



MOVING THROUGH FALL

A NOTE FROM CRAIG GORDON, CEO



Craig Gordon, CEO

Dear Friends,
Over the past few months, we have welcomed new staff members, leaders, and board members, all of whom are dedicated to our mission of advancing sustainable solutions for foster care. As CFP continues to grow and amplify our voice, we invite all of you to join us in our mission to provide the love and support that our vulnerable youth in foster care need to thrive.

Whether it's by supporting CFP, becoming a foster parent or helping us find families for our children, joining our team of compassionate professionals, or volunteering your time, your contribution will make a lasting impact. Please also fortify our reach by following our FaceBook, LinkedIn and Instagram

social media pages. Share our posts with your friends and family. Together, we can ensure that every child in foster care feels supported, loved, and equipped to overcome any challenges they may face. Let us unite our efforts in this noble cause and embark on this transformative journey towards a brighter future for all.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL GRADUATION PARTY

CFP's RI program Youth Development Services (YDS) celebrated their second annual Graduation Party this summer. This party shines a spotlight on the academic achievements of youth who are, or were formerly involved with the foster care system. There was a graduation gift presentation and over 54 recipients who each received a graduation gift. There was a 360 Photo-Booth and lots of games and prizes for entertainment as well.

To be eligible youth either completed their GED, received a high school diploma, vocational certificate or an Associates Degree, as well as those who completed and attained Citizenship. The party was held at Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick and included food and a DJ. Everyone had a good time, and most importantly youth were recognized for all their hard work. Congratulations again to all the graduates! We are so proud of all of your hard work and perseverance!



CRAIG GORDON, CEO, PENS A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE BOSTON GLOBE



In addition to celebrating our own growth, we are immensely grateful to have our Letter to the Editor published in the Boston Globe, in response to the thought-provoking article by Jason Laughlin titled "Low on options, DCF using apartments". This letter addresses the critical shortage of foster homes and the challenges faced by the child welfare system. While recognizing the necessity of temporary solutions such as utilizing apartments, we emphasize the vital importance of collaboration with government officials, DCF, private foster care agencies, and community leaders in finding long-term and sustainable solutions for the children and families affected by the foster care system. **You can read the full letter [here](#) to learn more about our insights and recommendations.**

RODMAN RIDE FOR KIDS 2023



Board Members Susan Fink and Kelly McDermott rode alongside Eric Gaboriault, COO and Craig Gordon, CEO



Communities for People was excited to participate in the 33rd Rodman Ride for Kids again this year as part of the Keys Team on September 23rd. Several members of the CFP leadership team rode to build awareness around a wide range of impactful programs to youth and families across Rhode Island AND Massachusetts including; community-based residential programs, managed care networks, adoption, foster care, outpatient services and management information systems.

The light rain couldn't stop team CFP, and our riders were happy to pedal along with hundreds of other fellow nonprofit supporters who are passionate about making an impact on our vulnerable youth and families.

Thank you so much to everyone who showed their support for our mission to foster hope in the lives of those we serve and empower every child, youth and family as they become contributing members of our community. If you have not done so yet, it's not too late to donate-- **the deadline is October 28th!** Your gift will have a real impact in your own town and beyond.

Support the CFP
Rodman Ride for Kids
Cycling team

[DONATE](#)

THANK YOU TO ANNIE'S KINDNESS BLANKETS AND BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD EMPLOYEES

We are so grateful to be the fortunate recipients of 60 blankets, all handmade by Blue Cross Blue Shield employees as part of their state-wide Service Day. These blankets will be given to youth and families receiving services from our Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) program in Rhode Island.

Blue Cross Blue Shield employees come together annually for a company-wide Service Day, volunteering to support non-profits across the state. Last month, 2,800 volunteers participated in 90 service projects across Massachusetts, focused on improving the health of children and families as part of the company's 11th annual Service Day. The blankets we received were part of a project working with Annie's Kindness Blankets, and will certainly come in handy as the seasons change.



