



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BOSTON**

**YOUTH SERVICE
PROVIDERS NETWORK***

Since 1996

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Program:

Youth Service Providers Network is an advocacy and intervention program of BGCB whose mission is to help the most at-risk young people make positive life choices through trusting relationships with skilled and compassionate social workers.

We do this by:

- ⇒ Intervening (being present) at critical moments when young people are either engaged or at risk of engaging in delinquent activity
- ⇒ Placing masters-level, licensed, clinical social workers at police stations through an innovative partnership with the Boston Police Department
- ⇒ Connecting young people and their families with the most effective social services for their individual situations

Since its inception in 1996, YSPN has served more than **9,800** of the city's most at-risk youth (80% between the ages of 13 and 21) and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

How YSPN Works:

Licensed, trained social workers, working out of Boston police stations, are deployed to put young people and their families in contact with a **comprehensive safety net of services**. Youth referred to YSPN are either engaged in delinquent activity, or at high risk of engaging in such activity. After referral, the youth receive assistance under a three-tiered system:

- ⇒ intake and assessment
- ⇒ short-term clinical case management
- ⇒ on-going clinical services

Meeting a critical need:

YSPN developed as a solution to the growing frustration of the Boston Police Department officers, whose only available option in dealing with at-risk youth was arrest. Boston police noted that many of the youth they came in contact with would benefit more from guidance and assistance than from an encounter with the Juvenile Justice system. Driven by BGCB's mission of helping youth become responsible citizens and leaders, YSPN provides police officers with options and resources for many youth offenders or potential offenders.

– more –

** In January 2009, BGCB began a YSPN re-branding initiative. The program's new name will be announced in 2010.*

Communities Served by YSPN:

YSPN directors and licensed social workers work alongside the Boston Police Department in precincts in the following neighborhoods:

- ⇒ Charlestown
- ⇒ Dorchester
- ⇒ Jamaica Plain
- ⇒ Mattapan
- ⇒ Roxbury
- ⇒ South End/Lower Roxbury

Additionally, YSPN extends its reach through the city-wide programs of Youth Violence Strike Force and School Police Unit.

Fundraising:

YSPN has relied on substantial partnership funding from the Boston Police Department (BPD). Because it is a high priority for both organizations, significant effort is made to ensure program continuity.

Additionally, while YSPN has a core group of individual supporters, there are efforts in motion to expand this network. YSPN has established an Advisory Board, listed in full below. YSPN seeks significant financial support through the development of state budget and legislative initiatives.

- ⇒ Fiscal Year 2010 funding from government and public sources: approximately \$450,000
- ⇒ Fiscal Year 2010 funding from private sources (including events and grants): approximately \$400,000

Staff:

- ⇒ Jeff Butts, **Executive Director**
- ⇒ Denise Kasrawi, **Clinical Director**
- ⇒ Andrea Perry, **Director of Operations**

YSPN Advisory Board:

Elizabeth Silverman, *Chair*
Ronald M. Ansin, *Honorary Chair*
Robert R. Beck
Berthlyn M. Bernier
Michael Carson
Laurence S. Chud, M.D.
Ruthanne Fuller
Robert P. Gittens
Weston Howland III
Boston Police Superintendent Paul Joyce
Michael Kineavy
Joshua Klevens
Ken Lang
Elizabeth Moore
Janice Morris
Frances Schendle
Donald Stern
Chris Wayland
Jane Wolchonok