

Dare to *hope*



HopeWell



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ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025



DARE TO HOPE

We don't just help kids and families beat the odds —
we change the odds.

Dare to hope

The challenges surrounding child welfare are complex — but solvable.

Massachusetts leads the nation in areas like medicine, technology, and education. **But in one crucial area, Massachusetts falls short:** *foster care*. No society — especially one with our resources and history of innovation — should settle for anything less than every child having a fair shot at success.

HopeWell has the expertise and vision to help change this. Our research and 60+ years of service have taught us **what kids and families need most:** strong relationships, economic stability, education, and support from skilled professionals. When we ground our approaches in these levers, lives change. HopeWell's impact is proof.

Yet state contracts only fund the bare minimum. Investing in preventative solutions, forward-thinking strategies, and higher standards of care isn't just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. That's why we've launched *Dare to Hope*, a campaign to fund the work we know will move the needle for kids and families.



Together, let's build a future that's vibrant and full of opportunities.

Learn more:
hopewellinc.org/dare-to-hope

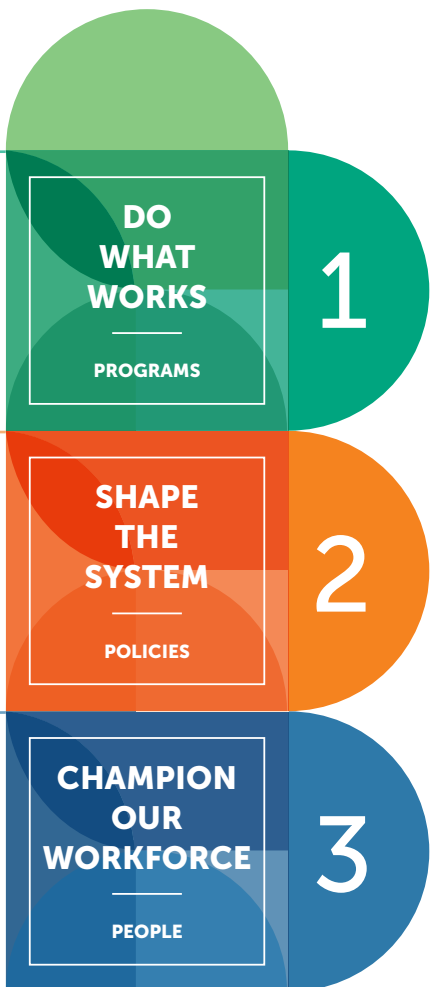
HOPEWELL'S GOAL

Raise \$12 million by 2027 to fuel three key priorities:

Our programs are the heart and soul of our work, providing essential support to the children and families who need it most. Our services improve outcomes, expand opportunities, and strengthen communities.

We go beyond meeting immediate needs. We advance better practices, address inequities, and include the insights of those with lived experience. Our impact multiplies because we move the whole child welfare system forward.

When social services workers thrive, so do kids and families. We're committed to making nonprofit social services an attractive, rewarding, and sustainable career choice.



Dare to lead

A note to you

This past year has strengthened our resilience. As we served children and families in the foster care and child welfare systems, we faced challenges and unexpected obstacles — from too few new foster homes, to more youth and families facing economic hardships, to a widespread (and often understandable) mistrust in many institutions.

Yet our dedication to making a positive difference in people's lives remained unwavering and kept us moving forward. Every time a family we support reunited after months or even years apart, a child celebrated a new milestone, or an adult with a disability strengthened a new independent living skill, we were reminded of the incredible power of community and collective hope. At the end of the day, this is why our mission matters so much.

These experiences over the last year have made me reflect on what leadership truly means. In our work, leadership is about having the courage to face difficult situations, to advocate fiercely for those whose voices too often go unheard, and to

pursue fresh strategies and creative solutions that better serve those in need. Leading with empathy and conviction is the foundation for building safe, nurturing environments where families can heal and children can thrive.

So, looking ahead, our focus is clear: Leading the way forward through both personal growth and systemic progress. **We know that with bold leadership and your continued support, we can move closer to a reality where every child knows safety, stability, and love.**

We are excited about the future. Together, let's embrace it with purpose and compassion, paving the way toward hope for every child and family we serve.



Shaheer Mustafa
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Mustafa'.



Our Programs

HopeWell's programs enrich the lives and expand the opportunities of children, adults, and families across Massachusetts.



Comprehensive Foster Care

We are the largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive foster care in Massachusetts. By recruiting, training, and supporting loving foster homes, we ensure the children and teens in our care receive the resources, supports, and opportunities they deserve.



Family Together Program

We provide intensive in-home stabilization support to families involved in the child welfare system who are working to maintain or regain custody of their children. Our services aim to alleviate the crises that brought them there, so that more families stay intact and fewer children are placed in foster care.



RISE Education Support

We advance educational opportunities for K-3 students in foster care by providing the building blocks they need to become strong readers and lifelong learners. Children receive personalized 1:1 literacy tutoring in their homes, with embedded chances to practice social-emotional skills. The program also supports caregivers and strengthens collaboration among schools, families, and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).



My First Place™

We support young adults who are “aging out” of the foster care system as they launch into adulthood. To help them reach their full potential at a pivotal time in their lives, we provide shared, rent-free apartments. With a stable place to call home and individualized case management from our team, youth focus on their education and career goals, build community, and establish foundations for long-term self-sufficiency.



Adult Services

We work with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they pursue independence, live with dignity, and engage as full members of their communities. We offer in-home supports to individuals who live on their own, including hands-on parenting help for those with children. We also provide shared living arrangements that pair each person with a local caregiver based on their unique needs and goals.



