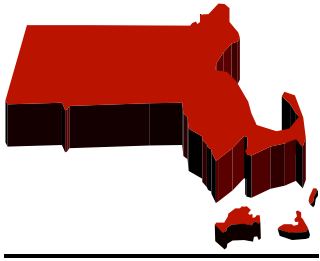


Playspace Programs Across Massachusetts!



In June, the Western Regional office was officially opened. This fourth and final regional office will allow Horizons to become established across the entire state of Massachusetts!

Site Director Patricia Moss has joined the Playspace team and is excited to be bringing HHC programs to the western part of the state. Patricia is a life long resident of Springfield. She has been a very involved advocate for low income families and youth throughout her career, most recently working on a neighborhood assets mapping project.

Please join us in welcoming Patricia to Horizons!

PALS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At our recent 9th Annual Recognition Dinner, the Playspace Programs Department was proud to honor **Rolflyn Cazeau** with the PAL of the Year award. Rolflyn has been a PAL since May 2001 at **Aswalos House**, a teen parent shelter in the **Greater Boston** region. Rolflyn is one of few men to volunteer at a teen program where the majority of children are under age five and often under age three. He dedicates his time to children every Thursday while balancing his family, his own children, work, and being a PAL while constantly keeping volunteering as one of his high priorities. When Rolflyn's shift was understaffed, he made special arrangements with shelter staff at Aswalos House to hold the Playspace in a room adjacent to where families and staff were meeting so that the children did not go without Playspace time during the transition to new PALs. Bridget Faison, Case Manager at Aswalos House, says of Rolflyn, *"Having Rolflyn as a PAL at the Aswalos House has been wonderful. He comes with positive energy and a heart dedicated to children. His presences bring joy and happiness to the children as well the parents"*. Rolflyn is a great role model for the young children at Aswalos House, sharing his thoughtful, caring and playful attitude with many boys and girls over the years.

On a regular basis the **Northeast office** receives phone calls or notes from Irene Destefano, shelter liaison at **BridgeHouse**, about how wonderful all of the PALs are at BridgeHouse. She raves about how much the children love spending time with the volunteers, how they come prepared with different activities and their never-ending patience in dealing with the 20 or so children in the house. However, it goes both ways. The BridgeHouse PALs (**Christine Keefe, Amanda Amirault, Megan Butler, Judi Jackson, Donna Sinclair, Terri Loomer, Betty Thomsen, Candice Sterba, Sarah Fader, Wandy Santiago, Kathleen Cronin, and Claudia Rabines**) also rave about how supportive and helpful Irene is during their volunteer shifts. To show their appreciation for Irene's work the BridgeHouse PALs raised \$150 and gave her a spa gift-certificate during the 9th Annual Recognition Dinner in June. This idea was spearheaded by long-term PAL Sarah Fader. Thank you to all of you for making this program so successful for the children and families living at BridgeHouse.

Squeals of "Rita, Rita!" can be heard from down the block as **Southeast PAL Rita Knight** pulls into the driveway at **Attleboro Family Resource Center**. The kids are unable to contain their excitement knowing another fun-filled shift is about to begin. You would never guess that she is just coming in from a long day at work and a commute. Rita's soothing demeanor and warm smile bring calm to an often chaotic shift. Whether she is swinging the babies or reading to the younger children, the one-on-one attention Rita gives the kids is gobbled up. The Southeast is lucky to have such a dedicated and loved PAL serving in our region. Keep up the good work Rita and thanks a million!

The **Central office** is so lucky to have a PAL like **Jennifer Lotane**. Jen's enthusiasm for volunteering is amazing- her emails and calls are always a highlight, as they recount the fun she's having at her shift at **YOU, Inc Boylston**, a teen parent program in Worcester. Jen, along with buddy **Nicolette Centanni**, has made amazing connections with the children; one day this past fall, a mom and her son missed the bus to get back to their shelter, and the five year old insisted they walk across town- he didn't want to miss his play time! In addition to being a great PAL, Jen takes the time to offer recruitment and office support by distributing flyers, helping staff recruitment tables and assisting at volunteer trainings. Jen's contributions are invaluable- we're so thankful for her smiles, energy and help!

THANK YOU to panelists who spoke at our February, March, April and June Trainings!

PAL PANELS

Central

Gina Beany, *The Village at Cambridge St*
Ernest Ostro, *Daybreak*
Mary Solomita, *Daybreak*

Greater Boston

Kelly Baldwin, *St. Mary's Home*
Patrick Berzai, *Mary Eliza Mahoney House at Dimock*
Avinash Chan, *Temporary Home*
Jenny Engle, *Project Family Independence II*
Jennifer Hibbard, *Elizabeth Stone House-Emergency Shelter*
Chai Hoang, *Putnam Investments CCC*
Margaret Merfeld, *Re-Vision & Miller House*
Brijal Padia, *The Second Step*
Lisa Tucker, *Putnam Investments CCC*

Northeast

Special Thanks to Steve Dimattia for helping make the May 14th
Northeast Region training a success!

