

2024 -- H 8308

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING BOYS TOWN NEW ENGLAND TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE  
ON MAY 23, 2024, AND THANKING THEM FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK THEY DO FOR  
CHILDREN AND FOR HEALING AND BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Cortvriend, Shekarchi, Blazjewski,  
Chippendale, Noret, J. Brien, Kennedy, Ajello, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: May 23, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Boys Town was originally founded in 1917 by Father Edward Flanagan, a  
2 Catholic priest from Ireland who was a social reformer and recognized a great need for the  
3 creation of an organization that would speak out and advocate on behalf of children’s rights and  
4 needs, and create a safe place in which children from troubled homes would find a loving and  
5 nurturing environment in which to recover and eventually thrive despite their difficult  
6 circumstances; and

7           WHEREAS, Boys Town opened in 1917 with 100 boys under their care and quickly  
8 grew to become nationally acclaimed with numerous positive media stories in newspapers and  
9 magazines highlighting the effective methods and the positive impact it was making in the lives  
10 of these at-risk-boys. This attention culminated in 1938 with the blockbuster release of the movie  
11 “Boys Town” starring Spencer Tracy as Father Flanagan and Mickey Rooney as a troubled  
12 youngster. Boys Town was the highest grossing film of 1938; and

13           WHEREAS, For over three decades, Boys Town New England has been a steadfast  
14 beacon of hope for children and families throughout Rhode Island. In the past year alone, its  
15 profound impact reached over 20,000 individuals, touching lives with a comprehensive array of  
16 services. From its nurturing residential campus in Portsmouth, to its initiatives in Foster Care and  
17 community-based programs across the state, Boys Town New England has made a significant  
18 mark in our communities, with a notable focus on educational empowerment in Pawtucket, all  
19 guided by the innovative Boys Town Education Model; and

1           WHEREAS, This dynamic intervention strategy is deeply rooted in shaping behavior,  
2 cultivating meaningful connections, and instilling social skills, all aimed at uplifting communities  
3 and creating enduring change. Emphasizing a proactive and preventive approach, the Boys Town  
4 Education Model prioritizes building a supportive environment that nurtures holistic student  
5 development and long-term success; and

6           WHEREAS, In addition, Charity Navigator, a highly respected charity rating system, has  
7 awarded Boys Town its highest rating for the reputable and fiscally sound way it manages its  
8 finances; and

9           WHEREAS, At its core, Boys Town model of care embodies behavioral interventions,  
10 equipping children and families with the tools to access resources and empower themselves for a  
11 brighter future. Through these efforts, Boys Town New England continues to inspire and uplift,  
12 leaving a legacy of positive transformation in its wake; now, therefore be it

13           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
14 welcomes Boys Town New England to the Rhode Island State House on May 23, 2024, and  
15 thanks them for all of the good work they do on a daily basis to help children and bring families  
16 together; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Sarah Galvin, President and Executive  
19 Director of Boys Town New England.

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