Past, Present & Future: Meeting Street is Building Something STRONGER

On November 4th, Meeting Street held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially unveil the recently completed school expansion. The project, which began in 2015, includes the addition of over 28,000 sq. ft. of learning space, new athletic fields, an adaptive playground, and a multi-use court. Guests at the ceremony included United States Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, state and local officials, and community supporters.

These improvements will allow us to accommodate growth within The Grace School, our fully inclusive K-8 school, with 11 new classrooms, a literacy center, a sensory integration gymnasium, a science laboratory, and multiple physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy rooms. The improvements also included additional learning space for The Hope Academy, a Meeting Street-sponsored K-8 mayoral charter school, as well as greatly expanding life and vocational skills centers for The Carter School, Meeting Street’s high school for students with severe and profound needs up to age 22.

“Demand for Meeting Street’s services has steadily outpaced the agency’s physical and programmatic growth. During the last two years alone, enrollment in our early childhood programs has increased dramatically, with over 5,000 young children and families now being served annually,” said John Kelly, President of Meeting Street.

With the goal of meeting those demands for services, Meeting Street is officially kicking off our Building Something Stronger capital campaign, which will raise funds needed to support the next phase of our campus expansion project. Plans include construction of a new building devoted to delivering high-quality programs that foster healthy early childhood development and school readiness, and provide supportive, wrap-around services to families with young children. Construction will begin in the spring of 2020, followed by the final phase of Meeting Street’s campus expansion project, which will add a new student auditorium and the expansion of our pre-K program.

Updates on our Building Something Stronger capital campaign will be available on our website. To learn how you can support the future of Meeting Street, please contact Bernadine Sadwin, Director of Development, at 401-533-9171.
Introducing... Our 2020 Telethon Co-Hosts!

The 44th Annual Meeting Street Telethon, presented by Cardi’s Furniture & Mattresses and WPRI 12, will take place on Saturday, January 25th, 2020 on WPRI 12 from 7 to 11 p.m. The four-hour live broadcast will include an inside look at Meeting Street, special segments featuring Meeting Street children, and live interviews with Meeting Street families. Our goal is to raise over $1 million with the help of our awesome student co-hosts!

Meet Gabe!
Gabe is 8 years old and has a great sense of humor and a passion for sports. Gabe has been attending The Grace School since 1st grade. He is a dedicated student who is motivated to be the best he can be.

Meet Elicia!
Elicia is 5 years old and loves reading, coloring, and dancing with her friends. She attends our MA Outpatient Rehabilitation program, where she benefits from physical & occupational therapy delivered by our talented and compassionate professionals.

Meet Hannah!
Hannah is an 8 year old in the 3rd grade at The Grace School. She enjoys music class, learning sign language with her classmates, and is thriving in our small class environment that offers individualized attention to every student. She also loves playing with her friends on our inclusive playground.

Meet Jaidan!
Jaidan is 15 years old and enjoys swimming in the pool, going to the beach and taking road trips. He attends The Schwartz School in Dartmouth, where he receives educational and developmental services designed to help him thrive. He loves to throw balls and play with cars.

Halloween at Meeting Street

Our favorite day of the year at Meeting Street is October 31st! At both our Providence and Dartmouth campuses, students and staff alike dress in costumes to trick-or-treat. Thank you to Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island for being The Great Pumpkin Sponsor and making this event possible. For many of our children, this is their Halloween and our guests and friends distribute Halloween goodies.

Halloween is Meeting Street President John Kelly’s favorite day of the year because it is an opportunity for Meeting Street to bring joy into the lives of children of all abilities, to allow children to enjoy the delight of dressing up with their friends, and to create a safe space to experience trick-or-treating.
31st Annual Superhero Walk & 5K Race

September 22nd at Fort Taber, New Bedford, MA

Over 300 runners and walkers participated in the 31st annual Superhero Walk & 5K Race on Sunday, September 22nd at Fort Taber in New Bedford, doubling last year’s attendance.

The walk has been a tradition at The Schwartz School since 1988, with the 5K race added three years ago. Participants registered either as individuals or teams to enjoy a scenic walk around the Fort or to run a certified 5K race. Others attended simply to cheer on runners and walkers, and to enjoy family-friendly activities like face painting and balloon animals.

This year’s Superhero Walk and 5K raised more than $35,000, directly benefitting early intervention, early childhood education, physical therapy, and rehabilitation services for local children and teens in southern Massachussets.

Thank you to our Superhero Sponsors!

Carol A. Peterson Literary Center: A Legacy

On November 8th, Meeting Street celebrated the generosity of longtime donor Carol Peterson by dedicating the Carol A. Peterson Literacy Center in the new wing of the Providence campus. Carol’s family and friends gathered in the beautiful second floor space as President John Kelly and Margaret Knowlton, Director of School Age Programs, praised Carol for her desire to make a difference in young lives and her commitment to helping children see and realize their full potential.

Following the unveiling of the center, guests enjoyed a luncheon and tour of the campus.

Ms. Peterson has been a supporter of Meeting Street since 1995. In addition to her leadership role in our capital campaign, she has sponsored one of our Grace School students with a full scholarship for the past 5 years.

Thank you, Carol, for all that you do for our students!

Carol Peterson with John Kelly in the Carol A. Peterson Literacy Center
Recognizing A Decade of Volunteering

Three of our Meeting Street volunteers were recognized as Partners in Philanthropy at The Association of Fundraising Professional - Rhode Island Chapter’s National Philanthropy Day Celebration on November 22nd at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

Karen and Paul Medeiros began volunteering for Meeting Street in 2009 and have donated their time to support multiple Meeting Street events every year. Each January, Karen and Paul work at the Meeting Street Telethon, ensuring our phone bank operators and check presenters are on the set and ready for action. In June, they’re off to the CVS Charity Classic for two days of volunteer relations. And when the call time is 5 a.m. on a Saturday in October for the Pell Bridge Run, Karen and Paul are there!

Christine McCaffrey began volunteering for Meeting Street in 2010. Almost ten years later, she still uses her impeccable floral design skills to produce seasonal décor installments at Meeting Street. She creates the scenery for our annual Halloween Parade, constructs beautiful floral arrangements for the Telethon, and recently volunteered her time and expertise to facilitate the staging and décor for our Fishing for a Cause Seaside Dinner.

Congratulations and thank you, Paul, Karen, and Christine!

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar for 2020!

The 4th Annual Radiothon
Friday, January 24th from 5:30 to 10:00 a.m.
Stop by or tune in to Fun 107 broadcasting live at Sunrise Bakery & Coffee Shop, Dartmouth, MA

The 44th Annual Telethon
Saturday, January 25th from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.
Join us or tune in to WPRI 12 broadcasting live at Meeting Street, Providence, RI

The 10th Annual Fishing for a Cause & Seaside Dinner
Friday, June 12th and Saturday, June 13th

For more information regarding our events, to make a gift, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Barrett at 401-533-9230 or events@meetingstreet.org

SPREAD THE WORD: Host a Fundraiser!

Facebook.com/fund/MeetingStreetNow

Share your love of Meeting Street by hosting a Facebook fundraiser!

It’s free, easy, and 100% goes to Meeting Street!

Learn more at meetingstreet.org

Prefer email? Contact jross@meetingstreet.org to be added to our e-newsletter mailing list!