

Career Center continued from page 5

"When I arrived back to Home Campus a couple of years ago, I met with Bob Pick, Vice President for Nebraska/Iowa operations, and he indicated that we needed to look at how to better serve our youth who were never going to go to college," Peterson said. "It was from this conversation we recognized that Boys Town had a strong history in teaching skilled trades to youth and that we had the perfect facility for the endeavor."

Building from that conversation, the Boys Town high school staff started Phase One of the program by introducing a course in Communications and Media, teaching skills in photography, advanced media productions and broadcasting. This was followed by a course in construction skills that expanded the previous "Employability Skills" course and introduced students to the construction trades.

"We are excited about this program and are already seeing positive outcomes as our youth, using the skills taught in the course, are building sheds for use on campus," Peterson said. "One of their first projects will be to build a storage shed for the equipment needed to maintain our baseball field. We hope to eventually expand this program and work with Habitat for Humanity as a way of combining the development of work skills and help

to foster a sense of giving back by helping others."

The Boys Town Career Center offers classes in the following areas:

- » Nursing (Certified Nursing Assistant, CNA)
- » Media Sciences
- » Graphic Arts
- » Video Production
- » Photography
- » Construction Sciences (plumbing, framing, concrete, electrical, etc.)

Peterson said Phase

Two of the program will include the creation of a small engine repair class, which could eventually be followed by a more robust auto repair and auto body repair class. A welding class will also be offered. It is hoped potential future offerings could also include business management, computer software and hardware, culinary arts, horticulture, graphic arts and landscape design.

"We would like to eventually provide a choice for our Boys Town youth to enter a skilled



Instructor Stevie Gass works with students in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class.

trade track or an academic track early in their high school tenure," Peterson said. "This will provide them with a sound foundation to move on to a career of their choice after departure or graduation."

Boys Town welcomes support for these programs from our alumni. Contact the alumni office at 800-345-0458, if you have any questions about how you can help these programs.

Convention continued from page 1

Saturday evening will see us gather at the Embassy Suites-La Vista for a banquet, the presentation of the Father Flanagan Outstanding Alumni award, announcement of the new Honorary President of the BTNAA®, introduction of the newly elected BTNAA Directors and officers, and recognition of the 50- and 25-year reunion classes.

The alumni choir, which will hold rehearsals during the weekend, will be singing at the Sunday morning, 11 a.m., Mass in Dowd Chapel.

Protestant services will be held at Chambers Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

Following church services, we will gather at the Boys Town Lake picnic grounds for a grand picnic at approximately 12:30 p.m. This will also serve as the wrap-up for the reunion weekend.

Included with this mailing is a registration form you can mail, email, or fax to the Alumni Office. Register early and please be sure to make your hotel reservations by the date shown on the

hotel list. There are a lot of events scheduled in Omaha during the week of our Convention so you are encouraged to make your hotel reservations early. If you have any questions or require special assistance while at Boys Town, please call the Alumni Office at 800-345-0458, or email us at alumni@boystown.org. Be sure to check the alumni website for safe and secure online registration at www.boystownalumni.org.

2013
to
2015

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ALUMNI MISSION:

We exist to unite and grow our alumni family, and champion the dream and values of Father Flanagan through leadership.

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"Thoughtfulness of others helps make others thoughtful of us. It generates good feeling. It invites friendships which pave the way for future opportunities."
- Father Edward J. Flanagan



ALUMNI NEWS

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

Spring 2015 - Volume 54, Issue 1

Boys Town Prepared to Host Biennial Convention

The Boys Town National Alumni Association's® 32nd Biennial Convention will be held Friday through Sunday, July 24-26, 2015.

Family reunions are part of the fabric of our great country. You see reunions happening all across America in countless towns and villages. These reunions reaffirm family bonds. While we all come from varying backgrounds and families, Boys Town, for us, became the family that binds us together in a far different way than traditional families. Joined together as a result of a wide range of different circumstances, we became family through our common associations and through the second chance at life we received in this "new" family called Boys Town. It is with this background we gather together every two years at our "home" and marvel at the tapestry of life created from our chance encounter at Boys Town. What is unique about this "family reunion" is the special nature of our "family". We are brothers and sisters that span generations and come from all ethnic, racial and faith backgrounds. Yet, we are still family!

