

m.s.p.c.c



MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN • 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



MSPCC

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Photos on the cover
and in this spread by
Allan E. Dines.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of MSPCC,

This is our first message together as CEO and Board Chair of MSPCC. Marylou Sudders, our former CEO, completed nearly 10 years as president before her departure last summer.



Over nearly a decade of service, Marylou was perhaps best known as a passionate advocate and spokesperson for the protection of children and the provision of services to keep them safe and healthy. We are deeply grateful to this inspiring leader for her vision and tireless dedication to the children of Massachusetts.

Today, as we look back upon the last year and ahead to the next, we can be hopeful that our economy is improving, and that the families we serve will find more opportunities for work and housing in the near future. The last four years have been very difficult. While our core services have been sustained, demand has grown, and we have had to attend to emergent needs and free up every dollar to address those needs. Our work brings us very close to the daily lives of the children and families we serve, and we have seen their struggles through the last few years. Their courage, their humor, and their basic grit inspire us. We hope that the new year will bring relief and renewed hope in the future for these families. For now, we thank all the generous individuals and organizations noted in these pages for their steady support in hard times. You have been part of life-giving work every day in our state.



The past year has also been one of chilling headlines about child sexual abuse long neglected by major institutions, and we applaud the widespread discussion and awareness these news stories have created. Discussion breaks the taboo-like silence that has long surrounded child sexual abuse, and when silence is broken abusers are no longer protected. More than anything else, overcoming the reluctance to address the issue will yield massive improvements in the protection of children. Count on our voices to be raised whenever the health and safety of Massachusetts children are at stake.

The new year, 2013, marks MSPCC's 135th anniversary, an incredibly long and distinguished record as a human service organization. MSPCC was among the earliest child welfare organizations in the country, a pioneer in looking at the distinctive needs of children, and in articulating the rights of children in our society. We are deeply honored to have the privilege of leading this extraordinary agency at this time, and having the chance to further strengthen its ability for long-term stewardship of a precious mission and heritage. We thank you for making the work of child protection a central part of your personal priorities in our community.

Sincerely,

Mary A. McGeown
President and CEO

Stephen G. Pagliuca
Board Chair

"Our work brings us very close to the daily lives of the children and families we serve, and we have seen their struggles through the last few years. Their courage, their humor, and their basic grit inspire us."

All Families Can Be Successful



FAMILIES AND MSPCC IN THE 21ST CENTURY

WHEN MSPCC FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS 135 YEARS AGO, IT DID SO TO GIVE A VOICE TO CHILDREN WHO DID NOT HAVE RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW, TO END HARSH CHILD LABOR CONDITIONS, AND TO CARE FOR CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN ABANDONED AND WERE LIVING ON THE STREETS. THE CHALLENGE WAS ENSURING CHILDREN HAD STATUS IN THE LAW AND RECOURSE TO A COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY.

As many of those early victories were achieved, MSPCC's work, while still focused on child protection, shifted to securing children's safety and health within the family. Today, MSPCC's programs are designed to build and support strong and healthy families able to meet the needs of their children.

There is no single structure that defines the 21st century family in the United States. Thirty percent of children are growing up in a one-parent household. Households with two parents are still common, but unlike a century ago, those households include families with a mom and dad, families with two moms and families with two dads. Some children are raised by the people who gave birth to them and others by people who welcome them into their homes and hearts through adoption and foster care. Some families are blended, and some are formed when an aunt, grandfather or another family member steps in to provide care.

MSPCC believes that all families can be successful. MSPCC's experienced and dedicated staff offer creative responses to the challenges all families face helping children grow up in a loving and secure home.

Today acute economic stressors cross boundaries and affect families of all shapes and sizes. Families under stress are more likely to

experience abuse and neglect, as one loss or difficulty compounds another. Unemployment, inadequate job skills, literacy issues: all undermine the search for a living wage. It will cost \$250,000 to raise a child born today from birth to high school graduation. That figure does not reflect a lavish lifestyle; it assumes basic costs of living. For the thousands of Massachusetts families reeling from the recession and its financial pressures, MSPCC connects them to resources that can help, in small ways, to offset the economic stressors of raising a child, and help position them for better jobs and a more secure future.

