



abcd

Celebrating a 50-year legacy of hope and opportunity

1962 – 2012

*Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
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ABCD: *Fighting poverty and improving lives in Boston*

Fifty years ago, in July 1962, the Boston Community Development Program — founded in 1961 by a committed group of Boston residents to “address the human side of urban renewal” — was incorporated as Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD). Initial funding flowed from a \$1.9 million Ford Foundation grant, funding from the Committee of the Permanent Charity (now The Boston Foundation) and other private sources.

ABCD was one of the first community action programs (CAPs) — now 1,000 strong — that sprang up across America after President Lyndon Johnson signed the historic Economic Opportunity Act in 1965 and declared a War on Poverty in America.

An important part of that legislation was the call for “maximum feasible participation” by poor people themselves in planning and carrying out the antipoverty programs. That premise is the hallmark of community action that holds true to this day!

Today, in an economic and political climate with little interest in combating the root causes of poverty, ABCD continues to strive, often against all odds, to bring economic security and social justice to low-income and disadvantaged members of every racial/ethnic group in all of Boston’s neighborhoods.

ABCD is a private, nonprofit, charitable, tax-exempt organization, working with many partners to raise funds and garner support to pursue these goals.

Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, ABCD perseveres at the forefront of needed change and quality programming in early education, youth initiatives, job training, education, housing, financial literacy, economic development, literacy, health, energy, elder services and other programs that give poor people and their families the tools to enhance their quality of life and move up the ladder of economic opportunity.

ABCD’s role in leadership development and institution building has helped to revitalize Boston’s neighborhoods. ABCD founded the Urban College of Boston, started the first community health center in the nation at Columbia Point with Tufts University, created Legal Services for the poor, Boston Urban Gardens (BUG), community development corporations (CDCs) and many other community institutions. At the national level, ABCD played a key role in establishing the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) to lobby in Washington for low-income causes and founded Community Action Program for Legal Services (CAPLAW) to provide community action managers with access to expert legal counsel.

Today ABCD is the nation’s oldest and New England’s largest antipoverty agency, serving more than 85,000 people annually.

Happy anniversary ABCD!

“I want to congratulate ABCD for 50 years of helping Boston-area low-income residents. Action for Boston Community Development is a real driving force in providing much-needed services to tens of thousands of people, including many children around the region. They should be proud of the work they do each and every day.”

Mayor Thomas M. Menino

“ABCD is the unsung hero of Boston. For 50 years, they’ve saved lives, they’ve made dreams come true, and they’re the ultimate reminder that compassion is a renewable resource that fuels our city.”

U.S. Senator John F. Kerry

“I am proud of ABCD for its 50 years of important work, making a difference for communities and families in Boston and across the Commonwealth. ABCD is a beacon of hope for so many, and this organization truly exemplifies what it means to help people help themselves.”

Governor Deval Patrick

ABCD Celebrates 50 Years Of Community Development

1962 | ABCD ESTABLISHED

ABCD is established with a \$1.9 million “Gray Areas” grant from the Ford Foundation and assistance from the Permanent Charity Fund (now The Boston Foundation).



1994 | AFFORDABLE ELDER HOUSING

A collaborative effort by ABCD and the Church of the Holy Spirit funded with a \$7.4 million HUD grant creates 45 units of elder affordable housing in Mattapan. This was the first of four ABCD elder affordable housing initiatives.

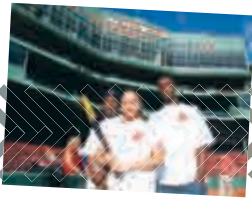
1964 | ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Congress passes the EOA and Boston designates ABCD as its official antipoverty agency.



2011 | HOOP DREAMS FOLLOWS FIELD OF DREAMS

Following in the footsteps of 15 years of Field of Dreams fundraisers where twelve corporate teams pay to play in a softball tournament at Fenway park, Hoop Dreams is created. Ten companies contribute \$10,000 each to play on the Celtics parquet floor, benefiting neighborhood programs for inner-city communities.



1993 | URBAN COLLEGE CHARTERED BY COMMONWEALTH

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approves Urban College of Boston as a degree-granting institution. ABCD’s dream of a college for low-income, non-traditional students becomes reality.



2012 | GREEN INNOVATION

ABCD and partners celebrate an outstanding “green” energy project in Boston. This year, ABCD has provided leadership for 35 renewable energy initiatives in public housing and other affordable housing settings across Massachusetts.



Working For A *Brighter Future*

by Kendall Fields

John Arias could have become just another youth statistic in a town where young people slip through the cracks too easily. Arias, who grew up in South Boston after his parents emigrated from the Dominican Republic, could have dropped out of school and ended up in trouble like so many other teens from underserved communities.

But Arias didn't.

The youngest of six was determined to make something more of himself and credits his parents for these strong values. Determination and levelheadedness brought Arias to ABCD's South Boston Action Center, where Arias sought a place that he could be himself and fit in with other teens, who wanted to make something more of themselves and better their community.

"South Boston is notorious for its issues," Arias says. "If youth are left alone, they won't succeed." He says that South Boston Action Center Director Patricia Wright cares about every person person who comes through the doors there and sets a positive tone that truly makes a difference.

Arias thrived while working with computers in the SummerWorks program, where youth are given jobs at local businesses to prepare them for a future in the workforce. Arias says he felt welcome and like he had a purpose.

