



#### 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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“Youth who have not been loved and protected are not likely to love others and protect the rights of others.”

– Servant of God Edward J. Flanagan



# ALUMNI NEWS

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

Spring 2019 – Volume 58, Issue 1

## 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion Set for July 25-28, 2019

## Celebrating Our Boys Town Journey Together

Once again, the journey to Boys Town is but a few months away and we hope many of you are preparing to bring your families home to celebrate our unique and special family reunion.

This special event, held every two years, brings together generations of Boys Town alumni. Make your reservations now to come home and celebrate with your Boys Town family this July 25-28, 2019. Registration is quick and easy at [www.boystownalumni.org](http://www.boystownalumni.org), or by using the enclosed registration form.

This year's reunion will kick off on Thursday evening with a reception for former Boys Town staff members at the Great Hall. This event debuted during the 2017 reunion and was a great success. Many former youth and staff were reunited. This year, the BTNAA Auxiliary will host the event and it will be free to all registrants. Join us to thank those dedicated employees who made a difference in our lives.

For the golfers in the crowd, Mike Trevino, '58, is once again organizing the golf outing on Friday morning. Plan to join your fellow duffers and spend some quality outdoor time together on the links.

Complementary breakfast and lunch for registrants will be provided at the Visitors Center. This is a great time to get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones. The Friday Night Social at the Great Hall caps off Friday.

Tours of the campus will be organized to visit places where you spent your youth. Take your family along to visit these special places and share with them your memories. The Hall of History will be open for you to look through the thousands of photographs, browse Boys Town memorabilia and visit the exhibit

### John Mollison, '64, Announces Retirement as Alumni Director

John Mollison, '64, Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters since 2008, has announced his retirement at the end of August this year. Mollison will finish over 21 years of service as an employee of Boys Town.

“John has been an outstanding representative for our alumni and his leadership will be missed,” said Father Steven Boes, Boys Town's National Executive Director. “I can't thank John enough for his time and dedication in leading our alumni. I'm sure we are going to continue to see John represent our alumni during this transition. John has always been there for our alumni and he will continue to do so. I will certainly look forward to sharing time with him at the alumni reunions.”

On August 15, 1957, Mollison and his brother Art, '66, stepped off a Greyhound bus at the Boys Town Pylon on Dodge Street and thus began a journey that will culminate 62 years later with his retirement. While at Boys Town, Mollison was immersed in the many music offerings available to the youth during those days. As a sixth grader, he joined the band playing trumpet, took piano lessons, played the viola in the orchestra and joined the world-famous Boys Town Choir, where he



Mollison, '64

See 'Mollison' page 8

area. Who knows? You may even find a photograph of yourself!

The Boys Town National Alumni Association® 34th Biennial General Assembly will take place in the Music Hall on Saturday morning. You are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. This is a great time to find out what is happening with the BTNAA and to honor fellow alums for their hard work and achievements during the awards ceremony that morning. Following the presentations and awards, we will move to the Alumni Veterans Memorial, where more names will be added to the wall of honor. Boys Town will be recognized as a Purple Heart Community and a new sign identifying the Memorial will be unveiled.

Saturday afternoon will be filled with tours of campus and, for

the first time in many years, a softball game has been added to the schedule following the Veteran's Memorial ceremony. Along with the game, we will be having a “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” hot dog lunch at the ballfield. The day will be capped off by the recognition banquet at the Embassy Suites La Vista.

Protestant church services will be held at Chambers Chapel at 9 a.m., followed by Catholic mass at Dowd Chapel at 11 a.m., Sunday. The Alumni Choir will sing at the Mass and present a short concert afterwards at Dowd. Following church, we will gather at the Boys Town picnic grounds for our Farewell Picnic. This event, scheduled to begin around 12:30 p.m., will wrap up a fun-filled weekend at Boys Town.



## From the Executive Director

Dear Alumni,

As we approach the end of winter with the anticipation of the warmth of spring, our Boys Town youth, especially our class of 2019, are preparing themselves for their future by shaking off the troubles and challenges of their past.

