



The Voice of the Child

The voice of a child matters. And yet, too often those voices are not heard. For 139 years, MSPCC has been the voice of the child, championing the rights and safety of children. This strong sense of social responsibility, perhaps more than any other philosophy to which it subscribes, has made MSPCC a dynamic and effective organization. Dozens of laws on the books today that protect children were influenced by MSPCC. While we take great pride in our history and victories, this is no time to slow down - there is still much to be done.

MSPCC fights for laws that protect children from abuse. We speak out for better mental health care for children. We stand up for foster children. We advocate for the funding of vital family support programs that empower families with the skills and resources to build a brighter future. Our efforts are informed and directed by the work our social workers, home visitors, and family partners do each and every day. MSPCC takes what we hear and learn from our direct service work and targets solutions in the policy arena to enhance a child and family's well-being.

As a society, we have no greater responsibility than to ensure children are safe from abuse, healthy, and thriving. Recognizing that no single organization can do it alone, MSPCC collaborates with key stakeholders in the community and at the State House bringing people together to stand up for kids.

How can you help?

Your voice matters. You can help us protect children by fighting for public policy, legislative, and budget issues that directly impact the well-being of children in Massachusetts.

Speaking out is simple. Sign up at action.mspcc.org to receive alerts on important legislation and we will send you the information you need to take action by writing or calling lawmakers on behalf of at-risk, voiceless children. Hearing from concerned constituents like you is important to lawmakers and can have a significant impact on their opinion. Donating to our policy efforts is another way to show you support the rights of kids. We hope you lend your voice to our advocacy efforts going forward!

Get involved!
For more information,
contact
cchelo@mspcc.org



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

MSPCC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

From the Desk of



Mary McGeown

Dear Friends:

On my son's first day at kindergarten, he looked over his shoulder at me and smiled, "See you after school!" He was ready.

This fall, I am thinking about another little boy, Lukas, who will be entering kindergarten. A few years ago, his preschool teacher contacted MSPCC concerned about his behavior. Lukas' inconsolable wails as his mother departed left the teachers struggling to comfort him and other children frightened. His mother, however, never said a word, her head down.

The MSPCC clinical team worked with his teachers and got to know Lukas and his mom. With skillful intervention, they earned the mother's trust and learned of a marriage that had become verbally abusive. Lukas was afraid, but not for himself. He was scared of what might happen to his mother.

Early childhood is the most critical time in brain development. Recent research indicates that adverse childhood experiences can have a lasting impact on health, well-being, and academic achievement.

MSPCC knows the best way to keep kids safe, healthy and thriving is to provide services and supports to help parents be the best they can be. That is what we did for Lukas' mother and father. Clinical interventions, strategies to cope with anger and stress, connections to community resources and parenting skills—all to help this family stay together.

I hope Lukas' parents are watching him run towards kindergarten this fall. He's ready—loving and nurturing parents, a safe and stable home, a community of friends, and of course, a new backpack. Lukas and his family did it with the support, guidance, and encouragement of MSPCC. And we do it with the generous support of you. Thank you.

Mary A. McGeown
Executive Director

MSPCC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Introducing MSPCC's New Board Chair

Charles V. Senatore



MSPCC is pleased to introduce our new board chair, Charles V. Senatore. Chuck has been an active MSPCC Board member for the past four years and we are excited for him to take on this new role. Turning Points, the theme for our annual dinner, was inspired by Chuck's article "Why MSPCC?" featured in our Spring Newsletter. In this article, he explained why he chooses to support MSPCC; "MSPCC is unique. We go to the root causes. We are about being that turning point in the life of a family and a child. We are about changing the arc of that child's life." The idea of MSPCC as a turning point in the lives of the children and families we serve so clearly exemplifies our message and vision.

Chuck is Head of Risk Oversight for Devonshire Investors, a unit of Fidelity Investments. He graduated from Williams College with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and earned a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Outgoing Board Chair, Steve Pagliuca, welcomed him to his new role saying: "In Chuck, I know I am leaving MSPCC in the hands of a passionate, enthusiastic and effective champion of children and families. Since he joined the board in 2013, Chuck has made it his mission to become familiar with the warning signs of child abuse, raise awareness, volunteer his time and donate generously. As a parent and grandparent, Chuck knows first-hand the importance a safe, healthy and caring environment has on a child's development. His steadfast commitment to the prevention of child abuse will ensure that MSPCC remains at the forefront of protecting and promoting the rights and well-being of children and families." Thank you, Chuck, for being a turning point for the future of MSPCC and welcome to your new role.

