You put the “fun” back in Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day

On Saturday, August 7th the 14th annual Family Fun Day returned to Lynn Commons with close to 400 families in attendance. Unlike last year’s virtual event, adults and children alike enjoyed games, trackless train rides, balloon animals, and inflatable moon bounces. Thirty-six nonprofit providers, businesses, and organizations came together to make sure that families were introduced to vital community resources.

The three-hour event included music, dance performances, raffles, free giveaways of school supplies, and children’s books and clothing provided by Cradles to Crayons. The MA Department of Public Health VAX Bus also offered COVID-19 vaccine shots.

Lynn Public Schools superintendent Patrick Tutwiler, PhD. was presented with the Community Leader Award by emcee, Deborah Adolpho, a F&CS youth program participant.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Eastern Bank and supporters like you, the event successfully connected families to important community resources.

Hope for the Holidays

With one gift, you can deliver hope for the holidays

Will you help us spread a little hope?

Your support can ensure that vulnerable families have the resources they need at a time when they need it most.

Sponsorship of a family will provide a Thanksgiving meal, holiday gifts, and enrollment in our transformative programs.

Supermarket gift cards will be distributed to families on November 19th, then on December 10th, F&CS will host a holiday event for families to pick up gift cards, enjoy refreshments, and take festive holiday photos. Will you help?

Please scan the QR code below to find out how you can sponsor a family or volunteer at the event.

Thank you for stepping up for your neighbors who need you now more than ever. You are a gift.
Young Parents Support

The Young Parents Support (YPS) Program is a home visiting program which serves pregnant and parenting young adults up to age 23 and their children in Chelsea and Revere. Using a strength-based model, YPS caseworkers work closely with young families to assess needs and offer a wide range of targeted supports intended to promote stability among young parents.

YPS caseworkers provide weekly or bi-weekly home visits to participant families and assist young parents with enrolling in Hi-SET and ESL classes, locating housing, learning budgeting, accessing mental health providers, and enrolling in DTA benefits.

“The YPS program is all about getting involved in being a part of a solution for our participant’s lives. The program is about helping our participants overcome barriers while getting to know their story and learning in their journey how to creatively problem solve in order to achieve whatever goals/milestones the families wish to accomplish,” said Crystal Castillo, YPS caseworker.

Despite the COVID pandemic last year, the program managed to support 23 families. Former participants of the program have experienced positive outcomes including returning to school, gaining secondary and post-secondary diplomas/credentials, and delaying a second pregnancy.

Yadira’s Story

By age 15, Yadira had already survived human trafficking and domestic violence. When she became a part of the Young Parents Support program two years ago, she and her 2-year-old son were under the custody of the Department of Children and Families.

In addition, she had endured a long history of family abuse, was a recent immigrant, and English was not her first language. She had been struggling alone as a single mom and became involved in YPS just in time.

With the help of the YPS Program, over the last two years Yadira has been able to establish trust with statewide systems, has completed all requirements of DCF to regain full custody of her son, and has established a healthier relationship with her biological mother.

“I am very grateful for all of the services I had the opportunity to be a part of while in the YPS program. Thank you for supporting my family and me during our toughest moments.”

- Yadira

Yadira recently moved closer to her family where she can get community support. Her son is healthy and benefits from being under both his mother’s and grandmother’s care. Yadira is currently in the process of enrolling into a school where she can improve her English skills and plans to return to school to complete her Hi-SET degree. Yadira’s caseworker and YPS staff are proud of her for completely turning her life around despite incredible challenges. Yadira’s story is just one of many personal success stories impacted by your giving.
Parenting Journey and Frannie Hall Award

Parenting Journey Graduates 24 Parents

Parenting Journey helps parents increase their self-care practices, raise awareness of past and present factors that influence their parenting styles, and enhance their parenting skills to build nurturing family relationships. The program is funded in part by a generous grant from the Nordblom Family Foundation who has been a partner since 2018. Due to COVID-19, programming has moved from in-person to a virtual platform.

