



## Why Support PAL?

**PAL's Mission:** PAL fosters a culture of trust and respect between the community and the Boston Police Department through programs that promote character development, improve educational outcomes, and reduce crime.

**The Need:** Although overall crime has steadily decreased in Boston, violent crimes, particularly those committed by youth are on the rise according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) Program. In addition, in Boston, as around the country, there are many issues and high-risk behaviors that face our urban youth. As an example, a survey of thousands of students at 17 public high schools in the Boston area suggests that despite campaigns decrying cyberbullying, the problem has grown in recent years. The study, in the Journal of School Health, found that 21 percent of the 16,000 participating students said they'd experienced cyberbullying.

A report from the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation in Washington DC, entitled Youth Investment and Police Mentoring, provided evidence to support the philosophy that urban youth-serving organizations, in partnership with innovative police chiefs, commanders, and field officers, have the capacity to reduce dramatically the factors associated with children at risk. Specifically, participants reported less high-risk behavior, improved self-esteem, better relations with family, and a better understanding and trust of police officers. In addition, police officers have the opportunity to interact with youth in non-confrontational settings and safe environments, allowing officers a more complete picture of the communities they serve.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) also continues to emphasize the development of mentoring relationships between law enforcement and youth in particular in their gang reduction and other crime prevention programs. Specifically, the Law Enforcement and Youth Partnership for Crime Prevention Conferences sponsored by the DOJ, called for a focus on mentoring of youth by law enforcement officers, and sited PAL's approach in particular as a model program.

*"Our programs operate throughout all Boston neighborhoods. Thousands of children and young people benefit each year from PAL resources. From youth/ police dialogues to basketball games, from the Junior Police Academy to flashlight walks, from book clubs to boxing lessons – Boston youth are interacting with police every day. PAL makes this possible".*

~ Commissioner William Gross

**The Solution:** **The Community Policing** - The Boston Police Department is a national leader in community policing, a widely accepted philosophy whereby the police and the community work together to solve problems of crime, disorder and safety issues and to improve the quality of life for everyone in that community. A crucial element of the BPD's community policing strategy is connecting with the city's





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at-risk youth through educational, social, cultural and athletic activities to promote an environment of mutual trust and respect. Programs like PAL have helped make Boston a safe place to live and work and a vibrant community.

By focusing a part of their community policing efforts on the city's youth, the BPD seeks to create a safer environment and build mutual trust and respect through programs, activities and events that occupy their free time and thus provide an alternative and productive path in life.

**Current Role:** PAL supports a broad array of programs and activities that create the opportunity for the community, children/youth and BPD Officers to interact in a positive and constructive manner. This engagement cultivates relationships based on trust and respect, with the ultimate goal of creating a safe environment that affords all citizenry the opportunity to flourish. This in turn positively reflects the efficacy of other Boston-based non-profit organizations. Founded in 1985 and historically focused on athletics, PAL has expanded to support a wide range of programming that serves to enhance youth police dialogue and provide outlets to keep the city's youth busy and out of trouble.

*PAL currently supports over 40 programs as well as various activities and events citywide. These programs positively impact the lives of over 6,500 youth. In the last 12 months, over 350 officers also participated in PAL sponsored programs and activities.*

Three of PAL's signature programs include:

- **Women in Blue** - an association of dedicated female Boston Police Officers of various ranks and units, working together - not only to increase trust, but to build stronger relationships with youth, particularly young women and girls. Women in Blue combine joint participation in athletics with productive dialogues and discussions, as well as exposing young women to opportunities and new experiences.
- **We Belong** - is hosted weekly by Boston Police Officers. The Mission of the program is to empower inner-city youth to be the leaders of tomorrow through public service education, community service and outreach. The We Belong Program is a community-based leadership program that provides a fun, safe, and challenging experience for high school juniors and seniors to develop their leadership skills, explore potential careers, learn about issues and challenges facing our communities, meet the leaders of the organizations working to address them and learn how to participate.
- **The Jr. Police Academy** offers multiple, weeklong programs that introduce the participants to the various operational components of the Department with a visit to Police Headquarters for tours of the Identification and Ballistics Unit, trips to the Police Academy, Range, Mounted Unit, Harbor Patrol and more. The program is in its 14th year providing over 250 kids each summer (including a





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week for children with disabilities) with the above experiences as well as opportunities to learn about the City of Boston through a myriad of field trips.

Additional programs and activities include:

- Shop with a Cop
- Nationally Recognized Gang Intervention
- After School Educational Activities
- Youth Enrichment Programs/OST Programming
- Safety Forums
- Athletic Leagues (baseball/softball, football, lacrosse, boxing, skiing, swimming, etc.)
- Music/Arts Programming
- GED Programming
- City-Wide Girls Initiatives
- Field Trips

## Our Vision:

PAL is uniquely positioned to play an integral role in supporting the BPD in its incredible efforts to contribute to making Boston a world-class destination. To that end PAL is evolving to play a larger role, working collaboratively with the BPD to identify the best programs and raise significant capital to provide a level of consistent support. In addition, The BPD has recently created a new Bureau of Community Engagement. As part of their strategy the BPD will “Strengthen and expand relationship with PAL, streamlining communication and coordination to maximize impact of resources and investments”.

PAL has provided over \$9,000,000 throughout its history to support BPD efforts. Funding was largely provided by board members/community leaders. Under new strategic direction aimed at maximizing its impact, PAL is expecting to double its revenues in 2019 to enhance its infrastructure and expand programming. With this additional support, PAL will have the resources necessary to provide more effective support for new and existing programs, and improve feedback and reporting on the effectiveness of its supported programs and events.

Additionally, PAL will actively seek to work in partnership with other youth-oriented charities to encourage the further development of the youth/police dialogue. In a notable recent partnership success, PAL collaborated with Good Sports to provide over \$100,000 of sports equipment to several Boston youth sports programs.