The Boston native worked with ABCD for nearly five years until he became the Youth Service Specialist for the SummerWorks program this past summer. Arias oversaw all of the youth supervisors and the youth working in the SummerWorks program. He says he was able to be a particularly strong supervisor and mentor because of his experience in the program.

Arias says he was inspired by one of his younger workers, Joshua, who started out very shy and unsure of his skills. Arias says Joshua reminded him of himself when he started at the Action Center, so he made it one of his goals to see Joshua succeed. Arias set

Joshua up at a work site where he could work with computers and help some of the more outgoing youth supervisors. "I knew he could do it," Arias says, "I just needed to get him out of his shell."

By the end of the summer, Arias says the 15-year-old opened up and even volunteered to speak at program meetings. "Being able to help Joshua grow made me so proud," Arias says. "To give these young people a challenge and see them rise to it is really amazing."

Even at 21, the University of Scranton junior knows the importance of youth development programs, especially those that focus on workforce development. "The very future of any community would be its youth," Arias explains, "and if you don't invest in them then, there will be a lack of skilled workers."

Arias adds that all of ABCD's programs are important because they target impoverished people who need help and someone to invest in them the most. "I can't imagine what our community would be like without ABCD's programs."

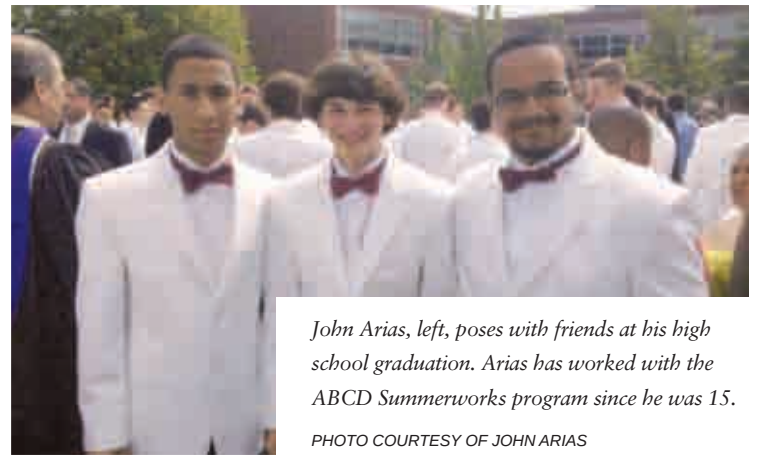
"The very future of any community would be its youth, and if you don't invest in them then, there will be a lack of skilled workers."

John Arias
SummerWorks Youth Service Specialist

Because of programs like SummerWorks provided by organizations like ABCD, Arias says, the future is bright for South Boston youth and that makes him optimistic about the future of the community as a whole.

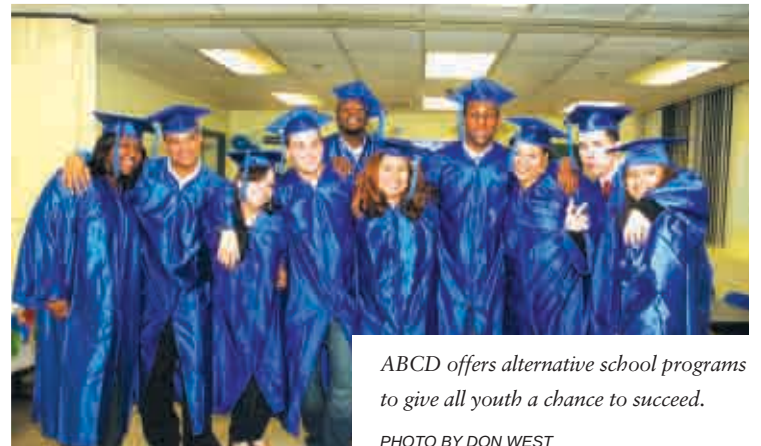
Arias hopes the Boston community will continue to invest in its youth and that funding for ABCD doesn't disappear. "Without ABCD, less and less youth will get a chance to succeed or to have someone believe in them."

Now, Arias is focusing on studying economic resource management, but he hopes to work with SummerWorks again in 2013. He says he is looking forward to a comfortable future where he can give back to the community and the organizations that have helped him so much.



John Arias, left, poses with friends at his high school graduation. Arias has worked with the ABCD Summerworks program since he was 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN ARIAS



ABCD offers alternative school programs to give all youth a chance to succeed.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

Giving Youth A Chance To Thrive

ABCD believes in Boston's youth. For 45 years, ABCD has been preparing "at-risk" youth for the future, developing them into more well-rounded individuals and believing in their ability to succeed.

ABCD prepares youth for the workforce in its Career Exploration and SummerWorks programs. In Career Explorations, 16- to 21-year-old residents have the opportunity to receive basic and advanced skills training for careers in building, culinary arts, education, health and biotechnology. SummerWorks provides summer jobs for low-income youth throughout Boston, teaching its participants work readiness and life skills through workshops ranging from resume writing to conflict resolution.

Ostiguy and University high schools offer alternative education for young people who are struggling to succeed in the conventional public schooling system. Ostiguy offers a second chance for students who have a history of substance abuse by providing them a safe, sober environment where they can recover and develop skills they need to succeed and graduate.

