



PROMOTING AND FACILITATING
SUCCESSFUL AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

27 Mica Lane, 3rd Floor
Wellesley, MA 02481

February 21, 2017

Ms. Heidi Burbidge
City of Somerville Housing Division
City Hall Annex
50 Evergreen Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145

Dear Ms. Burbidge:

Enclosed is an application for CPA funding for what is planned as a new program in Somerville.

We are in the process of gaining the necessary approvals to purchase the building at 114 Temple Street where we will partner with the Home for Little Wanderers to open a home for 15 youth who have aged-out of the foster care system. The enclosed application requests funding for training the residents of the home to be successful renters of housing. We want to do all we can to assure that once these young people leave our care, they do not again become homeless.

We appreciate your reviewing our application and please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana J. Kelly", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Diana J. Kelly
Executive Director

Program Application for CPA Funds

1. Agency Name and Address: FOCUS – For Our Communities, Inc., 27 Mica Lane, Third Floor, Wellesley, MA 02481

2. Non-profit designation (if applicable): 501 (c) (3)

3. Contact name, phone number and email address for program manager: _____

Jennifer Kadilak, (617) 599-6530, jkadilak@housingfocus.org

4. Name of proposed Program: Housing Fitness

5. Amount of request (CPA): _____

\$23,000 per year for 2 years for a total of \$46,000

6. Note which eligible use category the proposed program fits (see pgs. 1-2): _____

Training for the formerly homeless, aged-out youth who reside at 114 Temple St. to increase their ability to access, acquire, and retain affordable housing

7. Describe proposed activity (please attach additional pages as needed): _____

Please see the attached statement – Attachment A.

8. Timeframe for performance: Two years

9. If it is a new program, estimated time to set up program: 60 days

10. Describe the need within the community for the type of program proposed and note any other

agencies that may be addressing it (to the extent applicant is aware) and how this program is different:

Each year 800-900 youth leave DCF supervision because they have “aged-out” and are immediately faced with the challenge of finding housing and employment while in many cases, they are still trying to continue their education. Our housing program is a 6 year program that will provide 15 “aged-out” youth a safe place to live while they further their education and learn the coping skills that will allow them to successfully enter adulthood. FOCUS is sponsoring this housing program in partnership with the Home for Little Wanderers, which has other similar programs elsewhere. We are not aware of other agencies providing this type of programming in Somerville.

11. Provide the income level of targeted beneficiary/beneficiaries:
Maximum of 50% of the Area Median Income

12. Description of who the program will benefit (veteran population, homeless, etc. and please note the extent to which beneficiaries are Somerville residents):

Homeless youth who have aged out of the foster care system. Youth will be recruited from the DCF South Region, which serves Somerville, Cambridge and other communities.

13. Estimated number of individuals or households to be served: 15

14. Describe how program outcomes will be measured and tracked: _____

Please see the attached statement – Attachment B.

15. Please attach a complete program Budget and include the status of all funding source (note any funds pending or already received) and all sources and uses by amount.

The Program Budget is attached – Attachment C. No other sources of funding have been received or is pending.

16. Describe whether the proposed activity will be carried out with or without any other funding from the Trust: _____

No other funding from the Trust is anticipated.

17. Experience and capacity of the agency and staff – please describe staff available to work on the project (and note if staff need to be hired) and describe any similar successful programs and how they relate to other programmatic activities: The program will be lead by Jennifer Kadilak, Director of Resident Services for Maloney Properties, Inc. (MPI). Ms. Kadilak is a licensed social worker and has an advanced training certificate in Traumatic Stress Studies from the Trauma Center at JRI. In her position with MPI, Ms. Kadilak directs trainings, services and activities for the 25 resident service coordinators employed by MPI and works with MPI Property

and Regional Managers to plan programs that meet the goal of having each resident be successful in their community. Ms. Kadilak is a board member of New England Resident Service Coordinators, Inc. and the past Clinical Director of the St. Mary's Women and Children's Center in Dorchester, MA and Residential Director at the Germaine Lawrence School in Arlington, MA.

Maloney Properties, Inc. will make Ms. Kadilak available to FOCUS for the Housing Fitness Program at 114 Temple Street.