Nancy Hopkins, *Merrimack House*
Matt Skavenski, *House of Hope*
Steve Dimattia, *Milly's Place*
Kathleen Cronin, *BridgeHouse*

Southeast

Shelly Nelson, *Cape Cod Center for Women*
Marissa Bennett, *Cape Cod Center for Women*

SHELTER STAFF PANELS

Central

Kim Bowles, *Florence House*
Allison Hill, *Daybreak*
Maribel Saez, *Shepherd's Place*

Greater Boston

Tasha Davidson, *Putnam Investments CCC*
Serena Klempin, *Hestia House, Olivia's Place, & Sandra's Lodge*
Michelle McKissick, *Putnam Investments CCC*
Linda McMaster, *Transition House*
Jillian Standish, *Crossroads Family Shelter*
Sherae Winston, *Re-Vision & Miller House*

Northeast

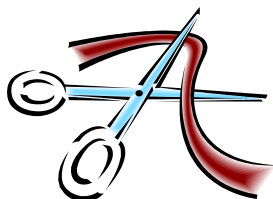
Betsy Leeman, *Lazarus House*
Kathleen Beal, *Milly's Place*
Rachel Thompson, *Emmaus*

Southeast

Angel House, *Amy Brigham*
Carriage House, *Jill Hurley*
Visions teen Parent, *Tina Shorette*
Attleboro Family Resource, *Kara Miller*
Donavon House, *Barbara Travis*
HarBOUR House, *Gina Watkins*
Fall River Family Resource Center, *Stephanie Onge*

100th Playspace Installation!

The Greater Boston office was thrilled to install the 100th Playspace on June 1st 2005 at Crossroads Family Shelter in East Boston. HHC board members along with Greater Boston Playspace Staff spent the day making the space look great! The Board spent part of their annual retreat folding bricks, labeling, putting together furniture, and aiding in assembling what turned out to be a beautiful Playspace. Celtics legend JoJo White, Celtics mascot Lucky, and Senate President Robert E. Travaglini joined shelter staff, families, and PALs at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



CLARA's (Child Life Advocate Ready with Answers) Column

I CAN PROBLEM SOLVE III

Thank you to Ann-Linn Glaser for this contribution

When we interact with children, we tend to use 4 different levels of communication. Which looks most like you?

Level 1 – The Power Level – belittling a child, yelling, time out, hitting
“He had the truck first – go to time out!”

Pros – This works quickly and is probably best when there is a dangerous situation

Cons – When we are powerful, the child feels powerless and their self-esteem is damaged. We are solving the problem for the child.

Level 2 – The Suggestions Level – making suggestions to the child on how to fix a problem “Why don’t you play with that puzzle now – instead of fighting over the truck”

Pros- The child’s self esteem is not damaged. This is probably appropriate for 2 year olds and young 3s.

Cons- We are still solving the problem for the child. They have learned nothing for next time they have this problem.

Level 3 – Explanations – explaining why they should not do what they have done. “When you hit, no one will want to play with you. You need to tell them what you want – not grab and hit them!”

Pros – The child can understand how their actions affect others. This helps develop empathy – an important social skill.

Cons – Sounds like a lecture – kids will turn you off after hearing the same thing again...and again... You are still solving the problem for the child

Level 4 – Dialoguing/ Problem Solving – asking questions so that the child will come up with solutions to the problem. They should also explore possible consequences “Can you think of something different to do so that everyone will be happy? What might happen if you try that”

For more information on these ideas, see [Raising a Thinking Child](#) or [Thinking Parents Thinking Children](#) by Dr. Myrna Shure.

Activity Corner

Looking for some new ideas for the summer? Try out some of these fun activities at your shift:

- **Picnic theme:** bring in a picnic basket filled with napkins, a blanket, paper plates, cups, and pictures of picnic food. Have the children pull out one thing at a time, talk about the object and what it would be used for at a picnic. “Go” on a picnic inside or out.
- Don’t throw out those **empty ketchup and mustard bottles!** Bring them to your Playspace and fill them with red and yellow paint to do “food” painting.
- Have fun outside! Use paint brushes or spray bottles (be ready to get wet!) to “**paint**” the **sidewalk, trees, rocks**. Talk about the changes the water has on things, how long it lasts, etc.
- Gather things from nature (or before your shift if this is not possible) to turn into art. Paint rocks, make **collages** of grass, leaves and flowers, talk about the shapes and textures.





CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

There are now more opportunities for PALs who seek greater involvement with Horizons For Homeless Children. Consider joining one or more committee!

Events Committee

Have you been a PAL for at least 3 months? Do you enjoy planning and attending special events? Do you like speaking at volunteer fairs? Can you spare a few hours a month? Would you like to develop new activities for the Playspaces? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then become a member of the Events Committee!

