

FACING THE FUTURE

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HOW TO DONATE TO FFC:

Please make donations at
facesofchildren.org/how-to-help or by check (payable
to Foundation for Faces of
Children) sent to:

Foundation for
Faces of Children
258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446

Newly Released Webinar Series Cleft Lip and/or Palate During the First Year of Life (Part one)

In May 2024, Boston Children's Hospital clinicians recorded a two-part informational webinar series discussing various aspects of care during the first year of life of a child with a cleft lip and/or palate. This series was created as an educational tool for families to help navigate the diagnosis of cleft lip and/or palate and to discuss specialized newborn care, feeding tips and tricks, preparing for surgery and post-operative recovery. To view the video, we encourage you to click on the link below. The presenters and subjects for part one of the webinar series are:

Webinar Series Part One:



Prenatal Diagnosis, Tests, and Follow Ups

Olivia Oppel, RN, BSN, is a Clinical Coordinator in the Maternal Fetal Care Center at Boston Children's Hospital and works with families who have received a prenatal diagnosis of cleft lip and/or palate. In the first part of the webinar series, she discusses how a prenatal diagnosis is made, prenatal testing that may be done, and necessary follow up prenatal care visits. Olivia is a vital resource to expectant mothers and their families.

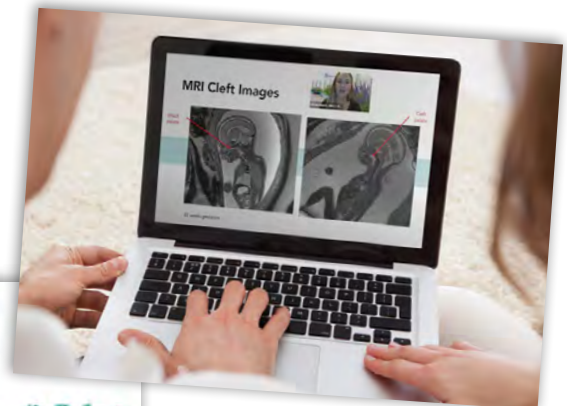


Newborn Care, Feeding, and Screening

Nicolette Bushman, DNP, is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Plastic & Oral Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital and is a member of the Cleft Lip & Palate team. She meets with families prenatally to discuss feeding tips and techniques and helps families navigate feeding and any other challenges throughout the first year of life. During her portion of the webinar, Nicolette discusses newborn care, feeding techniques and screening processes.

We hope that you find the webinar series helpful and informative. FFC is deeply grateful for the work of these clinicians in providing valuable and wide-ranging information to our community.

Part one of the webinar series can be found on our [website](#).



**This Smile Was Made
For You!**



2025 Annual Foundation for Faces of Children Scholarship Awards

FFC is proud to award scholarships to six accomplished, talented individuals. Selected from a broad field of candidates, each is academically successful while generously serving their communities. The 2025 award recipients are:

The Dr. John B. Mulliken Scholarship

Honoring Dr. Mulliken for his decades of expert care for our children this scholarship is awarded to those who demonstrate excellence in academic scholarship and leadership.



Brady Antaya of Haverhill, Massachusetts is an honors graduate of Methuen High School, where he excelled both in the classroom and extracurricular activities. A dedicated student, Brady was an active member of the National Honor Society and the History Honor Society. Balancing his academic achievements with a strong presence in student life, he participated in student council, contributed to the school newspaper and competed in multiple varsity sports including soccer and tennis.

This fall, Brady will begin the next chapter of his journey at Curry College where he will pursue a degree in exercise science while he plays for the men's tennis team. He hopes to build a career in the field of physical therapy. In ten years, he envisions himself working in a balance clinic with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. *Congratulations Brady!*



Kai Holland is a 2025 graduate from Bedford High School in Massachusetts where he has shown dedication both in and out of the classroom. A strong honors student, Kai made an impact at his school by serving as the captain of the cross country team as well as being an active member of the Robotics Club and the National Honor Society. He is also an avid violinist.

Kai will be attending Cornell University to study mechanical engineering. In ten years, Kai hopes to earn a master's degree in either mechanical or biological engineering and continue making an impact in the world of innovation. *Congratulations, Kai!*

The Dorothy MacDonald Scholarship

Awarded to those pursuing a career in a health profession, this scholarship honors our own Dotty MacDonald who spent the bulk of her nursing career assisting Dr. Mulliken in the care of our kids at BCH's Cleft and Craniofacial Center.



Bobbi Guerrette is a 2025 honors graduate of Presque Isle High School in Maine. While there, she was a leader in both the classroom and extracurriculars, serving as National Honor Society vice president and competing on her school's varsity tennis team. In 2024 she was named Miss Presque Isle at the annual pageant. Bobbi represented Maine at the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses conference. Remarkably, she accomplished all the above while working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Bobbi will continue her education and passion for healthcare at Maine College of Health Professions, as she works toward her associate's degree in nursing. In ten years, Bobbi hopes to be a pediatric nurse in a children's hospital, where she can make a meaningful impact on the lives of young patients and their families. *Congratulations Bobbi!*

The Jane C. McDaid Memorial Scholarship

Awarded for strong community service, this scholarship honors the memory of the community-minded FFC president, Jane McDaid.



Abigail Lee is an honors graduate from Newtown High School in Connecticut. Abby was a dedicated member of the National English Honor Society with a passion for academics and community service. She spent time as an event volunteer with Dream Come True of Western Connecticut and as a camp volunteer for Extreme Fitness Martial Arts.