ABCD's neighborhood sites offer other programs for youth that include job training, after-school and leadership programs where they can learn to be active members of their communities.

Through its innovative programs, ABCD offers local youth a chance to thrive.

Coming Home

A mother provides a better life for her children through ABCD's programs by Kendall Fields

Valasia Goodwin-Houston and her two children found themselves homeless after their apartment building was foreclosed upon in 2008. After drifting on the streets, they were told that all family shelters were full. They were placed in a motel in Danvers, where they lived for seven months. Goodwin-Houston remembers feeling helpless as she wondered how she would ever provide security and stability for her family.

"I just kept thinking about how I was going to give my children a better life," the 24-year-old says. "And when you don't know how you are going to do that, it's frustrating and there were times when I wanted to give up."

But the single mother kept thinking of Armani, 2, and Aryalize, 4. She was determined to do something to better their life and says she trusted in her faith in God and prayer to give her strength while she found the answers.

"You must do all that you can to better yourself and your situation — you can't sit around and just wait for something to happen."

Valasia Goodwin-Houston

She found the answers in 2009 when she was placed at an ABCD Scattered Site, an apartment complex for homeless families. Goodwin-Houston worked with an ABCD housing counselor who got her into the Flex Funds stabilization program and on the Boston Housing Authority waiting list.

An apartment opened up in an East Boston development in May 2011. The BHA worker and ABCD housing counselor worked to bring Goodwin-Houston and her two children home. After nearly three years of being homeless, the family was home.

"We were so glad to find housing for Valasia," says Tabitha Gaston, director of ABCD Housing &



Valasia Goodwin-Houston was able to provide a better life for her children Armani, 2, and Aryalize, 4, through the programs in ABCD's Housing and Homelessness Prevention department.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

Homelessness Prevention. "She and the children need and deserve a home that gives them the base to access opportunities and rebuild their lives."

Today she says, "I'm doing a lot better than I was." Goodwin-Houston works for a construction company and is attending carpentry school. Everyday, she says, she is thankful for where she has been and is driven to succeed now more than ever.

She and her kids just moved into a new house and they are excited to finally have a place of their own to personalize. Armani and Aryalize are particularly happy to have a yard where they can play and room to store all of their toys. Recently, Armani started preschool at ABCD East Boston Head Start.

Looking back, Goodwin-Houston says she wouldn't trade her experience because it made her stronger and she is thankful for ABCD and its help. She says that if you stick it out, there is someone out there who can help you.

For those who are struggling, she says, "You must do all that you can to better yourself and your situation — you can't sit around and just wait for something to happen. You need to do something to make your situation better."

Because of ABCD's help, Goodwin-Houston doesn't have to worry about housing and can focus on more exciting things like what color she is going to paint her walls or what she is going to do for both of her children's birthdays in October.

Because Everyone Deserves a Home

ABCD believes everyone deserves a home. But in a shattered economy with little affordable housing and scarce job opportunities, some families struggle just to keep a roof over their heads.

In ABCD's housing programs, such as the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Department, staff help many of Boston's homeless find shelter and help those who are struggling to keep their homes, maintain their household or find something more affordable. The department provides prevention, stabilization and case management services to ensure that housing is sustained and families can work toward other family career and educational goals.

The Mattapan Family Service Center works to keep families in their homes. The center provides emergency assistance to families who are facing foreclosure and offers crediting counseling and financial guidance to help families on the path to stabilization.

ABCD's network of neighborhood sites also offer a variety of housing services targeted to fulfill local needs.

To find out more about ABCD's housing programs, visit www.bostonabcd.org/housing.

A Grandmother To *All*

A woman mentors children in ABCD's Foster Grandparent Program by Kendall Fields

Four mornings a week, rain or shine, 87-year-old Ceferina Acosta can be found at ABCD Jamaica Plain Head Start smiling and playing with the children.

"I love the children," the Dominican Republic native says through a Spanish interpreter. "They make me smile and laugh and we hug, read books and play. Being with them makes my day. They call me 'Abuela,'" (Spanish for grandmother).

Acosta, who has three sons, three daughters and three grandchildren of her own, is happy to be a grandmother to so many children at Head Start. For 14 years, Acosta has been a foster grandmother through ABCD, sharing her love and life lessons with young children from low-income homes where parents often struggle to put food on the table and meet their children's needs.

Acosta came to ABCD in 1998, seven years after coming to Boston with one of her sons from Puerto Rico. A friend told Acosta about ABCD Foster Grandparents program and brought her an application to join the group. Her son helped her fill it out, she brought it to the ABCD FGP office and before long, Acosta was a volunteer foster grandparent.

For the first five years, Acosta volunteered at a child care center at Alianza Hispana, a local agency serving the Hispanic community. Then she came to ABCD. She assists the teachers and staff at Jamaica Plain Head Start where 200 children ages 3 to 5-years-old receive comprehensive education, health and social services with intensive parent involvement in the nation's "gold-star" Head Start preschool program.

During the 20 hours a week Acosta volunteers, she says she listens to the children and if they are sad, she makes them happy. She says that being at Jamaica Plain Head Start not only benefits these children, but her as well. "Being here is good — being at home by myself every day would be very sad."