Treatment Room Transformation

In June, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley organized a volunteer day for MSPCC to makeover our treatment space. Volunteers from HarbourVest came to our Boston office for a long day of painting and building. In the end, our treatment rooms were transformed!

The children of MSPCC are so grateful for the wonderful chalkboard walls, play rugs, and toy boxes. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers!

To learn more about corporate volunteer opportunities with MSPCC, please contact Julie Clerc, Corporate Relations Manager, at 617-587-5204 or jclerc@mspcc.org.





First Lady Lauren Baker and Breanna Hewson at the 2017 Foster and Adoptive Parent Recognition Award Brunch. Hewson, who was adopted through DCF, sang at the event.

MSPCC Advocacy Updates



MASSACHUSETTS
ALLIANCE
FOR FAMILIES

Current Family Support Policy Priorities

- Continue support for policies and funding that promote recruitment and retention of foster parents to improve placement stability.
- Increase the daily rate of support for children in foster care.
- Enhance childcare services for foster children.
- Increase access to respite care for foster families.
- Ensure foster parents' right and opportunity to be heard during court proceeding regarding the children in their care.

Interested in becoming a foster parent?
Call the DCF Recruitment Line at
800-KIDS-508 or call MSPCC at
617-983-5800 for more information.

Strengthening Foster Care

In June, First Lady Lauren Baker, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Massachusetts Alliance for Families (MAFF), and MSPCC honored more than fifty foster and adoptive parents at the annual Recognition Award Brunch. Mary Jane Charette, John Kuznar, and Christine Lomas were presented with the inaugural "MSPCC Legacy" award, which pays tribute to an individual or family whose exceptional work with DCF-involved children and families leaves a lasting, positive impact for years to come. Mary Jane Charette is a loving and patient caregiver, who has opened her home to more than two hundred foster children and fourteen adoptive children. Her work was continued by her daughter and son-in-law, John and Christine, who fostered dozens of children and adopted three. Tragedy struck their family when Christine passed away in February. Her loss is felt deeply by the whole fostering community, and most especially by her family. Despite their immense loss, Mary and John carry on as foster parents. The number of lives changed by the love and support of this extraordinary family is their enduring legacy. Additionally, the Commissioner's Community Leadership Award was presented to Help Our Kids, Inc. and Old Colony YMCA; the Goldie Rogers Memorial Award was presented to Geraldine and James Cahill; and the Lisa Jenkins MAFF Legislator of the Year was presented to State Representative Kay Khan.

MSPCC provides support to MAFF, the association dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children who cannot live with their biological families and for the families who care for them. MSPCC's Kid's Net program offers a range of services to connect foster and kinship families to information, resources, respite, and support networks to address the unique needs of children in foster care. Services are available to foster families throughout Massachusetts. Last year, Kid's Net provided more than 500 trainings and conferences throughout the Commonwealth, with topics specific to the issues facing foster, adoptive, and kinship families. MSPCC is the lead provider for foster care support in Massachusetts.



Interested in learning more? Check out childrensmentalhealthcampaign.org

Caring for Kids' Mental Health

Half of all mental illnesses begins by age 14, and three quarters by age 24. A growing body of research documents that adverse childhood experiences, which include serious neglect, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, are strongly related to an individual's lifetime health and wellbeing. The number of traumatic events a child experiences is linked to a lifetime risk of mental illness and substance use disorders.

At the same time, there is clear evidence that strong parenting and positive experiences with caregivers, healthcare providers, and educators also shape early development and can act as both a deterrent to exposure and a buffer to the impact of traumatic experiences.

That is why MSPCC and our partners in the leadership of the Children's Mental Health Campaign (CMHC), a coalition of more than 160 organizations, have made infant and early childhood mental health promotion, prevention and intervention a top priority.

