Holiday Giving
Generous and determined MSPCC supporters far exceeded our expectations this past holiday season! Thank you to everyone who gave a gift, held a toy or clothing drive, wrapped presents, or volunteered their time at the MSPCC Winter Wonderland throughout December. Your thoughtfulness gave more than 500 children a happy holiday.

Support MSPCC all year!
We are always awed by the generosity of our donors during the holiday giving season and the joy of providing gifts to the children we serve and advocate for, but in less festive months, MSPCC sees our donations decrease while the needs of our families remain constant.

By giving monthly, you join the community of the Brighter Future Fund and ensure that our children receive the care and supplies they need throughout the year!

One year of monthly giving can support...
- $5 a month ($60 per year): A skill-enhancing activity with a Therapeutic Mentor
- $10 a month ($120 per year): One hour of service for young parents to learn about their baby’s healthy development.
- $25 a month ($300 per year): A week of summer camp for a foster child
- $50 a month ($600 per year): Specialized training for one clinician to better assist the children we serve
- $100 a month ($1,200 per year): Therapeutic resources for effective individual or family therapy

Want to give to the Brighter Future Fund? Sign up for monthly gifts here: mspcc.org/monthlygiving

Invest in MSPCC Through the Mary Ellen Society
The Mary Ellen Society honors supporters who give generously via bequests or life-income gifts. 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 617.983.5800 or via email at mel.lima@mspcc.org.

Promoting Prevention
For more than 35 years, April has been National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Much has happened in forty-five years. No longer is a child anywhere seen as a ‘private family matter’; child abuse has been brought to the forefront of public awareness and public policy now focuses on the safety of children and the strengthening of families. As MSPCC celebrates its 181st anniversary in April 2018, we look back on a history of public advocacy and legislative victories, innovative programs to advance the cause of children’s well-being, and preventing child abuse.

Deb and Bill Sweet have been advocates in the mission to prevent child abuse for the past 11 years as foster and adoptive parents. With three biological children, and two adoptive children, it seems overwhelming to some parents, that’s 90 percent of the job…We are not exceptional people, we are just a family who decided to do this.” Fostering helps one whole child and there is nothing small about that.”

At any given time, there are 6,000-9,000 children in foster care. To find out more about fostering, call 800.KIDS.508.

Deb and Bill say that their children are “researching making futures bright for others. The Sweet family help their foster brothers and sisters, focusing on the generosity and kindness of their parents. Deb and Bill say this is the generation of ambassadors to continue the work of preventing child abuse prevention.

Fostering helps one whole child and there is nothing small about that!”

Inspirations
Spring 2018
From the Desk of Mary McGeown

Dear Friends:

Each morning, as I open the doors to our office, I close my eyes for a moment and imagine the effect of hard work on a family in transition.

The agency’s first recorded case, almost 190 years ago, describes a child compelled to enter a foundling home.

Though the story is from the early 1800s, the task of helping to support the causes of child welfare remains unchanged.

As the voice of the child, MSPCC works to advocate for foster children and the caring adults who are so critical to their development and healing.

In February, Eliot Community Human Services, in collaboration with the Eliot FRC, holds a roundtable event to foster understanding among colleagues with a focus on children. MSPCC is proud to participate in this event and support our work with our successful fundraising," said Mary McGeown. "I am grateful to Rich for his commitment to MSPCC’s mission of preventing child abuse. Through his steadfast support and with the help of the FRC, we are able to make a difference for children and families."

Thank you to Rich McCarthy for providing support and resources to foster families across Massachusetts in their efforts to better understand their needs and challenges. MSPCC conducted a survey to foster parents as an opportunity to garner their experiences and perspectives. The findings from the survey will offer important ideas to foster families and communities.

MSPCC’s Kids Help line program provides support and resources to foster families across Massachusetts. In an effort to better understand their needs and challenges, MSPCC conducted a survey to foster parents as an opportunity to garner their experiences and perspectives. The findings from the survey will offer important ideas to foster families and communities.

Foster Parent Survey

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MSPCC Executive Director Mary McGeown, on behalf of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC), had the opportunity to testify on an Act Relative to Controlling Addictions. According to Treatment Reimbursement, Prioritizing, and Enhancing Prevention (CARE Act). This goal of the act is to mitigate the addiction crisis in Massachusetts. Mr. McGeown was sponsoring an effort to promote prevention of youth substance use and addiction. “Though not often thought of the way addiction is a pediatric disease.”

Because of this, the CMHC brought the CMHC urged the committee to support the creation of the Safe and Supportive Schools Trust Fund proposed in the CARE Act, which would invest in school-based prevention, education, and intervention programs.

Advocacy Update - CARE Act

MSPCC Executive Director Mary McGeown, on behalf of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC), test the opportunity to offer testimony on an Act Relative to Controlling Addictions. According to Treatment Reimbursement, Prioritizing, and Enhancing Prevention (CARE Act). This goal of the act is to mitigate the addiction crisis in Massachusetts. Mr. McGeown was sponsoring an effort to promote prevention of youth substance use and addiction. “Though not often thought of the way addiction is a pediatric disease.”