Boys Town welcomes us home with open arms and makes the campus our "home" for one special weekend. Boys Town staff resembles proud parents who can't wait to see their kids come back and hear their stories and see their extended families. It is this sense of belonging that makes our visits "back home" such a warm and heartfelt time.

This year we will be celebrating the 50th Reunion of the classes of 1964 and 1965. Members of both classes have been busy over the past year contacting classmates and preparing to return to be honored for this milestone reunion by their fellow alumni. The classes of 1989 and 1990 will be celebrating their 25th Reunion.

Families arriving early can take in a number of Thursday activities. The Omaha Storm Chasers baseball team will be playing Oklahoma City on Thursday evening. Let us know if you are interested and we can help you get your tickets. Thursday evening will also see an informal pizza dinner for many, and a dinner arranged by the 50-year reunion classes is being planned at a local Omaha restaurant.

Alumni can start Friday morning with breakfast in



The Boys Town JROTC presents the colors during the last ceremony adding names to the Alumni Veterans Memorial.

the Boys Town Visitor's Center Café. With registration you will be given a ticket for four meals (three breakfasts and one lunch) in the Visitor's Center Café and one lunch on Saturday at the Great Hall (former High School Dining Hall). Early registration will be held at the Hall of History (old Grade School Dining Hall) on Thursday and all day Friday at the Great Hall.

Friday the annual golf tournament, arranged by Mike Trevino, '58, will be played at Pacific Springs Golf Course. The convention opens Friday night with a Social at the Great Hall. Food and drinks will be available.

We will gather on Saturday morning at the Music Hall for the presentation of the Service to Alumni and Alumni Service Awards, and the announcement and presentation of the Hall of History Inductees. Father Steven Boes, National Executive Director, will speak to the assembly and give us an update on what is going on at Boys Town. This will be followed by the General Assembly meeting where the Board of Directors will present the annual report to the membership and voting will take place for new board members.

Following the General Assembly meeting and Mass, we will convene in the Great Hall for lunch, followed by a ceremony to add more names to the Boys Town Alumni Veterans Memorial. Self-guided tours of homes, the high school, Career Center (old Trade School) and the Music Hall will be available after the Veterans Memorial Ceremony.

See 'Convention' page 8



From the Executive Director

Dear Alumni,

Easter is but a few weeks away and already we are seeing the awakening of the spirit as we emerge from the darkness of winter. This is an appropriate theme for our spiritual and temporal lives as we take advantage of the opportunity to shake off the burdens of the past and give them

over to our Lord who, through his life, death and resurrection, has shown us the path to salvation. This is especially important for the work we do at Boys Town. At the core of our Integrated Continuum of Care® is spirituality.

There is no better time than at Easter to reflect on the significance of this one aspect of what we give our youth at Boys Town. For many, it is the first time they have come to understand there is a greater power than those from their past who have only given them pain and heartache. There is a sense of peace and calm that comes with embracing the knowledge you can have your burdens lifted through prayer and reliance on a greater power. We see this with our youth as they grow in self-reliance and confidence and begin to understand the good that can come from making the right moral and personal choices in their lives. This change can only come when the healing of the spirit takes hold. This is what the Easter miracle gives to us all.

I am heartened by the work your BTNAA® board is doing to make the Alumni Association more inclusive, and in its efforts to reach out to our younger alumni. This is important for the Alumni Association as we all move forward toward the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Boys Town. As the nature of the care and treatment at Boys Town has changed to address the needs of today's children and families, so too has the Alumni Association evolved to embrace new alumni whose Boys Town

experience is different from previous generations. Your BTNAA board is to be commended for taking this longer range view on your behalf. What the board needs is your participation, in a very active and constructive way. You can help develop future leadership for the association and grow the membership. This develops a strong and vibrant base of alumni that will carry the organization into the second century of Boys Town's future.

Next month, two of our alumni, Charles "Deacon" Jones (posthumous), '54 and Ken Geddes, '66, will be inducted into the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame. Another inductee, Bruce Benedict, a long-time catcher with the Atlanta Braves and son of Dave Benedict, a retired coach and teacher at Boys Town, will be honored as well. Bruce worked at Boys Town while he was going to college. Both Deacon and Ken have been inducted into the Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame.

This coming July 24-26, the BTNAA will host the 32nd Biennial Convention at Boys Town. It will be 10 years ago I attended my first alumni convention. This will be a great opportunity to give you an update on all the great things Boys Town and its dedicated staff is doing to help America's children and families and to give you a look into our future efforts and projects.

