



Investing in the Future

Childhood is a time to explore and learn how to express and regulate emotions. As part of normal development, children exhibit many different behaviors. Unfortunately, in some circumstances, a child's behavior is so disruptive and challenging that they are expelled from preschool. In Massachusetts alone, more than 600 children are expelled from preschools and kindergarten each year. Preschool boys are more likely to be expelled and in particular, boys of color are expelled three times more often than other children in all academic years.

Focusing on the healthy social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of young children challenges us to ask "Why might a child behave this way?" rather than "What is wrong with this kid?"

"Too often, a child's disruptive and challenging behavior is misunderstood and seen as intentional," said Mary McGeown, MSPCC Executive Director. "But, for a young child who has experienced trauma, aggressive behaviors and angry outbursts are really a cry for help."

Studies have consistently shown that traumatic or adverse experiences that occur during a child's first five years

of life can cause disruptive and unruly behavior in young children. It is critical that those working with very young children develop responses that consider a child's trauma. When a child exhibits challenging behaviors, a trauma-informed response from a caregiver or early childhood professional can make the difference in that child's academic trajectory, and life.

Informed by its work with the Children's Mental Health Campaign, MSPCC is spearheading a project to implement policies and practices to promote early childhood social and emotional well-being, prevent early mental health problems, intervene with effective, evidence-based strategies, and treat identified mental health concerns. In partnership with Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health (MassAIMH), MSPCC will advance key workforce initiatives to train, support, and increase retention rates of early education and care providers, behavioral health clinicians and family partners.

This innovative project is funded by a three-year grant from Boston Children's Hospital's Collaboration for Community Health.

is Disruptive



**Massachusetts Society
for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Children**

From the Desk of



Mary McGeown

Dear Friends:

With the arrival of cold weather, 2018 will soon come to a close and so too will MSPCC's year-long celebration of its 140-year legacy. After a year of reflecting on our history and its impact on the present day, I take great pride in the knowledge that MSPCC is as relevant and vital today as it was 140 years ago when the agency was founded to protect children.

Though our core mission has remained the same, MSPCC's approach is very different than 140 years ago. Our work today focuses on preventing or mitigating the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, household substance abuse, household mental illness, and domestic violence. We keep children safe with their families by partnering with parents long before a crisis occurs. Through innovative parenting support and education, foster and adoptive support programs, and clinical mental health services, MSPCC is a leader in helping children heal and thrive.

Due to our breadth of work, MSPCC is uniquely positioned to engage in public policy advocacy on behalf of children and families. Our experiences put us at the forefront of shaping state laws and policies to protect and promote the rights and well-being of children and families. Through our work as a leader in the Children's Mental Health Campaign, we continue to shine a spotlight on the importance of social and emotional learning and supports for children and youth. This past year, in order to target strategies to enhance support and services available to children in the care of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), MSPCC conducted a survey of more than 1,000 foster parents to better understand their experiences, needs, and concerns.

The backbone of MSPCC is the dedicated staff working in communities across Massachusetts. The depth and skills they bring to the families we serve offer the best hope that our children will be safe and healthy. Your support of MSPCC ensures that they are able to effectively do their job, ensuring the safety, health, and happiness of children across Massachusetts.

Of course, we don't do it alone. MSPCC values our community partners for sharing their expertise and passion for our collective work. Most important, our efforts are made possible because of your generosity and commitment. You help promote awareness and contribute resources to end the crisis of child abuse. For this, and all you do for children, thank you.

Mary A. McGeown
Executive Director

Welcome to the Board: Reetika Vijay

MSPCC is pleased to welcome Reetika Vijay to the Board of Advisors. Reetika is the Managing Principal for IA Interior Architects' Boston office. When



asked why she chose to dedicate her time to MSPCC, Reetika responded, "As a mother of two children, I see how much positive impact love and safety make in their lives. It breaks my heart to know that not all children receive this level of nurturing, which ultimately enables them to grow as confident, happy adults. I am excited to start working on behalf of MSPCC."

At IA Boston, Reetika and her team have designed workspaces that not only serve as tools to support innovation and productivity, but that also improve her clients' lives and ultimately bring joy. She brings more than 23 years of experience playing a leading role in strategic planning, managing, designing, administering, and negotiating a wide variety of project types. Reetika serves as executive sponsor to IA's research group as well as IA's Experiential Graphics Market.

In her spare time, Reetika balances her career with her role as a wife and mother of two young children. She spends her evenings and weekends in Newton, MA, helping with homework, driving her children to sports and generally focusing on their personal growth. Reetika also supports her husband in the development of his self-owned businesses.

Welcome to the Board, Reetika!

Meet the rest of MSPCC's Board of Advisors at mspcc.org/board-of-advisors



GIVE THE CHILDREN OF MSPCC A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON !

Each year, MSPCC reaches out to supporters for holiday toys and clothes for the children and families we serve. This December, we are collecting children's toys, books, and other items listed below for delivery on or before December 14th. You can also visit our Amazon wish list at <http://a.co/52KpSbl> to purchase a gift to be delivered directly to our Boston office. Gifts will then be delivered to families in need.

Please join us on Friday, December 14th for a Winter Wonderland Wrapping Party at 3815 Washington Street, Suite #2, Boston MA, 02130 between 9am-5pm! Bring a new toy or article of clothing and spend the afternoon wrapping, enjoying hot cocoa and cookies, and helping us prep the presents!

