

• YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT •

Special Delivery: Compassion and Perseverance!



Centerboard employee Romell

Romell is an Overnight Supervisor at Centerboard’s Group Home. He has worked with us for six years. Romell came to Centerboard looking for a change after working at the Department of Youth Services for many years. Working with at-risk youth is something he’s always wanted to do and Romell is very good at his job! We sat down to speak with him one morning after his night shift.

Can you tell us of a success story you’ve experienced in the program?

There was this one young man, about 16, who came to the program a few years ago. In the beginning everything was going well with him and we had a great relationship. Things took a little longer than anticipated for him to move on and as his stay got longer, he was feeling the stress and started acting out a lot. It definitely got difficult but I understood the challenges he was facing in his life and I never judged him, I just stood by him and was always there with support. He finally was able to gain independence and when I happened to see him years later, he thanked me and apologized for his behavior. I told him we were good, but I was amazed that he had kept that with him. I’m happy that our relationship bounced back and I am proud of his success.

What keeps you going when things get difficult at work?

I think the main thing is to understand the chaos that these kids have around them and to show them compassion. I’ve been there on a lot of levels so in a way I can relate. And I don’t take anything personally. We also have a great staff and the support we give each other really helps.



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Centerboard

Empowering Families, Young People and Communities for Success!

Centerboard is a community-based organization that supports families and young people through housing, access to employment and education, and financial empowerment. We work with parents and teens to achieve independence by providing trauma informed care and case management. In addition, we work with local residents, businesses, and elected officials to increase economic opportunity in the community. Through these efforts, we serve over 1,500 people each year.

centerboard.org

A View from the Top



Hello Neighbors!

I can't express enough the joy it gives me and all my Centerboard colleagues, when we see families and young people engaging in their lives and thriving in their community! Over the past 28 years, Centerboard has realized important milestones in our organization and subsequently in our ability to help Greater Lynn's families.

Below are some highlights of more recent initiatives:

- In 2008, we changed our name from Serving People In Need (SPIN) to Centerboard to more accurately and positively reflect our work with target constituencies. As the centerboard of a sailboat helps keep its chosen direction and allows for more maneuverability and speed in shallow or deep waters, we here at Centerboard mimic that intent and flexibility of purpose in our trauma informed care, which is a compassionate recognition of family challenges, and case management for our families' and young people's well-being.
- Since its launch in 2012, our **Visionspace Gallery** has hosted over 1,500 visitors and supported local artists by selling over 120 works of art. Thirty-five artists have been involved in the Central Square public art installations.
- Centerboard's **Youth Services Programs** serve young people ages 13 – 22 with a range of services to foster independent living and financial self-sufficiency. We run 6 residential programs in Lynn and Chelsea to support young people and their families. We have continued to grow in the area of providing services to teen moms.
- **Centerboard's Family Resource Center** – In 2015, we were awarded a grant from the Department of Children and Families to develop a local site, modeled after their national program. The goal is to enable children to stay in their homes and not be placed in foster care or residential programs. We carefully track outcomes and use evidence based practices to ensure our families and young people are making progress towards their well-being goals.

With this first fall edition of **Homeward Bound**, and with each seasonal edition, we bring you stories of accomplishment, perseverance and strength from our client families and our dedicated staff. It is my hope that you, our neighbors, will find our newsletter uplifting and full of hope as we celebrate the people and places that make up Greater Lynn.

Sincerely,

Mark DeJoie
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Centerboard, I am proud and pleased to bring you this

first issue of our quarterly newsletter, **Homeward Bound**. We hope you find it informative and engaging, but most of all, heartwarming, as you witness the resiliency of the human spirit, both in our Centerboard staff and in the many families that they show an undying commitment to on a daily basis.

As President for over 15 years, each year I have seen many wonderful building blocks set in place at Centerboard that have made it possible for us to affect change for an increasingly larger number of families who require our help to get back on their feet. Our growth is a testament to our leadership's collective strategic planning, and our staff's dedicated, tireless hard work supporting families, youth and community.

