



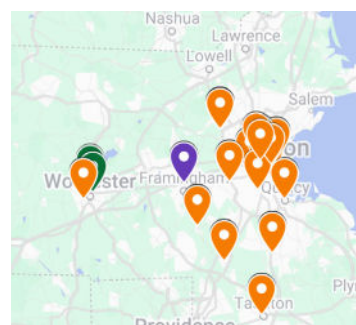
It Takes a Village: Mapping IECMH Workforce Assets and Needs

This spring, MSPCC announced the release of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Workforce Systems Mapping Report. Produced by MSPCC and Boston University and funded by the Boston Foundation, the report highlights strengths and barriers in the infant and early childhood mental health and relational workforce, providing a foundation for informing policy and advocacy efforts to strengthen workforce trainings and infrastructure.

Aditi Subramaniam, MSPCC's Director of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Policy, presented the report alongside Boston University researchers at a May 20th event held at the Boston Foundation. Subramaniam also moderated a panel discussion featuring leaders in the field of early childhood mental health from Community Teamwork, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and The Home for Little Wanderers.

Subramaniam remarked, "Just like it takes a village to care, nurture, and support babies and families, it is crucial to also prioritize the well-being of the workforce that cares for them. We are excited for this first systems mapping effort of the needs of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health workforce which enables us to better understand their strengths and challenges."

To read the full report, please scan this QR code!



One view of the interactive map included in the Systems Mapping Report. This map and the results from this study serve as a starting point for examining the IECMH workforce needs and strengths.



Aditi Subramaniam with colleagues from the Boston Foundation, BU School of Social Work, Community Teamwork, MA Department of Mental Health, and The Home for Little Wanderers.



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

MSPCC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

inspire.



From the Desk of
Nancy Allen-Scannell

Dear MSPCC Supporters,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer and spending time doing whatever brings you joy. However, if you are having trouble finding joy given the deeply unsettling (and, in some cases, tragic) recent events, we understand. At times like this, it can be helpful to take a moment to focus on what is going well.

In these pages, you will read about a LOT of talented people and effective programs that are helping children and families. In recent months, MSPCC has supported thousands of parents and youth, provided opportunities for summer fun for children in foster care, and taken time to celebrate the hard work and commitment of dedicated foster parents across the state. We successfully advocated for vital state resources for child mental health and to support families in need. And we acted as a key collaborator on research to inform strategies for supporting infants, young children, and the professionals who work with them. Our work is vital, and even in the face of great challenges and uncertainty, we cannot, and will not, lose focus.

Children dealing with instability at home, serious health conditions, and traumatic circumstances have goals and dreams and deserve a bright future. They are depending on us, and together, we will not let them down.

As you read about our efforts, may it give you a small dose of hope or a burst of optimism to reenergize and renew your commitment to supporting children and families who are facing serious challenges. Because you matter today more than ever...to kids and families, and to the team at MSPCC.

In this moment, we need to step up, not back. Please join us.

In gratitude,
Nancy

Nancy Allen-Scannell
Executive Director

Back-to-School Supplies



MSPCC children and families are always in great need of everyday essentials and, currently, back-to-school supplies. Below is a list of the most needed items, which may be purchased and sent directly to MSPCC so that our staff can deliver them to families. If you prefer, cash donations are always welcome and will be used to help us purchase these for families in need.

Back to School Supplies

- notebooks
- folders
- pens and pencils
- crayons
- pencil cases
- backpacks

Baby Essentials

- diapers - sizes 2, 3, 4, 5
- baby wipes
- diaper rash ointment
- newborn wash & shampoo
- onesies (size 3-6 and 6-9 months)

Grocery Gift Cards

- Market Basket
- Stop & Shop
- Walmart
- Target

Purchased items and checks can be sent to MSPCC, 125 Hartwell Ave, Lexington, MA 02421. You may also make a donation online at www.mspcc.org/donate. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Lima, Director of Development, at 617.587.1587 or mlima@mspcc.org. Thank you!

Celebrating Massachusetts Foster Parents

On June 8, nearly 200 foster parents, MSPCC staff, and supporters from across Massachusetts gathered at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center for the annual Massachusetts Alliance for Foster Families (MAFF) Foster and Adoptive Parent Recognition Awards Brunch. Each Department of Children and Families (DCF) area office and regional Adoption Development and Licensing Unit (ADLU) selected foster parents to be honored at the ceremony for their dedication to serving the children in their care and supporting other foster families.

A highlight of the event came when Kodi Chouinard, who had grown up in foster care, spoke about his experience, sharing words of wisdom for young people in foster care: "The world might try to label you based on your circumstances. They might call you 'troubled,' 'at risk,' or 'damaged.' But those are just words, and none of them have the power to determine your worth or your future."