All donations can be delivered to 3815 Washington Street, Suite #2, Boston MA, 02130 between 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Emily DiCarlo, Development Associate, at 617-587-1526 or edicarlo@mspcc.org.

Suggestions:

- Arts and Crafts
- Developmental Toys
- Toy Cars & Trucks
- Headphones
- Sports Equipment
- Video Games
- Bath & Shower Gels
- Costumes/Dress Up
- Body Lotion
- Hats, Gloves, and Scarves
- Clothing - All Sizes
- Board Games
- Tickets and Museum Passes
- Gift wrapping paper or bags

Because of you, in 2018...



2,135

families learned new skills to support their child's needs through our Family Counseling services, including through therapeutic mentors, family supports training, and many more clinical programs.



810

young, first-time parents learned to create stable, nurturing environments for their children in Healthy Families™, a program of the Children's Trust.



18,320

foster, kinship, and adoptive parents participated in trainings, support groups or coaching to better understand and respond to the needs of children in their care, victimized by abuse or neglect.

The NAN Project Speaks Out

September 10th was World Suicide Prevention Day. MSPCC was proud to witness Peer Mentors from The NAN Project share their personal experiences with mental illness and suicidality and answer questions from Senator Cindy Friedman, Senator Joan Lovely, Representative Mike Day, and Representative Denise Garlic at the State House. These mentors, all under the age of 20, spoke of their past trials with resilience and expressed their gratitude for the role The NAN Project has played in their lives. Each spoke about how the stigma surrounding mental illness has brought challenges to their recovery. **"I was ashamed of a chemical imbalance in my brain that I had no control over"** explained Isabelle Cole, The NAN Project Peer Mentor, as she shared why she kept her illness to herself for years. Ellen Dalton, Senior Vice President of Eliot Community Human Services and founder of The NAN Project spoke of how her daughter, Nan, took her own life, **"It was stigma that killed my daughter, not mental illness; because mental illness is treatable."**

Isabelle, Ellen, and all the other members of The NAN Project have seen firsthand how dangerous it is to not talk about mental illness. This is why The NAN Project is dedicated to raising the conversation about depression and suicide above a whisper by giving 1) communities and schools the resources needed to accept and address depression and suicidality, and 2) young people the information and supports that will allow them to ask for help and reach out to one another for support.

If you would like to learn more about The NAN Project, visit thenanproject.org.



From left: Ellen Dalton, Mike Amendolare, Jade Turner, Isabelle (Belle) Cole, Lizzie MacLellan, and Mateo Cox

Thank you PwC

Every year, the Boston Business Journal's Partners of the Year program honors Massachusetts companies that demonstrate innovation and develop best practices in specific partnerships with nonprofits. This year, PwC was chosen as one of six Partners of the Year for their work with MSPCC.

With generous corporate contributions over 25 years, PwC fully supports MSPCC's prevention, intervention, and advocacy work in communities across Massachusetts. **"We believe that all children have the potential to be tomorrow's leaders and are committed to partnering with organizations, like MSPCC, to help change the trajectory of their lives,"** said Michael Quinlan, PwC Boston Partner and MSPCC Board Member.

Each December, PwC holds an annual holiday toy drive and volunteer event to benefit MSPCC families. MSPCC identifies more than 100 children who receive services and are most in need of gifts for the holidays, and PwC staff members fulfill all the wish lists. PwC then hosts a volunteer day with their staff to organize and wrap the presents. This is a great opportunity for MSPCC's staff and Executive Director to personally thank each volunteer, chat with them about our mission and services, and let them know how their support directly impacts the children and families in our communities.

inspire.



Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

No. Reading, MA

Permit #7500

Locations

Boston

3815 Washington Street #2
Boston, MA 02130
617.983.5800

Holyoke

9 Sullivan Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
413.532.9446

Lawrence

15 Union Street
Building E, Suite 115
Lawrence, MA 01840
978.682.9222

Lowell

151 Warren Street
Lowell, MA 01852
978.937.3087

Worcester

108 Belmont Street
Worcester, MA 01602
508.753.2967

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Invest in MSPCC Through the Mary Ellen Society

The Mary Ellen Society honors supporters whose generosity via bequests or life income gifts ensures MSPCC's work will continue for years to come. Mary Ellen Society members receive invitations to all MSPCC events and donor appreciation gatherings.

If you have included MSPCC in your estate plans, or would like to learn more, please contact Melanie Lima, Director of Development, at 617-587-1587, or via email at mlima@mspcc.org.

ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE ON THE STATE OF THE CHILD?

Sign up for MSPCC's e-newsletter to hear the latest news. Stay informed on advocacy efforts affecting children and ways you can help, learn how your support has changed the lives of our clients in various programs, and stay updated on what is happening with children in Massachusetts with news and coverage from MSPCC. Sign up at: mspcc.org/news

TIME TO GIVE THANKS

Fall 2018

MSPCC is collecting donations in an effort to provide a Thanksgiving feast to more than 200 of our families in need. We are looking for donations of gift cards, cash, and non-perishable food items. Learn how you can help at mspcc.org/thanksgiving or contact Julie Sheflin at jshflin@mspcc.org.



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