

BIG THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AT CFP

CHECK OUT OUR FALL NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2022



Founder and former CEO Joe Leavey with newly elected CEO Craig Gordon

CFP ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF FOUNDER & CEO, JOE LEAVEY, AND CRAIG GORDON AS JOE'S SUCCESSOR

In July 2022, Communities for People, Inc., (CFP), announced that Founder and Chief Executive Officer, **Joseph M. Leavey** retired after 45 years in the child welfare industry. We salute Joe for over four decades of service and making a meaningful impact on youth, families and professionals in the child welfare system across Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

We are thrilled that Joe will remain with CFP in the role as Strategic Consultant. A retirement party was held at Marina Bay in Quincy in September to celebrate Joe's legacy. Congratulations Joe!

We are excited to announce that former Communities for People's Chief Operating Officer, **Craig Gordon**, has been named Leavey's successor as CEO. Craig has worked at CFP between Massachusetts and Rhode Island for 43 years. Congratulations to Craig for your dedication to providing high-quality support to youth and families facing extraordinary challenges. We have no doubt that you will carry the torch forward to enable CFP to grow and evolve into this exciting new chapter in child welfare services.

"The transition with Communities for People is bittersweet, but it is the right time to pass the torch to spend more time with family. I have complete faith in our former COO and newly elected CEO, Craig Gordon," said Joe. "Craig is a proven and respected leader who has been passionate about our work through his relentless commitment to youth, families and community."

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS' PARTNERSHIP WITH CFP

CFP has the very good fortune of having Patriots' Tight End, **Hunter Henry** (#85), choose CFP and become an ambassador for our organization. Hunter has a genuine passion for helping foster kids and is focused on giving back to our foster care youth through kid-friendly events throughout the year.

"I think it's really important for kids to have an active lifestyle," said Hunter. "I encourage kids to spend more time playing outdoors."

Hunter Henry, in collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, donated 100 pairs of sneakers and 100 duffle bags valued at \$12,000 to youth from CFP's programs in MA and RI. Held at Dean College in Franklin, MA, the event was broadcast on several of New England media outlets. We're still not sure which the kids loved more- getting a new pair of sneakers or being in the presence of a Patriots football player!

We are honored and delighted to partner with Hunter Henry when he's not on the field and, of course, rooting for him when he's on the field.



New England Patriots Tight-End, Hunter Henry with youth from CFP programs. Also pictured CEO Craig Gordon, Founder Joe Leavey and staff from the event sponsor, UnitedHealthcare.

MEET VERONICA FROM CFP'S NEW DORM PROGRAM



Meet Veronica, a young adult from CFP's new Dorm program. In 2016 she traveled a difficult road alone, leaving Guatemala without her family in pursuit of the "American dream". After arriving in Texas, she was then sent to MA where she first lived in a foster home and then moved to a group home by the age of 18. Once she turned 21, she was placed in CFP's new residential program, *The Dorm*, focused on older young adults ages 18-22 years old.

The program is co-ed and provides minimal staff support because these young adults are very much independent. With the caring guidance of Assistant Regional Director, Cynthia Coppola, and other staff members she graduated high school. Veronica enjoys working full-time at Star Market "It was very hard for me at first," she explained "I had no family, so when I heard of people going home to visit their family during the holidays, that's when it hit me hard." She hasn't seen her family since she left Guatemala. Veronica is pursuing a long-term goal of becoming a Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA).

"I am filled with gratitude that I have a safe, loving place to call home. I don't know where I'd be without my CFP family and my Cynthia."

ANNUAL STAFF DAY WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS

It's been two years since we've been able to gather in person for Staff Day due to COVID. So we were especially grateful to have been blessed with terrific weather, delicious food by Blue Ribbon BBQ, and a great turnout of staff! Although everyone's hard work and dedication to CFP is appreciated, there were a few staff members who were recognized for their extraordinary contributions this past year.

In MA, the MVP award was given to **Mary Kelly** and **Matilda Drayton**; and the "Rookie of Year" award went to **M'Kayla Robinson**. In RI, the MVP award recipients were **Jamie Brooks**, **Leah Potter**, **Cara Garratt**, **Jim Chua** and **Verrie Rose**. The RI "Rookie of the Year" was **Markus Peoples**. Congratulations to all!

Founder & retired CEO of CFP, **Joe Leavey** shared his reflections and why he believes the future is bright for CFP, and discussed the legacy that it was built on. **"We always need to remember to show kids RESPECT. CFP will continue to make great impact because respect is at the core of what we do."**



Founder & former CEO, Joe Leavey speaking with staff during Staff Day at Hale Reservation in Westwood, MA



(L-R): Sandra Pyram-Loyer, Kelly Hynes McDermott, Joe Leavey, Joan Valcourt, & Eric Gaboriault

JOYCE SELMAN, CFP PROGRAM DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED IN THE PROVIDERS' COUNCIL BLOG



Joyce Selman, CFP Program Director, Ten Hills, Somerville, MA

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE.](#)

Joyce Selman, CFP Program Director at CFP's Ten Hills group home in Somerville, MA, was recently featured in The Providers' Council's blog, "Saluting the Caring Force." The Providers' monthly blog highlights individuals who go above and beyond to care for others in need. For over eight years, Joyce has served as a direct care counselor to the six young men between the ages of 16-20 years old that live in the group home.

"Joyce gives new meaning to going above and beyond," said Sandra Pyram-Loyer, LMHC, Regional Director of MA programs. Joyce is patient and reliable in coaching the young men in the program with life skills such as cooking, conflict resolution and healthy communication,"

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND MAKE AN IMPACT

WE ARE IN NEED OF FOSTER PARENTS.....

*We need your help!! We are always in need of foster parents. There are youth struggling in the foster care system right now who are waiting for a home like yours. If you or someone you know would be a great fit for a foster parent contact us. **CFP will pay a \$1000 referral bonus for any family you refer once they are licensed, including yours.** Visit our Facebook pages for more details: In MA @fosterhopeMA and in RI @fosterhopeRI, or **click here** to learn more.*

MAKE A DONATION TODAY TO SUPPORT YOUTH & FAMILIES IN CFP PROGRAMS

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