Ms. Kadilak will partner with Lesli Suggs and Renee Yourk of the Home for Little Wanderers on this Program. Both Ms. Suggs and Ms. Yourk have extensive experience working with this population and their experience is further described in the attached statement – Attachment D.

18. Note if applicant has previously been funded by the Trust and, if yes, a concise summary of the number of residents served in the prior fiscal year and the impact of the program:

The applicant has never received funding from the Trust.

19. Explain how the proposed activities/project addresses a need and/or strategy in City of Somerville's 5 Year Consolidated Plan (Can be viewed online at www.somervillema.gov).

Our program provides training that will reduce the likelihood of program participants becoming homeless due to an inability to successfully maintain their housing, thereby aiding in family stabilization.

20. Explain how the proposed activities/project addresses a Goal or Action Step in the SomerVision Comprehensive Plan (Can be viewed online at www.somervillema.gov).

The housing at 114 Temple Street provides housing for homeless youth and provides training that will enable program participants to be successful occupants of affordable housing.

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

Attachment A

Description of Proposed Activity

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

#7 Describe Proposed Activity

The proposed program would seek to educate young adults who have aged out of the state foster care system in areas that will increase their ability to access, acquire, and maintain affordable housing. This would include provision of a series of trainings and workshops which would utilize didactic, small group exercises, peer demonstration/teaching, experiential exercises, and one to one instruction. The content areas target specific skills and knowledge necessary to successfully live in affordable housing including meeting the requirements of the lease, building financial competency, and contributing as a positive member of a housing community. The curriculum will focus on 5 specifically identified areas which are as follows;

1. **Credit readiness** including understanding credit, how to establish credit, credit reports and scores, how to maintain credit, using credit, identity theft
2. **Budgeting** – creating, maintaining, and following a budget
3. **Rights and Responsibilities of Tenants**
4. **Understanding the Resident Lease**
5. **Living Successfully as Part of a Community** including conflict resolution, boundaries, environmental awareness and impact, being a good neighbor, understanding and accessing community resources

Each content area will be taught over a series of 4-12 weeks at the supportive housing site to residents of 114 Temple St., all of whom are youth who have aged out of foster care. Workshops will be held on a weekly or bi weekly basis and be taught by professionals who are experts in each content area as well as individual one to one instruction by life coaches. Each workshop will build upon the next, and progress through successive content areas so that skills and knowledge gained are cumulative and applicable as the program progresses.

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

Attachment B

Description of How Program Outcomes will be measured and tracked

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

#14 – Describe How Program Outcomes will be measured and tracked.

Program outcomes will be measured utilizing pre and post- test questionnaires for competency in each content area. Pre-tests will be administered immediately prior to residents taking the applicable training/workshops, and post tests will be administered immediately following the course as well as at 6 month intervals following the end of the course up to 2 years (6 months, 1 year, 18 months, 2 years) . Additional measures that will be utilized to gauge success will be rent payment and collection data, annual credit score/reports, lease violations/evictions, and documented interventions between residents as well as the numbers of residents who successfully obtain and retain permanent affordable housing.

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

Attachment C

Program Budget

**114 Temple Street
Housing Fitness Program**

Topic	Cost
Guest lecturers	
Credit readiness - 12 weeks	\$ 6,000.00
Budgeting - 12 weeks	\$ 6,000.00
Rights and Responsibilities - 6 weeks	\$ 3,000.00
Understanding the Lease - 6 weeks	\$ 3,000.00
Living Successfully in a Multi-Family Community - 4 weeks	\$ 2,000.00
	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
FOCUS and Home for Little Wanderers	\$ 3,000.00
- Testing	
- Curriculum preparation	
- Guest lecturer coordination	
- Follow-up with residents	
	TOTAL \$ 23,000.00

City of Somerville CPA Funds application

Attachment D

Experience of the Home for Little Wanderers

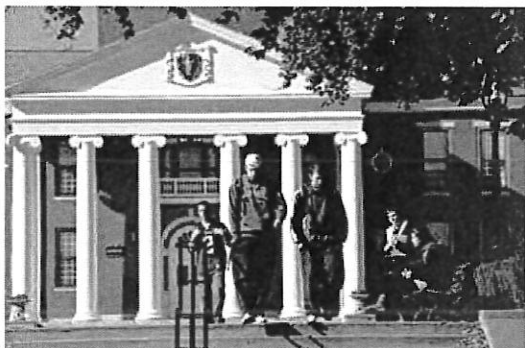
About The Home for Little Wanderers

The Home's mission is to ensure the healthy behavioral, emotional, social and educational development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances.

