

# FACING THE FUTURE

## Annual Appeal Moving to Spring

### THANKS TO OUR DONORS

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all donors for supporting the Foundation for Faces of Children and making a donation each year. We're very grateful for your generosity and for another successful year.

In the past, our Annual Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic in September has been closely followed by the FFC Annual Appeal in November. To put some distance between the two, the Board of Directors has chosen to move the Annual Appeal to the Spring starting in 2020.

Naturally, you are welcome to make a donation at any time during the year, either online at [FacesofChildren.org](http://FacesofChildren.org) or by mail.

We are constantly seeking to improve our programming to better serve your needs and welcome your input. Soon, a short survey to help shape our upcoming plans will be distributed through the website. Watch for it ... and Happy Spring!

## Moving Forward with Improved Latham-type Device

By Dr. Stephen Shusterman



Dr. James MacLaine with Charles Gagnon who flashes a big smile after the removal of his braces. As an infant, Charles had a Latham device inserted and followed by Dr. Shusterman.

Recently I reviewed an article for publication which described a revision to the NAM appliance seeking to make it better for the child and easier for the parents. We have our own revision within reach.

My thoughts turned to Dr. Latham's device and why it has been part of our early infancy protocol for complete cleft lip and palate for many years. The appliance is meant to reduce the width of the cleft and rotate the palatal segments to close the cleft opening between the palatal shelves in the unilateral complete cleft. In bilateral clefts, we slightly expand the palatal shelves to provide room to retract the premaxilla. In both cases, the goal is to improve the surgical repair and the future of the dental arch form; an improvement in appearance and function. No taping is needed, movements are more predictable, and there are fewer infant appointments for adjustment than in the NAM technique. The appliance, however, is bulky, and requires general anesthesia for insertion. After insertion, our babies are fussy until they become accustomed to it, and parents are stretched thin by lack of sleep and feeding difficulties. Though it gets better quickly, it is never easy for the infant, their parents, and the dentist. We dentists are always searching for a better way!

For many months now, Dr. James MacLaine at Boston Children's has been searching for just such an improvement. Though busy clinically with braces and planning for the best future bite and appearance of our children, he has spent his "spare" time designing a 21st century Latham-like appliance. With an inborn interest in engineering, and with the drive to master computer-assisted design programs, he designed a computer image of a revised appliance. A grant from our Foundation for Faces of Children allowed him to identify a high-tech bioengineering firm to take his ingenuity to a prototype. Not satisfied with the plastic mockup, and needing more revision, he has brought the prototype to its first metal form with the help of 3D printing. His device is much smaller than the one many of you have used, the direction of movements is pre-programmed, and the "screws" have been replaced with easier socket-type heads. Eventually, the insertion of the appliance will not require general anesthesia, since the retention pins will be smaller, thinner, and placed with finger pressure.

I am excited to be part of the planning and advisory process. I am also impressed with his dogged pursuit and the progress he has made. Thanks to the Foundation's support, your patience, and our surgeons, a new Latham device is in the works. Hopefully it will soon make our protocol better and easier for infants, their parents and their families. 📧

## Fall 2018 Parent Support Forum

Parents gathered on Saturday, November 17, 2018 for an informal discussion over breakfast and coffee. This second parent support meeting was a follow-up to "Lessons Learned" held in the Spring of 2018. Many in attendance discussed feelings and concerns about upcoming surgeries, their child's self-esteem, and/or current hurdles. It was helpful for parents of older children to share their journey with others experiencing similar obstacles. Everyone had a piece of advice to offer.

A third "Lessons Learned" session is being planned for May 11, 2019 when Dr. Elisa Bronfman, psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital, will once again join us and offer her expertise. A presentation will kick off the morning followed by an equally lively discussion.