For more information about the Greater Boston Events Committee contact Kelly McLoud or Whitney Riddell, Playspace Programs Managers, at 617-287-1900 or kmcloud@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org or wridell@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

For more information about the Central Region Events Committee contact Jamie Pear at 508-755-2615 or jpear@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

For more information about the Northeast Region Events Committee contact Carrie Lamont at 978-557-2182 or clamont@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

For more information about the Southeast Region Events Committee contact Cora Peirce at 508-999-9454 or cpeirce@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Horizons for Homeless Children seeks to create a society in which homeless children and their families receive the support they need. From your volunteer experience in shelters, you have knowledge and credibility that can help influence key governmental decision makers. We want to recruit, train, and support interested PALs in advocacy efforts to increase public and political awareness of how homelessness impacts children and their families, to build political will to create change, and ultimately to improve services for this population.

Interested PALs, once they have completed at least six months of volunteering, can participate in a Policy and Advocacy Training, which will include essential information about Homelessness, Current Government Responses, Solutions, and Advocacy Skills. These PALs will receive news updates and email action alerts; write letters to the editors of local papers; and communicate and meet with elected officials.

For more information contact Ed Cameron, Director of Policy and Advocacy, at 617-287-1900 ext.114 or ecameron@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

Media Committee

Put up your hand if you're interested in public relations! Put up your other hand if you're interested in helping communicate the important message of Horizons for Homeless Children. If both hands are up in the air, consider joining the Media Committee.

The organization is seeking volunteers to help in spreading the good word about what we are doing and the ways we are making a difference in the lives of homeless children. PALs will help promote and increase awareness of Horizons for Homeless Children and its programs in the local community. Members of the Media Committee will work with and are supported by the Communications Specialist in an effort to generate publicity about the organization. Media workshops will soon be in place to train members and provide them with the necessary tools to do the job.

If you are interested in receiving more information including a job description and application form (yes, because space is limited, we will choose our members through an application process), please contact Colette O'Neill, Communications Specialist, at 617-287-1900 ext.126 or coneill@horizonsinitiative.org.

Administrative Volunteers

If you want to get added to the Boston list of volunteers who help out with occasional tasks (in the office, from your home or out in the community) let us know and we will add you to our e-mail list! Contact Lauren at lpaap@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

GREATER BOSTON NEWS

The Boston office is excited to announce that Lauren Paap recently got married! Please join us in wishing her the best. In other news, we have said goodbye to Karin Turer, former Program Coordinator and longtime PAL. In her absence, PAL Barb Sherlock has stepped in to provide outreach and training assistance to the program- thanks Barb for your great help! We are excited to announce that the Greater Boston Program will be joining the regional offices in working with Americorps to have the support of a VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America). The VISTA will help maintain Playspaces and support the Playspace Programs over the duration of a one year commitment. Be sure to keep your eye out for more information about the newest members of the Greater Boston Playspace Team.

CENTRAL NEWS

The Central office is pleased to announce that Christopher Wiley will become the new Site Coordinator/VISTA, as Jonathan Bassett moves on to a job as a residential worker. Christopher has years of experience working with volunteers, running trainings, and working with the community. We are excited to have him join our team!

On June 25, Kathryn Gniadek, Sharon Morin, Karen Spender and a group of their friends organized a tag sale fundraiser on behalf of HHC. They were able to raise over \$700 and collect numerous donations for the children and families in our programs. Their efforts also included extensive outreach, with ads, flyers and give aways to let the community know about our work and ways to be involved. Thank you, Kathryn, Sharon and Karen, for your dedication and support!

NORTHEAST NEWS

Naomi Aitken has moved on after 4 years at Horizons for Homeless Children. Her husband is heading back to school out of the country and the commute to the Lawrence office would just be too far. Her last day with the organization was Friday, June 24. The new Site Director, Carrie Lamont, started on Monday, June 27.

Carrie is bringing a great deal of strengths to her new role as Northeast Region Site Director. She has a tremendous background in early childhood development and an understanding of shelter life. For the last several years Carrie has worked for South Bay Early Intervention based in Lowell. Her work with Early Intervention focused on at-risk children including working with many families living in the shelter system. From her work in the shelters she has witnessed firsthand many of the Playspace transformations done by Horizons for Homeless Children!

SOUTHEAST NEWS

The Southeast Region covers a vast area encompassing 3 counties with over 30 family shelters within it's borders. We are proud to say that we have completed the first phase of installations in Bristol County and Cape Cod, bringing 11 Playspaces to countless homeless children. We are thrilled that we have been getting generous support from the local community. For instance, in Hyannis, two local high school students spent a day transforming a dull forest green room into a gorgeous bright blue Playspace. Also, Dan Bennett a retired businessman with ties to Hyannis, donated \$5,000 to the Playspace Program on the Cape. We hope to continue this trend of community involvement in the next phase of our expansion. During the Summer and early Fall our focus will be on Plymouth county, where we intend to expand the program to include 4 more shelters.

Playspace Programs Staff

Director of Playspace Programs

Rosemary Kearney

Greater Boston Office

Lauren Paap, Playspace Programs Greater Boston Director

Kelly McLoud, Playspace Programs Manager

Whitney Riddell, Playspace Programs Manager

Central Office

Jamie Pear, Site Director

Northeast Office

Carrie Lamont, Site Director

Southeast Office

Cora Peirce, Site Director

Marissa Bennett, Site Coordinator/VISTA

West Office

Patricia Moss, Site Director