The Home for Little Wanderers provides a seamless continuum of vital programs and services for every stage of child and family development. For more than 200 years, we've earned a reputation for doing whatever it takes to strengthen vulnerable families and keep children safe in their own communities, even when they don't have family support.

Serving children and youth from birth to 22, The Home makes a positive impact on over 7,000 lives each year through a network of services including behavioral health, therapeutic residential and special education, adoption and foster care. In addition, a number of innovative programs provide specialized assistance to youth transitioning to adulthood from state systems of care.

We continuously measure the impact of our work to develop and enhance our programs. We never give up on children. And we don't let children give up on themselves. By advocating on behalf of each and every one of them, we strengthen our families, our communities and our Commonwealth.



What is ASCL?

Academic Support for College and Life (ASCL) at Bridgewater State University (BSU) in Bridgewater, MA, is an innovative college program designed to provide the supports needed by youth aging out of state care and transitioning to higher education. The Home for Little Wanderers developed the ASCL program in response to research that reports dismal educational outcomes for youth "aging out" without additional supports.

Making the move to college can be difficult for any young person, even those with a supportive network of family and friends. Some are not lucky enough to have such a system in place. For those who come through the state care systems, transitioning to adulthood and independence can be a daunting prospect. All too frequently, college is considered out of reach.

The ASCL program provides young men and women with the opportunity to live on the BSU campus while receiving college-level academic instruction, as well as clinical, social, vocational, and daily living supports.

For more than 200 years, The Home has earned a reputation for doing whatever it takes to strengthen vulnerable families and keep children safe in their own communities, even when they don't have family support. We provide a seamless continuum of vital programs and services for every stage of child and family development.



Serving children and youth from birth to 22, The Home makes a positive impact on over 7,000 lives each year through a network of behavioral health services, therapeutic residential and special education, adoption and foster care. In addition, a number of innovative and unique programs provide specialized assistance to youth transitioning to adulthood from state systems of care.

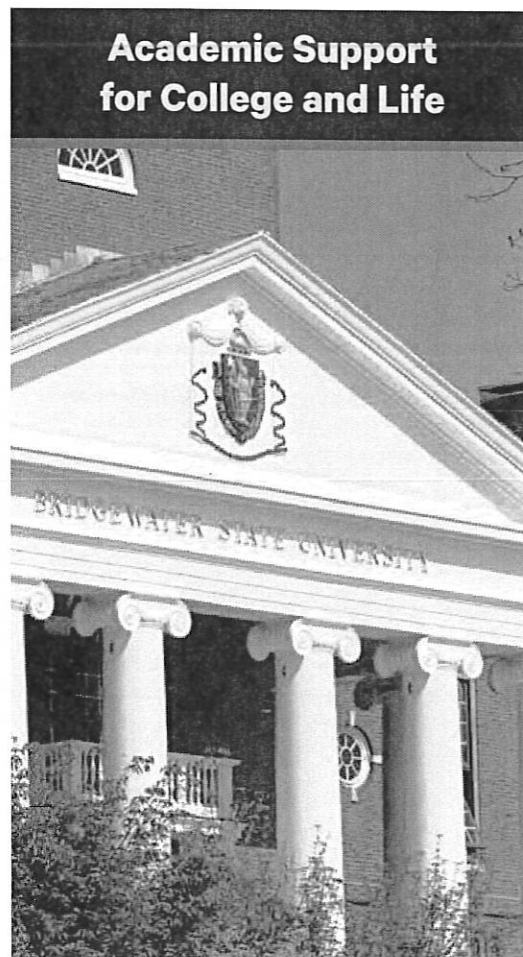
www.thehome.org

Since its founding in 1840, Bridgewater State University has remained steadfast in its commitment to empower individuals and instill in its community an abiding desire to advance the public good. Our rigorous and dynamic academic environment encourages students and faculty to develop their strengths and become leaders in their chosen fields.



