Announcing LifeScene

A new name and new look

Family and Children’s Service is excited to announce that in the spring of 2022, we will be changing our name to LifeScene!

LifeScene will continue F&CS’s 140-year legacy of delivering transformative services to the greater Lynn community. Our name will be new, but our commitment to supporting youth and families in building bright futures remains the same.

We invite you to celebrate with us at the Building Bright Futures Gala on the evening of May 26th. Please save the date.

As a neighbor, friend, and supporter, you have stood by us and have been a vital part of our evolving story. We look forward to the next chapter in our history together. Thanks to you, the future is bright.

You have stood by us and have been a vital part of our evolving story.

This spring...

...will become

Families who arrived at Family and Children’s for the event received beautifully wrapped gifts for their children, gift cards, hot cocoa, and a family holiday photo. Fresh from the holiday parade circuit, the John’s Oil antique fire truck “decked the halls” with reindeer, lights, and festive music.

A huge thank you to SPUR in Marblehead; the parents, faculty, and students at Swampscott Middle School; and the patrons of the Capitol Diner who showered the greater Lynn community with gift cards and toys. The huge thank you also to the Salvation Army, team DiPerna, and John’s Oil who volunteered at the Hope for the Holidays in-person holiday party.

You are a gift. Your community thanks you!

The holiday season may have ended, but the hope you gave to hundreds of families is still alive. Your simple acts of sacrifice spread holiday cheer and hope to over 500 people.

Community partners, sponsors, and people like you who care, fed 154 people at Thanksgiving. But your compassion did not stop there—your donations also filled the wish lists of 349 children in December.
Meet the newest members of the team!

Introducing Jessica Fabian

Family and Children’s Service welcomes Jessica Fabian as new Director of Strategic Programs. Jessica will oversee all youth and family programming and develop new agency initiatives to meet the changing needs of the community.

A recent transplant from New York, Jessica’s previous professional experience includes leadership positions as Assistant Division Director for Senior Services, Director for Transitional Services, and Director for Foster Care Mentoring.

Jessica is excited to join the F&CS team at this point in its history. As a licensed social worker, she is passionate about helping people progress along the continuum to self-sufficiency. “F&CS has successfully provided high quality services since 1885 and it has been a steady resource for the community. The organization offers people opportunities to change their life’s trajectory,” says Jessica.

Unshakeable Belief:

“We can all learn from each other and celebrate difference.” - Jessica Fabian

Superpower: Something Jessica owned as her superpower is her ability to connect with and see others. She is excited to use this power on behalf of the agency!

Magic Wand: If Jessica had a magic wand, she would use it to address poverty and systemic inequities.

Meet Isabel Ould-Sfiya

Meet Youth Engagement Specialist, Isabel Ould-Sfiya! Isabel is the newest member of our Youth Development team. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in Applied Politics. She credits her academic pursuits with preparing her to deal with youth and helping them to engage with the community.

“I’m hoping to revamp the program that already exists and put my own spin on it, focusing on the kid’s goals, and paying attention to what is going on in the world. I also want them to just be kids and have fun,” she says.

Isabel sees humor as her superpower, “I feel like I can turn any situation into a laugh. Even if it is upsetting or sad, I can find the humor in it,” she says. After interning for a national nonprofit, she is excited to apply her experience on the local level where she says, “you can actually see the change.”

In her free time, she likes to hang out with friends and admits to being a sucker for a weekend drive, especially if the final destination is a cute coffee shop. One day she hopes to start her own nonprofit focusing on female empowerment.

Teen Scene youth attend the Nutcracker in December.
Teen Scene Youth Jobs Program

Family and Children’s Service is launching the Teen Scene Youth Jobs Program in March.

The program will offer youth, ages fifteen to eighteen years old in Lynn public high schools, an opportunity to participate in structured eighteen-week workforce development training.

This pilot program is designed to combine hands-on work experience (externships) with life skills workshops five days a week. The workshops will include VOICES and Making Proud Choices curricula, career development, educational enrichment, and guest speakers.