Policy & Advocacy

We challenge the child welfare system in Massachusetts to be better and do better. We drive system-level improvements by sharing data and analysis, and by bringing cross-sector leaders together to find common ground. As we work to influence widespread child welfare policies and practices, we center insights from people with lived experience in the system.

Dare to be there

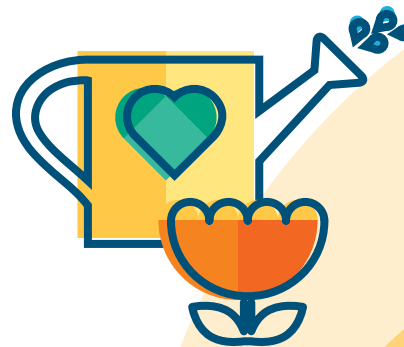
From small steps to big breakthroughs...

Good things happen when caring people come together.

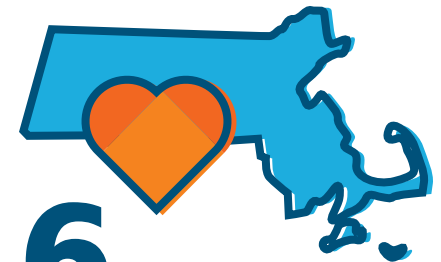


I love helping families stay together. It's so rewarding to empower parents to strengthen their parenting skills, overcome challenges, and take steps toward providing a safe and stable home for their children. I'm provided with a unique opportunity to witness parents taking these small and large steps every day."

— Annette Scamacca, LMHC
Family Together clinician in Taunton



1,500+
CHILDREN, ADULTS AND
FAMILIES SERVED



6

OFFICES ACROSS MA

We strengthen communities from the Cape, to the Berkshires, and everywhere in between.



Where we find hope:
Joyful moments
& life-changing
outcomes

375+
AMAZING DONORS
AND PARTNERS



109
TALENTED TEAM
MEMBERS

People with firsthand
experience in foster care
are part of HopeWell at
every level.



48
kids in foster care
safely reunited
with their families

95%
of foster parents
surveyed said
they use skills and
strategies learned in
HopeWell trainings
to support children
they're fostering

100%
of youth transitioning out of
our My First Place™ program in
Boston exited to stable housing*



A place people belong

This year, 98% of staff participated in our first-ever employee experience survey:

- 92% are happy working at HopeWell.
- 91% say they had recent opportunities to learn and grow.
- 97% feel cared for by the organization.

Helping families heal

In FY25, our Family Together Program was our fastest-growing service. HopeWell clinicians provided interventions to more than 1,000 members of families facing issues such as domestic violence, abuse, neglect, mental health struggles, substance use, parenting challenges, poverty, and homelessness.

**Housing outcomes include youth who participated in the program for 6+ months.*



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We shine
together

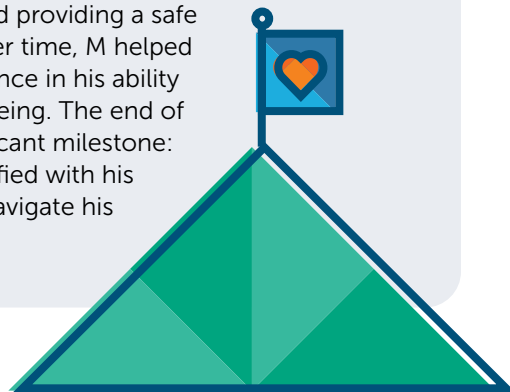
Building confidence through routine

For a teenager with Type 1 diabetes, stability can be a life-saving necessity. But for one teen, moving around to multiple different foster homes meant it was difficult to establish **the consistent routines needed to best manage his medical care**. That changed when “M,” a HopeWell foster parent, stepped in with steady support, patience, and a willingness to learn alongside him.

From day one, M was committed to helping him thrive. With support from HopeWell, she dove headfirst into attending trainings and medical appointments, learned to track insulin through an app, and carefully documented updates to share with his doctors multiple times a week.

Their days included planning meals, calculating carbs, and working through fingerstick readings and insulin injections together. M showed up in critical moments too, from late-night blood sugar checks, to making sure the right snacks were always on hand. When he asked to switch from online to in-person therapy, M made sure he got there.

Her care went beyond providing a safe and stable home. Over time, M helped him grow his confidence in his ability to manage his well-being. The end of FY25 marked a significant milestone: He successfully reunified with his father, equipped to navigate his health and his future.



Showing up with heart

Ryan Pillsbury

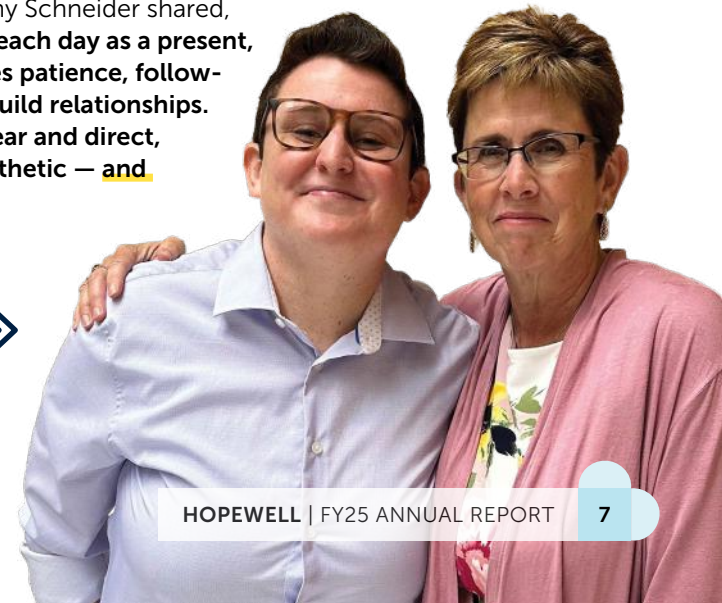
An average day in Ryan’s life includes visiting homes to check in with kids and foster parents, collaborating with other service providers in the Taunton community, and working to ensure kids’ safety, stability, and well-being. A social worker at HopeWell for nearly two decades, he says, **“I do this work in the hope I might make a difference in a youth’s life and play a role along their path to realizing their goals and dreams.”** Ryan is known for being a steady, reassuring presence during challenging times and moments of crisis — something he proved this year, as he became instrumental in supporting two children in foster care and their foster family through the emergency of a foster parent’s unexpected passing.