Bridgewater's comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered full-time, part-time, days or evenings. Centrally located and widely respected, Bridgewater is committed to making a challenging, high-quality education accessible and achievable for residents of the region and beyond.

www.bridgew.edu



10/13

Program Services

ASCL is a comprehensive program that incorporates multiple research-based intervention and prevention components to provide a strong support system for the student. The program — a summer orientation, two academic semesters, and a summer internship — combines a rigorous academic curriculum with clinical and life skills supports. These supports, along with internship opportunities, are available throughout the remainder of their time at the university.

At the center of this support system are the mental health services. A full-time clinical social worker provides individual and group sessions as well as on-going and/or acute crisis management. The clinician also provides case management which includes developing treatment plans, coordinating needed services within the community, monitoring student progress, and maintaining ongoing communication with others involved in each client's service plan.

In addition, participants are provided with the opportunity and support needed to:

- Enhance self-worth and desire to actively participate in personal development and academic growth
- Further develop connections to the community
- Increase ability to access available support services
- Develop healthy adult and peer relationships and build lifelong connections

PLEASE NOTE:

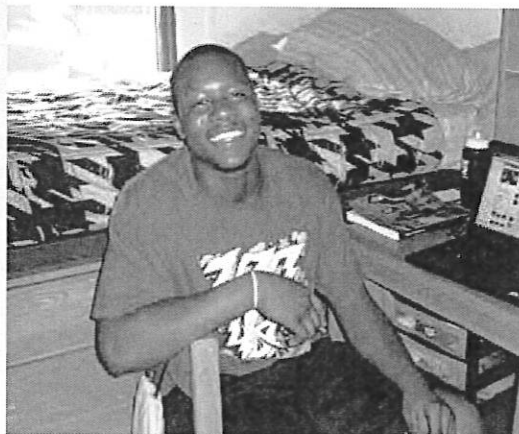
To enroll in ASCL, candidates must first be admitted to BSU.

Visit www.bridgew.edu/admissions for enrollment dates and more information.

The ASCL Student

ASCL enrolls up to nine students each program cycle. Eligible youth must be at least 18 years of age at the time of admission and be receiving services through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Department of Mental Health (DMH). In addition, students must have a high school diploma or GED at admission, no dependents, and the ability and willingness to self-manage their medications.

The ideal candidate for the ASCL program is someone who has exhibited a strong desire to pursue higher education and has the capacity to meet the academic and social-emotional challenges of college. Those who typically succeed in the program are young people who show a determination to change the trajectory of their lives for the better. A successful ASCL student responds well to a consistent living arrangement, seeks clinical mental health support during difficult times, and embraces the opportunity to gain the life skills necessary to function independently within mainstream society.



Innovative Programming

ASCL is innovative in its approach toward assisting young people in gaining cultural competence, awareness, and social responsibility. The goal is to increase each student's ability to look at situations from multiple perspectives while encouraging their involvement in civic activities. During the BSU winter break, the group travels internationally to engage in a service-learning project, interact with local college students, and visit historical and culturally relevant sites. This provides a unique contextual opportunity to gain direct insight into the experiences of those who live, work, and study in other parts of the globe.

**To make a referral, contact:
ASCL Director
508-531-1483**

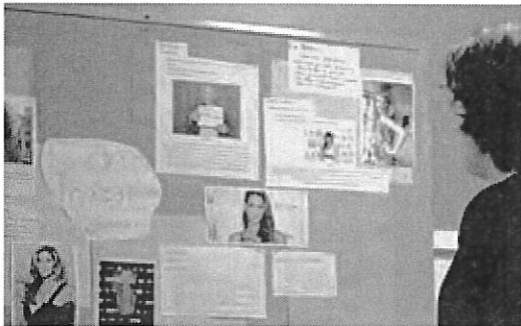
**Learn more about ASCL:
www.thehome.org/ascl**

**Learn more about
Bridgewater State University:
www.bridgew.edu**

The Home helps to ensure the healthy development of all children at risk, without regard to race, religion, gender identity/ expression or sexual orientation.