Participants will attend weekly workshops on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Activities will specifically focus on goal setting, resume preparation, financial literacy, social justice, homework assistance, and personal brand development. On Tuesdays and Thursdays participants will attend an internship at F&CS or an ‘externship’ with a community partner or local business.

The youth engagement team is currently selecting teens from a large applicant pool. Thanks to a grant from Mass Hire, and supporters like you, this pilot program is expected to start in March and hopefully expand in the future.

Not-so-random Acts of Kindness

Great Minds Think Alike

The Quaker Meadows residential community in Lynn, the Cruiser Club of Boston, and F&CS Family Alliance caseworker Ariana Riviera all had the same idea. They wanted to adopt one family during the holidays to ensure that the family would have everything they needed for Christmas.

The residents at Quaker Meadows donated gifts, clothing, and bedding to one grateful family selected from our programs.

Ten bikers of the 35-member Cruiser Club of Boston arrived at our agency one Saturday afternoon bearing gifts, gift cards, clothing, and even furniture for another family in our Youth Development programs. Finally, our own Family Alliance caseworker, Ariana Riveira held a one-woman crowd funding campaign to make sure that a single mom and her kids had clothing, food, gifts, and housing supplies to get a fresh start.

“We are amazed and beyond grateful.” - gift recipient

Members of the Cruiser Club of Boston delivering gifts to a local family.
Meet the New Board Members!

Welcome Walter Jacob

Walter Jacob first heard about F&CS from friend and board member, David Clarke. F&CS’s mission immediately struck a chord with Walter who had been thinking for a while about combining his architectural skills with ways to assist others who may need “a hand up, not out.” Walter already regularly helps individuals establish their own fledgling ventures with the business acumen he has amassed over the years. Walter felt F&CS’s programs provide this support and is looking forward to assisting in workplace initiatives.

Walter is principal Architect at Walter Jacob Architects, with offices in Marblehead Massachusetts and New York, New York. The firm’s goal is to “enrich life through design.”

Walter resides in Marblehead Massachusetts and New York, New York. He and his wife Gina have two children, Oliver and Adriana. Adriana was adopted from Bogota, Colombia at age 15. When his hands aren’t full with all these responsibilities, Walter enjoys badminton, sailing, and cooking.

Greetings to Trey Burris

Trey Burris is a multi-talented Lynn native who graduated from Lynn Classical in 2015. Despite many arduous life challenges that would make most give up their dreams, Trey continued to persevere. Trey turned each challenge into a learning opportunity, and perseverance paid off.

Today, Trey is looking forward to attending Tufts graduate school in Fall 2022 for Data Science. Trey wants to dedicate his life to helping teens get a better footing in life and avoiding the obstacles that he encountered. Trey graduated Magnum Cum Laude with honors with a Business Administration degree from Morehouse College in 2020. Recently, Trey served as an executive board member at Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House.

One of Trey’s most unforgettable moments to date is meeting Oprah Winfrey at graduation after serving as a Winfrey Academic Fellow. Trey was inspired early in life by Frederick Douglas’ book that defines education as the equalizer for all. Trey lives by this theory and uses it as personal mission, “to help others to succeed.” Trey believes the best way to help his home community is to serve on the Board at F&CS.

Say Hello to Zosia Simpson

Zosia Simpson is the Ordinance Enforcement Officer for the City of Lynn. She was born in the Philippines, but immigrated to Lynn when she was just two years old.

Passionate about helping others, Zosia joined the F&CS Board of Directors because she saw F&CS as a conduit to help people in the community. She believes in empowering community members by providing them with easy access to information or with tangible items that are critical for families.

Zosia feels that children are the most vulnerable community members and therefore most deserving of support and compassion. Knowing that “it takes a village” to make a difference, she tries to lead by example. “Families who are struggling to make ends meet should not feel alone,” says Zosia. She is glad that F&CS can provide support that families can trust. Zosia resides in Lynn with her partner and their 15-year-old daughter.