In about a month, we will celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This holy season is so symbolic of the journey of many of our boys and girls. Many of you have made the same journey and you know about the good feeling of redemption they will associate with their success. This is why it is so important for us to recall the sacrifice made by others so that we may have a chance in life. It gives us pause to be thankful for the commitment and passion of the many people who helped us on our journey and especially the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross for all of us. I ask for your continued prayers as we prepare our Boys Town kids for their new lives as alumni of Boys Town.

We have opened a new long-term residential home in Florida and continue to increase our efforts to bring the population of our Boys Town campus to 400 youth. The need is tremendously great and we remain one of the few nationally evidence-based programs that are able to sustain a long-term residential program. We have made a concerted effort to recruit more Family-Teachers® and Assistant Family-Teachers® to provide the necessary staff to take on more youth. The support we have received from the Alumni Association in advertising for these positions on your website is greatly appreciated. I ask each of you to be a recruiter for Boys Town and let your friends and neighbors know about the opportunities available to be a positive role model in the lives of young boys and girls and to make a huge difference in their lives. Call the Alumni Office if you know of someone who is interested and our staff will help connect them with our Human Resources recruiters.

Time flies by so fast these days and we are closing in on your 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion slated for July 25-28, 2019. We all look forward to welcoming you home to Boys Town and to, once again, bring

our family together and share our common experiences. I am looking forward to the reunion and to meeting as many of you as I possibly can. I really enjoy your stories and your feedback... it helps us to make our work better and validates the efforts of our dedicated team of caregivers at Boys Town. Be sure to register early and make your plans to join us at this most unique of family reunions.

You will see the story in this issue about the upcoming retirement of John Mollison, Class of 1964, from his position as Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters. I want to personally thank John for his long-term commitment to Boys Town in his twenty-plus years of service. As Vice President for Human and Physical Resources for 10 years, John made long-lasting and positive fundamental changes to the support services that take care of the people and places that are so essential to the mission of Boys Town. His more than 10-year tenure with the Alumni Office has been marked by major and significant improvement and evolutionary structural change to the Alumni Association as it prepares itself to enter into the future with new generations of alumni. He will continue working through the upcoming reunion.

I thank each and every one of you who donated so generously to the Alumni Christmas Gift Campaign for the almost \$4,000 that was received to help pay for gifts for our kids. It makes such a difference in their lives to know they have alumni brothers and sisters who care enough to help them have a beautiful Christmas. Your generosity speaks volumes of the love and care you have for your home.

I hope to see you this summer. Please make your plans now. Bring your family and travel safely.

God's blessings upon you,

Father Steven E. Boes  
National Executive Director

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

## ALUMNI NEWS

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## Alumni Profile

## Lanise Hutcherson-Pitts, '90



Hutcherson-Pitts, '90

Mired in the gang violence that afflicted Chicago neighborhoods when she was in high school, Lanise Hutcherson-Pitts was destined to become another statistic in the gruesome tally of victims paraded across the newspapers of that city.

In August of 1987, that all changed, however.

Hutcherson-Pitts was accepted at Boys Town and a whole new world opened to her that, up to that time, hadn't even been a dream in her fearful life.

"The best thing that Boys Town gave me was my childhood," she said. "I was 15 when I arrived at Boys Town and before that, because of the problems I experienced with gang violence in high school in Chicago, I wasn't really able to enjoy high school."

Her motivation for success at Boys Town was personal and meaningful.

"The thing that motivated me the most at Boys Town was making my mom and my grandparents proud of me," Hutcherson-Pitts said. "I would be the first grandchild to graduate from high school. I wanted my little brothers and sisters and my younger cousins to have a positive influence."

She immersed herself in the many activities of a "normal" high school girl, such as playing basketball, running track and attending school dances, things that just weren't possible in Chicago.