Acosta also likes the social aspect of volunteering. Once a month, the ABCD foster grandparents meet with ABCD Foster Grandparent Director Nicci Meadow at the downtown headquarters. They hear news of the program, share opinions, plan special events and have refreshments. Because there are over 150 ABCD Foster Grandparents, the group is divided for these meetings. But once a year, a grand celebration to honor these all-important older volunteers takes place. "I love the parties!" says Acosta. "We meet all the other grandparents — people our age — from many different countries."



Ceferina Acosta has been a foster grandmother in ABCD's Foster Grandparent Program at Jamaica Plain Head Start for 14 years.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

Lead Teacher for ABCD Jamaica Plain Head Start Kim Weldon says she is honored to have Acosta in her classroom for many years. Weldon adds that Acosta is a crucial asset to improving so many children's lives, deeming her commitment "priceless."

"She is always smiling, she hugs the children and makes them feel so loved," Weldon explains. "She is always ready to help the teachers with whatever they need."

"Being with the children speeded my recovery. They keep me young."

*Ceferina Acosta Acosta
Head Start Foster Grandparent*

Weldon describes how the children missed Acosta so much during six recent operations to her knees. She says the class planned a field trip to visit Acosta at her home, in a nearby Jamaica Plain neighborhood. "She was so thrilled," recalls Weldon. "She and the children just hugged and hugged!"

And for Acosta, the children give her a purpose and incentive to keep going. "Being with the children speeded my recovery," she says. "They keep me young. After surgery, I knew I had to get up and get out to come back here where I am needed. I give thanks to the Lord every day that I am able to do this. When I am with the children, I am always happy!"

ABCD Foster Grandparent Program

In this heartwarming, culturally-diverse program, 155 low-income, older men and women from the neighborhoods of Boston and Quincy spend 20 hours per week with disadvantaged and special needs children in schools, hospitals, child care centers and early intervention programs. "This program is the definition of 'mutually beneficial,'" says program director Nicci Meadow. "The children receive a grandparent's unconditional love and support, while seniors are welcomed back into society and applauded daily — with hugs and delighted shouts — for their very significant contributions to our children and communities."

The program is funded by the Corporation for National & Community Service with a supplemental allocation from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.



Getting a *Head Start*

A woman becomes a role model for young children by Mike Blount

Twenty-four years ago, Cathy Lunnin brought her youngest daughter to ABCD Head Start in South Boston. She was immediately drawn to the preschool children, feeling as though she had found her purpose.

“I watched the kids and how they were interacting and I felt like they needed me,” says Lunnin.

As a child, Lunnin says she was sad, so when she came to Head Start, she wanted to make sure these children had happy childhoods. She started volunteering in the classroom and as soon as a temporary assistant-teaching position with Head Start opened up, Lunnin jumped at the chance to become a full-time teacher.

“You never know what these children are going home to — we hope it’s another warm meal, another safe place — but you just don’t know. So, my goal is to make sure they have that at school.”

Cathy Lunnin
Lead Teacher at Head Start South Boston

She also began working on her associate degree in early childhood education. The single mom worked two jobs, raised her children and went to school. Finishing that degree, she says, took her 20 years of hard work. Lunnin credits her supervisors and peers at Head Start for pushing her to achieve her degree. Through financial aid programs, Head Start also helped Lunnin pay for her education.



Cathy Lunnin, lead teacher at ABCD South Boston Head Start, hopes to not only prepare her students for kindergarten, but make a difference in their lives.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

Lunnin sees herself as a role model for these children and hopes that they remember her and her impact on each of their lives. “I’m glad it’s called Head Start because that’s exactly what it is,” Lunnin says. “It gives a kid a head start and challenges them to go further.”

She wants to see every child go into kindergarten with self-confidence and the skills they need to succeed. Along with basic math, reading and writing skills, she also teaches her children how to create art and music. “Children need to be able to communicate through different mediums like art and music,” says Lunnin. “I think that’s very important. Kids need to be able to express themselves and they can do that not just through words, but art and music and writing. It’s teaching them life skills that will help them when they are adults.”

Lunnin is now a lead teacher at the ABCD Head Start program in South Boston where she works with 20 kids each year and with an assistant teacher. Lunnin stresses the importance for early education and the need for programs like Head Start that give children from low-income homes a chance to succeed. “I just try to provide a safe environment for these children to be themselves,” Lunnin says. “You never know what these children are going home to — we hope it’s another warm meal, another safe place — but you just don’t know. So, my goal is to make sure they have that at school.”

Yvette Rodriguez, director of ABCD Head Start & Children’s Services, says that ABCD Head Start is proud to have Lunnin among a cadre of outstanding early education professionals. “Cathy makes a difference every day for the children and families we serve.”

The Skills to Climb the Career Ladder

Creating a strong, skilled workforce is crucial to a vibrant economy. ABCD offers job training programs and services for low-to-moderate income Boston residents, so they can build the skills needed to get or keep jobs that will help them support their families.

With so many green technology jobs opening up in the environmentally-conscious future, ABCD’s LearningWorks provides basic training to low-income residents to prepare them for a green job. In GreenSTREAM, participants even receive job search and application services and could be placed at a job with one of GreenSTREAM’s partners in recycling or re-manufacturing industries. In the Weatherization and Green Energy Program (WAGE), participants learn how to weatherize building interiors and make upgrades to maximize energy efficiency and reduce energy costs through two weeks of hands-on training. All WAGE participants receive ongoing job placement assistance through LearningWorks.

