FR1ENDS of the CHILDREN

Generational Change, One Child at a Time

Boston

2019 MILESTONE REPORT
Dear Friend,

I am so excited to be sharing our 2019 Milestone Report with you. Not only will you find a summary of what 2019 brought to us here at Friends of the Children-Boston, but you also get to learn more about our Achievers. As you can read below, some of my New Year’s Resolutions are to celebrate our wins as well as understand and learn from our failures – both of which are important to where we want Friends-Boston to go in the future.

1. **Journaling Everyday**
   
   This year I would like to journal and plan each day so I can reflect on what has been working for me and what hasn’t been. Through organization and building this habit more thoroughly, I hope I also learn to appreciate and celebrate what each day brings, thus allowing me to look forward to the next day instead of only living in the moment!

2. **Celebrate Loudly and Proudly**
   
   Going off of my last point I find that, too often, we either forget to celebrate successes or we don’t celebrate loud enough especially when highlighting the immense efforts behind everything we do. So in 2020 I want to commit to celebrating loudly and proudly whenever possible. Whether it’s cheering as loud as I can when I read an improved report card from an Achiever or bringing out the confetti for a colleague’s job well-done, this will be a year of celebration of all accomplishments, big & small!

3. **Fail Louder**
   
   The notion that leaders aren’t allowed to fail is a fallacy. While we will continue to hold our bar high and do our best each day, I would also like for us to embrace our mistakes and failures just as loudly as our successes for they will help us be better! Elevating conversations about failures will show our Achievers that it is okay to make mistakes.

4. **Seek Inspirations in Unusual Places**
   
   I hope 2020 will bring in connections with new people and their communities therefore also bringing in new sources of knowledge to find the inspiration to form our collective vision. From picking up a book that I wouldn’t normally reach for to connecting with innovators inside and outside of our communities, I look forward to learning and finding inspiration from all kinds of places.

   My list of New Year’s Resolutions not only helps me as a leader for this organization, but affects all of our staff and Achievers as well. I know that the next stage of Friends-Boston’s work will require bravery, creativity, and resilience. I wanted to take the time to thank you for being a champion for Friends of the Children-Boston. I look forward to keeping you in the loop of our efforts throughout this New Year.

Warm Wishes,

Yi-Chin Chen
Executive Director
Kids in my community have many struggles. Some of them go to schools with very little resources and some don’t have enough resources for basic things like warm jackets and school supplies they need. *Friends of the Children* does everything they can to move those barriers out of the way so we can succeed.

— JENDAYI, ALUMNI AND SPEAKER 2019 Friend Raiser
Q: WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE OUTINGS THAT YOU'VE BEEN ON WITH YOUR FRIEND?

SABRINA: We went to the movie theater to see Frozen II. My favorite part was when Elsa started singing “Into the Unknown”.

TANNER: One of my favorite outings, one that really sticks out to me, is when I went ice skating for the first time. I feel like I probably wouldn’t have had that experience if it wasn’t for my Friend. It makes me curious about what other winter activities I would like…like the upcoming ski trip.

Q: IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

SABRINA: I would want to be invisible, so I can sneak up on people and say ‘Boo!’.

TANNER: I think I would want supernatural strength or endurance. Like the Hulk or Captain America.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?

SABRINA: My friend is always smiling!

TANNER: My friend is cool! I never feel pressure when we hang out. He also has a very distinctive laugh which makes me laugh.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

SABRINA: A cardiologist!

TANNER: I want to be a MMA Fighter; I like working on my strength.

WRITE ANY SUPERPOWER YOU WOULD BE AND WHY?

SABRINA: I would want to be invisible, so I can sneak up on people and say ‘Boo!’.

TANNER: I think I would want supernatural strength or endurance. Like the Hulk or Captain America.

*Disclaimer: the names of our Achievers have been changed to protect their identities.*
THANK YOU

3 of Boston’s most under resourced partner schools for on-boarding — 1 new school each year

3X more program space in our new home in Roxbury’s Dudley Square

139 Achievers provided enhanced programing and services at our new space

20k hours of professional mentoring provided to our Achievers

23 total staff members this year — an increase of 4 from 1 year ago

24 new kindergarten Achievers onboarded — 16 more than we are typically able to

Our Results are remarkable, given the challenges faced by our Achievers:

62% of Achievers experiences homelessness

52% of Achievers are impacted by the child welfare system

25% of Achievers were born to a teen parent

54% of Achievers don’t have enough food at home

48% of Achievers have parents who’ve been incarcerated
FOR MAKING 2019 A YEAR TO REMEMBER:
In 2019, our Achievers have exceeded our expectations:

- 100% of alumni are enrolled in post secondary education or gainfully employed
- 91% avoided school suspensions
- 92% were promoted to the next grade
- 100% avoided early parenting
- 97% avoided the juvenile system
- 92% were promoted to the next grade

THANK YOU for Investing in our Achievers and Believing in Our Ability to Help Them Write a New Story.

2019 AUDITED FINANCIALS

Total Unrestricted Operating Revenue $1,994,411
- Fund Raising $250,502 (14%)
- Total Operating Expenses $1,825,613
  - Program Services $1,399,331 (77%)
  - Administrative $175,780 (9%)
  - Institutional $910,300 (46%)
  - Other $9,392
  - In-Kind $44,904

For a list of our donors and most recent financials please visit www.friendsboston.org/about.
GET CONNECTED

LEADERSHIP
Board of Directors — Our Board of Directors are champions for the work that we do for our Achievers. Interested in learning more about this leadership opportunity? Contact Yi-Chin Chen at yichin@friendsboston.org.

Young Professionals Board — The Young Professionals Board is a great place for emerging leaders in the Greater Boston Area to get involved with our programs. Learn more about our YPB by contacting Jodie Martin at jodie@friendsboston.org.

ANNUAL FRIEND RAISER
May — Join us for our annual celebration full of games, prizes, dinner, and an inspiring speaking program. Our signature event is May 7th, 2020!

END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION
July — Come celebrate the start of summer vacation with our Friends and our Achievers! We have fun games, face-painting, and lots of yummy treats!

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
September — September brings us the beginning of the new school year. We want you to help us get our Achievers excited for their next chapter.

ANNUAL YPB EVENT
Fall — Our Young Professionals Board hosts one annual event each year during the fall. In 2019, they hosted a Drafts and Donuts where guests could taste different beer and donut pairings while surveying the raffle prizes and networking with other young professionals.

FROSTY’S FRIENDS
December — Every December, we have our Achievers write notes to Frosty explaining what they want for the holidays. You and your family or team can donate to this gift drive!