Because of this, the CMHC brought the CMHC urged the committee to support the creation of the Safe and Supportive Schools Trust Fund proposed in the CARE Act, which would invest in school-based prevention, education, and intervention programs.

The CMHC supports:

- Funding for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in all public school districts.

- The school district must use the SBIRT funding to screen and refer students for substance abuse and provide positive reinforcement, brief intervention, and referral to treatment, as appropriate.

- Support for continued research, evaluation, and validation of evidence-informed practices.

In recognizing that resources are tight, we must resist the urge to fund promising unproven initiatives.

- Urge the legislature to take action to ensure revenues from the sale of recreational marijuana are allocated to support research and implementation of substance use prevention programs and services.

Nearly 1,000 foster parents have participated and the results are currently being analyzed by MSPCC.

To learn more about our advocacy for foster children and foster parents visit mspcc.org/issues-fostercare.
Support MSPCC all year!

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- $5 a month ($60 per year): A skill-enhancing activity with a Therapeutic Mentor
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- $25 a month ($300 per year): A skill-enhancing activity with a Therapeutic Mentor
- $50 a month ($600 per year): Specialized training for one clinician to better assist the children we serve.
- $100 a month ($1,200 per year): Therapeutic resources for effective individual or family therapy.
- $250 a month ($3,000 per year): Foundation support for the Mary Ellen Society. With your generous support, we will continue to provide social services, including family case management and a wide array of resources for families who need them.

Support MSPCC through the Mary Ellen Society

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If you have included MSPCC in your estate plans, or would like to learn more, please contact Melanie Lima, Director of Development and Special Events, at 508-753-2967 or via email at melanie.lima@mspcc.org.

Promoting Prevention

Invest in MSPCC Through the Mary Ellen Society

For more than 35 years, April has been National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Much has happened in the forty-five years. No longer is it a "private family matter," as a family may be one of the reasons why they foster: "We are just being parents, that's 90 percent of the job...We parent our biological children, and two adoptive children, it seems overwhelming to some...We are foster and adoptive parents. With these biological children, and these adoptive children, it seems overwhelming to some that they continue fostering children, many of whom have serious medical conditions, but Deb says that is part of why they foster..." We are not just foster parents, that's 90 percent of the job. We aren't just parents, that's 90 percent of the job..."

Deb and Bill Sweet have been ambassadors in the mission to prevent child abuse for the past 11 years as fosters and adoptive parents. With three biological children, and two adoptive children, they serve as advocates in their state to continue the work of promoting child abuse prevention.

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Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Inspire

SPRING 2018

Mary Ellen Society

Foundation support for the Mary Ellen Society. With your generous support, we will continue to provide social services, including family case management and a wide array of resources for families who need them.

Invest in MSPCC Through the Mary Ellen Society

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Thank you Rich McCarthy

Rich would like to extend his gratitude to Rich McCarthy for his service on the MSPCC Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, for his work on the MSPCC Board of Directors in Illinois and Iowa, and for his work in many ways, most notably as the longstanding Chair of MSPCC’s annual Drive Four Kids golf tournament.

“I am so grateful to Rich for his commitment to MSPCC’s mission of preventing child abuse. Through his steadfast dedication to awareness among colleagues, co-workers, family, friends, and fellow advocates, Rich has supported our work with his successful fundraising,” said Mary McGeown. “He even involved his children! We always appreciated his little girl having a lemonade stand on the sidewalk, and his daughter, Kelly, sharing his spirit and help in the MSPCC’s work to end child abuse.”

Rich is Chief Financial Officer at Foro Advisors, Inc. He is also a Co-Founder of RePicture Group and Room and Grey, LLC. Rich received his M.B.A. from Boston University, a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts, and his B.A. from the University of South Carolina.

Thanks to you and the McCarthy family for your many years of committed and dedicated service at MSPCC.

Advocacy Update - CARE Act

MSPCC Executive Director Mary McGeown, on behalf of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC), had the opportunity to testify on the Annual Act to Combat Juvenile Delinquency. According to Preventing Recidivism, and Enhancing Prevention (CARE) Act. This goal of the act is to mitigate the adverse effects in Massachusetts. McGeown was speaking in an effort to promote prevention of youth substance use and addiction. “I thought not even thought of this as the way to solve it, but in a way, it’s a way to solve it. Because of this, the MSPCC brought the CMHC out to support the creation of the Safe and Supportive Schools Trust Fund proposed in the CARE Act, which would invest in school-based prevention, education, and intervenes programs.

The CMHC supports:
• Funding for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in all public school districts. This would equal school nurses or other appropriate health or support staffs screen students for substance abuse and provide post-supportive, brief intervention or referral to treatment, as appropriate.
• Support for continued research, evaluation, and validation of evidence-informed practices. In recognizing that resources are tight, we must resist the urge to fund promising untested initiatives.
• Urges the legislature to take action to ensure revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana are allocated to support research and implementation of substance use prevention programs and services.