Please keep our boys and girls in your prayers as they work hard to overcome the challenges they face each and every day. The power of prayer is a mighty force in the healing of the children in our care.

I ask the Lord's blessing upon you and your families for this Easter season.

Father Steven E. Boes
National Executive Director

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

ALUMNI NEWS

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Alumni Profile

James "Jim" Foley, '64

Jim Foley, '64, knows what trouble got him to Boys Town. This summer he is looking forward to spending special time with friends at the place that got him back pointed in the right direction.

Foley plans to attend his 50th Class Reunion this July at Boys Town's Biennial Convention.

"It has been a long and satisfying journey," he says.

Foley, living in a single parent home in Omaha, recalls the reasons he came to Boys Town in August of 1960.

"I was starting to run with the wrong crowd and getting into trouble," Foley said. "I got kicked out of several different schools."

He was at a crossroad in his life. His mother, working hard to deal with her son, reached out to their parish priest and family to find a way to get him back on the right path.

"They were able to get me into Boys Town and I arrived one day before my 14th birthday," Foley said. "It was the beginning of a huge change in my life."

Foley found adjusting to the structure of Boys Town and dealing with staff, peers and different personalities, particularly difficult.

"I had been used to making my own choices,

without any consideration for the rules of others," Foley said. "It was a personal challenge, but it was the beginning of some very important lessons for me to learn."

Foley took to the Boys Town program and began to learn to adhere to the rules, time management and structure of his new home.

"One of my teachers, Jim Mitchell, '47, had a significant impact on me and he probably never knew it," Foley said. "I wish I had been able to share that with him."

After graduating from Boys Town, Foley was drafted into the Army and served his nation.

"Boys Town instilled in me a good work ethic, a sense of personal responsibility and the drive to push myself out of my comfort zone," Foley said.

Those skills proved to be very beneficial to Foley as he owned a business and completed college on the GI Bill. During college, he worked as an outreach coordinator to help veterans obtain their educational benefits. Upon graduating with a degree in marketing and finance, he worked for many years in sales and marketing.

See 'Foley' page 7



James "Jim" Foley, '64

From the Auxiliary President



I hope everyone has had a chance to thaw out from what proved to be a colder than normal winter. I have enjoyed not having to go out when it is slick or excessively cold, and look forward to warmer weather where I can get out and be more active.

I am looking forward to the convention, July 24-26. As you all may know, we hold a silent auction during the convention and, as always, we need your contributions. New or handmade items you can donate to the cause will be helpful. If you have any questions as to what may be appropriate, please don't hesitate to call me.

A lot has happened since our last meeting in 2013, and I look forward to sharing this with all of you at our next meeting. One thing several of us have discussed is the opportunity to join the Alumni Association in its efforts leading up to the 100th anniversary of Boys Town in 2017.

If any of you have ideas as to how we can become more involved with the Alumni association, please share them with us. Our goal as the Alumni Auxiliary is to support the Alumni office and all of its members. Working with them has been hugely rewarding to me over the last 8 years, and I look forward to many years of continued involvement.

Our second printing of the auxiliary cook-book has been a huge success. We have sold nearly all of the books we have printed. Contact me if you, or someone you know, is interested in a copy.

I Pray that all of you have a wonderful spring and summer, and look forward to seeing you in July.

Lisa Abare
BTNAA Auxiliary President.

Sieben

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Lewis, Washington. He was subsequently deployed to Afghanistan from November 2012 to June 2013. It was in Afghanistan that Sieben lost hearing in his left ear due to combat operations. In order to remain in the infantry, his first choice of duty, Sieben now wears a hearing aid.

In January 2014, Sieben reenlisted for five more years in the Army.

"I want to continue my career in the Army for 20 years and eventually retire," he said. "Colonel Lee told me that I will be in the Army for 40 years because I

Holder

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Marine Corps, where he served on active duty from October 2001 to October 2005.

"I've secured a good career and have advanced well because my supervisors can see the hard work and dedication I put in each day," Holder said.

Holder is presently the Manpower Manager for the Western Region of Union Pacific, where he insures that there is an adequate workforce to move trains throughout the region. He manages the staffing for 7,000 engineers, conductors and switchmen so Union Pacific's freight moves smoothly. He started as a crew dispatcher in 2006 after his tour in the Marine Corps and continues to work his way up the Union Pacific ladder. Along the way, Holder completed his undergraduate

Foley

continued from page 2

Now in his early years of retirement, Foley says he is thankful for everything Boys Town did for him.