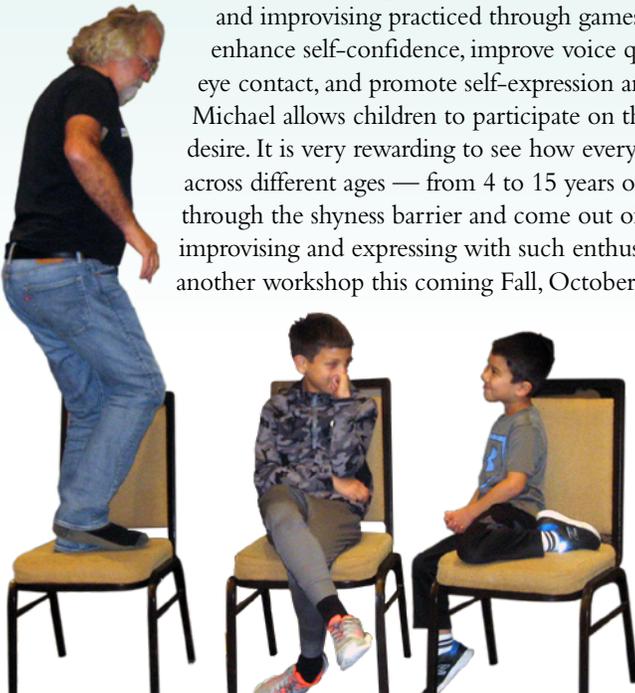
Fathers, mothers and all relatives or caregivers are welcome to attend Lessons Learned Part III at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Waltham. Sign up by visiting [facesofchildren.org/event/parent-support-lessons-learned](http://facesofchildren.org/event/parent-support-lessons-learned). 📧



# Making Faces Workshop with Michael Williams-Stark

The Foundation for Faces of Children hosted its third “Making Faces” workshop in Waltham, Massachusetts on October 20, 2018. “Making Faces” is designed, constructed and provided by Michael Williams-Stark who is a Canadian actor, improv comedian, musician and public speaker. Michael was born with a significant bilateral cleft lip and palate and has firsthand experience of prolonged hospital stays at a very young age, numerous reconstructive surgeries, facing peers’ reaction and social acceptance challenges, and feelings of isolation. Through his love for art and theater, Michael found joy in life helping others learn to build self-confidence and self-esteem. He has provided this workshop in different parts of North America to different groups including FFC’s families, corporate executives, speech therapists, health providers and volunteering for AboutFaces International.

The workshop consisted of different techniques of acting and improvising practiced through games and teamwork to enhance self-confidence, improve voice quality, encourage eye contact, and promote self-expression and public speaking. Michael allows children to participate on their own rate and desire. It is very rewarding to see how every single participant across different ages — from 4 to 15 years old — break through the shyness barrier and come out of their shells. By the end of the workshop, our children were participating, improvising and expressing with such enthusiasm, they did not want the workshop to end! FFC is looking forward for another workshop this coming Fall, October 2019. New and previous participants are welcome to attend, please keep



an eye out on date announcements and registration. [📅](#)



The Pendleton Family



The Walsh Family

## FFC Sponsors Two Families to attend the 2019 CCA Retreat!

Congratulations to the Pendleton Family and the Walsh Family!! The Foundation for Faces of Children will be sponsoring these two families to the Children’s Craniofacial Association’s (CCA) Annual Family Retreat and Educational Symposium. We’re so excited for them to attend this wonderful event for the first time and look forward to hearing about their June trip to Scottsdale, Arizona.

The four day retreat provides individuals affected by a facial difference (and their families) an opportunity to interact with others who have endured similar experiences, share ideas, problems and solutions and form life-long friendships.

# JOIN US FOR FREE PROGRAMS IN 2019!



## Lessons Learned, Part III

Saturday May 11, 2019  
9 am – noon

Embassy Suites Hotel,  
550 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass.

Welcome parents, adult family members, and caretakers to share your story and learn from others' experiences at this parent support forum and breakfast hosted by

**Dotty MacDonald** and featuring guest speaker **Dr. Elisa Bronfman**, BCH psychologist.



makingfaces.ca



**Making Faces Workshop**  
with Michael Williams-Stark

October, 2019 (date tba)  
10 am – 3 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel,  
550 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass.



