

WE ARE

BOYS TOWN NATION

BOYS TOWN NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION®

SPRING 2021
Volume 60, Issue 1

TWO MEN OF **GOD**
SEPARATED BY THE
HANDS OF TIME

BUT UNITED IN
CONSCIENCE

AND ABOVE ALL,
THEY VALUED

LOVE

*Shared vision
continues to guide*

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SHAQUIL BARRETT

Former Cowboy Wins
Second Super Bowl Ring

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GEORGE PFEIFER

Boys Town Loses
Coaching Legend

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FROM FATHER BOES

PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR ALUMNI,

Welcome to 2021.

Without a doubt, the year 2020 may long be remembered as the year we all want to forget. So many events changed the way we do things, possibly for the rest of our lives. It is yet to be seen, but being optimistic, hopefully some of those events may actually lead to changing our world for the better.

While the pandemic definitely changed things for our kids on campus, it wasn't the only event that led us to reassess and revamp how best to serve children, families and communities here at Boys Town. The racial justice protests that sprung up across the country were a reminder of how many citizens still feel vulnerable, alienated and marginalized.

In his day, Father Flanagan was the target of threats, intimidation and condemnation because he dared to welcome every child, regardless of color, faith or nationality, into his Home. He rejected all forms of discrimination, and Boys Town was better and stronger because of it.

Today, we're strengthening our equality efforts by expanding our diversity, equity and inclusion strategies to include the creation of special employee resource groups, a diversity speaker series, a variety of staff training and recruitment efforts, and other measures that foster greater awareness and understanding of diversity issues.

The protests also laid bare how much divisiveness and mistrust exist in our communities. To counter the anger and vitriol and promote a more just, peaceful, and equitable society, we launched a nationwide **#TEACHLOVE** campaign. Through social media, community events and individual action, this movement is dedicated to fostering a more tolerant and understanding world.

On campus, I marvel every Spring at the change and awakening that happens during this time of year. Not only does the earth reawaken after the winter slumber and give us the hope that new and warmer days are ahead, but our Boys Town kids seem to become energized with the promise of their future. This is especially true of our senior class as they continue to prepare for their lives after Boys Town.

This year's seniors will face a challenging world beset by many of the issues of 2020 and their own challenges of making the difficult choice to create a new life for themselves. They will need all the encouragement and support you can give them through your prayers as they face their own personal and difficult choices.

Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the health of its membership and our campus family, the BTNAA has moved this summer's reunion to 2022.

Let's hope we are growing closer to a return to normalcy. I'm hoping 2022 will allow us to all come together once again.

God's blessings on you and your families.

Father Steven E. Boes

Father Steven E. Boes
President and National Executive Director

AROUND THE 'TOWN AND THE Nation...

Hamilton, '65, Helps Organize Food Donation

Thanks to Melvin Hamilton, '65, in partnership with The Black 14 Philanthropy and Latter-day Saint Charities, an estimated 40,000 pounds of food was delivered to the Boys Town warehouse on November, 18, 2020.

"This is a wonderful, thoughtful donation, especially considering the difficult times we are going through" said Father Steven Boes, Boys Town President and National Executive Director. "Our sincere thanks go out to everyone involved."

The collaboration between The Black 14 Philanthropy and Latter-day Saint Charities had an unlikely beginning. Hamilton was one of 14 members of the 1969 University of Wyoming football team who were dismissed from the squad after discussing protesting policy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The group later became known as The Black 14 and have recently formed a philanthropic organization.

"When you go through something like that, a lot of people get hurt. A lot of organizations get hurt. I must do everything I can to plaster all the cracks made in the walls of that relationship. All it



was, was a rift. Not a hate," said Hamilton. "My mom said, 'God will tell you what to do. All you

have to do is listen.' So, I'm listening.

"I want people to understand the loving relationship that The Black 14 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are trying to initiate. I want people to realize that we're working together, and will continue to work together, to strengthen the love between people — even people with differences."

With the donation, both Nebraska and Iowa In Home Family Services organized the delivery of groceries to families in need before the holidays. The rest was utilized on the home campus.