"I have been very fortunate," he said with a smile. "Boys Town played a large part in helping to shape my life."

In Loving Memory

GERALD JOSEPH PARENT, '44, passed away on September 2, 2013, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

JAMES M. CAIN, D'42, passed away on April 29, 2013, in Tampa, Florida. Cain was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

WILLIAM E. BOOK, SR., D'45, passed away on January 29, 2014, in Kansas City, Missouri. Book was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

JOHN FRANKLIN KOLLMAN, D'51, passed away on March 29, 2014, in Ellettsville, Indiana.

JOHN ALBERT CASILLAS, '53, passed away on February 21, 2014, in Pueblo, Colorado.

PATRICK G. OMAN, D'56, passed away on January 1, 2015, in Chandler, Arizona. Oman was a Lifetime Member

of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

DONALD EUGENE MULLIGAN, '56, passed away on November 20, 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

JOSEPH DAVID PUCKETT, '56, passed away on November 23, 2014, in Sylvester, Georgia. Puckett was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

MARION LEE VALENTINE, D'57, passed away on December 6, 2013, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

LEON P. NIECIKOWSKI, '59, passed away on January 22, 2015, in Crown Point, Indiana.

JERRY A. PRUSA, D'61, passed away on June 6, 2014, in Mission, Texas.

MARIO M. CASTRO, '70, passed away on February 7, 2012, in Denver, Colorado.

enjoy it so much. I plan to pursue a degree in Physical Education while I am in the Army and eventually have a home and family of my own."

Sieben is now stationed with the U.S. Army Garrison at Hohenfels, Germany, where he works in the Protocol Office providing transportation for General Officers and dignitaries. He says his work, "is a lot of running around, but it keeps me on my feet."

"I know that if I hadn't gone to Boys Town I wouldn't be where I am today," Sieben said. "I want to send my thanks to everyone at Boys Town for all the help, guidance and mentoring they gave me."

business degree through Bellevue University and is presently pursuing his MBA.

Holder met his wife, Laura, when he was stationed in San Diego and they were married in 2008. They have two daughters, age two and four.

"I'm lucky to be able to say both are 'Daddy's girls,'" he said. "It's probably due to the fact that they're with Laura all the time and when I get home from work, it's something different."

In his free time, Holder likes doing home improvement projects. He recently finished his basement and added a deck to his house.

Boys Town made a difference in Holder's life and he credits the care and commitment of his Family Teachers and their Assistant with turning his life around.

Holder is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association®.

Foley and his wife, Linda, have two daughters, one granddaughter and another on the way. He is very proud of his family.

"The girls and their husbands are both very successful," Foley said. "The life skills I learned at Boys Town were instilled in them. I have been blessed."

Foley is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association®.

EDWARD J. HENDERSON, '75, passed away on January 21, 2015, in Aurora, Colorado. Henderson was a former Mayor of Boys Town.

EVELYN BJORNSON, WIDOW OF WILLIAM LEBBS, '51, passed away on January 22, 2015, in Tucson, Arizona.

GEORGIA FAY, WIFE OF JIM FAY, '54, passed away on December 20, 2014, in Omaha, Nebraska.

MIKE WILSON, FORMER FAMILY TEACHER AND MOST RECENTLY A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER (RTC) THERAPIST, passed away on December 14, 2014, in Omaha, Nebraska.

CORRECTION: TED PITTMAN, '58, was listed in the last newsletter as graduating in 1968. Pittman was a member of the Class of 1958.



From the BTNAA President

Brothers and Sisters,

As we shake off the cold of winter, it is once again time to prepare for the season of growth and renewal. Easter is just a couple weeks away, and then we are catapulted into the summer season.

Our Biennial National Convention is just around the corner, July 24-26, 2015. We will be holding elections for your Board of Directors in regions 1, 3, 4 and 7, as well as one "at large" position that will be appointed by the Board. I encourage you to look at how you can contribute to the organization by becoming a Board Member. Official ballots will be mailed in April, and the nomination process is explained in detail in that mailing. If you have any questions regarding the process, please feel free to contact the Alumni office, or your region director.

