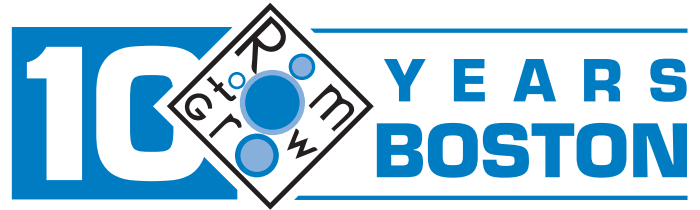


Room to Grow news

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS SERVING BOSTON FAMILIES

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Room to Grow launched its first year in Boston providing support for 50 babies. Ten years later, we serve nearly 400 babies annually in our three-year program. Room to Grow provides children with a strong foundation in life, including a far greater likelihood of graduating from high school and reaching their full potential. At the same time, their parents have gained the necessary confidence and determination to facilitate their children's achievements.



Building a strong foundation for babies in poverty

Room to Grow's founder, Julie Burns, knew the importance of providing support from the start. Her vision is reinforced by research studies confirming that the first three years are critical for development and that parents' actions during that time are key.

The support of the Boston area community over the past ten years has been significant. With your help, Room to Grow has distributed the market equivalent of nearly \$8 million in baby items and over 15,000 hours of individualized social work support. Because of your contributions, babies being raised in poverty have been given the best possible start.

Moving forward, Room to Grow will implement a comprehensive evaluation program that will formally assess the impact of our service delivery model. Validation of the program's methodology will enable the organization to expand its reach, helping even more babies being raised in poverty increase their chances of lifelong success.

Thank you for all that you've done for Boston's most vulnerable families. We look forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary with you.

Robyn Carter, LICSW
Executive Director, Boston

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: THREE LIVES CHANGED

Receiving a double stroller was a "lifesaving moment," recalls India, a single mother of twins who was struggling to navigate public transportation with two infants.

When India entered the program pregnant with twins, her relationship with their father was turbulent. She found herself unable to finish school or work but had a deep desire to support herself and her babies. Room to Grow helped relieve financial strain by providing clothes, books, toys and gear for the twins, however, India soon found that Room to Grow offered much more than just material resources. Visits to Room to Grow were therapeutic.

She could talk to her social worker about life's challenges, and received information, guidance, and support in return.

Today, because of their mother's strength and determination, Jeremy and Logan are 6 years old and thriving in kindergarten. They love school, sports and playing with their grandmother. India is now certified in Early Childhood Education and is employed as a lead preschool teacher. She is in school part time working towards a master's degree in nonprofit management, and recently fulfilled a dream of buying her own home in Hyde Park.

**"Room to Grow is not only a great place to receive help with materials. My social worker is also dedicated to helping my family, and me as a whole, be better."
-Room to Grow mother**



Photo courtesy of Nicole Chan Photography

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Room to Grow's dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to ensure all the donated baby essentials are available to the families in our program. In 2014, over 3,000 volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of their time managing over 50,000 items donated by the Boston community.

Maggie Heller, a mother of two and Boston resident, is one of our longest standing volunteers. She learned about Room to Grow through a friend and began volunteering shortly after we opened our doors in 2005. Since then, Maggie has become a crucial member of our volunteer team and an inventory expert. She is a great help in orienting new volunteers and a master at keeping our inventory organized and beautifully presented.

In addition to volunteering weekly, Maggie is an active member of our Program Committee, helping to pick up donations from collection partners and offering additional help as needed. When asked why she volunteers, Maggie said, "I just love it. I love children and I'd do anything I could to help them. I love the sense of camaraderie I feel with the staff and other volunteers and I love working to make everything organized for the moms who come to Room to Grow."

Maggie's dedication to Room to Grow is amazing and we are so grateful to have her on our team.

Contact Jen Teague at jen.teague@roomtogrow.org to join our volunteer team.



DID YOU KNOW?

"By the age of 3, children born into low income families hear roughly 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers, according to a 1990 study. Research since then has revealed that the "word gap" factors into a compounding achievement gap between the poor and the better-off in school and life."

NPR Staff "Closing the 'Word Gap' Between Rich and Poor". National Public Radio (December 2013).