"I really enjoyed going to Camp Okoboji every summer," she said. "It was truly a treat for me because I had never done anything like it in my life. The many memories I made at Boys Town are precious to me. The diversity of Boys Town allowed me to have friends of a wide variety of races and cultures and helped me to be more accepting of the differences of others and to learn about people beyond the typical stereotypes."

Hutcherson-Pitts, like many Boys Town youth, had lessons to learn.

"The most important lesson I learned at Boys Town was how to accept criticism and feedback," she said. "It has helped me to be much more successful in life."

She has taken those lessons and used them to guide her personal and professional life. Today, she is a first-grade teacher in Appleton, Wisconsin. She received her degree in early childhood education from Saint Xavier University in Chicago in 2009.

"I am a teacher, a foster parent and I work with children with autism," Hutcherson-Pitts said. "I

See 'Hutcherson-Pitts' page 7



# Boys Town Helped Amanda Martinez, '02, Find Her Own Path to Success

*The story of Amanda Martinez and how Boys Town helped her down a road to success is a special one. Her answers to tough questions are telling in this interview with Boys Town Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters, John Mollison.*

**JM: How and why you did you end up at Boys Town?**

**AM:** I arrived at Boys Town in May of 1999 with my mom, and the first thing I remember seeing was snow on the ground. Being from Louisiana and never seeing real snow, it was a bit of a culture shock and I began questioning my choice. The choice I made was to take the opportunity to turn my life around in the middle of the country, surrounded by corn. Before making the decision to go to Boys Town, I was making all the wrong decisions at home. I dropped out of the ninth grade, was doing drugs, sneaking out, running away, got in trouble with the law and had to do a juvenile probation program. But it still didn't help, I was on a fast track to jail or a casket.

**JM: What were some of your memorable experiences at Boys Town?**

**AM:** Making the decision to go to Boys Town saved my life. I was a bit resistant and reluctant to trust the process when I arrived, but the first person to take me under her wing was my Assistant Family-Teacher®, Sarah Mohn. Sarah helped to make my transition into Boys Town much easier. I moved into a home with seven other teenage girls and new Family-Teachers®. I never knew that when I met all these people, they would impact my life in more ways than I could ever imagine. They showed me what a normal life could be like. They pushed me and made me look inside myself. When I got to Boys Town, I didn't like the person I was and it showed. They showed me how to love myself, they showed me what I was capable of, they made me get out of my own way.

They made me do things I had never done before; to step out of my comfort zone. I tried out to be a wrestling cheerleader, made it and eventually became the captain of the squad. I tried out for and made the flag team. I ran for Mayor and was elected at 17 years old!

I was not perfect. I made my fair share of mistakes, but I was taught to learn from my mistakes and not to dwell on them. I learned what a family was supposed to be like. The other girls I lived with became my sisters. We would do basic tasks like grocery shopping and cooking (for eight teenagers, it's not so basic) but we would also go on vacations to Lake Okoboji in Iowa or Worlds of Fun in Kansas City.

Boys Town also taught me how to pray and develop the spiritual aspect of my life. When I arrived at Boys Town, I didn't believe in God. I was raised Catholic, but my family only attended church on the major holidays. We never prayed before a meal, we never prayed together at all. Prayer and faith were not things that were discussed in my home. But at Boys Town, I HAD to go to church whether I wanted to or not. Dowd Chapel became a place of healing and reflection for me, and I even joined the choir.



Going to work for the New Orleans Saints was a dream come true for Boys Town alumni Amanda Martinez.

Boys Town gave me so many opportunities, including running the Olympic Torch for the 2002 Winter Games, the same flame that was carried by Muhammad Ali. I introduced the Harlem Globe Trotters to the campus, I gave speeches at banquets. In Voices, we sang at the College World Series the year LSU won.

**JM: What were the important lessons you learned at Boys Town and what career did you pursue after leaving Boys Town?**

**AM:** Boys Town taught me to step outside of my comfort zone and taught me how to be a leader.

Boys Town also taught me how to give and accept feedback, which is a crucial skill in the working world. Another skill I am grateful for is appropriately greeting someone with a handshake and eye contact. It makes such a big difference in how you are received.

