

# FACING THE FUTURE

## FFC 2025 Scholarship Program

Starting January 2025, FFC will be accepting applications for our 2025 Scholarship Awards. For details, visit our website: [facesofchildren.org/scholarship](https://facesofchildren.org/scholarship)

Since its inception in 1999, the FFC scholarship awards program has distributed 98 scholarships totaling \$304,000. The program awards post-secondary education scholarships to promising students born with a facial difference who are residents of New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont).



**Application  
deadline is  
March 1, 2025.**

The Foundation selects award recipients based on their academic performance, extracurricular activities, and community service.

## Clear Skies and Community Spirit Shined at Foundation for Faces of Children's 28th Annual Paces for Faces Walk



After a week of rain, the sun finally emerged in time for the Foundation for Faces of Children's (FFC) 28th Annual

Paces for Faces Walk. Families gathered under the clear, bright sky at Lake Quannapowitt, kicking off a three-mile walk around the scenic lake. The event was a fun-filled day for participants, blending charitable efforts with entertainment. Families enjoyed a pizza lunch while reconnecting with friends old and new, all while grooving to tunes of DJ Joanne Mills. As always, the highlight for many was the lively entertainment provided by Circus Dynamics, whose stilt walkers, ball jugglers, hula hoop performers, and bubble artists filled the day with joy and laughter. Their balloon creations continued to be a favorite among the younger attendees.

Nikki and The Kona Ice Truck of Newburyport was a sweet treat to cap off the day, offering delicious shaved ice in Paces for Faces souvenir cups, complete with a "pour your own flavor" station that delighted participants of all ages.

A special thanks is extended to the organizing committee members, including Monir Sakha, Liz O'Keefe, Meera Oliva, Ursula Costigan, and Tara Greiner. In addition to the committee, we are grateful to the FFC Board of Directors and additional volunteers worked behind the scenes to ensure

the event ran smoothly. Finally, this event would not have been successful if not for the nearly 200 participants making up 22 teams, walking both in person and virtually, to raised nearly \$30,000! Funds raised from the walk will support FFC's various programs, including family informational events, sponsorships for families to attend the CCA Kids Retreat and Camp Reflections, the FFC Cares Grant, social gatherings for children and their families, and FFC's annual Student Scholarship Awards.

Thanks to the unwavering support of the community and the dedication of volunteers, the Paces for Faces Walk continues to be a valuable opportunity for sharing experiences and networking among families affected by craniofacial differences. See you all next year!

— Ann-Marie Rogers, Exec. Vice President



@foundationforfacesofchildren



@Foundation for Faces of Children – FFC



[facesofchildren.org/pacesforfaces](https://facesofchildren.org/pacesforfaces)

See inside for  
2024 Walk photos!



*Pictured below on the morning of the Walk (L-R):* We are grateful to our volunteers Meera Oliva, Ursula Costigan, Caitlin Hughes, Monir Sakha, Ann-Marie Rogers, Dr. Ingrid Ganske, Dotty MacDonald and Liz O'Keefe.



# Welcome to Two New BCH Fellows!

## Cleft and Craniofacial Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital

**Joseph Firriolo, MD**, a born-and-raised Sydneysider, joins the Boston Children's team for the 2024-25 Cleft and Craniofacial Fellowship. As a first-generation college graduate and physician, he earned his medical degree from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. In 2016, he began a two-year research fellowship at Boston Children's, working with Dr. Brian Labow. Dr. Firriolo went on to complete his plastic surgery residency at the University of California, Davis. This summer, he returned to the East Coast, bringing with him his laid-back Californian cat, Wonka, and a deep passion for cleft and craniofacial care. 🐱



## Craniomaxillofacial Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital

**David Thean, MD, BDS**, moved to Boston in July from Perth, Western Australia for the Craniomaxillofacial Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. He completed his dental degree at the University of Western Australia after dabbling in engineering and linguistics following high school. Throughout high school, he enjoyed woodworking, playing violin, and rugby so a procedural career seemed a good fit: dentistry and surgery provided a blend of hands-on work, science and art.