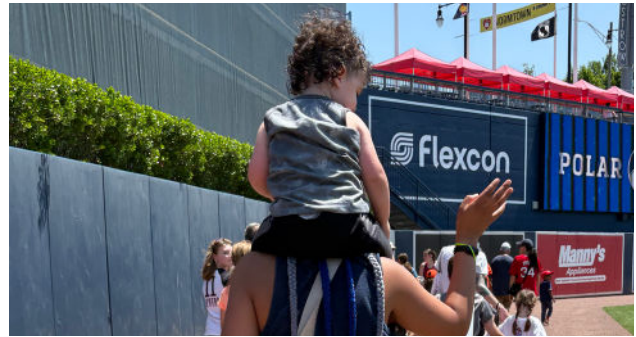
In addition to 34 sets of foster parents from around Massachusetts, two longtime supporters of foster children and families were honored at the event:

Representative Sean Garballey, State Representative for the 23rd Middlesex District, received the Lisa Anne Jenkins Policymaker of the Year Award, which is named for a longtime foster parent and MAFF member and recognizes a policymaker who shares her commitment to prevention of child abuse and neglect and to improve the lives of children in DCF care. Garballey was honored for his work in the Massachusetts legislature, which has involved chairing the legislature's Foster Care Caucus and working on pieces of legislation focused on enabling adoptees to obtain their original birth certificates, funding higher education for foster and adopted children who attend state universities, and hiring more social workers.



Anthony DeJura and Richard Twarog received the Goldie Rogers Award for Outstanding Foster Parents. Established in memory of Goldie Rogers, a foster parent who perished in a tragic house fire, the award is presented each year to a foster parent or parents who embody her commitment to child well-being and to foster parenting. DeJura and Twarog were honored for their devotion and attentiveness to their foster children, some of whom have had behavioral and medical needs, and for the support they provide to other foster parents. When presenting them with the award, MAFF President Cathie Twiraga shared that when one of their adopted children was asked about the greatest gift he ever received, he responded, "A family."

Take Us Out to the Ballgame



Ensuring children in foster care feel safe and comfortable is essential, and part of that includes developing a rapport with their foster families. To that end, in what's become an annual tradition and official kickoff to summer, MSPCC's Kid's Net program hosted nearly 300 children in foster care and their families at the June 22nd Worcester Red Sox game. After strolling the outfield and receiving gifts including baseballs, foam fingers, gloves, and water bottles, the group cheered the WooSox to a 12-10 victory over the Buffalo Bisons!



Touch-A-Truck Event

On June 11, more than 40 families from MSPCC's Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers prevention programs enjoyed an afternoon of summer fun at our Holyoke office's "Touch-A-Truck" event. Children and their families had the chance to board trucks big and small, have their faces painted, cool off with treats from an ice cream truck, and create child safety kits.

Special thanks to Casella Waste Management, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Chicopee Police Department, Holyoke Fire Department, and the Massachusetts State Police for their participation!

Join the Young Professional Board

MSPCC's Young Professional Board is a group of early-stage career professionals who come from fields including finance, healthcare, education, law, and nonprofits and have a strong dedication to MSPCC's work. The group hosts regular social and volunteer events and seeks to fundraise, friendraise, and enhance the mission of MSPCC in the community.

Visit mspcc.org/ypb to learn more and get involved!





Introducing MSPCC KidStuff Fund

A new car seat. Sports equipment. Summer camp fees.

We all know that raising children comes with expenses that add up quickly. For many MSPCC families, those expenses can seem insurmountable. That's why we recently announced the launch of the MSPCC KidStuff Fund. The fund will ensure MSPCC kids, many of whom have faced trauma and instability in their lives, can have the extras in life that make childhood fun.

Your gift to the MSPCC KidStuff Fund will give staff the ability to tell a family, "Yes, we can help with that!" Because as we all know, to a child, sometimes the little things make the biggest difference.

How will your gift bring joy to children?



\$1,000

Bonding with a foster family is critical for a child. Your \$1,000 donation can provide 10 families with a day of fun at a museum, an amusement park, or a family-friendly show, where they'll build memories they'll cherish forever.

\$500

Bringing home a new baby is exciting, but also overwhelming and expensive. Your gift of \$500 can provide a new family with a "Welcome Baby" basket containing diapers, wipes, ointment, onesies, and other newborn necessities to help smooth the transition home.

\$250

Physical safety is just as important to our families as emotional safety. Your \$250 donation can purchase a stroller or a car seat for a young child, ensuring that no matter how our families travel with their babies and toddlers, they are safe and comfortable.

\$100

The transition to a foster home can be overwhelming for a child who has already experienced confusion and trauma. Your \$100 donation will provide a child with a comfort kit filled with items like a warm blanket, a stuffed animal, a book, and other soothing items to help them feel safe as they settle into their new foster home.

Visit
mspcc.org/kidstuff-fund
to learn more!





Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

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SUPPORT MSPCC!

By giving to MSPCC, you provide resources to teach young parents the skills they need to create safe, nurturing relationships with their babies, support high-quality services for children in foster care, counsel families in times of crisis, mobilize policymakers to protect children, and so much more. Visit mspcc.org/donate or scan the QR code below to make a difference for kids and families.



ARE YOU UP TO DATE ON MSPCC'S ADVOCACY WORK?

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/newsletter



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