We hope that when reading through our publication you are inspired to become active in your community. As a Centerboard leadership volunteer, I can attest to the many positive changes that can occur when we reach outside of ourselves to assist others in need. We are always open to speaking with others who are looking to "give back" and become involved in something larger than themselves.

Thank you for your support of Centerboard; its people and its places!

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Keefe
Board of Directors President

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. But involve me and I'll understand!"

• RESOURCE CENTER SPOTLIGHT •

Whatever It Takes, The Family Forward Resource Center Gets It Done



Massachusetts Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are a statewide network of community-based providers offering multi-cultural parenting programs, support groups, early childhood services, information and referral resources and education for families whose children range in age from birth to 18 years of age. The goal is to support families to strengthen their bonds, connect to others, and engage in their community.

Our core values are: **RESPECT, TRUST, SAFETY, WELLNESS, CARING, CONNECTIVITY, and EDUCATION.**

Our Lynn Family Forward Resource Center is a family friendly community based collaborative with the capacity to provide on-site access to comprehensive prevention and treatment services. The FRC provides social, educational, health and supportive services for all families including birth, blended, kinship, adoptive and foster families.

The FRC's mission is **"to do what it takes to get it done"**.

YEAR ONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The FRC has served over 300 families since officially opening in August 2015. Some of our workshops and activities include;

- A **6-week Hip Hop class** designed to give kids a chance to learn how to dance with a well-known former MTV dance star. The goal was to register 50 kids but after high call volume and the local media getting involved, we were able to serve about 150 kids. The program was free and the kids and parents loved it!
- For Halloween in 2015 the FRC partnered with Saint Pius V School and was able to **collect over 100 costumes** new and used to help families who couldn't afford to buy one.
- Over the last Christmas Holiday, the **FRC raised over \$1000** from people in the community who wanted to sponsor a family. The FRC helped 15 families in need who could not afford Christmas gifts.
- The FRC ran a **4-week Driver's Permit Prep Class** for students and adults. The class was offered for the first 25 people who called and registered. The call volume was so high that we added a second full class!
- Our current fundraiser is our **"Sneaker Drive."** We have collected 60 pairs of sneakers to date for families in need. We were also able to connect with sneaker giant Nike who is willing to be a part of this drive and provide us with sneakers!



RESPECT
WELLNESS
CARING
TRUST



Hip Hop Instructor Devin Woolridge



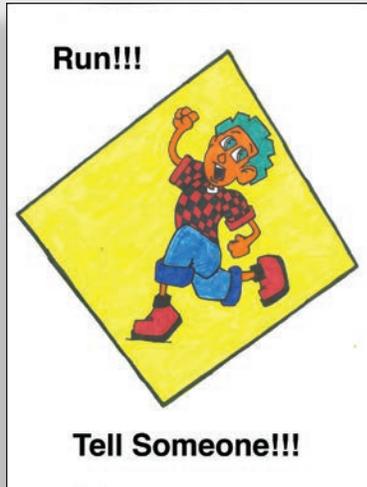
Ready for Halloween!

CONNECTIVITY

• BOOK SPOTLIGHT •

Run!!! Tell Someone!!!

By Derek Graham Sr.



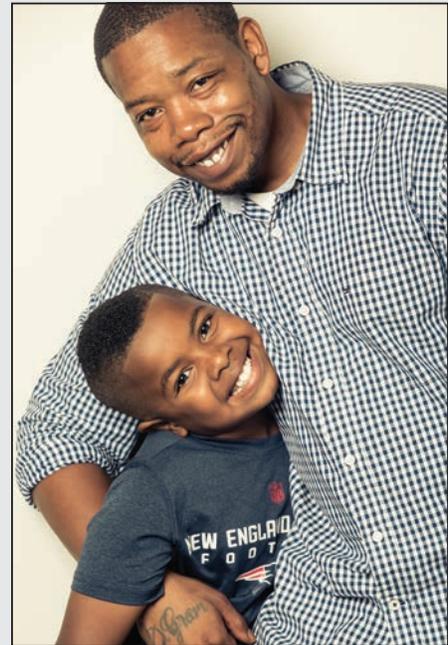
Being thrust into single parenthood almost overnight, Derek was forced to sink or swim, forced to take responsibility or cower as so many have.