After Boys Town, I had a scholarship to LSU, but I was not mature enough to handle life and responsibility on my own. I ended up dropping out of LSU and became a mom at 19 years old. I had to provide for my daughter and took any job bartending or waiting tables I could find.

After moving around a bit, I began working for an eye doctor, had a steady paycheck, insurance, job security, a happy family and had my second daughter. To the outside world, my life was perfect. But behind closed doors, my life was a war zone. Around this time, I had reconnected with some of my old Boys Town housemates and they helped me. I packed my two daughters and my belongings into a U-Haul and we began our trek from Louisiana back to Omaha. Once in Omaha, I stayed with a friend and immediately began a job search. I secured a job and got help from Boys Town once again. Boys Town saved my life twice!

**JM: How did the skills you acquired at Boys Town contribute to helping you in your chosen career?**

**AM:** My girls and I stayed in Omaha for a year, but being a Southerner, I couldn't take another winter driving in snow. We moved back to Louisiana and I got a job working with another eye doctor, but the money wasn't enough. I went back to waiting tables and was doing okay, but I wasn't satisfied. I was almost 30 years old and still waiting tables. I knew I was destined to do more than that. One day while driving, I saw a billboard advertising a career in massage therapy and a light went off in my head. Shortly after driving by the sign, I was enrolled in massage therapy school. I remember the first day my teacher asked us why we were there. My response wasn't a typical response. "I'm here because I don't like school. I want to learn what I want to learn. I don't want to write any more English papers or solve any more algebra equations." In massage school, I did great. I was at the top of my class, making A's. I was pumped and ready to hit the ground running once I graduated.

I had always wanted to work for the New Orleans Saints, ever since I was at Boys Town. Then I found out they had massage therapists on staff. I sent in my resume (thanks to Boys Town, my resume skills are top notch) and one day while driving, I received a phone call from the Saints asking if I wanted to come work for them. I said "Yes!" As soon as I hung up, I began dancing, singing and clapping in my car while at a red light. It's amazing how life circles back around. While at Boys Town I worked with the athletes, taped their ankles, iced their injuries, washed uniforms

*See 'Martinez' page 7*



# CONVENTION MEMORIES FROM THE PAST...







...LOOKING FORWARD  
TO THIS SUMMER!





## From the BTNAA President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Spring is finally here and, as we all remember, exciting things are always happening at Boys Town during this time. In the next few months, the Class of 2019 will be graduating and we will welcome them to our association at the Senior Welcome Banquet, May 5, at 12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall. You are invited to join us in welcoming our new brothers and sisters. Please contact Gail Page in the Alumni Office if you are interested in attending.

I want to thank Bo Rhudy and his Sports Hall of Fame Committee for selecting the inductees to be honored this year. Look for their stories in the upcoming summer Alumni News. The Boys Town Booster Banquet, the primary fundraiser for Boys Town's sports programs, will be held at the Embassy Suites La Vista Convention Center on April 30. This year's guest speaker is Bruce Bowen, former NBA player with the San Antonio Spurs. Please join us in honoring our current student-athletes for their achievements and our outstanding Boys Town alumni athletes as they are inducted into the Alumni Sports Hall of Fame.

Registration is online for the 2019 Family Reunion ([www.boystownalumni.org](http://www.boystownalumni.org)). It's never too early to register and put your vacation and travel plans in motion to attend. We have added a softball game for everyone to showcase your ball-playing skills. We will tailgate prior to the game and look forward to some great play. When you register, be sure to indicate on the registration form that you want to play in the softball game.

Membership is an essential and important part of our association. It keeps us up-to-date with how our brothers and sisters are doing and helps the Alumni Office to keep in touch. There are several types of memberships available to accommodate your needs. You can find the type of membership you want on the alumni website. You can join the association and pay dues safely and securely by using our alumni website.