Family Resource Center

In February, Eliot Community Human Services, with which MSPCC merged in 2016, celebrated the opening of the new FRC Resource Center in Everett. Close to 60 members of the community gathered to hear speakers Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representative Joe McMinimee, Chief of Staff for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Paula Farris, and the Director of the Family Resource Center Lizanne Relihan. Each presented the new resource center and the help it will bring to the community. “It was a true pleasure taking in the Open House and learning more about the many community partners that came together to make this FRC reality,” said Senator DiDomenico. “I have no doubt that the Eliot FRC is an important social service of community and support for people throughout the Everett, Chelsea, Malden, and Medford area and will be a vital source that our families can rely on to help them reach their goals in life.”

Supported through funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services is collaborative with ODE, the Eliot FRC welcomes people of all ages, incomes, and abilities and provides solutions to families seeking health, safety, education, and information resources in Everett, Chelsea, Malden, Medford and surrounding communities. The Eliot FRC helps parents, children, and families find emotional support and practical and personal support. “We know that the information, the advice, and the time we spend with FRC participants can change not only their future, but the future of their children and grandchildren,” said Liliana Patino.

Foster Parent Survey

MSPCC’s Kids Help Line program provides support and resources to foster families across Massachusetts. In an effort to better understand these needs and challenges, MSPCC conducted a survey to foster parents as an opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives. The findings from the survey will allow for direct foster family advocacy and policy and planning, including ensuring adequate resources are available to the needs of children in care. The survey was comprehensive and covers a range of topics from general demographic data, such as the age of the foster parents and number of children in the household, to more open-ended questions, including: “What is the most challenging thing about being a foster parent?”

Nearly 1,000 foster parents have participated and the results are currently being analyzed by MSPCC. As the voice of the child, MSPCC works for advocate for foster children and the caring adults who are so critical to their development and well-being. To learn more about our advocacy for foster families and foster parents visit mspcc.org/foster-care.
Thank you to Rich McCarthy

Rich would like to personally thank Rich McCarthy for his dedication to MSPCC. Rich McCarthy was the longtime Executive Director of MSPCC who retired in 2018.

Rich’s deep appreciation for your support of our work. It makes a difference to the families investing in prevention services. We will champion this cause in April at our annual dinner, but there remains much to be done. Our increasing knowledge of the impact of adverse childhood experiences – trauma, neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse – on the developing brain and the lasting physical, emotional and psychological effects of insufficient care or inadequate or adverse environments is surprising. We will continue to make a difference for families in the future.

Foster Parent Survey

MSPCC’s KIDS help program provides support and resources to foster families across Massachusetts. In an effort to better understand their needs and challenges, MSPCC conducted a survey to foster parents as an opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives. The findings from the survey will allow us to direct foster family advocacy, policy, and practice. Including actionable resources for the needs of children in care. The survey was anonymous and closed in early spring 2018. The survey included demographic data, such as the age of the foster parents and number of children in the household, to more open-ended questions, including “What was the most challenging things about being a foster parent?”

Nearly 1,000 foster parents have participated and the results are currently being analyzed by MSPCC.

As the voice of the child, MSPCC works to advocate for foster children and the caring adults who are so critical to their development and well-being. To learn more about our advocacy for foster children and foster parents visit mspcc.org/foster-care.
Support MSPCC all year!

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One year of monthly giving can support…

- 508 kids received at least 4 gifts each (toys/clothing/winter gear)
- 26 different gift drives
- 2 companies have each been hosting drives for MSPCC for 25+ years!
- 3 in-office corporate gift wrapping parties

$5 a month ($60 per year): A skill-enhancing activity with a Therapeutic Mentor

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For more than 114 years, April has been National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Much has happened in the forty-five years. No parent wants their child’s abuse told as a ‘narrative of evil’ but child abuse has been so deeply engrained and public policy now focuses on the safety of children and the strengthening of families. As MSPCC celebrates its 140 anniversary in April 2018, we focus on the story of changing policy and legislative victories, innovative programs to advance the cause of children’s well-being, and preventing abuse.

Deb and Bill Sweet have been ambassadors in the mission to prevent child abuse for the past 9 years as foster and adoptive parents. With their biological children, and their adoptive children, it seems overwhelming to some that they continue fostering children many of whom have serious medical conditions, but Deb says there is a part of why they foster: “We are just being part of the solution, part of the voice of the child by honoring our predecessors whose generosity via bequests or life insurance 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.

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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, MSPCC celebrates 140 years of being the voice of the child by honoring our esteemed Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, past and present, for their dedication, service, and commitment to children throughout Massachusetts.

Prevention Event
April 2018
April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To recognize the importance of this month, MSPCC will honor a foster family who decided to do this.” Fostering helps one whole child…and we aren’t exceptional people, we are just a family who decided to do this.” Fostering helps one whole child and there is nothing small about that!”

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