Abby will attend Fairfield University where she plans to study business. In ten years, she hopes to contribute to her family's dermatology business while continuing her journey in martial arts with the goal of earning her black belt. *Congratulations Abby!*



Owen Kohlstrom is a high honors graduate of Lunenburg High School in Massachusetts where he balanced academic achievement with athletic and community involvement. A member of the varsity soccer team and the National Honor Society, he also dedicated his time volunteering with Bright Eyed Inc., Lunenburg Youth Soccer Association, and Lunenburg Food Pantry.

Owen will study Kinesiology at UMass Amherst with plans to explore how movement science can improve recovery and performance in athletes. Looking ahead, he hopes to earn a master's degree in Biomedical Engineering and work on developing medical devices that support sports rehabilitation and mobility recovery. *Congratulations Owen!*

The Barbara Seltzer Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a young adult with cleft lip/palate who is interested in the arts or will be pursuing a career in the arts. This scholarship is named for the past president of Prescription Parents, a support group for parents of children with cleft lip/palate, and who was very active in the cleft community.



Merari Flores graduated as an honors student from Malden High School in Massachusetts where she was a proud QuestBridge College Prep Scholar and National College Match finalist. She served as president of the Latin American Culture Club and as social media coordinator and treasurer of the Eco Club, combining advocacy with community engagement.

Merari will enter Wellesley College this fall as an undeclared student with plans to explore political science or psychology. She looks forward to getting involved in mock trial and joining Latinx student groups on campus. Long-term, Merari hopes to become an immigration attorney, helping individuals and families navigate the path to residency or citizenship. She also plans to keep expressing herself through art and creative projects. *Congratulations Merari!* 🎨



Beloved FFC Board Member Steps Down After Years of Remarkable Service

Dorothy M. MacDonald, RN, BSN, is stepping down from the Board of Directors, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, leadership, and commitment. As a longtime volunteer, Dotty has been a constant, caring presence at FFC, offering support to countless patients and families throughout the years. Even after retiring from Boston Children's Hospital in 2014, she remained deeply involved—generously giving her time, energy, and expertise to further FFC's mission. Her influence has been profoundly felt by all who had the privilege of working with her on the Board and her absence will be truly missed.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dotty for her many years of friendship and devotion to our children. We look forward to seeing her smiling face at future FFC events. 📺



Social Work in the Cleft Medical Community



Rebecca Kaplan, a licensed clinical social worker, recently joined the cleft medical community at Boston Children's Hospital. With the hope of supporting patients and families in medical settings, she graduated from Simmons University with a clinical focus in her graduate work.

Using her educational background, Rebecca enjoys combining the skills she once utilized in the classroom. She works to understand each client's goals then customizes care in order to meet their individual needs.

In the cleft clinic, social work becomes important as families navigate various aspects of the medical environment. Rebecca helps patients learn how to obtain important resources needed for medical treatments. Among other things, these may include transportation to the clinic, lodging during surgery, or access federal services such as WIC or SNAP.

She also performs the important job of assisting patients who are feeling anxious or overwhelmed by the experience. As a part of the team, Rebecca supports families and patients as they work through treatments for facial differences, helping them overcome challenges they may encounter. 📺

Upcoming 2025 Programs

For updates, please visit facesofchildren.org regularly or follow us on social media!



@foundationforfacesofchildren



@Foundation for Faces of Children—FFC



facesofchildren.org

Virtual Parents Support Group
(via Zoom)

Tuesday, August 12
at 7 pm EST

FFC is committed to hosting 2025 virtual parent support groups the second Tuesday of each month.

Young Adult Virtual Meetup
(via Zoom)

Monday, August 25
at 7 pm EST

Join FFC for the YAVM the fourth Monday of each month throughout 2025.

Paces For Faces Walk 2025

To be announced

Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield

Mark
your
calendars!



Remembering Priscilla Coffin

by Dorothy MacDonald



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of FFC's founding members, Priscilla "Prilla" Coffin, a devoted parent, friend and contributing member of the Foundation for over 40 years.

Prilla became involved when her son was born with cleft lip/palate and hemifacial microsomia, a condition that came as a surprise to her and her husband. At the time, I was just beginning my nursing career in plastic surgery, so teaching parents how to care for their affected children was new to me. Prilla taught me so much about the effect children with complex needs had on parents. As the years went by, Prilla volunteered in the clinics and helped other parents navigate the system. She remained involved by coordinating educational programs for parents and medical staff. Over the last several years, Prilla donated funds that allowed for scholarships to send Craniofacial/Cleft children to attend summer camp; helping others that needed support and fulfilling what she felt was her "duty" as a parent and a member of the craniofacial community.

Prilla was a remarkable woman and will be sorely missed by the Foundation's community. Our deepest condolences are offered to her family. 🖤



FFC's Success Comes Through Our Volunteers

We invite you to consider taking a more active role in supporting the Foundation for Faces of Children. Listed below are some of the important ways to become involved. If you are interested in serving in one of these areas, please contact us at communications@facesofchildren.org.

Scholarship Committee: Members read and evaluate applications and select award recipients. Serving on the committee requires one or two meetings as well as attendance at the scholarship awards presentation.

Walk Committee: Help plan the annual Paces for Faces Walk & Family Picnic fundraiser! Bring your ideas to monthly virtual meetings from May to September.

Board of Directors: Your skill and passion for our mission is needed to help provide oversight of FFC's programming, operations and fiduciary responsibilities. To serve on the Board means a commitment to attend monthly virtual meetings and some programming events.



FOUNDATION FOR
Faces of Children

258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446

617-355-8299

info@facesofchildren.org

www.facesofchildren.org

Connect with FFC Online



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

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