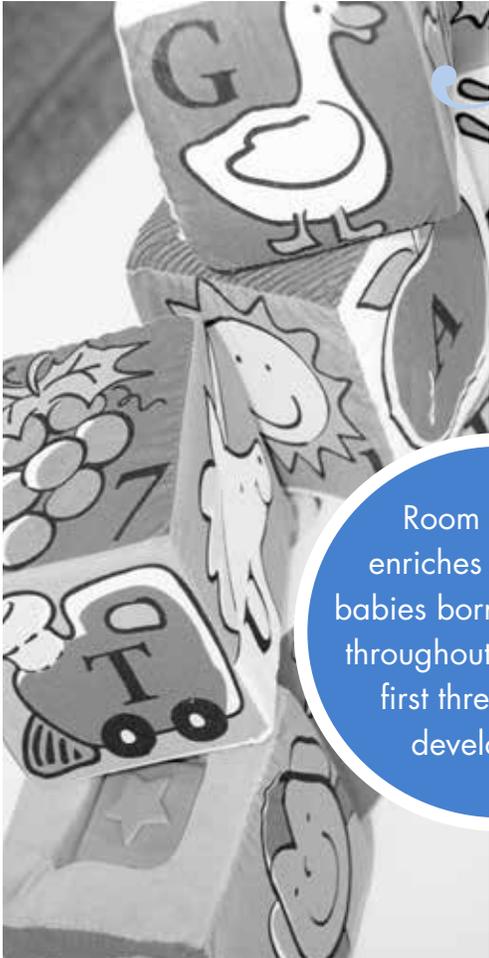


Room to Grow

Milestones



Room to Grow enriches the lives of babies born into poverty throughout their critical first three years of development.

During a prenatal visit in her eighth month of pregnancy, Patricia revealed that she, her boyfriend, and two-year-old daughter were homeless after being evicted for the inability to keep up with their rent. With Duncan earning low wages at a supermarket and Patricia looking for work while pregnant, an aunt offered the family shelter in her living room until the baby was born. The clinic's social worker referred Patricia and Duncan to Room to Grow, recognizing their need for significant support, information and guidance to become the parents they hoped to be. At their initial visit with a Room to Grow social worker, Patricia and Duncan admitted they had very few supplies for their new baby, including a safe place to sleep. Room to Grow provided the family with a bassinet, as well as a bouncy seat, clothing, books, toys, feeding supplies and other baby essentials that they otherwise could not afford. The parents-to-be were relieved to learn how to better care for a new baby, and were thrilled about the material support they received. With the birth of their new little girl, they returned to Room to Grow every three months to discuss their children's progress, and obtain material resources for their growing baby. At Room to Grow, Patricia and Duncan actively discussed their children's growth and accomplishments, received feedback about their parenting choices, and discovered resources in the community that could help them improve their living situation. They learned valuable skills such as how to develop healthy routines for their daughters despite their challenging living arrangements, and the girls flourished with their parents' use of newly acquired techniques. Patricia and Duncan were soon able to move into a family shelter, a program that allowed the family to remain together while taking necessary steps towards permanent housing. Room to Grow is proud to help hundreds of families like Patricia and Duncan to provide their children with a strong foundation during the critical first three years of their development.

"I feel like I'm being provided the support and resources needed in order to better my daughter and my life." - Amy

“During my time here at Room to Grow, I have learned other types of parenting that do not come instinctively. I have confronted all of my fears.” – Laura

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The future success of one in five American children is limited by the nation’s highest rate of childhood poverty since 1959. Without targeted intervention, children in poverty are more likely than the general population to develop learning difficulties that increase in severity over time. These detrimental emotional, physical and academic effects can last well into adulthood. Today, as learning disparities between affluent and middle-class students are on the rise, low-income children trail even further behind. The Obama administration’s early learning agenda, along with other leaders prominently presenting scientific, economic and social evidence supporting the importance of early childhood education has stimulated understanding and awareness about the connection between quality early childhood experiences and lifelong positive outcomes, and more broadly attracted public attention.

According to Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman, investments in quality interventions made in children’s earliest years have a high rate of return, as well as high benefit-cost ratios. Heckman’s research illustrates how early childhood investments result in long-term societal cost savings and greater economic opportunity. Effective intervention and support during the earliest years of life, such as that provided by Room to Grow, promotes school-readiness, reduces instances of incarceration and fosters productive participation in the workforce later in life. In fact, according to a 2013 Mission: Readiness report, the essential foundation built in early childhood preparing children for later academic success has been discussed as a matter of national security. As public discourse turns to action, we expect that an expanded array of high-quality early childhood services will alter the academic paths of low-income children and create greater life-long opportunities for them with positive outcomes for our nation as a whole.