Boys Town Alumni Director Tony Jones said Hamilton deserved credit for thinking of his former home.

"We would like to again thank Melvin Hamilton for choosing Boys Town as the destination for this outstanding donation," Jones said. "Without his thoughtfulness, this would have never happened."



*"My mom said,
'God will tell you
what to do. All you
have to do is listen.'
So, I'm listening."*

— Melvin Hamilton, '65

Visit us online at
boystownalumni.org
for story updates,
In Memoriam, and
more Boys Town Nation.



*"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



BOYS TOWN NATION

EDITOR

Brent Robinson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tony Jones
John Mollison
Brent Robinson

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Melissa Vidal

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Buckley

PRINTER

Boys Town Print Shop

ALUMNI ADVISORS

Phil Dauterive, D'70
Lisa Morehouse-Mabey, '89
John Mollison, '64
Stephen Postert, '69
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

VISION Shared

"I never thought of anything remarkable about taking in all of the races and all of the creeds. To me, they are all God's children."

—FATHER FLANAGAN



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

— DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



FATHER BOES REFLECTS

Like many of you, I was shocked to see the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. I have spent many hours walking the halls of Congress, fighting for the rights of our troubled kids and families. This mob did indeed desecrate our great temple of democracy.

As I struggled to decide how we should react to this event at Boys Town, I was challenged and edified by the talks given in January in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by our own General Counsel, Dana Washington, and our Alumni Director, Tony Jones. They both reminded me of the Legacy of Teaching Love and Non-Violence left to us by Dr. King. He chose actions that revealed racism for the evil it was and helped educate the public. He forced white America to confront its own racism. He took peaceful action that would lead to justice. He gathered like-minded people together and fought for legislation that could make lasting change. As Dana summarized, Dr. King challenged us to **Learn, Lead, Leap** and **Lean**.

I believe this is the right path for Boys Town going forward:

LEARN That has been the focus of our Diversity, Inclusion and Equity mandatory and optional trainings and the formation of our new Employee Research Groups. I have been spending a lot of time lately reading books about the systemic racism in our Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education and Behavioral Health systems.

LEAD Like Father Flanagan, we will start by creating a place where everyone is welcome, shown love and treated fairly and included. We will begin by looking at ourselves as Boys Town and asking hard questions like, "Why are there not more minorities at top

executive leadership positions?" Leading means setting an example that encourages people to follow.

LEAP Together with our Director of Advocacy, Margaret Vacek, we are putting together a plan to harness the power of our employees, donors and board members to take political action on behalf of America's hurting kids and families. You will be seeing emails from us about the issues we see as important and you may occasionally be asked to send an email to your legislator at the State and National level asking for their vote on important bills. Your participation is voluntary, but we can no longer stand by and let the lobbyists and big donors to political campaigns influence legislation that hurts our kids and their families.

LEAN We can't do this important work alone. Boys Town belongs to several local and national associations that are also working to harness their political power. Together, we can start a movement of child-serving agencies and hospitals who stand up for what is right.

This work honors and continues Father Flanagan's mission and our mission of "Changing the way America Cares for Children and Families."



FROM PHIL DAUTERIVE

BTNAA PRESIDENT

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Your Alumni Association Board of Directors met in mid-October and the Reunion Committee presented a range of options for hosting the **2021 35th Biennial Reunion** as scheduled at Boys Town.

Among the recommendations was to either: 1) proceed as scheduled; 2) Scale back the reunion (Cancel the Saturday night banquet to the non-refundable deposit); 3) Delay until July 2022; 4) Delay until July 2023.

A meeting was held in December and the recommendation was to delay the reunion, one year, to **July 22-24, 2022**.

It was a decision not made lightly, and the committee and the board recognized the need to proceed with an abundance of caution as our nation works its way out of this pandemic. We will work with the representatives of the 25- and 50-Year Reunion classes to look at an option for a "Virtual Reunion" for each of the four classes affected.

Your board appreciates your understanding and consideration for the need to make this decision to protect the health and welfare of our alumni brothers and sisters.

