



Friends of the Children-Boston
Family Friends Program



Friends of the Children – Boston
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The background of the page features a faded image of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, standing behind a group of children. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a colorful, stylized cityscape with buildings and a blue sky with white stars. The overall tone is warm and positive.

About *Friends of the Children-Boston*

Friends of the Children-Boston is a revolutionary mentoring organization committed to supporting, developing and fostering high academic achievement and strong character development of children from at-risk and underserved communities to avoid cycles of poverty, abuse or violence and become successful members of society. We pair children who are facing and reacting to risk conditions (Achievers) with a professional mentor for twelve years, beginning in first grade and continuing through high school graduation.

About the Family Friends Program

Family Friends is a unique program that provides the opportunity for you and/or your family to be a “friend of a child.” You will be matched with one Achiever and will participate with the Achiever and his/her Mentor in various activities. Family Friends is a perfect way for you and your family to have fun, share experiences and interests with an Achiever and to grow, learn and discover together.

Outings and Activities

Throughout the year, you and/or your family will have several fun opportunities to spend time with your Achiever and his or her Mentor. You are invited to join them for after-school activities, plan a special summer outing, attend an annual *Friends-Boston* Community Service Event and exchange monthly pen-pal letters.

- **Afternoon Enrichment:** Throughout the school year, Achievers and their Mentors will follow a planned schedule of after-school activities. These activities will take place at community sites and will include trips to museums, art projects at public libraries or community centers, and games and sports at local parks. We will provide you with a monthly calendar of where your Achiever will be on any given day, and you and your family are invited to join them for a fun afternoon.
- **Summer Expedition:** During the summer months, you will have the opportunity to plan a special outing with your Achiever. This may be a Red Sox game, a trip to the ballet or a picnic in the park. Feel free to get creative! To pick a date or for help planning an outing, call or e-mail your Achiever's Master Mentor or Friend.
- **Community Service:** The annual *Friends-Boston* Community Service Events are great opportunities for Family Friends, Achievers and Mentors to work together and give back to the community. Your family will be invited to one event per year and will work alongside your Achiever to complete a fun community service project.
- **Correspondence Letters:** Achievers love to receive mail and will be very excited to hear

from you! During the school year they will send monthly letters to you. Feel free to send holiday cards, birthday cards or short letters. When writing to Achievers please be sensitive to the fact that they may have very different experiences than you within their homes and neighborhoods. The best way to establish a relationship is to focus on common interests and talents.

- **Gifts:** Gifts are not a requirement of the Family Friends program. If you do wish to give a gift, it should be sent directly to the *Friends-Boston* office or given on an individual outing. It is important that gifts are given individually to take into consideration the feelings of other Achievers. If you are unsure about an appropriate gift please ask the Master Mentor or Friend. In the case of monetary gifts, please give either a gift certificate or personal check made out to *Friends of the Children-Boston*.

Expectations of You as a Family Friend

- Commit for a minimum of two years
- Engage in at least two outings with your Achiever per year
- Contribute \$1,000 per year to *Friend-Boston* to help sponsor activities and buy school supplies and snacks for Achievers.

**For more information and with questions please contact:
Michelle M. Harrington at Michelle.H@friendsboston.org or
617-983-3682 and visit us online at:
www.friendsboston.org**