Primary goals of Waltham House:

- ◆ To offer GLBTQ youth a safe and supportive environment in which to live and grow
- ◆ To offer families the support they need in order to become reunified with a GLBTQ youth
- ◆ To offer GLBTQ youth an opportunity to develop essential life skills that will prepare them for the eventuality of independent living
- ◆ To offer GLBTQ youth opportunities to develop strong connections to GLBT and non-GLBT communities
- ◆ To help GLBTQ youth reach their potential



The Home for Little Wanderers

The Home for Little Wanderers is the nation's oldest and one of New England's largest nonprofit child and family service agencies, with roots dating back to 1799. The mission of The Home is to ensure the healthy behavioral, emotional, social and educational development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances. We do this through a series of integrated programs that include early childhood services, family-focused home-based support, special education, therapeutic residential treatment, adoption, foster care, and independent living preparation for youth aging out of the state systems of care.

With a staff of nearly 600, a full continuum of services and a commitment to advocacy, The Home serves thousands of children and families each year. We strive to ensure our programs are an integral part of the communities in which they reside. Children and families receive services in the locations that are most appropriate for them. This could be in their own home, or in a school, clinic, hospital or therapeutic residential setting.

The Home links policy, practice and program research to measure the impact of its work. What we learn helps us to develop and enhance our programs and to be a strong voice for all children and families, not just the ones we serve directly.

To learn more about The Home:

www.thehome.org

888-HOME-321 info@thehome.org 10/14

The Home for Little Wanderers

Waltham House

A group home for
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender,
and Questioning (GLBTQ) Youth



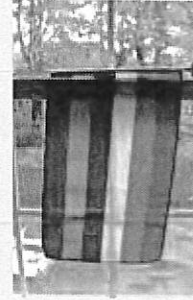


Waltham House is a group home program designed to provide a safe and supportive living environment for up to 12 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth ages 14-18. The program also serves youth who may be questioning (Q) their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Many young people have previously experienced difficulty (at home or in placement) due to their gender expression or sexuality identities. Waltham House offers residents a safe environment to live while they prepare for family reunification, independent living and future self-sufficiency.

Waltham House is located in Waltham, Massachusetts. The program offers 24-hour staffing and is housed in a large, comfortable, federal-style home with an expansive tree-lined backyard in a suburban Boston neighborhood. The program serves GLBTQ youth who are in need of a safe and nurturing environment in order to reintegrate back into a community and/or family setting.

The Services We Offer:

- ◆ Multi-disciplinary team approach to treatment plan development and implementation
- ◆ Individual and creative stabilization services and interventions
- ◆ Individual, group and family therapy and case management by Masters level clinicians
- ◆ Family outreach and support services
- ◆ Life skills development
- ◆ Opportunities to attend community-based activities such as sports, after-school programs including peer education programs and Gay/Straight Alliances, social/support groups, and community service projects
- ◆ Mentoring relationships, tutoring and vocational training with GLBT adults
- ◆ Integrative Treatment for Complex Trauma (ITCT)
- ◆ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- ◆ Restorative practice



Waltham House is the first residential group home that is designed specifically for GLBTQ youth in New England, and one of only four of its kind in the nation.

The agency is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and the program is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Waltham House opened in October 2002 and was founded on the principles of responsibility, respect and pride, with the belief that all youth deserve to live in an environment in which they feel safe, respected, supported and cared for.



For more information about Waltham House:

Visit www.thehome.org/waltham or call 617-267-3700

The Home for Little Wanderers' Young Adult Resource Network (YARN), formed late in 2010, has become a place to turn to for many Boston youth who are still involved with the Department of Children and Families and who lack the resources to live self-sufficiently within their communities.

Almost all young people need a little encouragement – even inducement – to pay attention to their well-being, to think about what they want, and to make positive decisions that will help them in later life. Leaving “the nest” can be difficult even for youth from stable and supportive families. Those without any permanent family to rely upon are particularly at risk for poor outcomes such as homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, early pregnancy, and substance abuse. “Aging out” of state systems of care impacts approximately 600 youth in Massachusetts each year.



