



*Friends of the Children-Boston*  
*We are Relentless, So They can be Resilient*

**OUR MISSION**

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

**ABOUT US**

[Friends of the Children-Boston](#) (*Friends-Boston*) 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**. To that end, we’ve developed a unique and revolutionary model that ensures quality, consistency and commitment to children facing systemic obstacles so that we can make transformational change that breaks the cycles of generational poverty and trauma. To achieve this, **we seek out and select children facing multiple adverse childhood experiences and trauma**, and relentlessly dedicate our resources to them pairing them with a Paid Professional Mentor (called a Friend) for their entire childhood—from **kindergarten through graduation**, no matter what. Our high intensity/high impact model, proven through rigorous evaluation, increases graduation rates, and decreases teen parenting and juvenile justice involvement while **focusing on the growth potential of each child**.

- *Friends-Boston* serves 142 of Boston’s [most vulnerable children](#)
- The only organization in MA providing 12+ years of professional mentoring support
- Youth spend 14-16 hours per month with a full-time, experienced professional mentor called a Friend
- Over 23,000 hours of professional mentoring hours provided per year
- We call our youth “Achievers” because we believe in their ability to thrive in the face of adversity!
- The Social Impacts Exchange’s TOP 100 Non-profit Creating Social Change
- Recipient of Wellington Management Foundation’s 3-year Catalyst Gift in 2018
- Recipient of Cummings Foundation 10 Year Sustaining Grant in 2019
- Moved to our new facility in 2019 more than doubling or operating space and tripling our program space
- Implemented child-centered 2 Generation Programing in 2021 to ensure whole family support – youth thrive when families thrive

**FOCUS ON THOSE WHO NEEDS US MOST**

- 62% experience homelessness
- 58% are or have been impacted by the child welfare system
- 54% do not have enough to eat at home
- 52% have a parent with substance abuse problems
- 48% have a parent who is or has been incarcerated
- 44% have been impacted by domestic violence
- 35% have had a report of abuse or neglect filed on their behalf



**OUR PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

- 69% of Achievers had successful course completion in remote learning as shown by at least 80% or more days of utilization of online learning platform via Google Classroom/Clover, compared to just 24% of all BPS students
- 18,650 hours of support to Achievers and families
- 7,755 Virtual and in-person outings with Achievers (went virtual in April and resumed in-person in July)
- 1,139 school contacts made to support transition to remote learning
- 350 care packages filled with arts materials, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, PPE, books, and games delivered
- 22,000 lbs. of meals and bags of fresh groceries delivered to families
- \$17,500 direct cash support in partnership with Family Independence Initiative
- \$5,000 worth of visa and grocery gift cards distributed directly to families who have fallen into hard times due to job losses or illness

**OUR MODEL WORKS**

- **98%** of Achievers **graduate** to the next grade, while **100% avoid incarceration**, and **98% avoid early parenting**
- **91%** of **Achievers** report **consistent school attendance**, compared to **72%** for **all Boston Public School (BPS) students**—despite our Achievers facing significantly more barriers and frequently attending schools that rank amongst the lowest in the city
- **80%** plus of our **alumni** are persisting in **pursuing a college degree and/or employed**, despite the pandemic, which we know is a result of our ability to build years of trust and provide them with a network of support in every aspect of their lives