

# FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change,  
One Child at a Time

Boston

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For Immediate Release

## *Friends of the Children–Boston Names Yi-Chin Chen as Executive Director*

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Boston, MA—*Friends of the Children-Boston (Friends-Boston)*, an organization dedicated to creating generational change by engaging children from high-risk communities in transformative mentoring relationships, announces Yi-Chin Chen as the organization’s new Executive Director. Yi-Chin succeeds Michelle Harrington, who will continue to contribute her skills and expertise in her new role as the Director of Administration and Community Partnerships. As the Executive Director, Yi-Chin oversees the daily operations, fundraising efforts, and the strategic growth of the organization. She joins the organization as the group prepares to celebrate its first class of high school graduates since its inception in 2004.

*Friends of the Children-Boston* matches high-risk children from Boston’s poorest neighborhoods with professional mentors who provide support for 12 years, from first grade through high-school graduation. “We are very pleased to have Yi-Chin join *Friends of the Children-Boston* as the new Executive Director,” said John Simon, co-chair of Board of Directors. “Yi-Chin has proven leadership and operational skills that will insure the future growth and success of the organization. She brings tremendous energy, optimism, and a can-do attitude to the *Friends-Boston* team and to the Boston families and communities that we serve.”

Before joining *Friends of the Children-Boston*, Yi-Chin served as the Interim Executive Director of Hyde Square Task Force, an award-winning organization with the mission of developing the skills of youth and their families so they can enhance their own lives and create a safe and vibrant urban community. Yi-Chin served in a variety of positions at Hyde Square Task Force during her 12 year tenure there, including three years as Deputy Director.

“I am honored to join this incredible organization,” said Yi-Chin. “I am very impressed by the commitment made to every youth who walks through its doors and the results it has demonstrated in the last 12 years. The work of supporting youth in their journey to lifelong success is not only relevant but urgent. The future of our city depends on it. Together with a committed board and a team of high-capacity staff, we can help change the future outcomes of these children and ultimately create a better city for everyone.”

Yi-Chin brings with her more than 15 years of experience in organizational and sector leadership, program development and evaluation, fundraising, and community engagement. She was integral in the creation of several of Hyde Square Task Force’s most successful programs, including the Paths to College and Careers Program—an innovative multi-year college-success initiative that supports and ensures the success of at-risk teens from 9<sup>th</sup> grade through college graduation. She earned her master’s degree in Social Work and a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Boston University, and she is a graduate of the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership. She proudly serves as a member of the Community Advisory Board of Boston Children’s Hospital and the Alumni Association Board of Boston University School of Social Work. She is the recipient of 2011 Hubie Jones Urban Service Award from BUSSW.

“Yi-Chin’s successful career working with at-risk teens will enhance our work since the most challenging time for our Achievers is their successful navigation through high school,” said Simon. “We look forward to working closely with her to further strengthen the organization and increase the number of children who benefit from the life-changing mentoring relationships through *Friends of the Children-Boston*.”

## **About Friends of the Children-Boston ([www.friendsboston.org](http://www.friendsboston.org))**

*Friends of the Children-Boston (Friends-Boston)* creates generational change by engaging children from high-risk communities in 12 years of transformative mentoring relationships. We call the children we serve “Achievers” to demonstrate our belief in their potential for success. By providing Achievers with 12 years of comprehensive mentoring and advocacy services, we strive to equip them with the resources and support they need to overcome the obstacles they face and reach their full potential. Our ultimate goal is for Achievers to graduate from high school and succeed in college. Since our founding in Boston in 2004, *Friends-Boston* has grown from 16 Achievers selected from one Boston Public School to 133 Achievers from over 60 schools throughout Boston.

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