Choosing The Right Path: One Father's Journey

Derek is a participant in our Housing Services Department. We are very proud of this collaborative project that resulted in Derek releasing his first children's book, which he wrote and illustrated. Here are a few words about this very important project.

About the Author

What started as a project to encourage Derek Graham Sr.'s young son to keep the faith in himself and others, turned into a tool used to assist in what is now Derek Graham's life purpose. Trying to find a way to contribute to the world on a large and positive scale, Derek has decided to give himself. How? Through his gifts. Born with natural artistic ability, Derek has consciously decided to use his skills to reach out and help the youth of our world, to encourage them to believe in themselves and to know they matter.



Derek Graham Sr. with his son Derek Jr.

Born and raised in the inner city of Boston, Massachusetts, Derek has overcome countless adversities including but not limited to the murder of his son's mother. Being thrust into single parenthood almost overnight, Derek was forced to sink or swim, forced to take responsibility or cower as so many have. Deciding to stand and do what was right, Derek has decided to share his stories and lessons through writing, art and being an inspiration to whomever he comes into contact with. Derek chose to grow through and not go through the pain, and he encourages you to do the same.

To purchase a copy of *Run!!! Tell Someone!!!* contact Carla Scheri at (339) 883-1375 or cscheri@centerboard.org

• HOUSING SERVICES SPOTLIGHT •

The Value of Opportunity



Centerboard's Family Advocates

Centerboard's Housing Services

works with homeless families throughout the North Shore.

We offer home-based stabilization services with intensive case management. The goal for each family is permanent, safe housing and self-sufficiency. Our housing programs build on residents' strengths by offering classes and workshops, trauma informed care, clinical support and by providing a compassionate recognition of family challenges.

To give some insight into the program, we sat down with one of our Family Advocates, **Tanya**.

How long have you been a Family Advocate?

I have worked at Centerboard for 12 years. I started at the Teen Living Program and worked my way to Housing Services where I have worked since 2011.

Is there a particular success story you'd like to share?

Two years ago I started working with a woman who has a lengthy criminal history, including jail time. She had lost hope in applying for housing because she continued to get denied. She told me that she had given up, and she believed that she would never get housing. I told her that I would never give up on her and that someone somewhere would see that she is a good person. I pushed her to keep applying and appealing. With commitment and motivation, she was offered an apartment with Andover Public Housing. They never asked questions or judged her. Now two years later, she is still living there. She is working and her two kids are thriving at their new school. She calls me often to thank me for never giving up on her. I think that everyone needs someone to believe in them and support them. Here at Centerboard we are the support for the families that we work with.

On average, how many families do you work with at one time?

The average number of families an advocate works with currently is 10 to 12.

Do you have any encouraging words for struggling families out there?

I always quote Theodore Roosevelt *"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."*

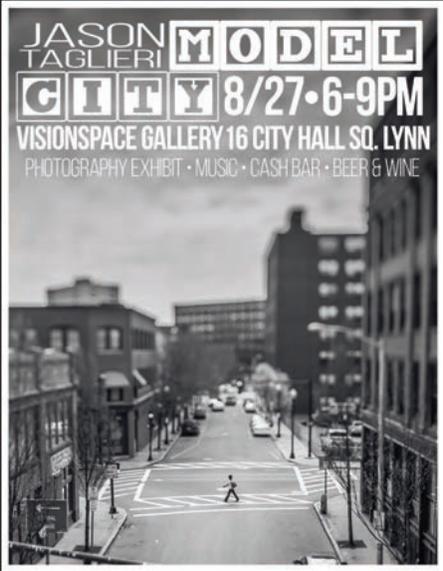
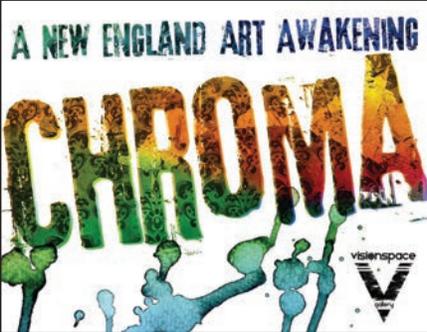
VISIONSPACE