The Home for Little Wanderers is the nation's oldest and one of New England's largest nonprofit child and family service agencies, with roots dating back to 1799. The mission of The Home is to ensure the healthy behavioral, emotional, social and educational development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances. We achieve this through a series of integrated programs that include early childhood services, family-focused clinical therapy, special education, therapeutic residential and respite treatment, adoption, intensive foster care, and independent/transitional living.

With a staff of more than 600, a full continuum of care that can be accessed at any point based on need, and a commitment to advocacy, The Home touches the lives of thousands of children and families each year. Our programs are an integral part of the communities in which they reside and children and families can receive services in the locations that are most appropriate for them. This could be in their own home, or in a school, clinic, hospital or therapeutic residential setting.

The Home links policy, practice and program research to measure the impact of its work. What we learn helps us to develop and enhance our programs and supports our goal of being a strong voice for all children and families, not just the ones we serve directly.



Administrative Offices
10 Guest Street, Boston, MA 02135
888-HOME-321 www.thehome.org



Young Adult Resource Network



Supporting successful transitions to adulthood



About YARN

The Young Adult Resource Network (YARN) fosters resiliency and independence for youth aging out of the foster care system through building positive, trusting relationships, and connecting young adults to community resources in hopes they can lead fulfilling and productive lives.

YARN is a “wraparound” support program that assists youth involved with the Department of Children and Families, aged between 17 and 22, navigate the paths to living independently in their community.

The hub of the program is the Community Advocacy Center in Dorchester. The Center is a welcoming place where youth can choose to participate in activities such as skill-building workshops, do homework, access resources, connect with peers, or simply shower, do laundry, eat a healthy meal, check email or relax in the “family room.”

Above all, residents feel safe and supported by trained and caring Life Coaches who provide services tailored to each young person’s needs.

The Need

The statewide Task Force on Youth Aging Out of DCF Care, for which The Home is co-chair, commissioned the first-ever study of former foster youth in Massachusetts. Findings revealed that upon aging out in the commonwealth, these youth faced poverty, social problems, and homelessness:

- 37% reported experiencing homelessness
- 54% were unemployed
- 25% had been arrested and 8% had been incarcerated within the last 12 months
- 43% had been pregnant or fathered a child

YARN is the first program of its kind ever created to specifically address the needs faced by youth leaving the state systems of care and facing adulthood without adequate support systems and guidance.

The program is strengths-based, focused on resilience and rooted in empowering young people to take the lead in determining how to improve their own lives. Emphasis is placed on supportive relationship building that ensures positive growth through mentoring and referrals out in the community. YARN’s philosophy is grounded in the belief that these young people have been incredibly courageous throughout their young lives. This model is successful in attracting and engaging young people to the program.

Services and Areas of Assistance at YARN:

- Housing
- Health and wellness
- Substance abuse
- Educational growth
- Career and vocational choices
- Social skills
- Life skills
- Safety planning
- Recreational activities

In addition to the work at the Center, staff go out into the community to provide services where the youth reside.

Examples of activities and events offered at the Center:

- Computer lab
- Sound Production Studio
- Outings to see documentaries and theater
- Opportunities for advocacy work
- Presentations by local community agencies catering to the needs of this age group



The music studio (left) and the family room at the Center.

Youth can be referred to the YARN program by their DCF social workers through the resource coordinators at their specific DCF area office. For more information on the program, please contact the Assistant Program Director at 617-287-0160.

An Overview

The Nation's Oldest
Child Welfare Agency

The Home for Little Wanderers
Strong families. Strong life.



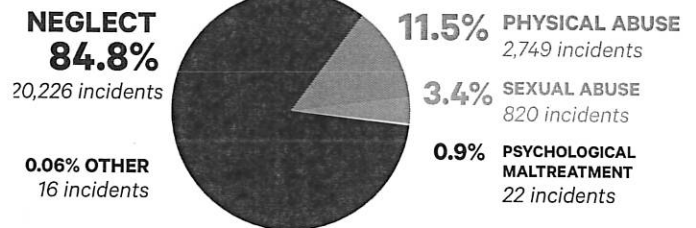
CHILD ABUSE BY THE NUMBERS

IN MASSACHUSETTS ALONE, there were 20,307 children who suffered from abuse and neglect in 2013 (the last year for which data is available).

That's an average of
56 CHILDREN EACH DAY.



