3. Employ salaried, professional mentors called “Friends”;
4. Focus on the complete transformation of each child;
5. Work in and with our community; and
6. Evaluate, measure, and improve.

What We Do
Creating Generational Change

Our youth, or as we call them Achievers

- Graduate from high school; Although 41% of their parents did not
- Avoid the juvenile justice system; Although 48% of their parents were incarcerated
- Avoid early parenting; Although 25% of youth were born to a teen parent
- Show improved social emotional development and confidence
- Make better choices and employ good decision making skills
- Show improved health and wellness
- Are developing solid plans and skills for the future

Abbi Age 18
Generational Change Starts With...

A Rigorous Selection Process

As part of our mission to **seek out** and select **children** who have **experienced multiple traumas**, we partner with Boston Public Schools in communities with high concentrations of poverty and limited access to resources. Our research backed annual child selection process has been found to be a proactive and effective system to target interventions to children that are traditionally difficult to reach. Our screening criteria for selection closely mirror those of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths-Comprehensive (CANS) assessment used by child protective/foster care systems nationwide.

**Family Risk Factors Factored Into Selection**

- Housing instability
- Child welfare
- Poverty
- Food instability
- Born to a teen parent
- Lack of paternal involvement
- Parent incarceration

*By the age of 5, 77% have experienced four or more of the 13 indicators of risk listed above.*

**Child Risk Factors Factored Into Selection**

- Aggressive behavior
- Social withdrawal
- Very low self-esteem
- Poor school attendance
- Ineffective social/relationship skills
- Poor work habits and performance
- Highly sexualized behavior
- Low tolerance for frustration
- Poor problem solving skills
- Grief issues, depression or anxiety
- Anger management problems
- Poor personal hygiene

*Over 50% of our youth experienced 4 or more of the above risk factors in the past 2 years.*
...And Builds Toward

**A Celebration of Resiliency**

Protective factors increase resiliency and support positive outcomes.

The more protective factors a child has, the more likely s/he will be able to remain resilient in the face of extreme stress.

*Friends of the Children-Boston* increases protective factors by:

- Providing a **caring and consistent adult relationship throughout their school-aged years**
- Role modeling **healthy relationships**
- Setting high **expectations and aspirations for a future**
- **Skills development** (social, self-esteem, problem solving, etc...)
- Identifying and developing special talents; **finding their spark**
- Building a sense of **hope and belonging**
- **Advocating** for supportive services in and out of school
- Developing of a **growth mindset** through learning and experiences
- Finding **Resources** for family support, referrals when appropriate
And Creates Transformative Impact

Last Year Alone:

- Engaged 139 Achievers with one on one professional mentoring
- Provided over 26,000 hours of professional mentoring services
- On-boarded 24 new kindergartners – 16 more than we are typically able to
- 100% of graduates are either enrolled in post-secondary education or gainfully employed
- 90% of Achievers progressed on time to the next grade.
- 81% of Achievers attended school regularly, as defined as missing less than 16 days
- 98% of Achievers have avoided school suspensions
- 94% of Achievers made progress toward or met their school success goals as detailed in their Roadmap for Success, including classroom behavior as reported by classroom teachers
- All teen Achievers received targeted career and work readiness trainings such as resume building and mock interview, and college-focused support including tours and academic counseling
- 93% of Achievers made progress toward or met their social/emotional skill goals as detailed in their Roadmap for Success
- 99% of our Achievers have avoided the juvenile justice system
- 100% have avoided early parenting
What it Means to Be a Friend
Imagine...

If every child regardless of circumstance had a caring adult by their side from kindergarten through high school graduation.

To mentor them, advocate for them and serve as a leader.

At *Friends of the Children*, this is our reality.

The vision we have for every child we serve.

We call our professional mentors "Friends" because it isn't just a job.

They are forming meaningful relationships with our youth that last for years.

*We are relentless, so they can be resilient*
Friends ensure their Achievers are getting the education, support, and wrap-around services they need to thrive and break the cycle of generational poverty. This could look like:

- Advocating for a special education service at an Achiever's school
- Being the consistent adult in an Achiever's life as they move from placement to placement in the foster care system
- Helping an Achiever find constructive outlets for stress and frustration
- Often, the Friend is the only person the family calls when a crisis occurs.

**This is what it means to be a Friend.**
One Child at a Time
Expansion Plan

- Increase total number of youth served by an additional 30% by 2021.

- Increase organizational capacity:
  - Moved to new facility in 2019, more than doubling our program space
  - Hired 4 additional full-time staff bringing us to 14 FT Friends.

- Enhance our award winning program by adding additional resiliency in our program model and new strategic partnerships.

- Build on our strong foundation for financial resiliency to sustain increased capacity.

- Explore and pilot new expansion partners based on need.
It Makes Economic Sense

$1 = $7

The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon showed that for every $1 invested in *Friends of the Children*, the community benefits over $7 in saved social costs.

Helping one Achiever saves the community $900,000!
# A Powerful Network Already in Place

**And poised to engage more of Boston’s most vulnerable young people**

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*$25,000 and up supporters
Since 2004, *Friends-Boston* has partnered with Boston Public Schools to select children who are facing the most overwhelming challenges and are at the greatest risk of school failure and dropout, and other poor future life outcomes.

Since then, we have grown tremendously and our outcomes are impressive. However, the need is greater than our current capacity.

**Join us as a mission partner** and become a an agent of generational change. We will customize a engagement/sponsorship package that meets your unique needs, budget and objectives.

**Be part of the story and together we will make generational change happen.**