After working as a general dentist, Dr. Thean moved to Queensland where he earned his MD from Griffith University before returning to Perth for an internship and general surgical residency at Royal Perth Hospital. He then completed Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training, graduating in January 2024.

Now in Boston, David and his wife Joy will soon be welcoming their first child here in the US. They have enjoyed exploring the local scenery, including the food scene, and learning about Boston's rich history. They have also been following the Aussie team at the recent Paris Olympics, and the Australian Rugby team from afar. 🏈



Ann-Marie Rogers, Exec. Vice-President, and Board member Dotty MacDonald, welcome walkers to the big tent.



FFC Young Adult's group (L-R): Emma Malayandy, Camryn Berry, Alexis Jones, Lacey Clericuzio and Emma Kwan





# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2024 SMILE STRIDERS!



**PLATINUM**  
raised over \$3,000



Brooklyn's Crew  
Team Eliana

**GOLD**  
raised over \$1,500



Team Dhruv  
Team Norah!  
Team Matthew

**SMILE STRIDERS**  
raised over \$750



Team Elan  
Cam's Crew  
Team Lacey  
Smiles for Maya





## A Warm Welcome to Nicole Lania , Our Newest Board Member



**Nicole Lania** grew up in the greater Boston area and received care for her bilateral complete cleft lip and palate at Children's Hospital Boston Craniofacial Centre. Since receiving stellar care as a young person, Nicole obtained a bachelor's degree in art history from Providence College and a multidisciplinary master's degree from New York University. She continued to work in the field of art, selling work by contemporary "outsider" artists and sharing their stories through her writing.

In order to pursue her interest in advocacy for underserved populations, Nicole returned to the Boston area to enter the nonprofit sector. She now works in philanthropy at the Amelia Peabody Foundation which funds youth development and family stabilization within underserved areas of Massachusetts. Preserving Miss Peabody's mission as an artist and philanthropist, Nicole works with grantees in the community.

As an FFC board member, Nicole brings a professional nonprofit background in addition to her personal experiences of being affected by a craniofacial malformation. She hopes to speak about her lived experience to give others a sense of empowerment and understanding.

Nicole enjoys gardening, baking, and knitting in her free time. 📧

## Meet Maggie Heneghan



FFC would like to welcome **Maggie Heneghan** as our new social media coordinator! Originally from New Hampshire, Maggie moved to Brighton, Massachusetts, over the summer and joined the FFC family in August. Maggie comes with over seven years of dedicated experience working with children in diverse settings such as classrooms, camps, clinics, and homes. While she is currently a social worker, she was looking for a way to channel her creative side while still working with and for the youth, which is exactly what this position has allowed her to do. Maggie is all ears if you'd like to share your best Boston recommendations and to-do's as she settles in to her new home.



### FOUNDATION FOR Faces of Children

258 Harvard Street, #367  
Brookline, MA 02446  
617-355-8299

[info@facesofchildren.org](mailto:info@facesofchildren.org)

[www.facesofchildren.org](http://www.facesofchildren.org)

Connect with FFC Online



FFC is always looking for new Board members. Please contact us if you're interested in serving.

The Foundation for Faces of Children (FFC) is dedicated to supporting the social, psychological/emotional, and educational needs of individuals, and their families, affected by craniofacial differences. We seek to improve the lives of children with craniofacial differences and inspire them to reach their full potential.

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 achieve this by:

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

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.

### Board of Directors

John B. Mulliken, MD, *Co-Founder*

Ann-Marie Rogers, *Exec. Vice-President*

Alfred (Fred) C. Frawley, III, *Clerk*

Caitlin Hughes, *Treasurer*

Monir Sakha, *Programs Co-ordinator*

Ursula Costigan

Ingrid Ganske, MD

Tara Greiner

Nicole Lania

Dorothy (Doty) M. MacDonald, RN, BSN

Kerri Murray, MPH, PA-C

Olivia Oppel, RN