ABCD also offers services at its neighborhood sites that offer additional education programs and services, including workshops on money management and CPR and First Aid Training. Computer labs can be found at each neighborhood site, allowing residents access to computers for things like working on cover letters and resumes, searching for jobs, paying bills, doing homework or research and more.

For more information on ABCD’s job training and career development programs, please visit www.bostonabcd.org/jobs-and-job-training.



By supporting ABCD career development and education, corporations like State Street help people succeed.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

The Spirit Of State Street

A corporation partners with ABCD for a better Boston by Kendall Fields

Poverty is abundant in Boston, with one in six Americans living below the federal poverty level, according to the 2011 Census. State Street Bank improves the Boston community by joining forces with ABCD to combat these soaring poverty rates. ABCD is grateful to State Street and the many other corporate partners who pitch in to help those in need.

Since the early '80s, State Street has helped ABCD fulfill its mission of moving people out of poverty by giving them the tools to help themselves — particularly in workforce development. State Street spearheaded initiatives like ABCD's financial services program to get adults into the financial industry. Today, State Street is a key supporter of ABCD's SummerWorks program, which provides jobs for low-income youth, and its Urban College of Boston, which provides access to higher education for low-income residents. Some ABCD alumni have even gone on to work for State Street.

"At State Street, we recognize and appreciate that our society is more vibrant, productive, wholesome and 'at its best' when pathways are provided for all of its members, and especially the most vulnerable and underserved, to receive educational opportunities, and/or skills training and other tools/skills needed to participate and contribute," says State Street Executive Vice President George Russell Jr.

Russell, who heads the State Street Foundation, Inc. and the Corporate Citizen Division, says the corporation has offices in 29 countries and encourages all employees to make a difference for those in need through its Community Support Programs.

"Organizations of the world, like State Street, are solid citizens in support of local issues," says ABCD Vice President of Workforce Development Mark

Isenburg, "and ABCD needs them wherever they find themselves."

Over the years, Isenburg says, State Street has not only been a funder of many of ABCD's programs, but also a convener in the sense of bringing people and other organizations together to work on ABCD programs. It is State Street's commitment to community development and innovative solutions that has made it a key business partner for ABCD.

"... Our society is more vibrant, productive, wholesome and 'at its best' when pathways are provided for all of its members ..."

George Russell Jr.
Executive Vice President State Street

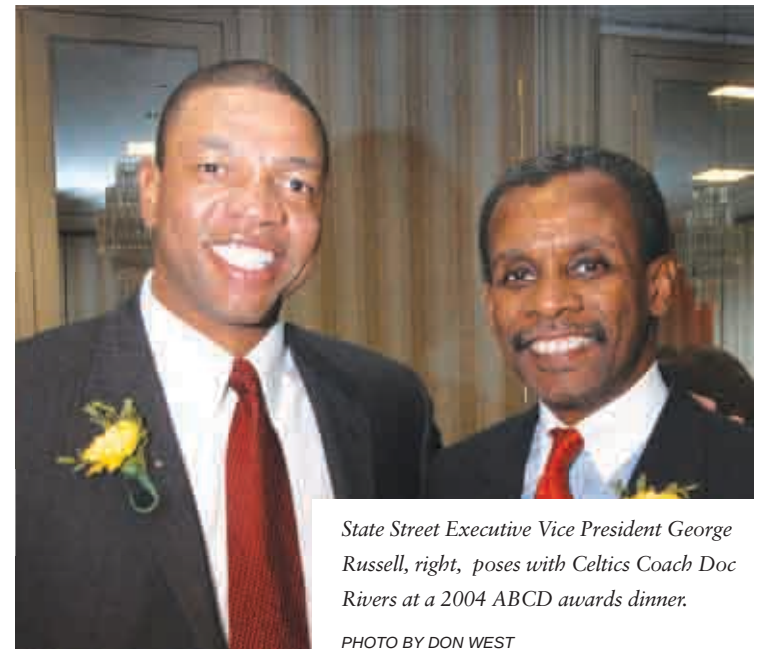
"State Street is a good citizen of the world," says Isenburg.

But to Russell, this solid citizenship is a social responsibility that corporations have because of their power and reach. "Corporations are corporate citizens. They have a responsibility, just like any other citizen, to contribute to the economic, social, political and environmental well-being of its communities."

Russell hopes ABCD will be able to expand its programs to help more people. But, he adds, in the midst of nationwide budget cuts and economic strife, this will only happen if significant national, state and private sector support is provided.

Isenburg can't stress enough the degree to which State Street has improved ABCD and its programs through sharing its knowledge and experience in the financial industry and in other communities.

Isenburg hopes to see more organizations practice the same solid citizenship as State Street. "Let's try something," he says. "Let's be innovative."



State Street Executive Vice President George Russell, right, poses with Celtics Coach Doc Rivers at a 2004 ABCD awards dinner.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

Your Company Can Make a Difference

ABCD relies on generous, compassionate companies to help improve lives in the Greater Boston community. Your company can make a difference with ABCD year round.