Held during two, 9-week cycles, F&CS has engaged 24 parents and 67 children through the curriculum thus far in 2021. Recent graduates report improvement in parenting skills, their ability to understand their children’s needs, and their ability to balance their own needs with the needs of their children. “This was the first time that I was able to talk about many things and memories that hurt me from my past and from my childhood,” shared one thankful program participant.

“I promised to put in practice everything that I learned and share these ideas with my husband.”
- Program participant

Yadira and her children proudly hold up her diploma at the recent Parenting Journey graduation.

Congrats to Guadalupe Arana!

Frannie Hall Professional Development Scholarship

Scholarship to Guadalupe Arana, a home visitor in the Healthy Families Harbor Area Program in Chelsea. The scholarship, established in Frannie’s name in 2018, pays for work-related training, coursework, programs, or conferences that expand current professional development opportunities for staff.

Supported by the scholarship, Guadalupe enrolled in online English-as-a-second-language classes in hopes of growing her skills as a home visitor. “I received the opportunity, and then I’m going to share my opportunity with others in the future,” said Arana.

“Anything that helps to point young people in a direction is all for the good.”
- Frannie Hall

Is it us, or is Frannie Hall getting younger? Beloved former Board member, Frannie Hall and her family stopped by our Lynn offices this summer to present the Frannie Hall Professional Development Scholarship to Guadalupe Arana, a home visitor in the Healthy Families Harbor Area Program in Chelsea. The scholarship, established in Frannie’s name in 2018, pays for work-related training, coursework, programs, or conferences that expand current professional development opportunities for staff.

“Anything that helps to point young people in a direction is all for the good.”
- Frannie Hall

Frannie Hall (3rd from right), who served for 51 years on the F&CS Board poses for a photo with Gordy Hall, Linda Hall, Guadalupe Arana, Mackenzie Hall, and Selvin Chambers, III
Meet the New Board Members!

Greetings to Michael DiBacco

Mike DiBacco first heard about F&CS last year when he participated in the Hope for the Holidays campaign to fill wish lists for children in need. Raised in Boxford and currently living in Salem, DiBacco is no stranger to the area. He graduated from Saint Anselm College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and is currently employed at Sentinel Benefits and Financial Group as a financial planner.

This is DiBacco’s first experience serving on a nonprofit board, and he is excited to bring his knowledge of financial management and business to inform F&CS financial decisions. DiBacco says that he is happy to be part of “an organization that can have such a powerful impact on the community.” When he is not working with finances, he can be found “reading on a deck overlooking water, with a good glass of whiskey,” he says.

David Clarke hails from Essex, England and in his lifetime he has pursued interests ranging from psychology to lifeguarding, fishing, crabbing, and even hotel work. Clark is the owner of the Essex Building Company, a home building company that specializes in custom home and residential construction. He has 42 years of experience working as a master builder on the North Shore.

Clarke will also add his expertise in business and financial management to the F&CS board, but according to him, his strongest contribution will be helping to renovate and restore the F&CS Lynn facility. "The building spoke to me...I could see that it needed some TLC so I feel like I’d be a good person to lead that charge,” said Clarke. His passion for building is apparent and that love will bring a fresh set of skills to the F&CS Board. When Clarke is not at a construction site, he loves to sail, kayak, ski, and play with his five (soon to be six) grandchildren.

Say Hello to Kimberly Massenburg

With a Doctorate in Counselor Education and a Master’s in Counseling Psychology, Kimberly Massenburg has worked extensively in the helping profession. “If you can help one person a day, then you’ve done your job,” said Massenburg. She is currently the Executive Director at the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House in Cambridge, MA.

She specifically brings to the Board her expertise in fundraising, non-profit management, and program development/evaluation. “My talents and contributions lie in my ability to be collaborative. I’m a big on promoting working together,” said Massenburg, “I’m very excited about this opportunity and I hope I can be as helpful to this organization as they are helpful to me in broadening my skillset.” When Massenburg is not at work, you can find her listening to music ranging from old school, to new school, and even Nickelback.