



MAKING 2024 THE BEST YEAR YET

A NOTE FROM CRAIG GORDON, CEO



Craig Gordon, CEO

Dear CFP Community,

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead in 2024. In 2023 we experienced one of our best holiday seasons to date. We raised awareness through exciting community events hosted by Boston's star-studded professional athletes. We couldn't have done it without the support of our corporate sponsors, advocates and volunteers who made a real difference in the lives of underserved youth and families in the foster care system.

We are thrilled to announce a new CFP Spring event, Tee Up for Foster Care at Topgolf in Canton. This May we will be recognizing National Foster Care Awareness Month and putting the FUN back into fundraising. We invite you to join us to make an impact for youth and families who are in our care. Read below for more information.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the true superstars of our organization - our committed staff. Our Direct Care workers played a crucial role in helping our youth and families achieve permanency, independence, and integration into the community. We are delighted to be opening a second Dorm Program in MA. We are currently rigorously hiring staff for this new residential program. If you are looking to join our dedicated team and make a difference in the lives young adults, this could be the job for you. Click [here](#) to learn more.

BREAKING NEWS: TEE UP FOR FOSTER CARE EVENT

In recognition of National Foster Care Awareness Month this May, join us for an exciting fundraising event dedicated to foster care! We invite you to come together and make a difference for youth and families served by CFP across MA and RI. Get ready for an unforgettable evening at Topgolf (Canton), where golfers of all skill levels can partake in a high-tech golf fundraiser. With the comfort cooled golf bays, plush seats, great food and full bar access, this event promises an enjoyable experience for all attendees. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 16th from 6-9PM. Register before April 15th for early-bird pricing by visiting clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

SAVE THE DATE



TOPGOLF



We are looking for sponsors to help underwrite the event so we can direct more funds to our most vulnerable population. Enjoy several exciting and exclusive promotional benefits. To secure your sponsorship benefits email [Eve Rabinowitz](#).

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM DORM 2 HAS OPENED SERVING YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-22

We are excited about the opening of the Dorm 2 program! Below is a Q & A with Cynthia Coppola, Assistant Regional Director in MA about the program and why there is a great need for it.

Q. What is Dorm?

A. Dorm is a young adult community living program based in Massachusetts. We have had much success with the opening of the first program in 2022 and look forward to expanding the program to be able to provide more services to young adults in the commonwealth.

CFP's Dorm Program is designed to be a midpoint between group home living and independent living for youth ages 18 – 22. Eligible youth have shown progress in skill development but are not fully prepared for an outreach supported living program. Youth typically are involved in school or work and are seeking to prepare for adulthood.

Q. What is the difference between Dorm 1 and 2?

A. The difference is only in location and less beds for youth due to the apartment space. Due to circumstances beyond their control, youth in this program are not able to be reunified with family or other lifelong connections, and adoption is not an option.

Q. Who is this program in partnership with?

A. This program is for youth involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and/or Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Q. Why did this come about?

A. There is a growing need for this type of program. There are more young adults in the foster care system who are transitioning to independence than there are homes/beds to accommodate them. To meet this need CFP’s goal is to open Dorm 3 later in 2024.

Q. How is the Dorm staffed? Is there a House Manager, and how long have they been with CFP?

A. Our staff is similar to Dorm 1. The difference is Grace Mancuso, will be the Case Manager for the youth and Matilda will serve as House Manager. Grace has been with us for two years. She started at Dorm 1 as a Youth Support Worker and then was promoted to Outreach Worker. Matilda has been with the agency for 13 years. We are delighted to have such a loyal, skilled staff as Grace and Matilda as we continue to expand to respond to the needs of our older youth.



The Dorm 2 Living Room

*“A place where youth can feel welcomed, loved, encouraged and a place they can call home”
–Laquinta Montenegro, Outreach Worker*

If you are interested in applying for a job as a Case Manager or Youth Support Worker, please email out to [Cynthia Coppola](#).

EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES



Youth Development Services

SPEAK Advisory Board

DOUBLE UP

impact Mentor Program

Youth Development Services (YDS) Program is a transformative program based in Rhode Island to provide teens and young adults who have experienced foster care with additional support, focusing on independent living skills to prepare them for transition out of state care.

On October 30, youth from SPEAK Youth Advisory board, which is made up of youth who have experienced the foster care system, and Voluntary Extension of Care (VEC) Unit met with the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) Commissioner, Rebecca Jones Gaston, to discuss the positives and negatives of the child welfare system. The youth created their own agenda, led the discussion, and addressed issues surrounding normalcy, housing, transportation, and mental health. While acknowledging some of the challenges faced by children in the system, they also highlighted the progress made in ensuring youth have access to resources that promote their overall well-being.