MATCHING GIFTS

- Encourage employees to donate to ABCD and then match their donations

SPONSOR AN EVENT

Spring/Summer:

- Sponsor and attend the Cinco de Mayo Breakfast to benefit the Boston Hispanic Center
- Sponsor and host a graduation for ABCD's schools or training programs
- Sponsor a team of SummerWorks youth or field a corporate team at the Field of Dreams softball event at Fenway Park
- Sponsor and attend the Foster Grandparents Luncheon

Fall:

- Sponsor and attend the ABCD Annual Gala or Community Volunteers Reception
- Sponsor or field a team at the Hoop Dreams Basketball benefit at TD North Garden

Winter:

- Organize a donation drive to provide warm blankets, coats and boots for the Winter Emergency Campaign
- Host a "Keep the Heat On" Super Bowl party to benefit the Fuel Assistance program
- Collect gifts for the Holiday Toy Drive
- Recruit a team of tax preparation volunteers for the EITC tax program

For more information about corporate giving opportunities, please contact ABCD Vice President of Development Christa Jones at 617-348-6503 or christa.jones@bostonabcd.org.

Helping Boston *Thrive*

After growing up with ABCD, Boston man gives back

by Amanda Caraway

Growing up in East Boston in one of the 13 neighborhoods where ABCD has a presence, gave Patrick Moscaritolo the opportunity to see first-hand the impact this organization has on the community. His family owned two local businesses and he saw his parents make contributions to ABCD. He watched as many of their employees received assistance from the programs.

Over the past 10 years, Moscaritolo has taken an active role in supporting ABCD's programs and initiatives. As president and CEO of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, he has been able to serve as an advocate among his business colleagues to help raise funds and assistance.

"I can't imagine life in our community without the ABCD," Moscaritolo says.

An honors graduate of Boston Latin School and a graduate of Boston College, Moscaritolo received a master's degree from the London School of Economics. He then spent three years in Washington D.C. working with former Governor Michael Dukakis in the Office of Federal-State Relations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His efforts in D.C. to generate federal grants to support state programs helped him appreciate how difficult it is to gain federal funding.

Moscaritolo returned to Boston and served as airport director for Logan Airport for 12 years. When he moved to the Convention & Visitors Bureau in 1991, he became more involved, both personally and professionally, in supporting the ABCD.

"There are many charities that come to the Convention & Visitors Bureau hoping to receive support and ABCD is one organization that we support every year," Moscaritolo says. "It feels good as a person and as a company to support them. A lot of other Boston business leaders feel that way too."



Pat Moscaritolo sports a Boston Red Sox shirt as he poses with ABCD staff and board members and Red Sox representatives at the Field of Dreams Fundraiser in Fenway Park. The event raised \$201,000 to benefit at-risk, inner city teens.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

According to Moscaritolo, ABCD services nearly 100 thousand people each year. That means over the past 50 years ABCD has touched nearly five million lives.

But ABCD's annual awards dinner is Moscaritolo's favorite part of being involved. In 2010, he served as the chair of the Friends Committee for the dinner. It was a difficult time to be raising funds for a charitable organization given the federal and state cutbacks and the reduced support from private businesses. Despite the challenges, Moscaritolo found chairing the dinner to be incredibly rewarding — many of the companies continued their support of ABCD despite overall cutbacks to charitable donations.

"Fifty years is a long time for a community development organization to thrive, which is a testament to the passionate commitment of the caring team running the organization. The ABCD continues to make a difference in the community year after year."

Patrick Moscaritolo,
President & CEO
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

"The ABCD is a true Boston institution, like the Red Sox and the Boston Marathon," Moscaritolo says. "Fifty years is a long time for a community development organization to thrive, which is a testament to the passionate commitment of the caring team running the organization. The ABCD continues to make a difference in the community year after year."

Above all, Moscaritolo praises ABCD's ability to stay ahead of the issues. He says if there is a need that should be met, ABCD is the first to the table in an effort to address the needs of the community.

Your Business Can Improve Lives

At ABCD, there are many opportunities to volunteer at a corporate level. Corporations and small businesses can make a difference in someone's life and improve the Boston community as a whole.

IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY:

- Landscape facility grounds or decorate a classroom
- Build a playground or plant a garden at one of our neighborhood sites

HELP ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ENTER THE WORKFORCE:

- Sponsor jobs for Summerworks teens
- Volunteer in a Head Start classroom or adopt a student headed for college
- Host a career day at your business
- Adopt a SummerWorks team

HELP ADULTS AND CHILDREN LEARN:

- Organize a team of tutors
- Adopt a Head Start classroom or student headed for college
- Recruit "conversation partners" for English language learners

PARTNER WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER:

- Field a "tax team" of volunteer preparers
- Sponsor a neighborhood event
- Stock a food pantry or serve a holiday meal for seniors
- Collect holiday toys

LEND A HAND TO HOMELESS FAMILIES:

- Hold a "homewarming party" to equip a new apartment

For more information about volunteer opportunities for businesses, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Kenya Elisa-McLaren at 617-348-6591 or volunteer@bostonabcd.org.

Bringing “Good Evenings” To The North End

Volunteer finds way to save programs at a neighborhood center with help from local celebrities and restaurants

by Sukhi Brar

Becky Mattson had never been a grass roots fundraiser; she was a businesswoman and real estate developer by trade, but something changed when she stumbled upon Action for Boston Community Development while working on one of her many projects in the Boston area.