Your generous contributions during our recent campaign for the Flanagan League are well appreciated. Please know that each of you is involved in something bigger than the sum of all of us. The efforts of the Father Flanagan League have moved swiftly, in a large way due to the involvement of each of you. I commend you all for the great involvement.

Your Board of Directors, as usual, has been working diligently to make our Association the best it can be. We will be unveiling several new and exciting opportunities for the Alumni Association over the next several months and are confident you will be pleased with the results. I can mention we are looking at opportunities to encompass all of the Boys Town family in the Alumni Association by including family teachers, past and present, as eligible for membership. I am beyond words as a result

of this inclusion, as it will empower us not only to grow the Association, but include some of the most important people in our lives who have shaped us into who we are today. We have much to be thankful for with our family teachers and it is only fitting that we invite them to be involved with such a great organization.

The annual dinner for graduating seniors will be held at the Great Hall on May 3, 2015, at noon. We invite all of you to join us in congratulating our newest alumni on their accomplishments. The dinner has been very successful in the last several years and if you would like to attend, please contact the alumni office to reserve a seat. Two days later, the annual Boys Town booster banquet will be held on May 5, 2015. This has always been an incredible event with speakers that have both inspired and awed us. Seating is extremely limited, but if you have a desire to go, please contact the alumni office to inquire about availability.

I look forward to seeing you in July at our annual convention, and hope to see many new faces. The time to become active is now. There has never been a better time as we are indeed moving into a new age for the Alumni Association and for Boys Town. I say this because we are quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of the founding of Boys Town, and we have many things going on during the next few years that will be of interest to alumni.

Have a blessed day and a safe journey home in July.

John J. Abare, '81
BTNAA President



From the Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

The spring thaw has begun and it is time to start thinking about your summer plans for the 32nd Biennial Alumni Convention at Boys Town, July 24-26, 2015.

Included in this mailing is the registration form for the convention. Please get your reservations in early, especially for the hotels, since there is a lot going on in Omaha during convention weekend. The BTNAA® Convention Committee has worked hard to hold prices down and avoid price increases. When you see a member of the Convention Committee, make sure you thank them for their hard work.

Highlights of this year's convention include the celebration of 50 years in the priesthood for brothers Ben and George Markwell, '56. A mass of celebration will be held at Dowd Chapel on Sunday, July 26.

On Saturday, right after lunch in the Great Hall, we will hold a ceremony adding more names of alumni who died in combat or died while serving in uniform, to the Veterans Memorial. Also Saturday, the classes of 1964 and 1965 will be celebrating their 50th Reunion and the classes of 1989 and 1990 will be celebrating their 25th.

The BTNAA honors alumni with awards ranging from the Father Flanagan Award to awards recognizing contributions by alumni and non-alumni to the betterment of the association. This year we have added a new award, The Outstanding Young Alumni Award, to recognize those members of the BTNAA who have worked especially hard and have made contributions to their communities through their hard work early in their lives.

Please go to the Alumni website, www.boystownalumni.org, under

the "Association Information" tab to access the online eligibility criteria and nomination forms for all the awards. You can also contact the alumni office at 800-345-0458 to request a copy of the criteria and nomination forms to either be emailed or mailed to you. We are asking you to think about your fellow alumni who have gone above and beyond to help others and nominate them for one of these awards. See abbreviated eligibility criteria in this mailing.

We will hold elections for board members from Regions 1, 3, 4, and 7. Additionally, one At-Large position will be appointed by the Board. Nomination forms will be mailed to active members of the BTNAA in April and must be received in the Alumni Office no later than May 31, 2015. Secret ballots will then be mailed to active members in the event there is more than one nominee from a region. These must be received in the Alumni Office no later than July 1, 2015.

I urge you to let your Alumni Office and/or your Regional Director know of your interest in either running for a board position or helping the BTNAA in other areas. Your participation is crucial and is needed and important. Call me at 402-650-4135 if you would like more information about the BTNAA and how you can become an active part of your association.

We look forward to seeing you in July. Mark your calendars now and make plans early!

Your Boys Town brother,

John Mollison, '64
Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

Anthony Sieben, '11, Grateful for Boys Town's Guidance

Anthony Sieben, '11, was in trouble. He was making poor choices, he skipped school and he drank.

At that point, he would have never imagined he would eventually be writing a letter requesting to get into Boys Town. But it happened, and it ended up being the plea for help that changed his life.