GALLERY & CREATIVE VENUE

Since 2012,
Visionspace Gallery
has held 40 successful
art openings, providing
a platform for countless
up and coming artists.

These free monthly
events give our local
community the chance
to enjoy quality
artwork while
interacting with the
artists. These events
also contribute to the
creative economy of
downtown Lynn.

Stay up to date with
Visionspace
happenings by liking us
at [facebook.com/
VisionspaceGallery](https://www.facebook.com/VisionspaceGallery).



● **Visionspace Gallery**
16 City Hall Square
Lynn, MA 01901
(339) 883-1375

[www.facebook.com/
VisionspaceGallery](https://www.facebook.com/VisionspaceGallery)

Artists ~ for submission information
contact Carla Scheri at (339) 883-1375

Why Centerboard Needs You



A Donor Bill of Rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

- 1] To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- 2] To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- 3] To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
- 4] To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- 5] To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
- 6] To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- 7] To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

In this our 28th year as Greater Lynn's community based organization, Centerboard now serves over 1,500 people each year! And the need for our services has never been in more demand. Centerboard is committed to maintaining and furthering our reach, and providing excellent support services to those in need.

By our very definition as a community based organization, we welcome and encourage all to become active by investing in the people and places that make up this wonderful, culturally diverse community. Your participation in Centerboard speaks to your commitment to helping Greater Lynn and its surrounding neighbors.

Your thoughtful gifts provide much need support: they assist families to obtain access to housing, employment and education, and financial empowerment services. Your gifts help further our work with local residents, businesses, and elected officials to increase economic opportunity. And more, it supports the growing arts and culture movement by helping Centerboard to continue spearheading public art projects and operating our non-profit art gallery, Visionspace.

Please consider partnering with Centerboard by including us in your philanthropic giving. Your support will help us forward our mission to support families, young people and the community we care about!

Becoming a Donor

Centerboard is grateful to donors who wish to support its ongoing mission to revitalize communities by investing in their people and places. Many forms of charitable giving are appreciated and can be done online or by contacting Centerboard.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

All gifts made to Centerboard are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. They include gifts of: cash, check, credit card, stock (avoid capital gains on appreciated security).

● Empowering Families, Young People and Communities for Success! ●

A Donor Bill of Rights (continued)

- 8] To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- 9] To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
- 10] To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

The text of this statement in its entirety was developed by the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel (AAFRC), Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and adopted in November 1993.

Becoming a Donor (continued)

PLANNED GIFTS

Please contact your personal financial advisor and discuss your philanthropic intentions. Also please contact Centerboard so we may recognize your thoughtful generosity. Centerboard welcomes the following types of Planned Gifts that are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent of US law:

- **Bequests** – Gifts through a WILL.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts** – Pays beneficiaries an income for life; funded with cash, appreciated securities or real estate, and providing significant current tax benefits as well as reducing probate and estate costs for your heirs.
- **Life Insurance** – Existing or new policies can be a vehicle for providing a meaningful gift. Insurance can also be used to replace assets that have been earmarked for a charitable gift.
- **IRAs or Individual Retirement Accounts** – Current regulations allow the transfer of certain IRA assets to Centerboard.

For more information on Planned Gifts, contact Ray Pasciuto, Director of Development at (339) 883-1383.

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Homeward Bound is a quarterly publication of Centerboard.

We'd like to keep you informed, however, if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you'd like to receive this by email, please let us know by phone (339) 883-1383 or email rpasciuto@centerboard.org.

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