2014 IMPACT

THANKS TO YOU...



99
newborns
welcomed

2,425
hours of
parenting
support

42,039
baby items
distributed

99%
of parents
felt more
connected to
their child

THANK YOU 2014 BOSTON SUPPORTERS

\$10,000+

Brooke and Jeff Bass
Nicole and David Borden
Julie and Ken Burns
Kerrie and Jimmy Coughlin
Amy and Jock Danforth
Sarah and Josh Greenhill
Allison Gollust Hult and Billy Hult
Julia and Peter Johannsen
Kathryn and Stephen Mortimer
Allison Picott and Michael Goldstein
Nicole and Kevin Pirani
Stephanie and Brian Spector
Victoria and Don Sullivan
Uma Thurman

\$5,000-9,999

Elizabeth and James Athanasoulas
Mary and Colbert Cannon
Peter Conlin
Karen Cormier
Lia Dean
Anne and Sean Gavin
Anne Hildreth and Ted Potters
Jennifer Jenkins and Keon Holmes
Joseph Maher
Jodi and Michael Masdea
Giselle and Casey Nelson
Emily and Thomas Reith
Laura Tomasetti and David Beardsley
Maggie Rokous Towles and Amor Towles
Emily and Alexander Whittemore

\$2,500-4,999

Christine and Brendan Burke
Lisa and John Capone
Emily and Dominic DeBonis
David Elsner
Rebecca and Peter Forkner
Ceiry and Nelson Fox
Liz and Todd Hammer
Rayna and Kevin Hannaway
Diane and Bob Hildreth
Anmol Mehra
Emily and Gregg Nardone
Kathleen and Randall Poole
Deborah and Joseph Robbins
Annie and Alex Sacerdote
Christine and Benjamin Thorne
Lucy and Stephen Tshuka
Denise and Mike Tucker
C.A. Webb and Michael Davies

\$1,000-2,499

Jill and David Adler
Eleanor Andrews
Molly Barber
Nicole and Jeff Bellows
Andrea and Bryan Belton
Jaclyn and Robert Bralower
Ennio Carboni
Velia Carboni and Rob Baldassarre
Sarah and Jai Chanda
Jessica and Bill Christ
Dina and John Chu
Janet Langhart Cohen and William Cohen
Kate and Cleon Daskalakis
Hilary and Baily Dent
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Saskia and Paul Epstein
Carrie and Jake Erhard
Anne Esbenshade and Michael Miele
Jacqueline and Graig Fantuzzi
Brooke and Peter Freeland
Beth Knessley Goldstein and Dennis Goldstein
Princess Alexandra of Greece and Nicolas Mirzayant
Roger Greene
Lindsey and Zachary Gund
Magdalena Hernandez and Joshua Dietch
Maia Heymann
Marina Kalb and David Feinberg
Christine and William Kendall
Jennie and Kevin Kuzemchak
Marje and Peter Lacillade
Bridget and Carl Long
Stephanie Mathis and Jeffrey Schwartz
Amelia McCarthy

Steffanie and Lou Merloni
Rebecca Mishuris
Gina and Adam Nebesar
Michelle and Ted Noon
Nicole and Femi Obi
Patricia and Robert O'Neill
Alisha Perdue and Daniel Lynn, III
Mary Richardson and Stan Leven
Amy and Ryan Scott
Nancy and Joe Serafini
Linda Stewart
Elizabeth and Tom Stults
Robin Travers and William Smith
Sandy Upham and Steve McGrory
Bryant Vernon
Asia and Jed Webber
Patricia Zarate and Danilo Perez

\$500-999

Jonas Adler
Kathryn and Christian Athanasoulas
Kristen and Jim Atwood
Stephen Bates
Stephanie Shapiro Berkson and Eric Berkson
Louise and Maurice Bermon
Wendy and Telis Bertsekas
David Blake
Sarah and Joshua Bock
Marie and Chris Bohane
Susan and Paisley Boney
Lesley Brown
Carol Bryant
Sarah Carroll and John Kluzza
Bithiah Carter and Andrew Hoffman
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Caroline Corbin and Michael Cheah
Erin Condon
Ginny and Tom Coury
Stacey and Bruce Danziger
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Liz and Court Dignan
Remi Donohue
Corinne and Kevin Emerick
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Joanne Falla
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Nadia Urato
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Ashley Welch and John McGah