"My mother didn't know what else to do with me," Sieben said. "I had been kicked out of school. I really had nowhere to go."

As luck would have it, he was sent to the Boys Town Day School to get his education.

"When I first started school at the Day School, I didn't give up drinking," he confessed. "But one day I sat down with Coach (Cedric) Hunter and he talked to me about the effect my actions will have on my future."

A week after his talk with Coach Hunter, Sieben wrote a letter to Boys Town giving all the reasons why he wanted to become part of the campus residential program.

"Soon after I wrote the letter, I met with a person to interview about what I wrote and to see if I was accepted into the Boys Town residential program," Sieben said. "About a week later my mom got a call saying I was accepted to Boys Town and would be able to move to campus in June of 2010."

For Sieben, this was the beginning of the transformation that would eventually lead him to the United States Army. On June 22, 2010, he arrived at Boys Town and was placed in the home of Family Teachers® Whitney and Joe Julian.

"The first few months were rough," Sieben



Anthony Sieben, '11

said. "On my first visit home I didn't follow one of the rules about not seeing my former friends and received consequences for choosing that path."

It was the start of reshaping his life.

After joining the cross-country team in the fall of 2010, Sieben began to see improvement in both his attitude and his grades.

"I joined JROTC when I started school because I knew it would help me in the military," Sieben said. "At first, I was quiet in class and didn't tell Lieutenant Colonel Lee about my goal to become a United States Marine."

It wasn't until after the first parent/teacher meeting with his mom that Colonel Lee found out about Sieben's desire to become a Marine. At that point, Colonel Lee mentored him in his quest to join the service.

"I found out that the Marine Corps couldn't help me with getting into the infantry so I decided to pursue a career in the Army," Sieben said.

He excelled in JROTC and rose in rank from Private to Second Lieutenant during his senior year. He was also on the drill team, performing with and without weapons.

Sieben credits the Julians and two other pair of Family-Teachers, Ahmon and Jennifer Williams and Lon and Marie Ruhter, with helping him mature and change.

Sieben is grateful for the impact Colonel Lee and Master Sergeant Penaherrera had on him at Boys Town.

"The lessons I learned from them have been very helpful in making the transition to my career in the Army and will continue to guide me in the future," Sieben said.

On May 5, 2011, before graduation, Sieben was sworn into the U.S. Army. And in October, 2011, he was on my way to Fort Benning, Georgia, for basic training.

"I pursued a career in the Army because I knew that God put me on this earth to be a soldier," he said.

After completion of his basic training, Sieben was assigned to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort

[See 'Sieben' page 7](#)

Chris Holder, '99, Credits Boys Town with Getting Him on the Right Track

Christopher Holder, '99, arrived at Boys Town in 1994 at the age of 13 needing stability and guidance.

He found it in the home of Family-Teachers® Brett and Anita Bigger and Assistant Family-Teacher Jeanine Wilder.

Holder and his parents were at odds on many fronts and Boys Town became the best alternative. Soon after his arrival, Holder was placed with the Bigger family. He was to remain with them throughout his entire tenure at Boys Town.

"I was very blessed to have the same set of Family-Teachers the entire time I was at Boys Town," Holder said. "I kept my guard up for a long time. It took me a while to finally accept what a family who supports you, no matter what, looks and feels like. Once that happened, I finally opened up and started working on improving myself. The biggest challenge for me was letting go of past behaviors and focusing on making my future the best it could be."

Holder remembers a lesson he learned working on the farm his first summer at Boys Town.

"Being a newly sworn-in citizen of Boys Town at the beginning of the summer meant that I was

pulling weeds and walking bean fields at Overlook Farm," Holder said. "This was not something I enjoyed doing in the hot, humid Nebraska summers. I made the best of it and pushed through. I remember my boss that summer, he was a seminarian from Africa and I want to say he was from Nigeria. His name was a tough one. We called him Vern. Well, Vern taught me the value of working hard. I learned that I have control over my future and since I didn't want to walk bean fields the following summer, I secured a job at Boys Town Human Resources for an hour after school every day in the winter of 1994. I helped around the office making copies, answering phones, and filing. Come the summer of 1995, I had it made in the nice cool air conditioning."

Some of Holder's favorite times were the summer trips to Okoboji, eating dinner at Father Peter's house, and Christmas at Boys Town.

He still, however, had to learn to accept feedback.