Children's Mental Health Policy Priorities

- Establish an Ombudsman within the Office of the Child Advocate who will be "hands on," assisting families to resolve problems with getting their children the mental health care they need.
- Require insurance carriers to ensure the accuracy of the information on their provider directories.
- Require coverage for community and home-based behavioral health care services (wraparound care) for children and adolescents with mental health disorders who are covered by commercial insurance.

In June, the CMHC convened more than 125 practitioners, family members, policymakers, legislators, and advocates including some of the country's most respected thought leaders for an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Summit (IECHM) to chart a course to develop a robust system of IECMH care in the Massachusetts.

Underscoring their shared commitment and determination to advance this agenda, the event opened with the commissioners of the departments of mental health, public health, and early education and care, as well as the federal SAMHSA Administrator. The distinguished panel described collaborative efforts underway within their agencies, sparking great energy and ideas among the participants which informed the afternoon's work to identify critical next steps.

MSPCC is proud to be a leader on this important issue which holds the promise of a lasting impact on the well-being of our children.



Mary McGeown speaking next to DMH Commissioner Joan Mikula, DPH Commissioner Monica Bharel, EEC Commissioner Tom Weber, and Regional SAMHSA Administrator Kathryn Power at the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Summit.

Turning Points: An Evening to Benefit MSPCC

On April 4th, MSPCC held its annual dinner, Turning Points: An Evening to Benefit MSPCC. Steve Pagliuca was honored for his eighteen years of dedicated service to at-risk children as MSPCC Board Member and Chair. Editor of The Boston Globe, Brian McGrory, accepted the inaugural "Voice of the Child" award on behalf of The Boston Globe for their unwavering coverage of child welfare issues. Governor Charlie Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker, members of The Boston Globe, and Boston Celtics Legends Cedric Maxwell and Walter McCarty were among the attendees.



MSPCC Board of Advisors with Governor Charlie Baker



First Lady Lauren and Governor Charlie Baker, Mary McGeown, Judy and Steve Pagliuca

MSPCC would like to thank some of our Turning Points sponsors: Bain Capital Children's Charity Ltd., Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, Paul and Sandy Edgerley, Wyc Grousbeck and Emilia Fazzalari, Michael Krupka and Anne Kubik, Stephen and Judy Pagliuca, Steven and Deborah Barnes, Boston Children's Hospital, John and Stephanie Connaughton, Kate Markarian, Sensata Technologies, Inc., Berkshire Partners LLC, Putnam Investments, Peter and Abby Coffin, Fidelity Investments, J.P. Morgan Securities, Charlie Jacobs and The Boston Bruins, Robert K. Kraff, Phil and Ellie Loughlin, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc., Peter C. Noonan, Parthenon-EY, PwC, Ropes & Gray LLP, Charles and Zalena Senatore, Peter Lynch, and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley.

On June 5th, golfers joined MSPCC at Wollaston Golf Club in Milton for the annual Drive Fore Kids tournament, helping to raise over \$90,000. Thank you to the more than ninety golfers who turned out to support MSPCC. Special thanks to MSPCC Board members Jeff Coté and Rich McCarthy for co-chairing this event and to our many generous sponsors.

MSPCC would like to thank some of our tournament sponsors: Sensata Technologies, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, Goldman Sachs, and RBC Capital Partners.



Peter Fallon, Michael Ablondi, Jeff Cote, and Jack Baptist



John Snellings, Marc Forgione, and Rich McCarthy



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Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



Investing in MSPCC Through the Mary Ellen Society

The Mary Ellen Society honors supporters whose generosity via bequests or life income gifts assures MSPCC's future excellence. Mary Ellen Society members receive advance 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.

Healthy Families Graduation

Summer 2017

Throughout the month of August, MSPCC sites saw participants of the Healthy Families programs graduate with the skills they need to be successful parents. Healthy Families is a program of the Children's Trust that works with young parents from pregnancy until their child is three years old. Congratulations to all these amazing parents!

Canobie Lake with the Celtics

August 2017

On August 17th, the Boston Celtics and the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation continued their tradition of a fun day at Canobie Lake Park with MSPCC. Twenty-five foster and adopted children joined Board Emeritus, Steve Pagliuca, Lucky the Leprechaun, and Celtics players for a day of fun and rides!