Beccah Tibert

As a program director for HopeWell’s My First Place™, Beccah leads a team — including Education & Employment Specialists, Housing Specialists, and Youth Advocates — to help young adults as they transition out of the foster care system and work toward their goals. This year, Beccah was awarded the 2025 Program Leader Award by the Children’s League of Massachusetts (CLM)! She was chosen for her advocacy, leadership, and extraordinary dedication to improving the lives of young people in Massachusetts.

Chief Program Officer Amy Schneider shared, **“Beccah comes to work each day as a present, hands-on leader. She uses patience, follow-through, and humor to build relationships. She’s knowledgeable, clear and direct, approachable, and empathetic — and above all, kind.”**

Proud moment: Cheered on by HopeWell teammates, Beccah received CLM’s 2025 Program Leader Award at the Massachusetts State House. She was joined by her mom.



Dare to go all in

Rolling up our sleeves & embracing change

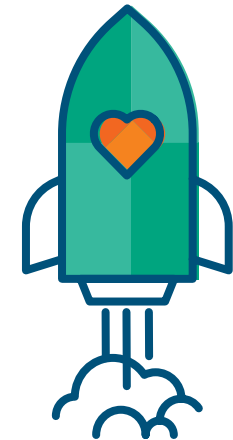
This year, the Department of Children & Families (DCF) sought out community-based providers to offer **a variety of specialized services**, including: home-based therapy to help families in crisis improve their conflict-resolution skills, assistance for caregivers preparing to regain custody of their children, interventions to boost children's academic and vocational success, and more.

We got to work applying and were thrilled to be awarded a new state contract!* HopeWell was selected, in part, due to our deep local partnerships across MA, strong staff, and experience supporting specific populations, such as families with diverse home languages, LGBTQ+ youth and families, and those facing housing instability and homelessness.

Of course, big changes like this are never without growing pains. But **we rose to the occasion**: We rolled out our services quickly, untangled confusion around new processes, and developed fresh ways to use technology to track information.

Managing these changes unlocked valuable opportunities for us. In FY25, we put new clinical skills into practice, hired more staff, grew our capacity to use data to guide care, and expanded our ability to provide the right combination of supports when and where each child and family needs them most.

**State-backing funds basic, day-to-day program operations. Philanthropy is essential to our ability to provide a higher standard of care to kids and families, meet unmet needs, and champion ways to move the entire system forward.*



154
pages of application
materials submitted

11
new service models

~7,500
children, youth, and
families HopeWell
will support over five
years of the contract



Developing the skills that change lives

Teams who continually learn and hone their craft are key to ensuring every child and family gets the care and connection they need to heal. That's why we devoted significant attention to equipping staff with top-level skills and professional growth pathways in FY25.

Matching practices with values

HopeWell staff completed training in basic-, intermediate-, and advanced-level **Motivational Interviewing (MI)**. MI is an evidence-based therapeutic approach that helps people explore and strengthen their motivation to make positive changes in their lives. We fully leaned into learning MI

techniques, knowing they sharpen our toolkit for helping people reach their goals. We believe (and research shows) that MI empowers families by deepening buy-in, building self-confidence, and promoting ownership.