Safe and loving homes for children sometimes must be built from scratch, through foster care and adoptive services. MSPCC supports foster families and the children they nurture, and helps train them in the special issues and needs their foster children may bring. We also support the adoption process for foster kids, as they transition into a permanent relationship with a loving family. While adoption was once a quiet transaction many years ago, sometimes carrying a stigma, it is now celebrated as a unique part of a child's story and history, opening the door for more children to find their forever families.

The average age of first-time parents continues to rise in the United States, but in those



MSPCC families on a trip to Canobie Lake Park

communities served by MSPCC—Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Worcester—teen pregnancy rates are among the highest in Massachusetts. These young parents need the skill and wisdom of social workers who teach them their new jobs as caregivers. Support for young parents means teaching them about child development and how best to nurture their children. It also involves helping them set goals for their own personal, educational and professional development so they can provide the best life possible for their families. Today, through expanded home visiting in 2012, MSPCC is a reassuring presence in the family home, offering one-on-one coaching and direct observation of the young child's environment.

On the other end of the spectrum, more than at any point in recent history, children are being raised in homes with a grandparent, either as part of multi-generational homes with a parent and grandparent, or where grandparents are the primary caregivers. MSPCC supports grandparent caregivers by providing resources and information and by connecting them with one another in their community. For men and women looking toward their own retirement, immersion in the world of today's children, with their video games, online friends, and non-stop texting, can be a rude awakening! MSPCC helps them navigate the educational and social landscapes where these children also live.

Some challenges are unique to the times we live in, or are better understood and more directly addressed. While we still have a long way to go, mental health carries less of its historic stigma, and health professionals better appreciate the importance of intervention when a child exhibits mental health issues. Children who have been abused and neglected need help in healing from such ex-

periences and tools to help cope at different stages of their lives. Parents and other caregivers have learned that disruptive behavior may be a sign of troubles affecting a child's well-being at the deepest levels. Today, mental health treatment defines our practice at MSPCC and extends the real benefit we bring into the lives of children and families.

Some circumstances place acute stresses on families that belong to distinct groups within our communities, and MSPCC shapes its programs to help address emerging needs. Those families with a member serving in the active duty military face multiple deployments that put prolonged stress on the entire family. As a parent comes in and out of the home for months or a year at a time, children grapple with loss and changes to their support structure. The caregiver remaining at home is left to manage more responsibilities. MSPCC provides counseling services to help family members unravel the fears and worries experienced in wartime, and helps returning servicemen and women adjust to family life in the aftermath of war and loss.

It is impossible to anticipate exactly how family life will change in the decades to come, or what barriers to child well-being may arise. MSPCC evolved from an organization defending the young girl working in a factory in 1878 to one that helps a little boy overcome the trauma of abuse and find his own academic and social success in school in 2012. We will be here for tomorrow's children and families too.

“MSPCC believes that all families can be successful. MSPCC's experienced and dedicated staff offer creative responses to the challenges all families face helping children grow up in a loving and secure home.”

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MSPCC President and CEO Mary McGeown, State Sen. Karen Spilka, former MSPCC President Marylou Sudders, Gov. Deval Patrick and State Rep. Paul Donato after Patrick signed the bill reforming the CHINS system.

An MSPCC Win for Kids on Beacon Hill

For nearly four decades, when Massachusetts families sought help to stop their children's risky behaviors, they had to turn to the juvenile justice system. Concerned parents filed Children in Need of Services (CHINS) petitions to get help for sons and daughters who ran away from home or chronically skipped school; in so doing, they found themselves in front of a judge with their child under the supervision of a probation officer.

While the CHINS system had its successes, most of the adolescents involved never received services to address the underlying causes of their behavior, such as undiagnosed mental health conditions, sexual abuse, domestic violence, severe bullying or harassment and parental substance abuse. Children were often placed in state custody, away from their families. When they became adults, many former CHINS clients identified their involvement in the CHINS system as the beginning of their struggles with substance abuse and serious criminal activity.

That changed last fall when Governor Patrick signed into law a reform of the CHINS system which focuses on the child and family as a unit. The law establishes a network of community-based family resource center services and changes the court process to make parents active participants in their child's proceedings. The law also requires school districts to offer truancy prevention programs for students before referring them to court.

