



A Time to Give Thanks

On a beautiful autumn evening, four families from MSPCC's KINnections Grandparent/Kinship family program were the lucky recipients of tickets to a Red Sox game. For many of the children, this was their first experience at "America's Most Beloved Ballpark." To one family in particular, this day was much more than just a fun outing.

Deb and Steve have been raising their two grandchildren, Aiden and Chloe, for the past two years. Despite living on a fixed income, Deb and Steve knew the best people to raise their grandchildren were the two of them. Through KINnections, they have received ongoing support, legal services, and the overall comfort that comes with knowing someone is there to help.

During the trip to Fenway Park, Aiden and Chloe saw other families with similar backgrounds and circumstances. **"We want them to grow up knowing that they matter, they are important, and they are good people,"** explained Deb. To this

family, the Red Sox tickets were not just about going to a baseball game. It was a turning point for their grandchildren. Aiden and Chloe learned they are not alone, and that families come in many different forms.

During the holidays, we are especially grateful for the support from our donors. At MSPCC, it is a time to express our thanks and to acknowledge those who have helped us in our efforts toward achieving our mission.

When Thanksgiving meals are delivered, when holiday toys arrive for our children, or when we are able to give a family an experience they've never had, we are reminded how fortunate we are for your kindness. Your generosity gives hope to children and families across Massachusetts.

For all you do for MSPCC and the children and families we serve, **thank you.**

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Massachusetts Society
for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Children

The Holidays are Here!

MSPCC needs your assistance to give the children we support a very special holiday season. Each year, we bring holiday toys and meals to as many of the children and families we serve as possible.

This December, we are collecting non-perishable food donations through December 18th. Online cash donations for holiday dinners can be made at mspcc.org/donate. We are also looking for new children's toys, books, and other items listed below to be delivered on or before December 16th. You can also **visit our Amazon wish list at <http://a.co/8rKV2xP>** and have donations sent directly to our Boston office. Or please join us the week of December 11th for our Winter Wonderland. (Details provided on the back cover.)



Suggestions for fun and safe children's toys!

Toys

Action Figures
Blocks
Legos
Dolls – All Ethnicities
Matchbox Cars & Trucks
Sports Equipment
Pillow Pets
Nerf Basketball Hoops
Remote Control Toys
Costumes/Dress Up
Toys from Disney's Moana
Ninja Turtles Toys
Pokémon Toys
K'NEX
Lincoln Logs
Stuffed Animals
My Little Pony
Littlest Pet Shop
Any Board Games

Technology

CDs (No Parental Advisory)
DVDs (Rated G or PG)
Personal MP3 Players
Handheld Games
Headphones and Earbuds
Non-violent Videogames

Toiletries

Bath & Shower Gels
Body Lotion
Nail Polish
Make-Up Kits

Tickets

Bowling
Children's Museum
Movie Passes
Museum of Science
Sports Events

Arts and Crafts

Jewelry Making Kits
Journaling
Art Supplies
Modeling Clay
Paints & Brushes
Drawing Paper/Pads
Markers
Glue
Glitter Glue
Coloring Books & Crayons
Sticker Activity Kits
Bead Kits
Play-Doh

Gift Cards

Best Buy
GAP/Old Navy
Target
Toys R Us

Infants and Toddlers

Development Toys
Baby Einstein
LeapFrog
Fisher Price
Playskool Explore 'n Grow
Onesies
No Scratch Mittens
Receiving Blankets
Blanket Sleepers
Infant Hats
Infant Socks/Booties
Soft Toys
Play Mats

Other Items

Books – All Ages
Character Comforters
Clothing - All Sizes
Wrapping paper or gift bags

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



From the Desk of

Mary McGeown

Dear Friends:

The holidays are a time for reflection and to give thanks. At MSPCC, we are grateful to the hundreds of home visitors, clinicians, therapeutic mentors and countless others who work with at-risk children and families across Massachusetts, helping them heal, grow, and achieve new goals. MSPCC's exceptional staff teach, counsel, train, and above all, give hope and support to those most in need.

I am grateful for MSPCC's multitude of community partners and stakeholders who believe our experience, knowledge, and determination can make a difference in the lives of children.

Finally, I am thankful for you - our dedicated and compassionate donors. Without your support, MSPCC would not be the legacy organization that it is today. Since 1878, MSPCC has been persistent in our efforts to protect and promote the rights and well-being of children and families. Today, we continue the work begun more than 139 years ago, and advocate for policies and practices that advance our fundamental values. We are able to continue our vital work because kind and generous people like you believe in those same values: that children deserve to be safe and healthy, children grow up best in families, and all families deserve support.