The most common types of maltreatment were:

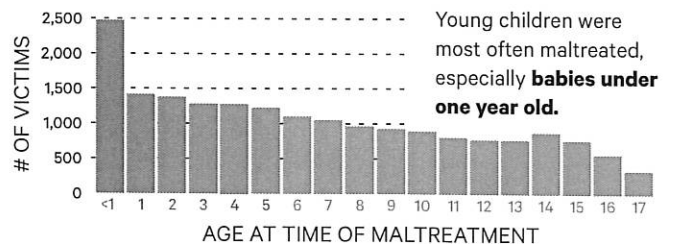


AN OVERVIEW

The Home's mission is to ensure the healthy behavioral, emotional, social and educational development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances.

What We Do

- Our goal is to provide the services necessary to **support and encourage** youth to become successful adults
- We offer a **variety of programs** such as behavioral health, therapeutic residential and special education, adoption and foster care to at-risk youth and families
- We do whatever it takes to **strengthen vulnerable families and keep children safe** in their own communities



SOURCE: US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau "Child Maltreatment 2013" report
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2013>

THE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS acts as a safe haven for many of the children who are already part of these staggering statistics. But we also work to stop the abuse before it happens, providing intensive counseling and family support services through our community-based programs.

To learn more about The Home: www.thehome.org | 888-HOME-321 | info@thehome.org

Who We Serve

- We serve at-risk youth who do not have access to sufficient **behavioral and mental health services**
- We serve children and youth from **birth to age 22**
- Once kids turn 18, we don't want them to be forgotten. At The Home, we provide unique programs to help these young people **meet the challenges** of pursuing higher education, work and life

Residential Care Our group homes provide individualized treatment and services to youth who are transitioning back to their families, progressing to less restrictive environments or preparing to live independently.

Transitional Age Youth The Home provides programs for youth in state systems of care who are transitioning into adulthood and need additional help and resources to further their educational and vocational goals.

Clinical and Family Support These individualized programs place the family at the center of the planning process and build a team around the family's vision of their child's future.

Our Take Away Message

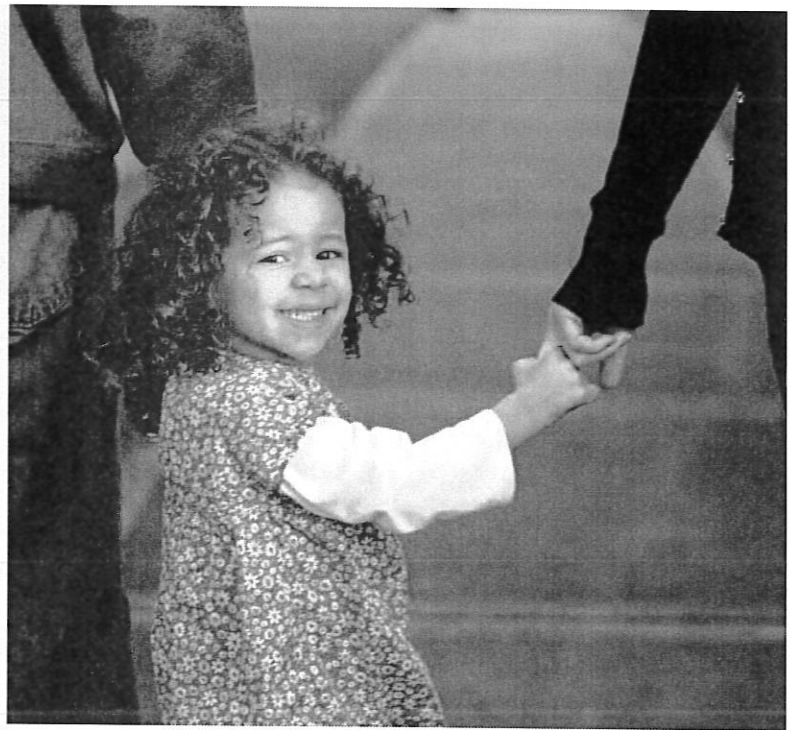
We do whatever it takes to provide children and families with the services and programs they need to thrive in Boston and its surrounding communities. **We never give up on children — and we never let children give up on themselves.**