"Accepting feedback was always difficult for me prior to my time at Boys Town," Holder said. "I always felt it was criticism stating that I wasn't good enough. My Family-Teachers helped me realize that feedback was a chance to improve



Chris Holder Family

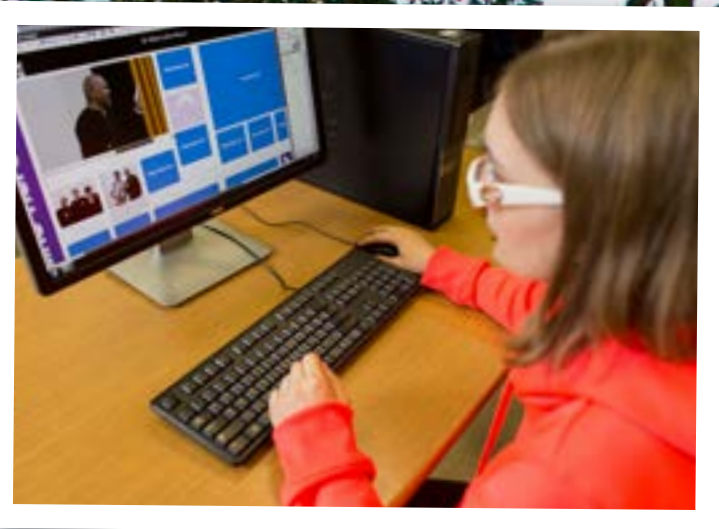
myself. It was a chance to take a look at my actions and learn a better way of doing things."

Once he overcame his accepting feedback issue, Holder excelled.

"My hard work and pursuit of self-improvement helped me get to where I am today," he said.

Holder was meritoriously promoted in the

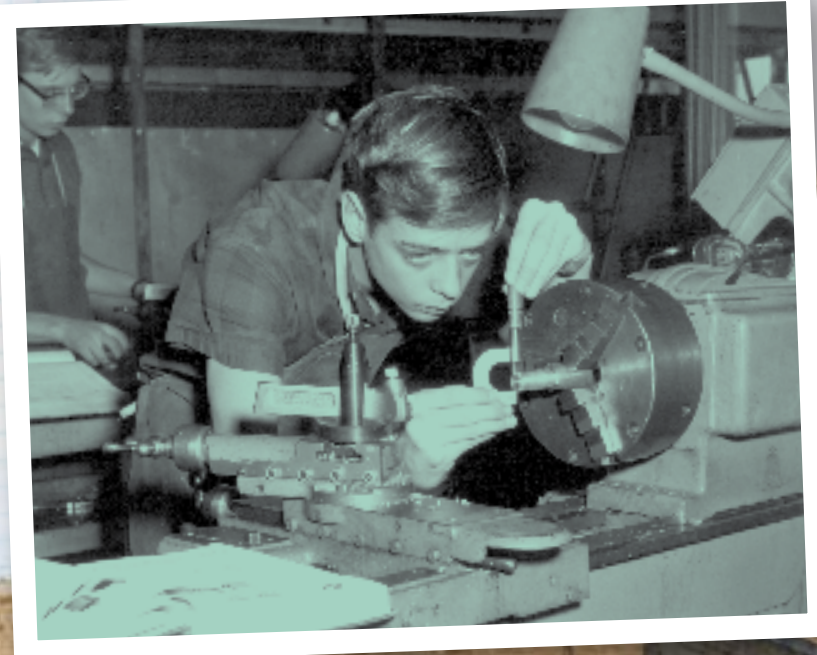
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Boys Town

CAREER CENTER...

Yesterday and Today!



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hen Father Flanagan founded Boys Town, education was one of the key underpinnings of his effort to give wayward and orphaned boys a chance in the world. In the early 1900s, the United States was in the midst of its industrial revolution and Father Flanagan recognized if his boys were to be successful they would need to have the skills to compete in the job marketplace. It was this realization that led Father Flanagan to create Boys Town's first "Trade School." Combined with a strong academic orientation and the development of unique labor skills, Boys Town youth were prepared to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge to build

a life for themselves.

Now, Boys Town High School is going back to its roots to help students move forward on a career path.

Jeff Peterson, Senior Director of Nebraska/Iowa Campus Operations, says the goal is to prepare youth for the modern day workplace by offering a number of classes geared for today's jobs.

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