For all of this, I am most thankful.

On behalf of everyone at MSPCC, our best wishes to you for a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy 2018.

Mary A. McGeown
Executive Director

Canobie Lake Park with the Boston Celtics

MSPCC is grateful for the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation's annual trip to Canobie Lake Park. This year, we were joined by Celtics players Abdel Nader and Guerschon Yabusele and Celtics co-owner Steve Pagliuca for a full day of fun and rides. Thank you to the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation and Canobie Lake Park for giving such a wonderful memory to our foster kids!



Adoption Day in Massachusetts

Every year, MSPCC celebrates National Adoption Day on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This November 17th, courts across Massachusetts and the United States came together to prioritize the finalization of thousands of adoptions.

Last year, in Massachusetts, more than one hundred children were adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. In addition, this day shines a light on the number of children in foster care waiting for their forever families.

"Adoption day is an incredibly happy event because it is the day that a family gets legally and formally recognized," said Ashley Pepoli, MSPCC's Director of Adoption Services. "It is also the culmination of a long journey that the child and family have been on, both before they met one another and after, and it highlights the resiliency of everyone who made it to that day because adoption legalization does not happen overnight."

In the United States, there are over 420,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent, loving families. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, visit mspcc.org/become-foster-parent.

Did you know?

According to the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, more than

120

children in Massachusetts were adopted last National Adoption Day, and nearly

58,500

children have been adopted nationwide since the very first adoption day in 2000!



Check Out Our New Website!

MSPCC's new and improved website has launched. We have been working on redesigning and rebuilding our website and now we are ready to share it with you. The site focuses on our goals to inform donors and stakeholders of our latest work, provide easy access to services for those in need along with the help of our partner, Eliot Community Human Services, and keep the public informed on our advocacy work and important issues. Visit our new site at mspcc.org and let us know what you think!

MSPCC Advocacy Update

"Children are our most precious resource. When we look into the face of a child we love, we see wonder at every new experience, an openness to the world that is fearless, and a response to human interaction that is both trusting and inviting. We also see an innocence and dependency that make us want to guide, to defend and to protect the child unconditionally – without regard to personal consequence. All children have the right to be protected, to grow, to thrive and to be educated in a safe, secure, and caring environment until the time comes for them to 'leave the nest' and establish their place in the wider world. Our children's/youth's health, development, survival and dignity are both our legacy and our future." - Excerpt from the Report of the Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

MSPCC played a leadership role establishing and participating on the Massachusetts Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Task Force, co-chaired by Maria Mossaides, Director of the Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate and Suzin Bartley, Executive Director of the Children's Trust, released a report which recommended the first steps to ensure that youth serving organizations across the Commonwealth have the resources to prevent child sexual abuse. Since the report's publication, there have been a series of meetings across the region to discuss feedback and hear input from experts in the field.

The report provides guidelines for:

- Developing policies and procedures for child protection
- Screening and background checks for employees of youth serving organizations
- Establishing a code of conduct to monitor employees in these organizations
- Ensuring safe physical environments and safe technology
- Responses to sexual abuse
- Trainings on child abuse prevention for all employees of youth serving organizations

To learn more about the report, visit malegislature.gov/Bills/190/SD2251

Corporate Spotlight: Tech Gives Back



In October, **Building Impact**, **Technology Underwriting Greater Good (TUGG)**, and **Silicon Valley Bank** teamed up with more than 1,500 volunteers from various tech companies for a day of volunteering around Boston. MSPCC participated in this day of service and hosted volunteers at our Boston office. We are grateful for the work of our volunteers that included painting and assembling furniture and creating fleece tie blankets for our children. **Thank you to everyone involved for this wonderful show of support!**

Interested in volunteering with MSPCC? Visit our website at mspcc.org/volunteer



Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

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Lawrence

439 South Union Street
Lawrence, MA 01843
978.682.9222

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Worcester, MA 01602
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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.

Winter Wonderland

December 11-15, 2017

In mid-December, MSPCC will host holiday volunteers at our Boston office for gift wrapping. Join us for hot chocolate, festive music, and snacks, all while giving back! Be sure to bring friends, family, and a gift to wrap for an MSPCC child.

31 Nights of Light

December 21, 2017

On Thursday December 21st, the Prudential Center will be lit up MSPCC purple as part of their 31 Nights of Light. The Prudential Center honors different non-profits throughout the month of December, so be sure to look up and think of MSPCC!

Turning Points

April 4, 2018

Join us on Wednesday, April 4th, 2018, for Turning Points: An Evening to Benefit MSPCC at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. This year we celebrate 140 years of being the voice of the child.