In our ongoing efforts to help the alumni's presence on campus, the BTNAA has taken on the project of remodeling the concession stand at the football field. It is in desperate need of updating. The association has already begun to raise funds, and we are half way to our goal. Please look for further information on the project in our next newsletter.

The BTNAA board has received news that John Mollison is retiring in August 2019. John has been an integral part of this association for the last 10-plus years and has helped guide us through many changes. As Alumni Director, John's work comes from the heart. One of his main goals was to help grow this association. John, we wish you great things in your retirement and we are glad you will be with us for one more reunion as the Alumni Director.

Take Care and God Bless,

Phil Dauterive, D'70  
BTNAA President



## From the Boys Town Auxiliary

Dear Auxiliary Members,

The Boys Town National Alumni Association Auxiliary is geared up for the summer 2019 reunion at Boys Town.

The Auxiliary Executive Board voted to sponsor the Staff Appreciation Reception on Thursday evening, making it a free event with paid registration to the reunion. This will be a great time to catch up with former teachers and youth care staff. We hope to see a lot of alumni at this event.

We have changed directions on our cookbook project. We know most people are using the Internet, so we are changing with the times and all the recipes that have been submitted will be placed on our Facebook page! Look for yours there! Send your recipes for our online collection to [btnaauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:btnaauxiliary@gmail.com).

Our new fundraiser item for this summer will be a license plate cover that will let everyone know you are a "Boys Town Alumni." Be sure to get yours right away!

Donations for the Silent Auction are being accepted now. Please donate an item or create a basket for the auction. Proceeds from the auction support scholarships for seniors and other campus activities. If you have a donation, please contact us at [btnaauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:btnaauxiliary@gmail.com).

Finally, the auxiliary is always looking to grow our membership. We offer membership to spouses, partners, all family members, and friends of alumni.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please reach out through email at [btnaauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:btnaauxiliary@gmail.com), or contact us through our Facebook page @BTNAAuxiliary.

See you this summer!

Shannon Greene



## From the Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

I have submitted my intention to retire as Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters, effective August 31, 2019. I have chosen this date so Boys Town can select a replacement and we can train that person on the many and varied responsibilities of this office. I'll be busy working the Senior Welcome Lunch, the Booster Banquet and, of course, the 2019 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion that will occur this coming July. I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the years and look forward to the next few months of transitioning the responsibilities to the next Alumni Director.

Your Alumni Association Board of Directors is a group of hard-working and dedicated alumni who are endeavoring to keep our association active, vibrant and growing. In May of this year, we will be mailing nomination forms for several board positions that will be coming open this summer (see the insert about the board positions in this newsletter). If you want to help lead your Alumni Association into the future, think about running for the board. You'll find it rewarding and fun.

Many of our brother and sister alumni live in local communities where they are making a difference in the lives of others, improving their community and serving their fellow citizens in their work and daily lives. We want to know about what you are doing and would like to share your stories with your fellow alumni. The good work accomplished by alumni across our great country reflects the lessons and values we have taken from

Boys Town and helps to tell Boys Town's story of success in a very real and convincing manner. If you are interested in sharing your story, either through our quarterly newsletter or online at the Boys Town alumni website, please reach out to me or Gail Page in the Alumni Office and let us know. We have an easy format for putting the story together and we really believe sharing our stories is a great way to increase the bond among our alumni brothers and sisters.

The Family Reunion is just around the corner. It all begins July 25. You will find your registration form included with this newsletter. Get it in quickly and receive a beautiful print of Father Flanagan taken from the original artwork created by Paul Otero, '68, especially for the BTNAA and Boys Town. You can also register safely and securely online at [www.boystownalumni.org](http://www.boystownalumni.org) and click on the "EVENT" link to get to the registration form. It is quick and easy!

If you renewed your annual dues or became a Lifetime Member during the 2019 membership drive, we thank you for your support. If you missed out on the chance to join this year, you can still do it by visiting the alumni website or simply calling Gail at the Alumni Office at 402-498-1151. She will help you get it done quickly.