We will, however, hold elections for board positions that come open in 2021. That

process will follow the normal routine outlined in our by-laws. If you are interested in running for a position on the board, I encourage you to contact any member of the board or Tony Jones in the Alumni Office and let us know of your interest. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Please stay well and safe so that we can all gather together once again at our Home, Boys Town, in July of 2022.

Your Boys Town Brother,

Phil Dauterive

Phil Dauterive, w D'70
President



FROM TONY JONES

ALUMNI DIRECTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Things are getting better!

I wanted you to know we are doing everything possible to make sure the 2020-21 school year wraps up in a positive way for our kids here on campus. This will be a school year that will never be forgotten by our kids, our teachers and our campus staff. But we are determined to try to make a positive out of a very negative situation.

COVID has impacted all of us. Some have lost loved ones or close friends. I really don't know anyone that hasn't been impacted in some way. But we continue to battle forward.

We did everything possible to get kids home with their families over the holidays. Those that were able to go home, did so. Those that couldn't were treated to a special Christmas on campus, just like many of you remember. When the kids that were able to go home came back to campus in late December and January, we quarantined them to ensure everyone's safety. It really is a new way of life on campus, just as it is for you in your homes. But as I want to stress, things are getting better.

With Spring upon us, we are looking at celebrating Easter and getting our seniors ready for graduation. I promise you, both will be special times for all of our kids.

Unfortunately, we are going to have to cancel this summer's Alumni Reunion. It has been rescheduled for the summer of 2022, and we are all looking forward to the time we can all get back together in the place we call Home. There are details of how we came to the decision and what we have planned for the future, elsewhere in this issue of *Boys Town Nation*.

I had the pleasure of being able to speak to our youth for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., remembrance. It was my honor to be able to speak along with Boys Town Executive Vice President and General Legal Counsel, Dana Washington. It is amazing how Father Flanagan and Dr. King were so alike, at very different times. Both showed tremendous courage in standing up for what they believed in. To be able to talk about and compare these two great men was definitely a career highlight.

I hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy. Please keep all of our kids and staff here at Boys Town in your thoughts and prayers. For many of our kids, this has been a very difficult and challenging year. We are constantly reminding them, we will get through this – TOGETHER!

Your Boys Town Brother,

Tony E. Jones

Tony Jones, '88
Alumni Director



Boys Town's Shaquil Barrett, '10, Wins Second Super Bowl Ring



Shaquil Barrett will be getting the second Super Bowl Championship ring of his young career after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 31-9, in Super Bowl LV.

Barrett was a key component of a Tampa Bay defense that held the high-powered Chiefs offense to no touchdowns, a first in quarterback Patrick Mahomes' NFL career. Barrett was officially credited for one sack and four of the team's 10 total hits/hurries against Mahomes. The Chiefs quarterback was pressured 29 times, which was a Super Bowl record.

"They were the better team today," Mahomes said. "They beat us pretty good, the worst I think I've been beaten in a long time."

Barrett won his first Super Bowl ring with the Denver Broncos in 2016. This was Barrett's second season with Tampa Bay.

IN MEMORIAM



GEORGE PFEIFER, '44

George Pfeifer, who coached basketball and track teams to state championships at Boys Town, passed away on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Pfeifer began his lifelong association with

Boys Town as a youth in August of 1940. His father had passed away, and he and two brothers, Robert and Alfred, came to Boys Town from Hays, Kansas.

Pfeifer was a member of Boys Town's varsity basketball team. His popularity was such that he was elected mayor in July of 1943. Upon graduation in 1944, he enlisted in the Navy. At the completion of his service in World War II, Pfeifer enrolled at Fort Hays State and completed his undergraduate degree in 1951. Following a stint as a coach at Fort Hays, Pfeifer was called by his old coach, Skip Palrang, to head back to Boys Town and become a member of the coaching staff and a teacher. He eventually became head basketball and head track

coach. During his tenure as basketball coach, he notched back-to-back Class A state championships in 1965 and 1966, after leading the 1954 track team to a Class A state championship.