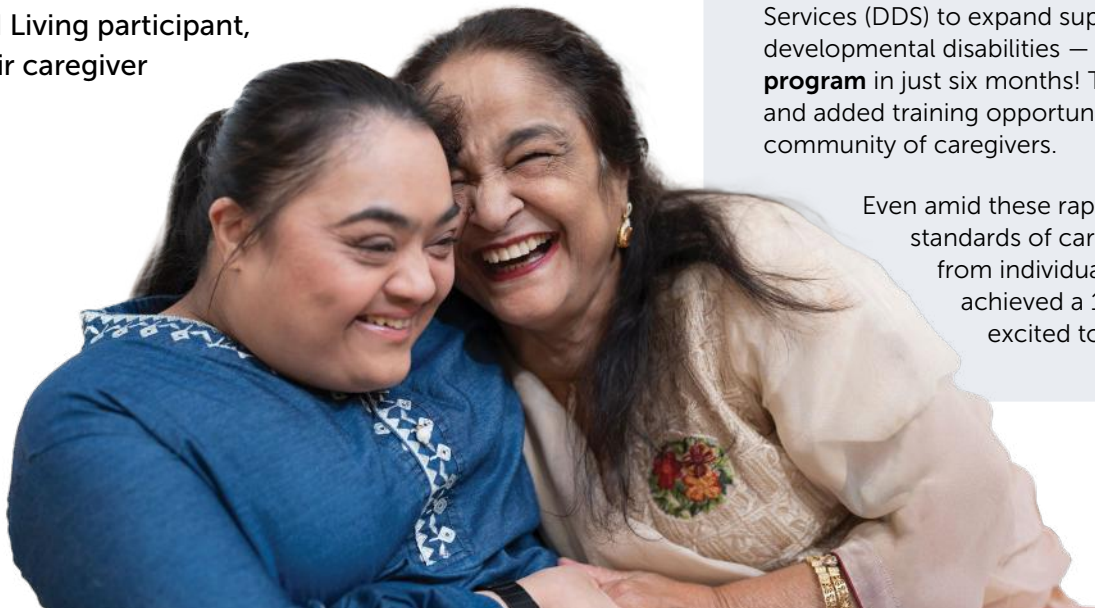
Leveling up our education

This year, 14 HopeWell team members earned a **graduate degree or professional licensure** — with many more in progress! We've worked to make opportunities for staff to learn and advance their careers more accessible through licensure reimbursement, scholarships, and student loan assistance.



She is kind.”

— Shared Living participant,
on their caregiver



Doubling our impact for adults with disabilities

In FY25, HopeWell partnered with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to expand supports for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities — **doubling the size of our Shared Living program** in just six months! To meet this moment, we ramped up hiring and added training opportunities to address the needs of our growing community of caregivers.

Even amid these rapid changes, we upheld our highest standards of care: We consistently earned positive feedback from individuals, families, and caregivers, and even achieved a 100% score on our mid-cycle audit. We're excited to keep this momentum going!

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We're better together



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Teaming up to expand housing access

The Problem

In Massachusetts, over 40% of young adults experience homelessness shortly after aging out of foster care. This is happening despite the availability of Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Choice Vouchers, a **federal resource** specifically designed to prevent this.

Although there is enough federal funding to issue an FYI voucher to every youth aging out of foster care statewide, Massachusetts is barely using this critical resource. Too few vouchers are reaching the young people who need them. We can (and must) do better.

Shaping Solutions

This year, with backing from Liberty Mutual Foundation, HopeWell joined forces with More Than Words and Bridge Over Troubled Waters to tackle this issue. Our goal is simple: **Reduce homelessness for youth aging out of foster care** by making sure no young person misses out on the housing support they need.

With this goal in mind, we're eager to collaborate closely with young people, public housing authorities, and government and community partners to ensure every young adult has a safe, stable home after foster care.



MASSACHUSETTS RANKS #37
nationally among all states for FYI voucher use

ONLY 9 OUT OF 120
public housing authorities access FYI vouchers

ONLY 119 OUT OF ~3,000
young people aging out of state care have used an FYI voucher since 2019



Appreciating a community full of helping hands

It truly takes a village! This year, our supporters, from large corporate partners, to an eighth-grader in civics class, rallied around the children, young adults, and families in our care:

25 cleaning kits
to help young adults keep their apartments fresh and comfortable

38 sets of pajamas
to make kids' bedtime routines a little brighter

40 winter coats & handmade quilts
to wrap children in something warm and comforting during tough times

43 bags of books & colorful supplies
to get elementary school students excited to read

100+ backpacks & essentials
to help kids and teens start school feeling confident and prepared

300+ gift cards & gifts
to help families make happy holiday memories together

Dare to shake it up

Taking momentum to the State House

Last year, we shared how elevating the voices and experiences of young people in our programs helped end the state's harmful practice of taking ~\$5.5 million in Social Security benefits each year from eligible youth in foster care.

This was a significant victory. But we knew legislative action would be vital to making the change permanent and safeguarding against future reversals.

This year, we testified on Beacon Hill for the first time! Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy,

Cat Quirion, told members of the Massachusetts Legislature, **"We must ensure that no matter what happens in the coming months or years, we will never again take benefits away from children and youth experiencing foster care in an effort to balance the state budget."**

Our efforts contributed to MA passing *An Act Protecting Benefits Owed to Foster Children*, a new law ensuring eligible youth can access their full benefits, build savings, and gain the financial literacy skills they need to thrive as independent adults.

1,250+

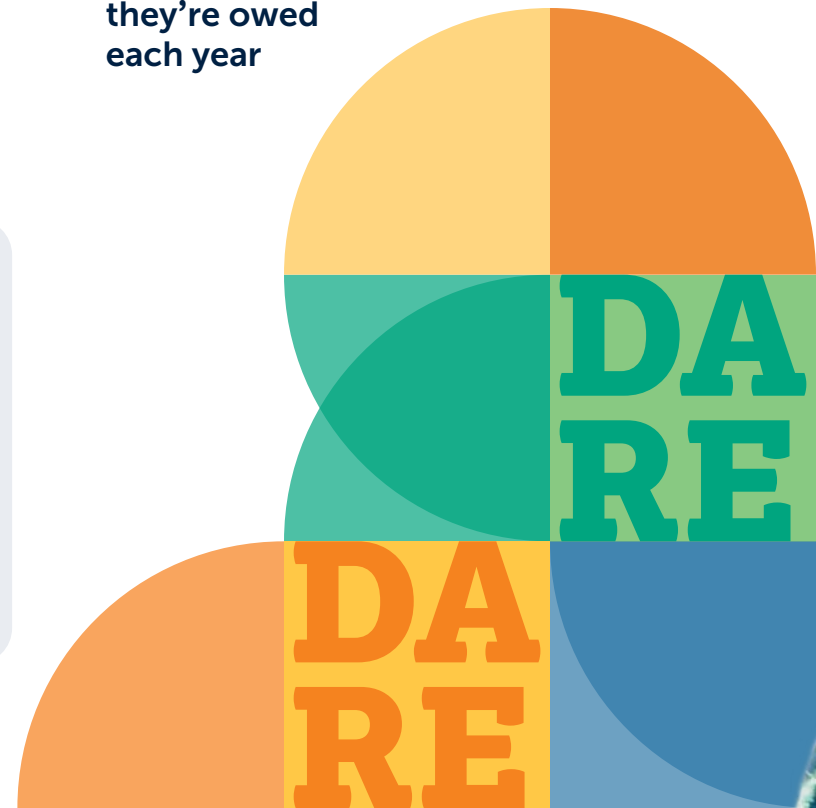
young people will now receive the benefits they're owed each year

