



WE ARE

BOYS TOWN NATION

BOYS TOWN NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION®

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35TH ALUMNI BIENNIAL *Family* REUNION

Recap on
page 3



FATHER FLANAGAN

Canonization Effort
Moving Forward
page 2



JOHN DEASES, '92

A Boys Town Pilgrim
Who Found a New Life
page 4





FROM FATHER BOES

PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR ALUMNI,

Summer has completed its journey and we are now experiencing the glorious days of autumn that are so special at Boys Town. It only seems like yesterday that we were enjoying our Alumni Convention. This event is what makes Boys Town alumni so different from others at schools across America — they come back to a school for a reunion, you come home to be with your Boys Town Family.

I commend the Boys Town National Alumni Association and its convention committee for arranging such a well-planned weekend. From registration to the picnic, everything was well-organized and allowed for maximum opportunity to visit with classmates and friends.

As I visited with Alumni, I was reminded that what we do at Boys Town has a long-term, positive, and lasting impact on the lives of our youth. Each day we toil to give our youth a chance in life. That is validated at these conventions. We see youth return as adults who are contributing members of communities across America.

Biennial conventions are a special time for us to share with you the many things we are doing at Boys Town to help children and families. We continue to evolve our program of care to take advantage of the latest technologies and innovations in childcare and, in many cases, create those technologies and innovations for use by others. Your Boys Town is leading the country in helping to keep families together, to better understand the causes of childhood behavioral issues through research and application, and we are doing this ever mindful of the solid foundation given to us by our beloved founder, Servant of God, Father Edward J. Flanagan.

Our kids are now back into the swing of another school year. They are settling into the regimen of academics, sports and activities that make up their daily lives. We are one year away from moving into our beautiful new Education Center. There is an excitement in the air as we see it progress every week.

The Boys Town mission, started by Father Flanagan in 1917, continues to evolve and grow to provide the best treatment and care possible for America's children and families. Prayer has been central to the success of Boys Town since the beginning and remains so today. I ask for your prayers and support as we move forward with fulfilling Father Flanagan's dream.

God bless you and your families,

Father Steven E. Boes
President and National Executive Director

AROUND THE 'TOWN AND THE Nation...

Father Flanagan Canonization Effort Moving Forward

The canonization effort for Boys Town's founder, Father Flanagan, is reaching the second of three reviews of his case at the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. His historical commission review was completed nearly two years ago, and he passed it with flying colors.

The theological commission review should be completed by the end of 2022. And the Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion which was established by the Boys Town National Alumni Association, is hopeful the third and final review will be held in 2023. If Father Flanagan receives an endorsement by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints after this third review, it is likely the Pope will declare Father as Venerable Edward J. Flanagan.

Since the canonization process began in 1999, the Flanagan League has received 25 reports of alleged miracles, some involving BT alumnus. Medical records are currently being gathered for two cases the League hopes to further investigate. The reason the Catholic

Church includes proven miracles as part of the canonization process is their desire to have supernatural proof that the person is truly with Jesus Christ in heaven before they declare them to be a saint.

The Flanagan League is producing a major broadcast biographic documentary about Father Flanagan with the help of an Emmy Award winning film crew. Actor Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in the film *The Passion of the Christ*, is slated to narrate the production. The League is still raising funds to help with worldwide distribution of the film and to have it released in several foreign languages.

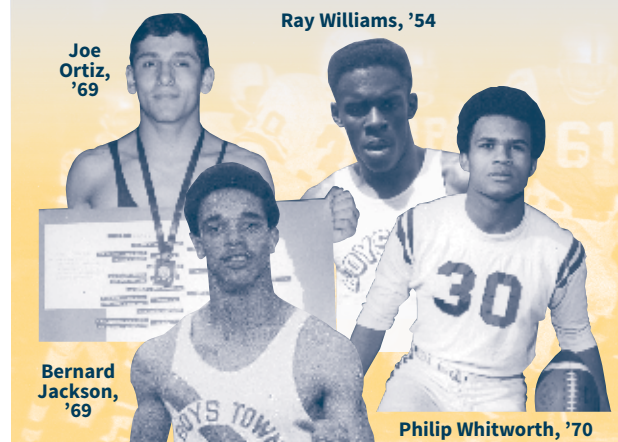
Boys Town alumni initiated this cause and the League hopes individuals will contribute financially to this effort to see Father Flanagan's canonization effort to the finish line.