\$4 - \$9
in societal returns for every dollar invested in early childhood programs

ONGOING IMPACT

In 2012, your support enabled us to:

- Serve 376 babies in Boston by providing 3,000 hours of one-on-one parenting support and essential baby items
- Welcome 118 new babies into the program
- Graduate 95% of the families that began the third year of the program
- For the second year, serve as a host site for the AmeriCorps VISTA program, further expanding the organization’s staff team
- Engage nearly 2,000 volunteers in 5,500 hours of service to distribute over 45,000 essential baby items to families who needed them
- Launch our national headquarters in an expanded space in Boston

Room to Grow’s clinical program provides parents with support, information and guidance to enrich their babies’ physical, social, and cognitive health; and assesses babies every three months to ensure they are meeting developmental benchmarks. Room to Grow pairs long-term, individualized parental support with a tremendous material benefit that includes all essential baby items needed during the first three years of life. This results in a lessening of financial strain that helps parents become their children’s first and lifelong teachers, leveling the playing field as children enter Kindergarten. The importance of these elements of the program cannot be understated. Parenting support and material items are helpful on their own, but when combined with the education and social-emotional support provided by staff social workers the impact is heightened, decreasing the likelihood of babies remaining in poverty as adults. **Room to Grow provides each family with \$10,000 worth of material resources along with parenting education and support during the first three years of their child’s life.**

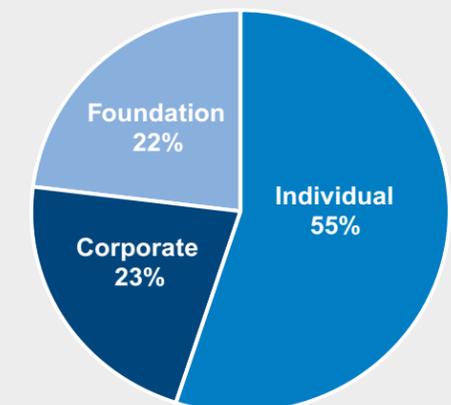
By age 3, children living in poverty know 55% fewer words than their more affluent peers.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Room to Grow Boston’s operating budget is approximately \$1.2 million including about \$200,000 in in-kind revenue and expense. The fundraising strategy includes a plan to raise a modest surplus for targeted growth investments to be made in 2014 to help insure sustainability. Room to Grow Boston ended its fiscal year 2012 having met ambitious goals to increase revenue by more than 25%. In 2013, we will pilot a high-quality cost-efficient supplemental service to our clinical program model to broaden our impact within the Boston community and achieve efficiencies of scale.

2012 REVENUE BY SOURCE





Thank you
to all of our donors,
financial and in-kind, for
helping us make a difference
in the lives of families living
in poverty. Together we can
ensure that every baby has
a great start in life.

VISION

Since Room to Grow's inception, our vision to ensure that every baby is afforded a great start in life has remained steadfast. Today, while we celebrate many successes, there are still approximately 30,000 children in Boston who are growing up in poverty and at risk for a lifetime of gaps in achievement.

By the end of 2013, with your continued support, we will change the trajectory of nearly 1,000 lives (400 babies and their family members) by launching a new cost-efficient model of neighborhood-based workshops and expanding our existing center-based program. By 2016, Room to Grow will be changing the lives of more than 1,400 individuals each year.

To achieve this goal, we are investing in:

- Greater program evaluation capabilities that will result in quantitative and qualitative data demonstrating the program's impact and contributing to the field of early childhood;
- Developing staff and training capabilities to ensure strong program leadership;
- Increasing our national impact from 725 children to 2,000 including a 50% increase in the number of children and families served in Boston, and a presence in five urban communities;
- Rapid national growth with an expanded national executive leadership team and Board of Directors.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 CHAMPIONS*

All Baby & Child and HALO Innovations • Anonymous • Bain Capital Children's Charity • The Baupost Group, LLC • Beacon Hill Circle for Charity, Inc. • The Beker Foundation • Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA • BNY Mellon Charitable Giving Program • The Boston Foundation • Elizabeth and Seth Brennan • Campbell and Hall Charity Fund • Couch Family Foundation • Amy and Jock Danforth • Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation • Euro-Pro • Anne and Sean Gavin • Genzyme • Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation • The Hubka-Wolfe Family Trust • Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust • Beth S. and Seth A. Klarman • Liberty Mutual Foundation • George Loening • Lovett-Woodsum Foundation • New Directions Foundation • Kelli and Dustin Pedroia • Nicole and Kevin Pirani • PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP • The Putnam Family Foundation • Red Sox Foundation • The Reebok Foundation • Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation • Annie Rotner • Ruggles Family Foundation • Annagret and Alex Sacerdote • The Sally Foss & James Scott Hill Foundation • Lia Sareen • The Shops at Prudential Center • Stephanie and Brian Spector • The TJX Foundation • Towles Family Fund • Thanksgiving Fund • Alex Zavratsky

* \$1,800+ non-event gifts