Mobilizing around children's well-being

To improve the child welfare system in Massachusetts, HopeWell also:



- ✓ Pursued 3 other key policy priorities: keeping siblings together in foster care, lifting families out of deep poverty, and legally protecting the fundamental rights of children in foster care
- ✓ Tracked 24 child welfare-related bills
- ✓ Collaborated with 3 different legislative committees
- ✓ Participated in 5 change-driven coalitions



Closing gaps & opening doors for our youngest readers

In Massachusetts, only 1 in 5 third-graders in foster care are on-track in reading. Literacy is a **critical gateway skill**, so early gaps can shape a child's learning and life trajectories for years to come.

This year, our RISE program stayed focused on **changing these odds**: A majority of students made average or above-average progress toward their reading and social-emotional skills. RISE tutors supported each child's growth through six-week cycles of setting goals, tracking progress, and adjusting lessons to fit each child's evolving needs.



Reading is so essential to everything else: accessing science, history, math, and the world of ideas. It's also key to accessing work, higher education, economic opportunity, political agency, and self-realization. For me, there's really nothing more important or potentially life-changing than literacy education.”

— Jonathan Landman, Education Director

Bridging special education barriers

The Challenge

Many of the children we support face barriers to educational opportunities and success. But navigating the special education system can be daunting for families and caregivers, especially when a child is also experiencing other instability.

Our Solution

In response to needs raised by staff, HopeWell introduced special education consultation support in FY25 to reduce these obstacles and make sure each child's learning needs are met.

Our Impact

Equipping caregivers and staff with resources to advocate for each child's best interests has **already led to important breakthroughs**. It has helped ensure children's individualized education plans (IEPs) meet their unique needs, and, in one case, even helped secure a new placement in a school program that better supports a child's academic and social-emotional growth.

Dare to build bonds



I foster because I have always known it was important to share my heart.”

— HopeWell foster parent Mayra Fleury

Turning a moment of inspiration into 20+ years of love

Mayra Fleury began fostering with HopeWell more than 20 years ago, after seeing an ad in the local newspaper while riding the train. She was inspired by a picture of a little boy and decided to call and begin training to become a foster parent. The first child placed with her turned out to be the same little boy from the newspaper! In the years since, Mayra has fostered 25 children and teens.

This year, her kindness was recognized by the New England Patriots with tickets to a game. After the game at Gillette Stadium, Mayra emailed HopeWell, writing, **“The game yesterday was really good! We enjoyed it. It was freezing but we survived! So, I have exciting news to share with you...Mr. Kraft invited me and my son to the SUPER BOWL. They are paying for airfare, hotels, and tickets. How exciting is this! I am blessed and thrilled.”**



Exciting moment:

Foster parent Mayra Fleury with Patriots quarterback Drake Maye at the Super Bowl in New Orleans. Mayra had a blast on her trip!



Creating spaces for belonging

For adults with disabilities receiving in-home supports through our Adult Services program, FY25 was a year filled with learning, bonding, and making lasting memories together.

We launched **an initiative to bring families together for special outings**, including beach picnics, a lobster cruise, a trip to the Museum of Science, and a fun-filled day at the Kroc Center, where parents and children played games, did crafts, and deepened relationships.

We also introduced a series of workshops, offering parents in the program a supportive space to reflect, learn, and connect with one another as they explored parenting approaches that positively shape family dynamics.



Empowering families as they chart a path forward

This year, we partnered with families to prevent and navigate crises, strengthen relationships, access vital resources, and set goals that support their children's well-being. Our Family Together program empowered families across MA to **safely stay together and achieve lasting stability**, including:

- Supporting a mom and her children leaving an abusive relationship to avoid eviction, secure a new home, address trauma, and work toward employment.
- Helping a family exit a shelter and move into stable housing, overcoming the barriers and long waitlists that families typically face.
- Partnering with a mother as she successfully reunified with her children, maintained her sobriety, gained employment, and strengthened family relationships and communication.

Dare to dream big

Helping young people lay a strong foundation during tough times

Amid a challenging job market, a shortage of affordable housing, and long waitlists for mental health services, the 48 young adults participating in My First Place™ (MFP) demonstrated remarkable perseverance this year and reached out to us more often for support along the way.

Philanthropy helped us purchase two multi-unit apartment homes in Metro Boston in recent years — and in FY25, helped fund critical improvements to one of these properties! By replacing the back porch and installing new washers and dryers, we ensured that for years to come, youth living there will have **a safe, comfortable place to call home** as they pursue their personal, educational, and career goals.

**Closest available comparison data for context: In Massachusetts, 43% of youth aging out of foster care experience homelessness by age 21. Nationally, ≤20% enroll in college.* >>



90%
of those exiting
in Boston and
Springfield secured
stable housing*

↑ Up from 82% in FY24

53%
of eligible youth
enrolled in a post-
secondary program*

↓ Down from 57% in FY24



I always feel proud when we get together as a household, sharing items, growing and having a sense of community, and knowing that everyone in the building has your back.