BOYS TOWN ALUMNI

SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2022 INDUCTEES



SCAN ME

Scan the QR Code to read about our newest inductees or visit us online at boystownalumni.org for more Boys Town Nation.

"I know when the idea of a boy's home grew in my mind, I never thought of anything remarkable about taking in all the races and all the creeds. To me, they are all God's children. They are my brothers. They are children of God. I must protect them to the best of my ability."

— FATHER EDWARD J. FLANAGAN



BOYS TOWN NATION

EDITOR
Macy Moore

EDITORIAL ADVISOR
Brent Robinson

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Melissa Vidal

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Tony Jones
John Mollison
Macy Moore
PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Buckley
PRINTER
Boys Town Print Shop

ALUMNI ADVISORS
Phil Dauterive, D'70
John Mollison, '64
Stephen Postert, '69
Rich Tapio, D'67
Stan Struble, '68

Boys Town Nation is published by Boys Town
14057 Flanagan Blvd
Boys Town, NE 68010
alumni@boystown.org
1-800-345-0458
p 531-355-1150 | f 531-355-1159

Boys Town Hosts Successful 35TH Biennial ALUMNI FAMILY REUNION

The Boys Town Alumni Office and the Boys Town National Alumni Association® (BTNAA) wrapped up a successful and eventful weekend in late July, hosting the 35th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion. The weekend consisted of Alumni and their families ranging in graduation dates from the 1950s all the way to the 2000s. The event was rescheduled from last year due to Covid.

The stories told ranged from decades, hearing about dormitory living, cottages and house commissioners, to present day family style living.

These varying experiences always included the immeasurable impact Family-Teachers®, counselors, teachers and other staff had on the youth of Boys Town.

Many events highlighted the weekend, including Friday night's Banquet at the Scott Conference Center in Aksarben Village. At the banquet, Alumni and their families gathered to hear from Father Boes, who spoke on Boys Town's Mission and how it has grown over the years to include a wide variety of services along with

state-of-the-art research initiatives. Boys Town Mayor, Colby Johnson, '23, was in attendance and welcomed the Alumni, thanking them for paving the way for the younger generation and their continued support. The classes of 1995 and 1996 were honored for their 25th year class reunion. The classes of 1970 and 1971 were honored for reaching their Golden Jubilee (50 years).

At the banquet, Daniel P. Chesire, '65, was awarded with the Father Flanagan Distinguished Alumni Award. This is the highest and most prestigious award given by the Alumni Association. It recognizes alumni who have achieved substantial personal and professional growth and advancement over an extended period of time, made significant contributions to society and service to fellow man and who embodies the principles of Father Flanagan of service above self.

Awarded the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was Sommer Lemley, '12, who is presently a Family-Teacher on home campus. This award recognizes a young alumnus who has achieved substantial professional growth and advancement over a short period of time, made significant

contributions to the professional world or community and represents the values and principles of Boys Town and the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

The Honorary National President Award was given to Daniel Schneiss. Dan is a retired Boys Town coach and teacher who has provided significant service to the Alumni Association through considerable efforts in support of the goals and projects of the Alumni Association.

The weekend also consisted of a Veterans Memorial Program where the flag was presented by the Boys Town JROTC. Alumni and family honored each branch of the armed services with its own service song where members of each branch assumed the position of "attention" during the duration of their song. Alumni Service Members were given the opportunity to speak at the event.

The campus was widely visited by alumni, family and friends, where they were able to access the Palrang Field house, a "cottage" home in the valley, and the new Alumni Office at Successful Futures adjacent to the Hill Top Apartments. The Hall of History was a busy place with Alumni requesting pictures, year books, and sharing many stories from their time. The Visitor Center Overlook Café served a breakfast each morning.

Boys Town research hosted free hearing screenings for alumni and their family members

on Saturday morning. The screenings took place in the brand-new Boys Town Research Vehicle (BTRV), a custom-built trailer equipped with clinical-grade audiology tools. Our audiologists and researchers enjoyed meeting Boys Town alumni, promoting hearing health and sharing exciting new research initiatives.

Saturday night's BBQ was held next to the Boys Town baseball field and was a great time for catching up with old friends and making new. A DJ was present playing music from all decades, and a 50/50 raffle was drawn, donating half the weekend's proceeds to the BTNAA.