I hope to see many of you at our reunion in July.

Your Boys Town brother,

John Mollison, '64  
Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

## Martinez, '02 (continued from page 3)

and learned just about everything there was to know about all the sports that were played there. That previous knowledge helped me to be more confident the first day I walked into the field house of the New Orleans Saints. I also have a private practice that allows me to help people in my area. Being a massage therapist is a very rewarding career. I love helping people and it's great to be able to give back to the community and still make a living.



Martinez, '02

**JM: What advice would you share with future Boys Town alumni about how best to be successful?**

**AM:** In life, we are bound to make mistakes, and many of us fall flat on our faces when we leave Boys Town. The important thing is to not dwell on the mistake, but to take a step back and see what we can learn from the situation. When I got out of Boys Town, I had my own place, my

own car, all the money I had made during three years of working and no one to tell me what to do. I partied... a lot! I got into trouble a couple of times and am very lucky I didn't end up in jail. When you leave Boys Town, you have no one to tell you what to do except yourself. You can be your own worst enemy or your best ally, it's your choice. One thing I am grateful for is the amazing people Boys Town placed in my life. I developed an extended family with my Boys Town sisters and brothers. There is a love and understanding that only we can know. We will go out of our way to make sure one of our own is okay. A love like that is hard to find!

**JM: What do you and your family enjoy doing, like hobbies, travel, etc.?**

**AM:** Since beginning my career in massage therapy, I have been able to take my daughters on vacations to Disney, Mexico, weekend trips to Florida and Six Flags in Atlanta. We love taking day trips to New Orleans to walk around the city or going to the lakefront of Lake Pontchartrain. My daughters participate in sports at the local recreation center and are always ready to hang out with their friends on the weekends. Life wasn't always easy right after Boys Town, but right now it is doing just great. I am grateful for the lessons I learned at Boys Town and thankful I have been able to put them to use to create a good life for me and my daughters.

## Hutcherson-Pitts, '90 (continued from page 2)

always wanted to come back to Boys Town to be either a Family-Teacher® or an Assistant Family-Teacher®, but since my journey didn't lead me that way, being a foster parent is the next closest thing."

She has words of advice for today's Boys Town youth.

"I would tell future Boys Town alumni to take advantage of every opportunity you are given," she said. "Don't fight the system, because in the end, it works out for you. I don't have many unpleasant memories. What I do have is a lot of brothers and sisters I have never forgotten... many that I am in close contact with. Also, the lessons that I learned and the love I received remains with me 32 years later."

Hutcherson-Pitts' journey from violence to success is one that is made by many Boys Town alumni. She exemplifies the importance of being given a chance and having the strength of character and tenacity to make dreams come true. Today, she is living a life she never thought would be possible, partly because of Boys Town, but mostly because of her willingness to work and rise above the expectations of many around her. She is a role model, and is passing on to the next generation, as a teacher, the positive lessons she has learned throughout her life.

Hutcherson-Pitts, as busy as she is, takes time to enjoy herself. She enjoys reading, watching true crime stories, listening to 90s music and playing board games.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**ANTHONY J. "TONY" HURTADO, '54**, passed away on December 29, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri. Hurtado was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

**JERRY LESEBERG, '58**, passed away on September 10, 2018, in Rio Vista, California.

**STEPHEN H. STERNIK, D'58**, passed away on December 15, 2018, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Sternik was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

**JERRY J. STULTZ, '58**, passed away on October 27, 2018, in Kaufman, Texas.

**JOHN ANTHONY "TONY" BENSON, D'60**, passed away on May 13, 2018, in Montrose, Colorado. Benson was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

**CHARLES ERNEST CHRISTOPHER, '64**, passed away on January 7, 2018, in Goodyear, Arizona.

**JUAN "JOHN" QUEZADA BERNAL, D'68**, passed away on August 23, 2018, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**DUANE E. SANDERS, '74**, passed away on September 11, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri. Sanders was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

**CHARLES BRUCE "CHUCK" GRAYSON, '71**, passed away on January 6, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**MARTHA NOEL MULLIS KASTRUP, '93**, passed away on December 5, 2017, in Bradenton, Florida.