Education-wise, I'm working to get my high school diploma and graduate in a semester through adult education. It's been challenging, but I'm pushing through. My personal goal is getting a cat ...

[HopeWell is] helping me find my independence and has given me the chance to prove myself through a very challenging time. Being given that support is helpful for finding who I want to be and where I want to go.”

— RT, My First Place™ participant



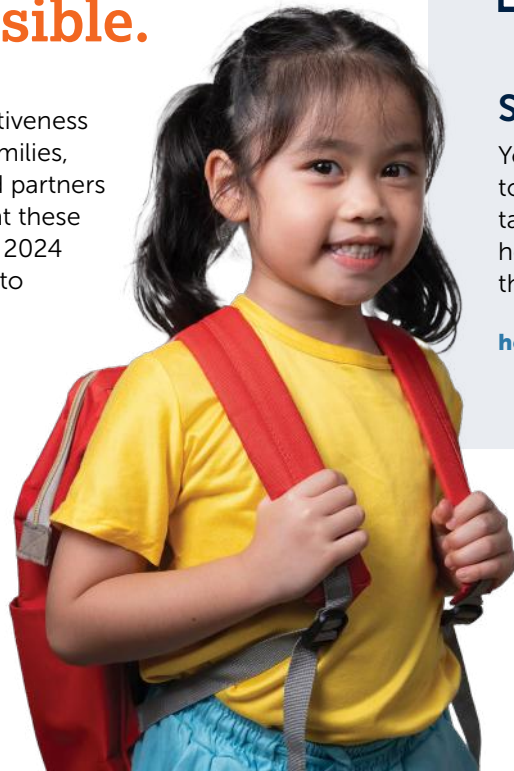
Care happens
together

Thank you for **daring**

Every day, HopeWell enriches the lives and expands the opportunities of children, adults, and families across Massachusetts.

But it's supporters like you who make this possible.

This annual report is a testament to the effectiveness of the generous support of the individuals, families, corporations, foundations, organizations, and partners listed on the following pages. Please note that these listings include gifts received between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of donor names. Please contact us with any changes to your listing.



Support our work!

Your donation goes directly to our programming and is tax deductible. Thank you for helping empower and uplift those in our care!

hopewellinc.org/ways-to-give



Organizational Donors

\$1,000,000+

Liberty Mutual Foundation

\$500,000+

Anonymous

The Ceres Foundation

\$100,000+

Clipper Ship Foundation

New England Patriots Foundation

\$50,000+

Arbella Insurance Foundation

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\$25,000+

Cummings Foundation

George Harrington Trust

John W. Alden Trust

Liberty Mutual Insurance

The 'Quin Impact Fund at the
Boston Foundation

Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation

\$10,000+

Aon

Boston Center for Facial Plastics

The Boston Foundation

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Needham Bank

PwC

State Street Corporation

\$5,000+

Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall
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PNC Foundation

\$1,000+

Anonymous

Boston Bruins Foundation

Boston Children's Hospital

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Sullivan Tire

USI Insurance Services

Votze Butler Associates

\$500+

Analog Devices Foundation

Boston Community Pediatrics

Pawsh, LLC

SingleStore

UP TO \$499

Beantown Physio — Joseph Kim

Benevity

BlackRock

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GitHub

Google

Many Hands Thrift Shoppe

Cabot Risk

MassMutual Foundation

Regeneron

Star Market Give Back Where It Counts
Bag Program



**HopeWell earns top marks from
independent charity evaluators:**



DA
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“It just takes one person. I believe every child deserves to have that one person.”

— Former Patriots team captain Matthew Slater

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“You’ve impacted our lives in ways you don’t even know.”

— Family member, to their HopeWell social worker

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Individual Donors

\$250,000+

The Vettel Family

\$100,000+

Thomas Ewing and Marilyn London-Ewing Charitable Fund

Melanie & Frank Foley*

Suzi & Dave Johnson

\$50,000+

Heather & David Mack

\$25,000+

The Bulens Family Foundation

Madeline Coffin

Christine & David Letts

Alison & Joe Quinan

Jaclyn Ranere

\$10,000+

Neeti Bhalla Johnson*

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Adriano Varano

Wisnia Family World Repair Fund

\$5,000+

Crane Family Fund

Lisa K. Rowan-Gillis & Gary Gillis

Daniel Salera

Shaw Family Giving Fund

\$1,000+

Anonymous (4)

Nehia Al-Shanniek

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Ginger & Milton Brasher-Cunningham*

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Virginia & Andrew Keleher



*Denotes recurring donors, who have chosen to provide steady, reliable support for HopeWell on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis.



Alyssa & Matt Kence
 Josh Kraft
 Melissa MacDonnell

“The feeling I get from helping someone else is priceless. It’s what keeps me going.”

— Shared Living caregiver

“I feel so thankful to be part of HopeWell and to be able to help kids.”

— Foster parent



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 Robin Young

\$500+

Anonymous (2)
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UP TO \$499

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DePaso Pinals Charitable Fund
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Charlie Gomes

The Good Family
Cynthia & Christopher Gorton
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Vivienne & Kit Gutierrez
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Kaileen & Keith Hanlon
Henriz Henry*
Tara Hatfield
Hefferon Family
Marcia Hertz
Maura Hickey
Stephanie Higgins
Chad & Nicole Higgins
David Olliges
Lauren Janusonis
Nancy L. Keating
Brian Kelleher
Sadie Keller
Travis Kilpatrick
Sara Kittle
Lawrence Kulla
The Ladies of the Lab and the
Two Guys
Amy Larson
Megan Lindberg
Linda Logan
Michael & Tai Lorizio
Lou Monestime
Andy Mahoney
Lauren & Ward Maloy
Estrella Marrero

“My First Place™ was
there for me when I
needed it most.”