This is a huge win for kids and one that MSPCC worked toward for more than a decade. It breaks down barriers between the juvenile court, parents, and the community. It gives parents and children a community-based access point, connecting them to clinicians who will assess their needs and strengths as a family and develop a plan to address the issues at the root of the child's behavior. This collaborative approach holds great promise for keeping children out of the criminal justice system and in their homes and schools.

Advocating for better public policies is a big part of what you help MSPCC do to ensure children and families thrive.

Our Deepest Thanks

MSPCC Honor Roll

Our work is possible because of the generous contributions of individuals, corporations, foundations, gift funds, public service agencies and the United Ways. We are grateful to all who gave to MSPCC this year, and we honor their commitment to improving the health and well-being of Massachusetts children.



The photos on the following pages were taken by Worcester area teenagers as part of an MSPCC program encouraging self-expression. Above: Photos by Asia Flint. Below: Photographers Samantha Simpson, Louquita Madison and Asia Flint.

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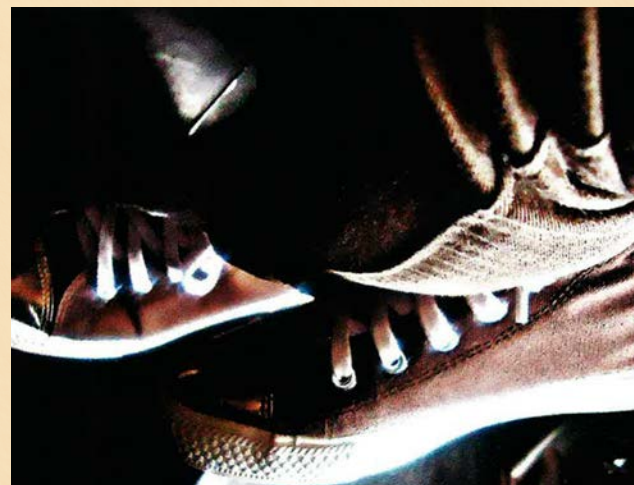
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Summary Balance Sheet

As of 6/30/12

Assets

Total Current Assets	\$4,084,453
Net Property and Equipment	1,323,982
Investments	21,696,243
Irrevocable Trusts	3,074,724
Other Long Term Assets	14,315

Total Assets **\$30,193,717**

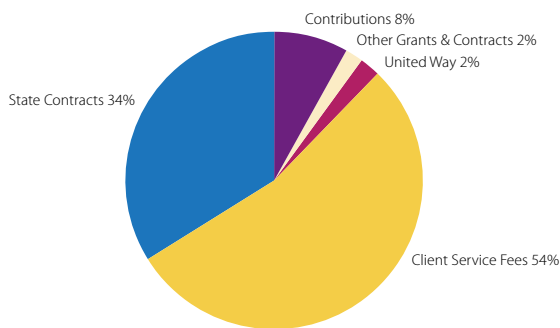
Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Current Liabilities	\$2,515,875
Long Term Debt and Obligations	4,400,640
Net Assets	23,277,202

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$30,193,717**

Revenues

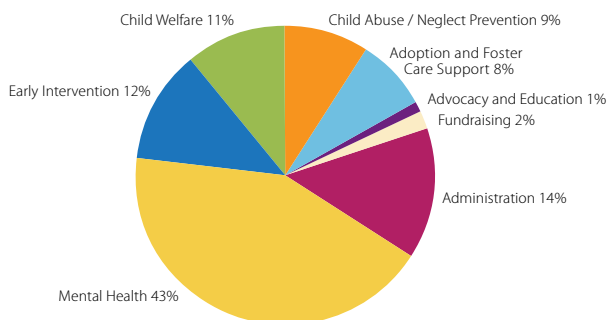
Total: \$20,280,414



Expenses

Total: \$25,801,563

Net Surplus (Deficit) = (\$5,521,149)



CHARITABLE GIFT FUNDS

The Boston Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Connaughton
Elizabeth Grant Fund
Frank B. Thayer Fund
Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
James F. Casey Fund
Suzanne and Jack Reno
Ms. Susan P. Sloan and Arthur D. Clarke
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Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Curhan
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Oscar & Celia - Casper & Sarah Grosberg Fund