**JEREMY BLAKE WEILAND, D'94**, passed away on October 8, 2015, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**RICHARD D. "DICK" BIRKEL**, former dining hall staff member, passed away on December 25, 2018, in Omaha, Nebraska.

**WILLIAM RALPH WRIGHT**, former staff and Alumni Choir Director, passed away on January 14, 2019, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

2017  
to  
2021

Alumni  
Association  
Board  
of  
Directors

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#### Larry Adams, '68

Vice President | 46+ Year Group  
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#### Lisa Morehouse-Mabey, '89

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#### Stephen Postert, '69

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#### 26-35 YEAR GROUP

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#### 36-45 YEAR GROUP

##### Dennis Buckman, '72

btmaa2017@cox.net  
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##### Bob Matthews, D'71

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Term Expires - 2021

### 46+ YEAR GROUP

#### Sam Vargas, '65

samsrvargas1946@gmail.com  
Term Expires - 2019

### EX-OFFICIO

#### Knobby Meysenburg

Honorary National President  
Deceased in January 2018

#### Michael Trevino, '58

Alumni Advisor  
lolligag3@aol.com

#### Father Steven E. Boes

National Executive Director  
Honorary President

#### John Mollison, '64

Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters  
john.mollison@boystown.org

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alumni@boystown.org

participated in six nationwide tours, singing concerts across America.

Upon graduation, Mollison enrolled as a music major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated in 1969 with a degree in education and a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Later, he earned a master's degree from Ball State University.

He finished navigator training in early 1970. He was assigned as a weapon systems officer in the F-4 Phantom two-seat fighter jet and was slated for a tour in Vietnam.

He flew 171 combat missions in the F-4 at Phu Cat Air Base in Vietnam and Udorn Royal Thai Air Base in Thailand. During his combat tour, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters for his service in combat.

After the service, Mollison accepted the position of Associate Executive Director (later vice president) of Human and Physical Resources at Boys Town.

During his 10-year tenure at Human and Physical Resources, he fully reorganized the Maintenance and Human Resources departments to better provide support services, and in conjunction with the Finance and IT departments, instituted a new personnel evaluation system and pay management system. Stepping down from that position in 2008, he was asked to assume responsibility for the Alumni Office, and in October 2008, began his tenure as the head of that office, providing support for the Alumni Association and focusing on changing the relationship of the association to a partnership with Boys Town.

He has forged a strong working relationship with many Boys Town departments. Under his leadership, the number of Lifetime Members of the Alumni Association jumped to nearly 1,200 from around 700.

Mollison has organized every alumni reunion since 2009. In 2010, the Alumni Association began its efforts to hold off-year reunions (every even year) at a Boys Town campus across the country.

The board of the Boys Town National Alumni Association considered and implemented a recommendation by Mollison to restructure the board membership from one that was representative of various geographical regions of the U.S. to one that represents various age groups. This change was made in recognition of the need to attract new generations of alumni to both membership and active participation in the Association.

Under his watch and active involvement, the BTNAA raised more than \$35,000 to expand the Boys Town Alumni Veterans Memorial, and has begun an annual "Christmas Gift Campaign" that has raised nearly \$10,000 in the last three years to buy Christmas gifts for Boys Town youth. Additionally, the BTNAA has donated \$1,000 to each of the five Boys Town affiliate sites where "Mini-Reunions" have been held.

Mollison is Vice President of the Boys Town National Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and will continue to be involved with that group after his retirement.

Looking back on his time at Boys Town as a youth and an employee, Mollison is grateful for the many opportunities that have blessed his life.

"Boys Town gave me a new chance at life," Mollison said. "One that might never have been possible had I not had the fortunate circumstance to come here as a youth. The guidance and care I received helped to shape a value system that has guided me all my life through the various careers I've had the fortune to pursue.