— Young adult aging out
of foster care

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Shamael Mustafa
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Two Guys

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TS LaPointe Design
United Way of Massachusetts Bay



Planned Giving

We are deeply grateful for your support in all its forms. You can change lives for generations to come by naming HopeWell as a beneficiary. For more information, please visit hopewellinc.org/planned-giving or contact Lisa Rowan-Gillis, Chief Development Officer, at lrowangillis@hopewellinc.org or **617-607-5169**.

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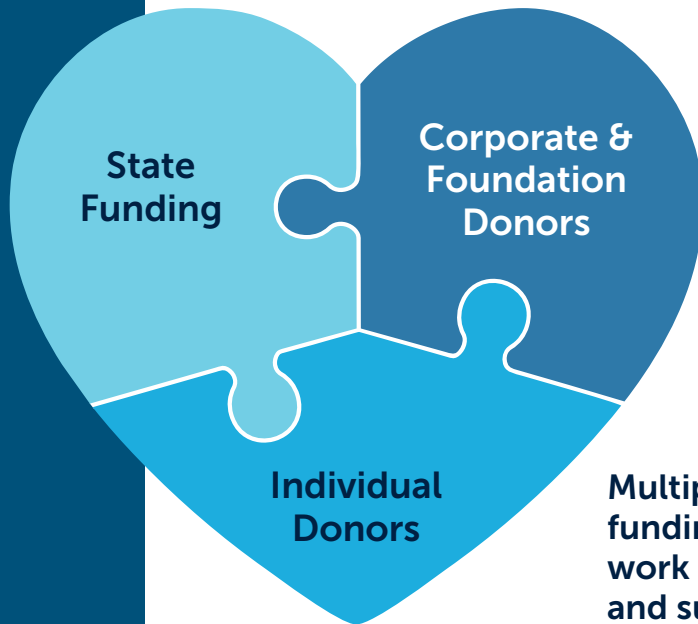
FY25 Financial Snapshot

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Note: Percentages shown have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

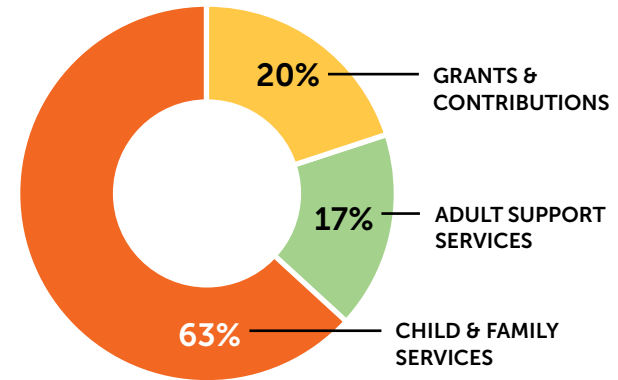
FY25 CAMPAIGN PROGRESS:

In year 1 of 3, we raised 39% (\$4.7M) of our \$12M *Dare to Hope* goal.

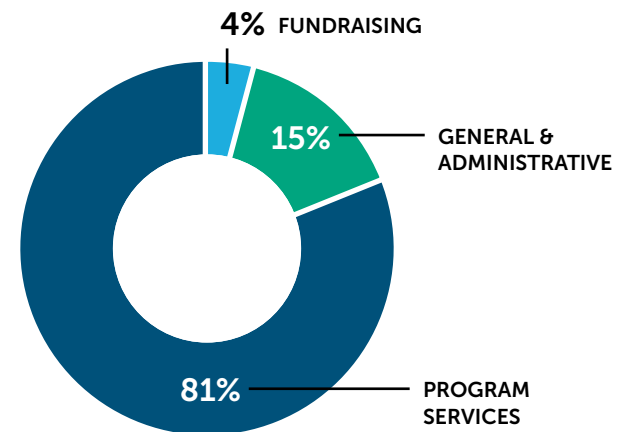


Multiple sources of funding ensure our work is both effective and sustainable.

TOTAL FY25 REVENUE: \$22,920,911



TOTAL FY25 EXPENSES: \$22,294,368



\$626,543 net revenue surplus restricted for future years

Dare to give back

Meet Jim McDaniel & Margaret Randle 40+ years of support for HopeWell

In the early 1980s, when he was an associate at Choate, Hall, & Stewart, a colleague asked Jim McDaniel to do some pro bono work at an organization called DARE (which would later become HopeWell).

At the time, he couldn't have anticipated what DARE would grow into. "We were primarily state-funded, and there were enormous financial challenges," Jim recalls. Despite this, the work left an indelible impression on him. Over time, his involvement deepened from professional to personal, and in 1986, he joined the Board.

"All foster care agencies focus on keeping kids physically safe — and DARE did a great job with that," says Jim. "But over the years, that

wasn't enough. There were issues around the periphery of foster care that were stubbornly problematic, leading to many disappointing long-term outcomes."

As HopeWell began taking on these long-standing challenges more directly, Jim says he found himself thinking, "**This is exciting!**"

He shared his passion with Margaret and as HopeWell's programs evolved, so did their shared commitment. "I heard people speak firsthand about what HopeWell is doing and saw the excitement building," she says. "**It has become so much more tangible to me.**"

Fast forward years later: Jim is now completing his tenure as Board Chair. As Jim and Margaret

plan for retirement, they agreed that HopeWell is the right place to continue supporting and chose to include HopeWell in their estate plan. "Planned giving allows us to continue supporting an organization we believe in, without sacrificing the integrity of our retirement," Jim says. With this gift, they are providing life-changing support to children and families for generations to come.

