



FROM FRIENDS-BOSTON TO YOU

A Reflection on 2025

We began 2025 with a message from our Executive Director, Yi-Chin Chen, asking the question, “What does hope look like in a time of despair?” As we approach the end of this year, the landscape is still uncertain, but everyday our Achiever’s successes remind us that joy is durable and we thrive in community - even when it feels as if the world is pulling us apart.

What we discovered in 2025 is that: hope looks like many things. It looks like a perfect attendance award or an Achiever-led Black History Month event, celebrating inventions by black creators. It’s our Achievers’ very first karate demonstration, or the acceptance of one of our Achievers into an animation program all the way in Japan! It’s our youth discovering their love for baking and their voice in their own self advocacy. Hope is versatile, it is resilient, it is collaborative, and it flourishes within the walls of the Friends of the Children-Boston offices.

While 2025 brought new challenges, it brought many new opportunities for growth. This year, our program grew tremendously! We now proudly serve 173 Achievers and 600 of their caregivers and siblings. Our brand new satellite site in East Boston continues to grow as does our staff with the hiring of 5 brand new mentors. Our program offerings continue to expand with our Supportive Services arm in it’s third year, offering services for an Achiever’s entire family. We continue to expand access to mental health services, legal support, academic and social emotional programming, identity groups, extracurricular activities, sports, career coaching, and so much more.

In 2025, our resilience was tested but our hope and purpose have been reaffirmed tenfold! Thank you so much for being on this journey with us, your confidence in our program keeps us going.



2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Now serving **173** Achievers and **600** of their caregivers and their siblings!

98% advanced to the next grade

Alumni are now first time homeowners

90%

99%

avoided
suspension
in school

avoided more than one suspension in school

78%

of our graduates are in
COLLEGE
or earning a
LIVING WAGE
compared to

70%

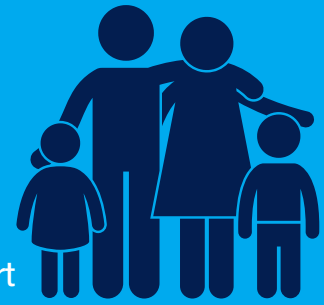
of Boston Public Schools
graduates, despite facing
significantly **higher**
barriers

98%

are on track to earn a
**high school diploma
or GED**

despite **41%** having a parent who did not complete high school

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



Addressed **45** family crisis situations through 1:1 in depth support

Implemented two new caregiver initiatives, including our cohort-based

THRIVE CIRCLE for **14** caregivers and
10 caregiver support mutual aid groups.



Helped



avoid eviction

One caregiver even returned to college as a result!

Disseminated over



in **DIRECT RESOURCES**
to families



ACHIEVER STORY

For our Achiever, Mariah*, life has changed a lot in the last few years. Her Professional Mentor, Addy, has supported her through some really tough times, where adjusting to the various shifts has been difficult. Despite that, Mariah has kept her friendly, fun, and curious personality. As the youngest kid in her family, her favorite thing to do is to make other people happy. She loves to laugh, and became a leader among the elementary Achievers pretty early on at Friends-Boston because of her maturity. Addy says that the kids at the park even call her “mayor” because she is friends with everyone in the neighborhood!

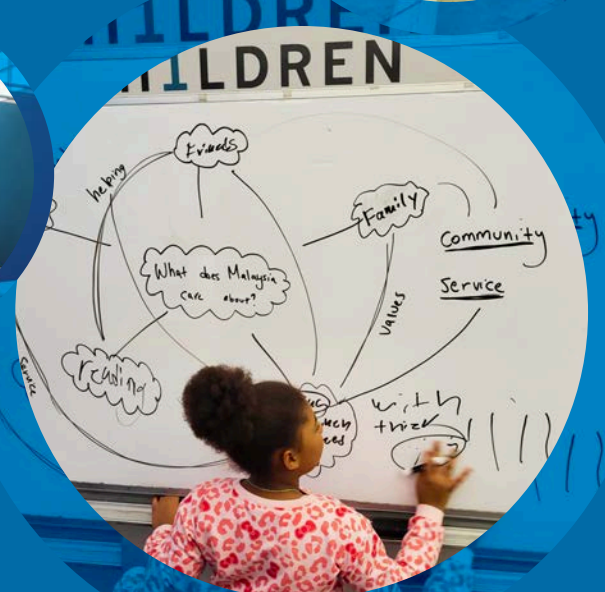
Mariah* comes from a family where manners and giving back really matters. She would always have questions and empathetic sentiments when passing someone in the car who may be experiencing homelessness. Her and Addy would talk a lot about giving back to the community, charity or being in need means on their many drives around the neighborhood!

So - when Mariah and Addy were coming up with Roadmap Goals for the year, they decided together to make a community service project one of Mariah’s* goals. After creating a map of all the things that are important to Mariah (pictured below), they came to the conclusion that a project helping with direct resources would be the closest to Mariah’s* heart, so her mentor had the hard job of finding nonprofits who would allow a kid under 16 to volunteer. Luckily, her mentor is persistent, and discovered that Cradles to Crayons, one of Friends-Boston’s longtime supporters, fulfilled all of their criteria!

Mariah* got the opportunity to clean shoes that will be given to kids her very own age! During the volunteer shift, she was the only kid there, and got to talk about how it feels to be in the facility that donates clothes to her. They did a tour of the building and discussed the feeling she gets when she receives these clothes (happy!) and how cool it was to wash shoes for other kids the way Cradles to Crayons volunteers do for her and her sister! She loved being a part of the process.

Through her Roadmap Goals, Mariah*, with her Professional Mentor, Addy, were able to capture what it means when an Achiever finds their spark. That is just one small piece of the work that happens every day at the Friends-Boston offices! Allowing the Achievers to take ownership of their dreams, advocate for the experiences they want to have, and fulfill projects of their own creation supports their resilience, their growth, and their sense of self.

**name changed*



2026 SNEAK PEAK

FALL
2025

CAMPAIGN FOR
GENERATIONAL CHANGE
KICK OFF!

DETAILS TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON!

OCT 9
2025

DAF DAY!

CELEBRATING OUR DONOR
ADVISED FUND DONORS!

OCT 24
2025

FIRST ANNUAL
TRUNK OR TREAT

SPOOKTACULAR FUN
FOR ACHIEVERS!

DEC 7
2025

GINGERBREAD PARTY
FOR ACHIEVERS

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION FOR
ACHIEVERS & FAMILIES!

OCT-NOV
2025

FROSTY'S FRIENDS
HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

SIGN UP TO BE A
FROSTY'S FRIEND!

CLICK ABOVE OR VISIT [BIT.LY/FROSTYSFRIENDS](https://bit.ly/frostysfriends)

SPRING
2026

ANNUAL PICKLE WITH FRIENDS
PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

DON'T MISS OUT ON
THE FUN!

MAY 8,
2026

ANNUAL FRIEND RAISER

ARTISTS FOR HUMANITY
EPICENTER



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TO STAY UPDATED ON OUR 2026 ACTIVITIES



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