



Dorchester Foster Family Honored as ‘Heroes Among Us’ by the Boston Celtics

Boston, MA – February 13, 2015 – Foster parents Layeforest and Joseph Donald of Dorchester, Massachusetts, were honored as ‘Heroes Among Us’ by The Boston Celtics during their game against the Atlanta Hawks on February 11. Since becoming foster parents in 1982, the couple has opened their home to care for hundreds of teenage boys, including many who struggle with behavioral health issues after being removed from their biological homes. The Donalds work as a team, providing structure, stability, and love to help these boys overcome obstacles and thrive.

“The Donalds have had such a significant impact on so many at-risk teenagers. They not only provide these kids with a loving home but a life-long family as well,” said Steve Pagliuca, Boston Celtics Managing Partner and Shamrock Foundation President. “We are proud to recognize this selfless, hardworking couple and the dedication of so many other foster families in Massachusetts.”

The Donald family was nominated by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), an organization that works to help kids thrive by providing support to foster families, child abuse and neglect prevention programs, and child and family counseling.

During Wednesday’s game, the Celtics presented the award to the Donalds and recognized MSPCC for its long history of protecting children in Massachusetts. The Shamrock Foundation presented MSPCC with a \$50,000 check, and gave fans the opportunity to help in MSPCC’s efforts to keep kids safe and healthy by buying 50/50 raffle tickets.

“We are so thankful to the Celtics for honoring the important role that foster parents like Layeforest and Joseph play in our communities,” said Mary McGeown, President and CEO of MSPCC. “The Boston Celtics and The Shamrock Foundation are long-time champions for children and families and great supporters of our mission to help keep kids safe and healthy.”

MSPCC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights and well-being of children through direct services and through systemic advocacy. Last year MSPCC provided more than 24,000 children and families across Massachusetts with child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and family counseling, and support for foster and adoptive families, military families, and young parents. For more information, visit:

www.mspcc.org.

About the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation

The mission of the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation is to extend the reach of the Celtics championship legacy into our community. The Shamrock Foundation benefits our children directly, through programs that provide education and support. The Shamrock Foundation also partners with community-based organizations that provide healthcare, shelter and vital services for children in need. Foundation partners are the Berklee City Music Network, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, Boston Children’s Hospital, Horizons for Homeless Children, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), Perkins School for the Blind, Citi Performing Arts Center, Positive Coaching Alliance, and The3PointFoundation. For more information on the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, visit

www.celtics.com/foundation.

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Photo:



Layeforest and Joseph Donald of Dorchester accept the Heroes Among Us award from the Boston Celtics during the team's February 11 game against the Atlanta Hawks. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN BABINEAU.