"**We have no doubt that our contributions will be put to good use,**" shares Jim. "Some organizations are so big that our contributions would be a drop in the bucket. Other organizations, you worry they won't be around. We both feel that HopeWell will be around doing important, innovative work — and that our money will make a difference."



[I wish people knew that] all of the children and families HopeWell serves have the potential to thrive ... It's ultimately about trying to unlock the enormous potential in these lives."

— Jim McDaniel, long-time HopeWell supporter

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What do you wish more people understood about foster care?

“**Foster care is difficult and complicated.** The execution part takes an enormous amount of skill and patience. And while keeping kids safe is the #1 priority, meeting their needs goes so far beyond that.

If we keep them safe during their childhood and then set them adrift when they turn 18, we’ve failed them. Similarly, if they don’t learn how to read by third grade and ultimately fall behind in school, we’ve failed them. Those issues have traditionally been seen as “outside” of foster care — someone else’s problem — but HopeWell refuses to see it that way.”

What inspires you about our *Dare to Hope* campaign?

“Because of **what HopeWell does as an innovator**, having funding to launch new programs and expand promising ones, without having to do it on a one-off basis all the time, would really help us do more. This includes both testing new programs and attracting the best staff — there are a lot of things we can do with a reliable pool of funding.

Sometimes when there is a pressing need, we jump off the cliff and hope that someone will hand us a parachute. Having a reliable funding source to fuel innovation removes that risk.”

Jim McDaniel and Margaret Randle have supported HopeWell for 40+ years as donors. Jim is also wrapping up 22 years of service as HopeWell’s Board Chair. >>

Read more of their story:
hopewellinc.org/jim-and-margaret



Dare to celebrate

HopeWell's 60th Anniversary Gala

Honoring 60 years of impact
& building what's next



300+

PEOPLE JOINED THE CELEBRATION &
RALLIED AROUND OUR MISSION



⤴ Last October, friends and supporters — like our incredible partners from State Street — gathered at The Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts to lift up the children, adults, and families who count on HopeWell.

38
partners sponsored
the event, including
presenting sponsor
Liberty Mutual
Insurance

20
volunteers shared
their time to help
the night run
smoothly



Our *Dare to Hope* gala was all about celebrating our roots and imagining what’s possible in the years ahead. Emmy-nominated Boston reporter Bianca Beltrán guided the evening, which included a cocktail hour, dinner, and a powerful performance by the Boston Children’s Chorus.

During the celebration, we officially launched our *Dare to Hope* campaign, sharing our bold vision to strengthen services, improve policies, and elevate the social services profession. **“Together we can shape a future where kids and families have what they need to heal and thrive,”** said HopeWell President & CEO, Shaheer Mustafa.

Thanks to our community, the gala raised \$360,852 toward building these brighter futures!



◀ We honored Gerry Wright, now 90, who joined us with his family. A belief in innovative, community-based care inspired Gerry to launch HopeWell, then called DARE Family Services, back in 1964.



Three speakers shared deeply personal stories that brought our mission to life. Viola Lesley, a caregiver for 40+ years, reflected on fostering and eventually adopting Sue-Ellen, a child she felt called to protect and love. **“I am thankful. I had the chance to help shape her into the woman she has become,”** she said.

Springfield Program Director Mike Hanscom shared the Flores family’s journey with three-year-old Isaac, whose early challenges led to a lifelong bond and continued commitment to fostering. Isaac is now a college graduate and patient care associate, carrying forward that spirit of service.

Foster parent Mayra Fluery spoke about Javi, who came to live with her at age nine. **“Of course, first he broke my heart. And then, I fell in love with him,”** she said. Now a college student dreaming of becoming an architect, Javi surprised Mayra on stage with a heartfelt video message about the impact of stability and belonging.



We awarded our *Champions of Hope* award to former Patriots captain Matthew Slater, his wife, Dr. Shahrzad Slater, and her mother, Ms. Denise McNealey! In recent years, they have quietly lifted up children and teens in our care by helping them connect to some of the best parts of being a kid — from going back-to-school shopping, to making happy holiday memories.

Ms. McNealey spoke about her 15 years in foster care and the lessons she passed along to her children and grandchildren. **“I remember that day vividly, like it was yesterday. I can remember her face smiling and just happy to see us,”** she said, recalling her foster mom. **“I felt very loved and cared for. Because every night, she would tuck us in bed. Every single night.”**

“There’s a multiplicative effect that love has ... really, once you impact one person, you’re impacting every person that person comes in contact with,” Dr. Shahrzad Slater reflected.



I instantly felt like you were going to be someone special in my life ... You've been there for me through moments when I didn't think I could hold myself together. You stood by me during family struggles, helped me make sense of things when everything felt confusing, and you never once made me feel like I was a burden.

The times you brought me places, showed up for me, or simply listened when I needed someone to understand might have seemed small, but those moments were lifelines for me.

You gave me a safe place when I needed one most ... You saw me at my lowest and instead of giving up on me, you pushed me to see my own strength. You believed in me when I couldn't even look myself in the mirror and believe in myself ...

All the moments when you made me laugh, the times you calmed me down, and the way you never judged me for being me — you didn't just do your job, you cared in a way that I'll carry with me forever ...

The lessons you've taught me, the strength you helped me find, and the way you made me feel seen and understood will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

— Diamond, an 18-year-old leaving foster care, to her social worker of seven years





Dare with us





HopeWell
CARE IN ACTION

hopewellinc.org