CFP’S ANNUAL STAFF DAY



In celebration of the hard work and commitment by the CFP staff all year long, we held our annual Staff Day with a BBQ lunch at Hale Reservation in Westwood, MA on September 19th. We enjoyed hearing about Staff Appreciation Awards, participating in raffle prizes and games and connecting with our fellow team members. To spice things up this year, Program Directors worked with their teams on a “Team Spirit” dress contest. Kudos to all staff members who were willing to show their CFP spirit with some pretty zany outfits. The winning team, pictured below, earned a team lunch provided by CFP.



MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



*Eve Rabinowitz,
Director of
Development*

We are delighted to introduce **Eve Rabinowitz** to our organization as the new **Director of Development**. Her professional commitment to making a difference in the lives of the vulnerable youth population for over 10 years is commendable, and we are excited to have her on our team. A New York Native who relocated to North Providence by way of Boston, Eve is dedicated to supporting both Rhode Island and Massachusetts communities. With a remarkable track record of success in fundraising and advocacy, she is the perfect candidate for this leadership role. We look forward to working with Eve in creating positive change and fueling our fundraising goals.



*Jackie Rastella,
Regional Director of
Rhode Island
Programs*

We are excited to introduce **Jackie Rastella**, the new **Regional Director of Rhode Island programs**. With over 35 years of experience in supporting individuals in community-based settings, Jackie brings extensive expertise in program development, care delivery for complex populations, and stakeholder engagement. She holds a double major in Psychology and Sociology from Rhode Island College, a master's degree in Adult Education from the University of Rhode Island, and a Graduate Certificate in ABA for Special Populations from UMass Boston. Jackie's diverse career includes leadership roles throughout MA, RI and CT in directing clinical, residential, and support services, as well as serving as a clinical consultant and Program Manager. Her dedication, compassion, and mission-based commitment ensure the delivery of quality services for vulnerable populations, aligning perfectly with Communities for People's mission.



*Jim Vincent,
Board Member*

Join us in welcoming our newest board member, **Jim Vincent**. With a strong background in promoting diversity and inclusive communities, Jim's experience as the former president of the NAACP Providence Branch and his current position as the Housing Committee Chairperson at the NAACP New England Area Conference make him a valuable addition to our team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role as Manager of Constituent Advocacy at Rhode Island Housing, where he works to empower underserved communities through outreach and technical assistance. With over two decades of experience in housing and community development, Jim's commitment to social justice and his extensive involvement in various organizations will undoubtedly contribute to our mission of creating safe and inclusive environments for foster youth and advocating for equitable opportunities for all.

READ MORE ABOUT ALL THREE [HERE](#).

CFP HEADQUARTERS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF OUR FOUNDER, JOE LEAVEY

On June 29, 2023, CFP dedicated our headquarters at 418 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, as the “Joseph M. Leavey Office Suite” to honor our Founder, CEO, and visionary leader for over 45 years, Joe Leavey. We will always be grateful for Joe’s vision and compassion for the underserved children and families in Massachusetts and Rhode Island whose countless lives Joe has improved through his leadership.



Joe Leavey, Founder of Communities for People



Boyce Slayman, Chairman of the Board, Joe Leavey, Founder, Craig Gordon, CEO.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY...



Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of at-risk children and families. Let's continue to work towards our vision of a world where every child has a permanent, loving family and every family has the support they need. Communities for People is committed to being a thought leader in developing innovative service models, and with your support, we can make this vision a reality. Join us in our mission to foster hope and enable families to flourish as contributing members of the community.

Here’s how you can make a difference:

- **Join our Amazing Team** of caring professionals. We have a variety of positions available. Check out a full listing of positions [here](#).
- **Become a Foster Parent** and impact the life of a youth waiting for a home. CFP Foster Parents are changing lives on a daily basis. Our experienced, dedicated staff works with every foster family to provide supports every step of the way. You won't be alone; we are in it with you! Learn more [here](#).
- **Volunteer** your time and talent to make a difference in a youth’s life. Communities for People has several opportunities available for you to help coach, partner with or mentor a youth. We also offer a variety of programs and events that can always use an extra set of hands. [We’d love to have you join us!](#)
- **Donate** here through a corporate sponsorship, in-kind donations, or a direct donation to enable us to continue providing crucial assistance to youth and families in MA and RI. No donation is too small– every bit counts to help improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our society. Make a donation today

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND PLEASE FOLLOW, LIKE AND SHARE:



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