Michelle Wellington
Alexis and Laurence Wintersteen

\$250-499

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Katie Cromer
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Emily and Neil Epstein
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Mindy and Evan Fox
Jennifer Fry
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Dianne Jennings
Holly and Andrew Johnson
Hubie Jones
Emily and Scott Kathan
Laura and Steven Kurzrok
Daniel Malecki
Polly Jenkins Man and Keith Man
Bruna and Joseph Manzoli
Sean McConnell
Sharon and Brian McNally
Ann and Tim Mikula
Craig and Kimberly Millian
Beth and Patrick Monaghan
Sara and Jeffrey Mohan
Judith Monosson and Robert Schrezer
Sarah Nardone
Jill Ng
Cristina and Kevin O'Brien
Maureen O'Brien and George Garcia
Amy and Nicolas Penna
Jorge Porto
Elizabeth and Robert Pozen
Kenneth Rendell
Tiffany Rosedale
Lee and Robert Salerno
Katharine and Brian Schmitt
Gared Schneberger
Charles Schuerhoff
Stephanie See
Rachel and Jim Solomon
Tiffany and Cliff Stevens
Lisa Stone
William Strauss
Chanlain Tetsadong
Neda and Stephen Vander Stoep
Wendy Warring and Troyen Brennan
Elizabeth Perkins Wilder and Jim Wilder
Carolyn and Anton Wintner
Kathy Wolff and Steve D'Amato

\$100-249

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Sandra Alessi
Krista and Steve Alperin
Annabelle Ruth Ambrose
Sam Angeloni
Matthew Anglin
James W. Asp
Caroline Augé
Jessica Bass
Tim Benz
Jill and Ben Black
Vyctoria Bly-Thwreatt
Marcie Brawer

Heidi Brooks
Robyn and Chuck Carter
Carolyn Casey
Kirstin Casgar
Sarah Cloutier
Linda Cohen
Jacquie and Robert Commerford
Betty and Owen Comora
Sara Conahan
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Deborah Dickerson
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Carrie and Darren Donovan
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Stacey and Giovanni Flammia
Lilliam and Felix Garcia
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Robert Gould
Rose Guida
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Visit www.roomtogrow.org for a list of corporate and foundation supporters



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www.roomtogrow.org
www.facebook.com/RoomtoGrow
www.twitter.com/RoomtoGrow_org

GET INVOLVED

10 Ways to Help Room to Grow During the 10th Anniversary Year

1. Join a committee or group
2. Volunteer to organize in-kind donations
3. Attend a Room to Grow event
4. Organize a collection drive
5. Host a Baby Shower for Room to Grow
6. Donate your next birthday to Room to Grow
7. Make a monetary gift in honor or in memory of a loved one
8. Ask your employer to match your gift
9. Tell your friends and colleagues about Room to Grow
10. Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter

Interested in Learning More About Our Committees and Groups?

Young Professionals Council

The YPC is a group of active, young professionals looking to make a difference. The YPC meets once a month and hosts two fundraising events a year for Room to Grow. Expand your network while supporting babies.

New Parents Council

Do you have a newborn baby? Join the Council and learn about the exciting development stages of your baby with other new parents. Join us to socialize, hear speakers, and host events. Learn more about your little one while voicing your support for other children.

Next Generation Club

The Next Generation Club is for parents of older children who are passionate about influencing the next generation of little ones. Through fundraising, volunteering and using a collective voice, the Next Gen Club will help Room to Grow's commitment to give all babies a chance at a great future.

We would be honored to have you join one of these groups. Contact Mechilia Salazar at mechilia.salazar@roomtogrow.org to discuss which group works best for you. Together, we can make a difference!

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

May 8, 2015

Room to Grow
Celebrating Mothers Breakfast
Mandarin Oriental, Boston

The annual Celebrating Mothers Breakfast will pay tribute to mothers in Boston and will honor founder Julie Burns.

To purchase your tickets, visit
www.tinyurl.com/RTGBREAKFAST