Sunday's Family Picnic was the most attended event of the weekend that proved a great time for all ages. Families enjoyed hayrack rides, fire truck rides, face painting, games and prizes. Alumni from all ages gathered with their families and friends to enjoy hot dogs and burgers prepared by Boys Town's Food Service Staff. This event was located at the Boys Town lake and was a perfect opportunity to reminisce on some of the best moments from childhood while catching up with old friends, meeting new friends and saying a farewell until next time.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK ALFIO GIGLITTO '40, 7/8/22 in San Diego, CA

VINCENT A. EVANS, '50, 2/22/22 in Independence, MO

***MADIE FELIX SANSOUCIE, '50**, 3/28/22 in Roswell, NM

ROBERT BALES, D'51, 8/2/22 in Fremont, NE

NORMAN L. CHERRY, '54, 6/1/22 in Orland Park, IL

***JOHN A. NAUSER, '58**, 6/23/22 in Liberty, MO

ARMAND JACKSON, '61, 11/17/21 in Las Vegas, NV

***ROBERT W. PHILLIPS, '61**, 10/26/21 in Vicksburg, MS

MICHAEL LUDKE '62, 9/19/21 in Oceanside, CA

PETER KOZAK, '64, 6/28/22 in Omaha, NE

GENE F. GORDON, '65, 12/31/21 in Omaha, NE

***DENNIS MICHAEL SMITH, '65**, 12/30/21 in Ft. Wayne, IN

THOMAS JAMES SCHROEDER, '66, 2/1/22 in Hubbard, IA

WILLIAM S. CORDOVA, D '68, 5/8/22 in Oakbrook, IL

MICHAEL ISLEY, D'68, 12/27/21 in Graham, WA

***JAMES J. PRUNEDA, '68**, 6/5/22 in Tampa, FL

JAMES JOSEPH "JIM" JOHNSON, '83, 12/2/21 in Bellevue, NE

MARK J. VARGAS, D '84, 2/1/22 in Honolulu, HI

DAVID J. KUFELDT, D '87, 6/5/22 in Fairfield, ME

ANTOWAN INGRAM, '91, 7/21/22 in High Point, NC

LAMARR LASHAWN COLLIE, '94, 7/4/22 in Glendale, AZ

JAMES A. GUTIERREZ, '95, 6/14/22 in Portland, OR

TESSA KATHRYN MILLER, 2016, 2/18/22 in Orlando, FL

FELIPE MANCILLAS-HERNANDEZ D'19, 6/7/22 in Omaha, NE

IVAN JOHNSON, 2019, 8/12/22 in Alaska

*** BTNAA® LIFETIME MEMBER**



FROM TONY JONES

ALUMNI DIRECTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

What a fantastic alumni reunion we just experienced. Thank you to each and every one of you for making this reunion one to remember! We joined together as a family of one, each of us from different backgrounds, races, religions, yet one in family with a common legacy and heritage. This could only happen at Boys Town!

A great big thank you goes out to the BTNAA Board of Directors and the Convention Committee for putting together a great weekend.

It was so exciting to share news of our new Successful Futures initiative for graduating seniors on campus. The ability to give our newest Alumni the assistance to find jobs or pursue an education, while also having the Hill Top Apartments for a place to live, has been a great addition to the services we provide.

I hope it was exciting to see the progress of the new Education Center going up on campus. Next year, when we have the 2023 reunion, it should be near completion for the 2023-24 school year. Also, Boys Town students, Family-Teachers®, staff and fans are enjoying the new concession stand at the football field. Your support helped raise half the funds needed to construct the new building. Thank you to all who donated.

The BTNAA has a renewed energy for bringing you the best support it has to offer. As we continue to reach out to our younger brothers and sisters, we must not forget those who have been the foundation of our association. The generations that came before us, we thank you for your guidance and continued support.

Tony E. Jones

Tony Jones, '88, Alumni Director

John Deases, '92, A Boys Town Pilgrim Who Found a New Life



John Deases, '92

Young John Deases, '92, was at loose ends in his life when he found his way from Dallas, Texas to Iowa. His journey to a new state was so he could live with his brother to escape a less than desirable home situation. Once he got there, he learned of Boys Town in Omaha and asked his brother to arrange a visit for him. Boys Town welcomed him with open arms, and he became a citizen with a new lease on his future.

