



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.*



What We Do

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.



Abbi Age 18

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

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
- Low parental education
- Parent criminal behavior
- Single parent households
- Parent substance abuse
- Parent health problems
- Parent domestic abuse

**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**

FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN
Boston



To Mentor, Advocate, & Lead

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.



Growing for the Future



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

Leaders in the
Youth Development
Movement

We are proud to partner with:

- MENTOR – The National Mentoring Partnership
- Mass Mentoring Partnership
- Friends of the Children National Network
- United Way of MB & MV
- The Rhodes Lab at UMass Boston
- Boston University School of Social Work

Leaders in the
Philanthropic
Community

We have earned the support of:*

- Wellington Management Foundation
- Santander Bank
- State Street Foundation
- Cummings Foundation
- John W. Alden Trust
- Edwin S Webster Foundation
- Amelia Peabody Foundation
- The Boston Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Nordblom Foundation
- The Philanthropy Connection

**\$25,000 and up supporters*

Leaders in
Corporate Social
Responsibility

We are proud to partner with:

- BCG Connect
- KPMG
- FH Perry Builders
- Eaton Vance
- CTP
- Foodies Urban Market
- McCarter & English
- Korn Ferry
- Westfield Capital
- MaidPro
- American Tower
- Building Impact





Are You Ready to Help Them Write a New Story?

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.