“I was impressed by what ABCD was doing with such a small budget and how they were filling a void in the community,” Mattson says. “I found out that ABCD’s North End director had been there for nearly 30 years and I thought, ‘I can’t give a couple hours?’”

Mattson learned that the organization was facing huge budget cuts and was either going to have to cut its programs or seek outside funding. Across the city, other ABCD neighborhood center were facing similar difficulties and searching for ways to expand their funding base.

“My background is that I am a city planner and what you appreciate as a planner is that people need a third place where they feel comfortable, other than home, work or school. Unless it’s a park or library, it costs money and if you don’t have that money, it is really important to have a community place,” explains Mattson.

The North End ABCD community center serves the needs of the area’s elderly population consisting largely of Italian-American immigrants, who have lived in the area for decades. As soon as Mattson walked into the center, she saw this was where the elderly had friends and where their lives were helped. They needed this third place and to keep it, ABCD needed a new way of fundraising.

“[ABCD] needed to reach out to the private sector and since I’m in the private sector, I thought let’s patch something together to help raise money for them, so they can continue their great work,” Mattson says.



Becky Mattson (second from left) poses with Celtics legend “Satch” Sanders, North End/West End Center director Lia Tota and Louise Thomas at a Buona Sera event. Mattson spearheaded these “Good Evenings” in an effort to raise money for the North End/West End Community Center.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABCD

The plan was to try to reach out to local businesses.

“We have an amazing set of restaurants in the North End and asked them to each donate a dinner for 10 people at the same table. We would pair each table up with a local celebrity or politician and sell it to businesses who filled them with employees, clients and friends. We called the event ‘Buona Sera’, which means ‘good evening’ in Italian,” Mattson says.

“[ABCD] needed to reach out to the private sector and since I’m in the private sector, I thought let’s patch something together to help raise money for them, so they can continue their great work.”

**Becky Mattson
ABCD Volunteer**

In its first two years, Buona Sera raised between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Mattson’s goal is to grow the number of tables each year and raise \$100,000, which would be huge for the North End center because its entire budget is only \$400,000 a year.

“The best part about what I do is it is a lot of fun. It is a magical social event for a really good cause,” Mattson says. “It makes you happy to bring people together and raise money for the elderly population, which is often hard to do. It is a unique experience all around.”

Helping People Build A Better Life

ABCD is here to help people striving to build a better life for themselves and their children. Though ABCD has committed staff and volunteers, the need is huge. ABCD’s funding has been cut and it can no longer complete its mission alone. There are many ways to volunteer with ABCD.

You can help out in ABCD’s food pantries or volunteer in a computer lab helping teens or neighborhood residents. ABCD can train you to be a coach in its financial education program or you could learn to help seniors choose the best Medicare plan for them.

ABCD also needs volunteers in its housing programs, tax preparation program, for grants research and for special events.

If you do not have the time to volunteer, a donation to ABCD can help someone who is struggling to survive.



WCVB-TV/Channel 5 Morning Anchor Bianca de la Garza and “Satch” Sanders.

PHOTO BY MEGHAN MOORE

Q & A

with ABCD President/CEO

John Drew

by Linda DuBois

What is ABCD's core mission?

We help people to help themselves. From the beginning, the bottom line for ABCD and all of community action has been to empower people in need to move forward with their lives. That has to be done through community participation. We do anything we can to help people move up and move on.

ABCD focuses on three main areas: strengthening and educating families; promoting self-sufficiency; and building community. Please give some examples of specific programs and services focusing on these three areas.

We have Head Start programs serving 2,400 low-income children and their families, providing comprehensive educational, health and social services with intensive parent involvement. We started two alternative high schools serving at-risk youth — one for teenagers, who have dropped out of school or are struggling there, and one for kids with substance abuse issues. We founded a college for low-income, non-traditional students — the Urban College — which makes it possible for people who never expected to go to college to attain higher education credentials.

We provide financial literacy and asset development programs where people learn to handle money, manage a budget and save to buy a home or invest in a business or pursue higher education. We help them get GEDs and train for jobs. Our Women in Construction program gets women, who were on welfare or in low-paying jobs, trained as carpenters, bricklayers and plumbers and placed in union jobs that pay \$20 an hour or more! We have programs where people learn English, so they can get into jobs or pursue education.



John J. Drew is the President/CEO of ABCD. Drew and ABCD work to make a difference for those in need by providing them with opportunities to move up.

PHOTO BY DON WEST

We have energy programs that bring solar energy to public housing and multi-family homes; these projects save taxpayer dollars, lower energy costs for low-income tenants and help the environment. We've built four major elder affordable housing developments in Boston that make a difference for older, frail residents. Several units are designated for homeless seniors.

"We do anything that we can do to help people move up and move on."

John Drew, ABCD President/CEO

How are you funded?

We're a private, nonprofit, charitable organization with contracts from federal, state and local government agencies and support from private foundations, donors and major gifts. Every dollar we get goes into community programs and initiatives. In 2011, our investment in the community totaled \$135 million. We have been able to document a return of three to four dollars on every program dollar we spend.



Can you highlight the impact of some of these programs and services?

If you can get a person off welfare and into a job, that saves taxpayers a huge amount looking into the future. If you can get a person out of a shelter or motel that costs upward of \$100 a night and into affordable housing, that also saves money and builds lives. When youngsters have a summer job, they not only learn job skills and boost their self-esteem, they often contribute to the family income and help stabilize the household. Then, there is the social impact — the effect on families and communities when residents are empowered, building better lives, participating in the life of their neighborhoods. It's powerful.