Like many young boys and girls arriving at Boys Town, Deases found change initially hard to deal with.

"The rules and structure of Boys Town were especially tough, as I came from a family without any rules or stable parents," he said. "Things like learning I need to go to bed on time, and the point card system were items that actually helped me succeed later on in life."

After adapting to the program of care, Deases began to fit right in and take advantage of the many opportunities that were offered.

"Going to (Lake) Okoboji was one of the best places during the summer where I learned so many fun outdoor water sports," Deases said. "Also, participating in organized sports like football, wrestling and baseball, had a huge impact on me regarding my self-esteem and confidence. I came from a place where being in sports wasn't highly encouraged. I was fortunate to letter in all three sports my sophomore, junior and senior years. The Boys Town Letterman's Club allowed me to give back by letting me serve concessions during junior varsity and varsity events."

Wrestling was a key sport for Deases and he excelled. But early in his senior year, Deases met with adversity that changed his life and set him on a new path.

"Unfortunately, my wrestling season tanked in my senior year after I tore the ACL in my knee," he said. "So, I knew I had to rely on my academics."

The Boys Town family life was also enormously important in shaping Deases' future.

"Chris and Lori Mathsen were my Family-Teachers®," he said. "They taught me so much on

how to become a good man, father and husband. Also, I had many good teachers, but my favorite was my English teacher for ninth grade, Mrs. Anderson. She taught me so much beyond the classroom, including making time for those you care about, and having compassion for others. However, the most influential person was Coach Doug Denson. I give Coach Denson credit for helping me become a warrior on the mat and in life. Besides being my wrestling coach, Coach Denson helped shape and mold me to be the man that I have become today."

Deases says his Boys Town experience changed his life.

"Being a man without a proper father was hard but the structure, sports, and special relationships at Boys Town taught me to be able to overcome obstacles and face adversity throughout life," Deases said.

Deases graduated in 1997 from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a major in Criminal Justice. He became a correctional officer in Omaha.

Deases' vision for his future includes giving back to the community.

"I want to work with a ministry called the Victory Boxing Club," Deases said. "It is a not-for-profit Christian boxing club based in the heart of South Omaha which pours Christian principles into participants through the art of boxing. The reason I would like to do this is because I believe God gave me a second chance by letting me find my way to Boys Town. In turn, I want to help under-privileged youth become law-abiding citizens and make a difference in the world."

Deases came to Boys Town because he wanted a better life. He got that and now he is helping others who have made wrong choices to build a new life for themselves. This Boys Town pilgrim is paying it forward through his work and life.

"Coming to Boys Town was one of the best decisions I've ever made," Deases said.



FROM RICH TAPIO

BTNAA PRESIDENT

HELLO BOYS TOWN ALUMNI,

First, I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who returned to the Boys Town Campus in late July for such a great reunion. It gives me enormous pleasure to see how each of you are using the ideals we learned and honed with the teachings that are rooted in the wisdom of Father Flanagan to accomplish wonderful things.

For those of you who were able to attend, I hope you enjoyed and were able to catch up with some old friends and even make some new ones. For those of you who could not make it, we missed you. Father Boes gave an excellent update on the latest happenings on campus and in the school. These are very exciting times at Boys Town!

We could not have had such a successful reunion without the work of so many individuals. First, the BTNAA Board of Directors did an excellent job. To the Boys Town Campus and Home Staff, thank you for your unwavering support over so many reunions, this one included.

Special thanks to the Director of Food Service and her staff in making our BBQ and Picnic such a success. And an excessively big thank you to the BTNAA Alumni Office Staff, including Tony Jones and all the individuals who helped put together this event. And where would we be without the great support of the Boys Town Alumni Auxiliary? Thanks again for your tremendous support during the reunion.

To the classes of 1970, 1971, 1995 and 1996, congratulations in celebrating your 50th and 25th reunions. The Alumni Association was honored to present several Awards and Recognition to our fellow

brothers and sisters. Just knowing what they have achieved during their careers reflects strongly on all of us.

In closing, the Board has set a start date of July 21, 2023, for the next reunion. This should set our reunion clock back to odd years. It is our hope we will be able to resume the Friday night social, Saturday night Banquet and our farewell Sunday Picnic. In the meantime, I wish you all the best and I hope to see you and your family at our next reunion in 2023.

Your Brother Alumni,

Rich Tapio

Rich Tapio, D'67, President