Mollison, '64

"As I reflect on a life filled with people who cared, it is abundantly clear Boys Town played a huge part in shaping who I am. For this, I will always be grateful. It has been an honor and privilege to work alongside dedicated professionals who are giving today's youth the same chance and opportunities that I once received."

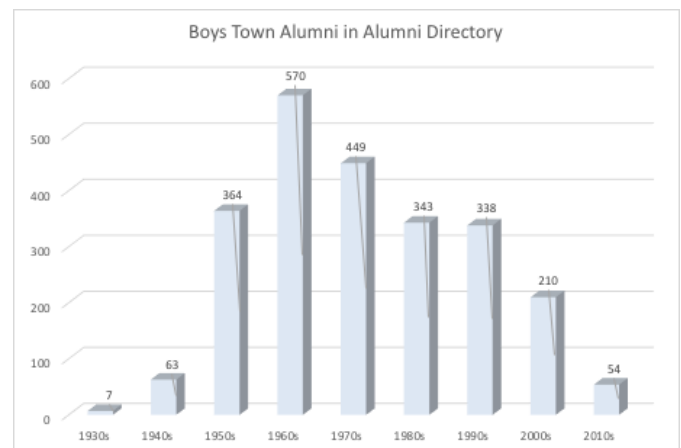
Mollison said he couldn't have done what he has for the alumni without the help of others.

"I have had the honor to work with many alumni on the Association Board of Directors who have given of their time and talent to make a difference for our brother and sister alumni," Mollison said. "Their leadership and commitment have enhanced and expanded the partnership with Boys Town and that partnership is on track to grow even more. I would be remiss if I did not mention that much of what happens in the Alumni Office couldn't happen without the dedicated hard work and supreme effort of Gail Page, Administrative Assistant. Her daily interactions with alumni on the phone and in person are key and essential in making the Alumni Office a welcoming gateway to the Boys Town National Alumni Association. I look forward to the coming years and a continuing relationship with the Boys Town National Alumni Association and the Alumni Office."

Mollison is married to the former Cheryl DeHart of Alamogordo, New Mexico. He is the father of two sons, Eric, of Benson, Arizona, and Christopher, of Battle Ground, Indiana, and a grandparent to Blythe and Maxwell. Cheryl has two daughters, Brooke, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Christy, of Elkhorn, Nebraska. The Mollisons enjoy traveling and visiting with family and friends.

### WHERE ARE YOU?

The BTNAA wants to keep all alumni informed about alumni events and activities and we need your help. The graph below shows the breakout of alumni that are presently in the BTNAA Directory by decade of graduation or departure. Reach out to your classmates and housemates and encourage them to contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@boystown.org](mailto:alumni@boystown.org) or call 800-345-0458/402-498-1151. Your help is greatly appreciated!



## Boys Town Issues Policy Change on Field House Usage

Boys Town recently revised its policy on who can use the Field House facilities for recreation and workouts. Retired/former staff and alumni are no longer able to use the facilities. In addition, current staff are limited to using the facility during the lunch hour when youth are not present.

This change in policy resulted from recommendations made by the U.S. Homeland Security Department after an assessment and evaluation of the safety measures that were in place to protect students in a school setting.

Boys Town implemented the recommendations in all of its educational facilities (High School, Wegner School, Music Hall, Career Center and the Field House) in order to provide the best and safest environment for the students in its care.

Additionally, the change in policy reflected a commitment to enhance and comply with state and local requirements involving the safety and protection of school students. This policy change is not unique to Boys Town. You might see the same types of access restrictions in the schools in your

community or where your children go to school.

Boys Town alumni will still be able to access the Field House for all public events such as athletic contests. Lifetime Members will still receive free admission to all sports events where a fee is charged. Additionally, during our biennial reunions, alumni will be able to access the facilities for tours and other activities, as scheduled.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the Alumni Office at 800-345-0458 or email us at [alumni@boystown.org](mailto:alumni@boystown.org).