Overall, the meeting served as an opportunity for the youth to share their perspective, offer suggestions for improvements in the system and advocate for not only themselves but for others. This meeting allowed the youth to have a voice in the decision-making process and provided an opportunity to bring attention to important issues affecting youth in the system while still spotlighting the positives. According to feedback from the youth, they felt heard, and their concerns were acknowledged.

STAR STUDDED HOLIDAY SEASON



The spirit of giving truly shone through as the Celtics and Patriots went above and beyond to provide a bountiful Thanksgiving feast to our families. Two separate events, filled with grocery-bagging contests, sumptuous meals, and holiday crafts, brought immense joy and gratitude to the hearts of the children. We are immensely grateful to these professional Boston athletes for taking the time to give back to their community of underprivileged kids. A special thanks also goes to the Shaw's Foundation and TD Bank for their amazing volunteers, resources, and generosity that made these events possible.

December brought a new wave of generosity as the New England Patriots' Tight End and CFP Ambassador, Hunter Henry, and UnitedHealthcare embraced the role of Secret Santas at Gillette Stadium. Over 85 of our youth and families were treated to holiday gifts, food, and games that brought smiles and laughter to all. We invite you to watch this heartwarming one-minute video that captures the essence of the holiday season, reminding us of the joy, love, and innocence it brings forth.



[Watch full video here](#)

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST



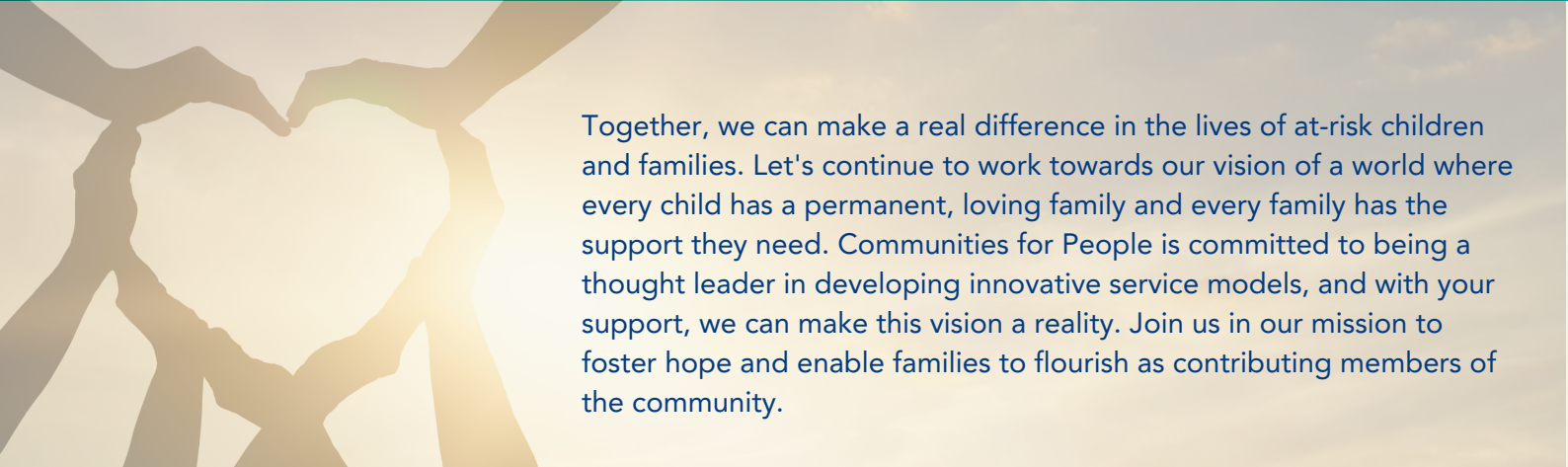
At CFP, the holiday season is not complete until we've had our Annual Holiday Decorating Contest! Five CFP residential programs in Massachusetts competed once again for the title of best decorated program. They showcased their creativity in three categories:

- Representing all holidays
- Youth participation
- Holiday themed desserts

Judges included CFP board members, staff from DCF and members of the executive leadership team. Each program had its own charm. Staff really worked hard to engage youth and support them decorating ideas. Youth who were home share how much it meant to them to have the opportunity to get into the holiday spirit. As one youth from our LIFE Program expressed:

"I've always admired holiday decorations in other people's homes, but I never had them in my own home growing up. Helping to decorate and seeing the magic of Christmas at my new home was amazing and so much fun."

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAKE A HUGE IMPACT IN 2024?



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 with excellent benefits. 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** Your donation makes a difference in the lives of nearly 2000 youth and families who are in our care in both MA and RI each year. You can show your support through a corporate sponsorship, in-kind donations, a direct donation and more. [No donation is too small, it all adds up and makes a great impact.](#) [Make a donation today.](#)

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