Do you have a large staff to handle the services ABCD provided to people and families this year?

A large majority of our staff, volunteers, board members and contractors are people from Boston's neighborhoods; they come from every ethnic/racial background and their diversity represents our customers and the city. If we count our seasonal fuel assistance and SummerWorks staff, we employed about 1,000 people last year. We have contractors for special projects. In addition, we have hundreds of volunteers, board members and interns.

Make A Difference In Your Community

Volunteer

ABCD aims to empower those in need by providing them with the tools to overcome poverty, live with dignity and achieve their full potential. YOUR time and talent can make a difference for ABCD and those we serve.

The list of volunteer opportunities is endless, from helping out in a food pantry to working in a computer lab with teens or neighborhood residents. ABCD relies on volunteers to keep its programs going and improve the community. Please call if you are interested. ABCD and the Boston community need YOU!

For more information, please visit www.bostonabcd.org/volunteer or contact ABCD Volunteer Coordinator Kenya Elisa-McLaren at 617-348-6591 or kenya.elisa-mclaren@bostonabcd.org.



Donate

Open the door to someone's future. Make a donation to help someone who is struggling to meet their basic needs — pay for shelter, access health care, stay warm in the winter, feed their children.

ABCD's programs can open the doors to so many futures through its programs and committed staff and volunteers. But in light of funding cuts, ABCD needs your help to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling.

For more information on how you can combat poverty and build lives, please go to www.bostonabcd.org/donate or contact ABCD Vice President of Development Christa Jones at 617-348-6503 or christa.jones@bostonabcd.org.



ABCD 50th Anniversary Gala on November 2!

Support ABCD and have a grand night with Natalie Cole and Mark Shriver!

Since 1962, ABCD has been changing lives and battling poverty through its innovative programs and services that enable Boston's individuals, families and communities to live with dignity and achieve their full potential.

The 50th Anniversary Gala will celebrate not only ABCD's success as a committed community organization, but also the efforts of individual volunteers and collaborating institutions who have made it possible for ABCD to help those who have needed it most over the past five decades.

The evening is sure to be unforgettable as Grammy-award-winner songstress Natalie Cole performs in honor of ABCD's hard work to foster vibrant communities in the Greater Boston Area.

The beloved Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps and the early Community Action programs, will be inducted into the ABCD Hall of Fame. His son Mark K. Shriver, best-selling author and senior vice president of Save the Children's U.S. programs, will accept the award and speak on his father's behalf.

For more information about the gala, ticket sales or sponsorship opportunities, contact ABCD at 617-426-ABCD (2223) or visit www.bostonabcd.org.

Platinum Sponsors:



Natalie Cole



Mark K. Shriver



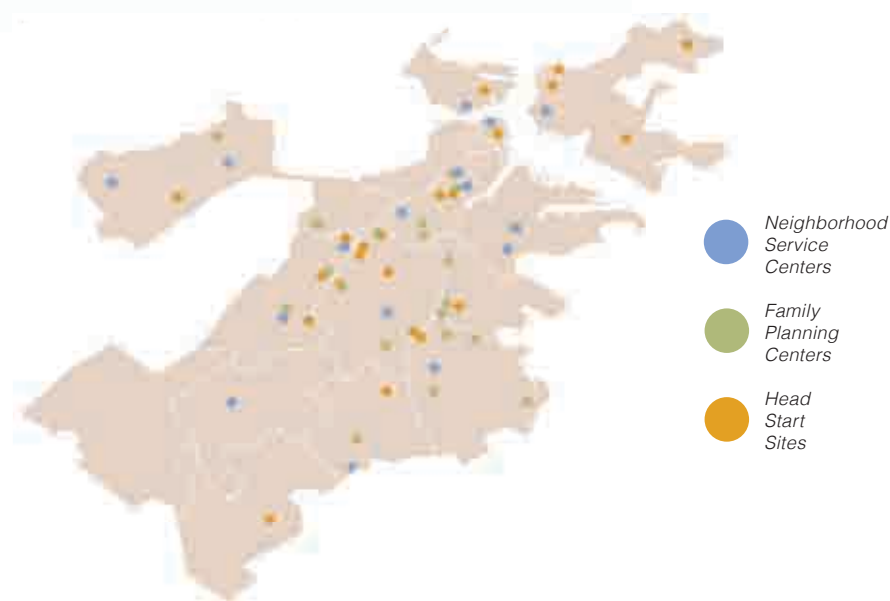
ABCD is Everywhere!

This map shows ABCD's presence in Boston neighborhoods — our Neighborhood Service centers, Head Start centers and Family Planning sites. We also have Foster Grandparents volunteering with children in hundreds of child care centers, schools, hospitals and other sites. And ABCD programs provide services and opportunities beyond Boston — in Quincy, Brookline, Newton, Everett, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

ABCD programs and affiliates — offering services and opportunities in downtown Boston and at the neighborhood sites shown include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High — an alternative high school; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; and Intergenerational Programs.

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

www.bostonabcd.org (617) 348-6000



John J. Drew
President/CEO



Syvalia Hyman III
Board Chairman



Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq.
Executive Vice President