Fast Facts

- We make a positive impact in over **7,000** lives each year
- We are the largest provider of clinicians in Boston Public Schools
- Our dedicated staff of over **600** includes **130** licensed clinicians, **180** direct care counselors, **5** psychiatrists, **4** psychologists, and **24** teachers

To make a referral or to learn more about The Home's Community Service Agency, please call:

Central Intake:
855-240-HOME (855-240-4663)



The Home for Little Wanderers 

The Home for Little Wanderers provides a seamless continuum of vital programs and services for every stage of child and family development. For more than 200 years, we've earned a reputation for doing whatever it takes to strengthen vulnerable families and keep children safe in their own communities, even when they don't have family support.

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To learn more about The Home: www.thehome.org | 888-HOME-321 | info@thehome.org

JOAN WALLACE-BENJAMIN

President & Chief Executive Officer

Joan Wallace-Benjamin joined The Home for Little Wanderers in 2003 as President and Chief Executive Officer. Under her guidance, the agency has gained prominence in the field of child and family service providers, becoming a leader in innovative programming for underserved populations and expanding its role of advocacy for all children.

Previously, Joan was President and Chief Executive Officer of The Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts for 11 years and immediately prior to joining The Home, she served as a Consultant with Whitehead Mann, a global executive recruiting firm. She has also served as Director of Operations for Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston; Deputy Director of ABCD Head Start, and a Research Analyst for ABT Associates. Joan took a short detour from The Home in 2007 when she answered Governor-Elect Deval Patrick's call to serve as Chief of Staff on his transition team and in the first months of office. Joan has brought to all of her positions a remarkable array of skills and energy that have empowered and inspired the organizations to fulfill their missions of service, research and advocacy.

Joan has received awards too numerous to list in full, but a sampling includes being named one of Boston magazine's 50 Most Powerful Women, February 2011; the Henry L. Shattuck Public Service City Champion Award, October 2010; Urban League Civil Rights Award, April 2007; Pinnacle Award, Achievement in Management Non-Profit from the Boston Chamber of Commerce, January 2005. Joan holds Honorary Doctorates from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1993), Newbury College, Chestnut Hill, MA (2005), and Curry College, Milton, MA (2009) and Bridgewater State University (in May 2011) and New England Law, Boston (May, 2013).

Joan serves on the Board of Directors of Bridgewater State University and was appointed by Governor Patrick to co chair with Juvenile Court Judge, Joan McMenemy on the Families and Children Requiring Assistance Advisory Board. Joan is a former Trustee of Wellesley College and member of the Board of Overseers for The Heller School for Social Policy & Management. Additionally she has been a Corporation Member of Northeastern University and a Trustee of Pine Manor College. She graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in Psychology and received her Ph.D. from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

LESLI SUGGS

Vice President for Program Operations

Lesli Suggs, LICSW, is Vice President for Program Operations and a member of the Executive Management Team at The Home for Little Wanderers, working closely with the President and CEO, as well as the Board of Directors. She joined The Home in January 2011 as Senior Director of Community Based and Behavioral Health Programs and assumed her new role in October 2013. Lesli oversees a team of Senior Directors who together are responsible for all of The Home's programs, ensuring that we make a positive impact on the lives of some of Massachusetts' most vulnerable children and families.

Lesli brings with her a background of extensive experience in child welfare and behavioral health, focusing on: residential & special education; adoption & foster care; community mental health; sexual abuse; and trauma. She received her Bachelor's in Social Work from Texas Christian University and later graduated from Simmons College with a Master's in Social Work. Before joining The Home, Lesli served as Vice President of Program for Communities for People in Boston and Assistant Vice President at Health and Education Services on the North Shore.

RENEE YOURK

Director of Business and Strategic Partnerships

Renee Yourk is Director of Business and Strategic Partnerships, a position within the Executive Department. She provides leadership and coordination on high-level projects and initiatives and develops, oversees and/or coordinates the implementation of strategies for business expansion and revenue maximization. Renee joined The Home in 2002 as Associate Director of Foundation Relations and assumed her current role in 2009.

Renee brings with her a background in business and marketing from prior positions in investment banking and corporate market research. She received her Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; and her MBA at F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College.