Using acting and improv games this workshop will build on important life skills that build self-confidence. This event is for the entire family! Michael has worked extensively with About Face of Canada providing workshops to the craniofacial community. He was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate and went on to become a theatre major and later a professional voice actor. Lunch will be served.

## 2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

Saturday, June 22  
(date subject to change)  
6:00 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Winter Street,  
Waltham, Mass.



Since its inception in 1999, the FFC Scholarship Award Program has distributed 66 scholarships for a total of \$144,000. The Program recognizes promising students born with a facial difference by annually awarding post-secondary educational scholarships (college or vocational/technical school). Dinner will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, June 14.

**PAWTUCKET RED SOX!**  
Sunday July 21, 2019  
1 pm



vs Charlotte Knights  
McCoy Stadium, Pawtucket, R.I.

**LOWELL SPINNERS!**  
Sunday, August 18, 2019  
5 pm

vs Connecticut Tigers  
LeLacheur Park  
Lowell, Mass.



## Parent Support Meeting

hosted by **Dotty MacDonald**

Date and time to be announced

Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass.



If you are interested in reserving seats for any of these events, email us at [programs@facesofchildren.org](mailto:programs@facesofchildren.org). Please list all of the programs you wish to attend and include the names of all those who will be attending along with the ages of those under 18. 📧

## Meet Chelsea Reddin, Clinical Social Worker at BCH

**Chelsea Reddin, MSW, LICSW**, is a licensed social worker at the Cleft and Craniofacial Center at Boston Children's Hospital. Chelsea joined the team in June 2018 with ten years of clinical experience at BCH, including on the General Pediatrics inpatient service and with the Child Protection Team, where she continues in a consultation role. She is also part of the adjunct faculty at Simmons University as an instructor of the Attachment and Neurobiology course in the Master of Social Work program. She is independently licensed

and can provide short-term and long-term therapeutic supports as well as resource assistance to families followed at BCH.

Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Baylor University and a Masters of Social Work from Boston College. She also has a post-graduate certificate from Boston University in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Chelsea's areas of expertise include adjustment to chronic illness/diagnosis, child and adolescent behavioral issues, trauma, caregiver-child attachment, and foster care and adoption. 📷



## Paint Party!

On a chilly Saturday at the beginning of December, a group of Foundation for Faces of Children's families came together to paint a wintry scene at the Paint Bar in Newtonville, Massachusetts. Funky mittens was the subject of our painting. Each artist in the class put their own unique twist on the painting as they enjoyed learning about the different brushes, colors, and techniques from our enthusiastic teacher. Families mixed, mingled, and snacked on pretzels and cookies united in the task to create a masterpiece. Many thanks go to the Paint Bar, all the families who joined us for this fun activity, and our donors for making social events like this possible. We look forward to more gatherings like this one that help our kids strengthen their artistic muscles while making new friends. 📷



The Paint Party! was alive with creativity and smiles. Pictured here are (left) Mike Breen, Deb Breen, Tommy Breen, Laura Graudons and Caroline Graudons (right) Cassandra Bourdon, Emily Bourdon, Abigail Lunsford and Isabelle Lunsford.



FOUNDATION FOR  
Faces of Children

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Connect with FCC Online



Support FCC



The Foundation for Faces of Children is dedicated to improving the lives of children with craniofacial differences, including cleft lip, cleft palate, and other head and facial conditions.

Our mission is to:

- Provide patients and families with the most accurate, up-to-date, and accessible information about facial differences.
- Advocate for the best care possible for children with facial differences.

We are a not-for-profit organization entirely supported by private donations, grants, and fund-raising initiatives. Please contact us if you would like to participate in or sponsor a fundraising event.

We achieve this by:

- Collaborating with leading specialists.
- Endorsing the team approach to care.
- Partnering with individuals and organizations with similar goals.

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