Pfeifer was inducted into the Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame at its inaugural event in 2005. This honor was followed up in 2006 by his induction into the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame.



GERALDINE B. NOVOTNY

Geraldine B. "Jerri" Novotny passed away on January 31, 2021. Jerri, along with her late husband, Ed Novotny, '43, were the

"corporate memory" for the Alumni Association for years.

Jerri could normally be found in her small office space in the Alumni Office, meticulously poring over the financial records of the Association, tracking lifetime membership payments and sending notes and letters to alumni all over the world. Her commitment to the mission of the BTNAA was deep and abiding. She worked in administrative positions at Boys Town headquarters, all the while staying fully engaged with alumni matters. Due to her strong organizational skills, the records of the Alumni Association were retained and organized.

***JOSEPH A. SCHRANTZ, '47,**
11-1-2020, in Glen Allyn, IL

***PETER B. WARREN, D'47,**
6-19-2020, in Great Bend, KS

JAMES M. DIXON, D'53,
11-18-2020, in Tinley Park, IL

***ROGER DUANE HINESH, D'56,**
1-1-2021, in Wichita Falls, TX

MICHAEL THOMAS MCALLISTER, '56,
3-11-2020, in Tigard, OR

CHARLES SPICER, '56, 8-11-2020,
in Valley, NE

MICHAEL LEE DAVIS, '57,
4-29-2020, in Moses Lake, WA

PATRICK J. SMITH, '57,
11-20-2020, in Chaska, MN

***LYNN FRANKLIN HECKMAN, '58,**
4-24-2020, in Hope, AR

***MACK CHARLES HUCKEY, '58,**
11-26-2020, in Omaha, NE

***SAM JOHN NICHOLSON, '60,**
8-8-2020, in Augusta, GA

**STEPHEN CHARLES TENNEY
POWER, '60,** 10-26-2020,
in Omaha, NE

***MICHAEL A. SKAFF, '61,** 1-17-2021,
in Omaha, NE

DANIEL L. HUTCHINS, D'62,
11-22-2020, in South Sioux City, NE

***DUANE EDWARD MCANDREWS,
'62,** 7-15-2020, in Omaha, NE

DERYL MILLER, '62, 1-13-2021, in
Columbus, NE

RICHARD THOMAS DURRETT, '63,
10-6-2020, in Nashville, TN

DENNIS MICHAEL JOHNSON, '64,
1-24-2020, in Hot Springs, SD

***PASQUALE MUCCILLO MESA, '64,**
11-22-2020, in Sun City, AZ

***ROBERT WILLIAM PHILLIPS, '64,**
11-24-2020, in Billings, MT

***EUGENE JOSEPH POSTERT, '64,**
4-1-2020, in Long Beach, CA

***JAMES L. VANN, '64,** 10-21-2020,
in Kansas City, KS

LUIS BERNAL, '66, 2-28-2020, in
Raleigh, NC

CLARENCE JAMES BOLLINGER, '67,
8-26-2020, in Omaha, NE

LAWRENCE BOYD DUNHAM, '67,
11-10-2020, in Omaha, NE

WILSON SHELBY CAMDEN, '70,
8-10-2019, in Jefferson City, MO

TERRENCE EUGENE PAYNE, D'70,
8-24-2020, in Magnolia, IN

THOMAS J. DURGIN, '74,
11-16-2020, in Burlington, IA

LARRY ELLEBB, '77, 12-6-2020,
in Springfield, IL

JOEL THOMAS PEARSON, '82,
10-16-2020, in Omaha, NE

DAMON MCCLINTON, '83,
7-27-2020, in Council Bluffs, IA

JEFFERY LEE HARRIS, '85,
6-21-2020, in Milton, FL

FREDRICK D. THOMAS, D'91,
1-7-2020, in the state of WA

PAUL EDWARD GILMER, '95,
12-7-2020, in Omaha, NE

MICHAEL K. MCGILL, JR., D'98,
8-23-2020, in Omaha, NE

*** BTNAA LIFETIME MEMBER**