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Dr. Cynthia S. Aber and Dr. Jack W. Aber
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BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brennan
Ms. Jane Brock-Wilson
Ms. Jennifer K. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Young Chin
Mr. and Mrs. Perry D. Chlan
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Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Ellis
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Give a Gift That Lasts Forever

The Mary Ellen Planned Giving Society

Childhood lasts a lifetime. When a child experiences abuse or neglect, the effects resonate for the rest of his life, even when he receives proper counseling and support. But a happy childhood also lasts a lifetime. A loving and safe start is the foundation of trust, confidence and success later in life.

Each one of us has the power to transform childhood for kids in Massachusetts. A planned gift is a creative way to make provision for children without drawing down resources now. It allows you to plan for your security and your family's future, while also making a commitment to MSPCC. Planned giving is a gift that lives on forever in the children whose lives are changed by your generosity and in the positive ripple effects that expand from generation to generation.

To find out more about the Mary Ellen Planned Giving Society, please contact Anne Malone, vice president for Development, at (617) 587-1587 or amalone@mspcc.org.

Foundations Leading the Way for Kids

The Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation

Prioritizing Prevention



A cornerstone of MSPCC's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens. This means working with families to alleviate stressors, teaching teen parents about child development, providing mental health counseling to families and offering a therapeutic after-school program to support children and their families.

For years, the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation has been a significant partner in MSPCC's prevention work. The foundation understands that there is so much that can be done before tragedy strikes to strengthen families and change the course of a child's life. Childhood provides a foundation for the rest of a person's life, and with their gifts, the Shamrock Foundation has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring children have a safe and healthy start.

The Saquish Foundation

Helping Families on the Front Line



Military families face unique stresses from frequent and lengthy deployments that have significant effects, not just on soldiers, but on the well-being of children and whole families as well. Children experience changes to their support structure at home and cope with loss – temporary and permanent – and caregivers face extra responsibilities while worrying about their children and their loved one in harm's way. A soldier's homecoming can be difficult too as the family tries to readjust to one another after time apart.

A matching grant from the Saquish Foundation will help MSPCC raise funds to provide military families with support services and mental health and family counseling. The foundation's investment reflects an understanding that the help families need to thrive changes with the times we live in.

The Liberty Mutual Foundation

Building a Healing Space



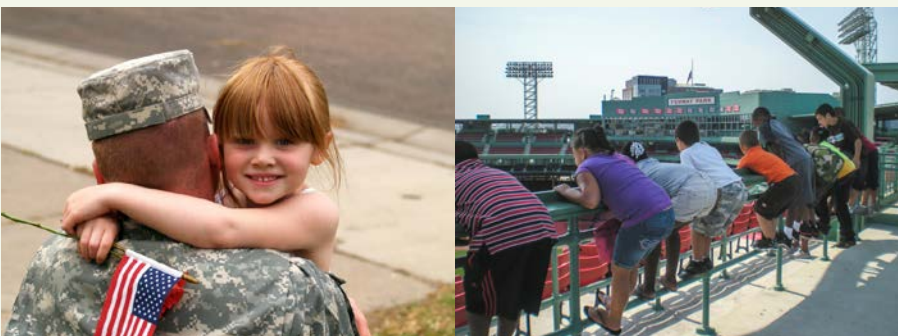
Kid's Day is a therapeutic after-school program in Jamaica Plain where children who have experienced trauma can learn, play and develop in a safe, structured and nurturing environment. It's a place that celebrates and protects childhood, and it's a community where families find partners in their children's success.

This year, as part of the relocation of MSPCC's Jamaica Plain office, Kid's Day moved from the small, cramped space it occupied to a new facility with much more room. The Liberty Mutual Foundation provided a two-year grant to support the move and outfit the new location. The new space is an instrument of care in helping these children heal and grow, and it is an investment in their future. Liberty Mutual's gift transformed the space into an educational and recreational place that maximizes the kids' ability to develop their gifts and build skills for school, work and life.

MSPCC
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Boston, MA 02110
617.587.1500
www.msppc.org



In Fiscal Year 2012,
MSPCC served 19,944
children and families
across Massachusetts.



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