Behind every great baseball team is a strong bullpen. And behind many of Boston's most established and esteemed social service organizations is a team ready to support their community's at-risk members.

Boston BullPen Project is a non-profit organization that partners with a diverse range of social service professionals, including groups devoted to caring for homeless individuals and families, veterans, at-risk youth, and others in need. Together with these organizations and supporters, we work to identify and fill urgent needs, providing financial support, while fostering a spirit that empowers others to pay it forward.

Your Support Makes a Difference

Watch our thank you video!

The BullPen Story

Boston BullPen Project was established in early 2017 by four childhood friends: Steve Alperin, Alan Stern, Ben Levin, and Michael Connelly. Over their decades-long relationship, the four shared many things in common, chief among them, a love of baseball and a commitment to helping those in need.

As lifelong Bostonians, the four men have deep personal and professional ties in their communities. They've been fortunate to achieve success in their respective fields and feel they have a unique opportunity to provide help to their fellow community members who are in need.

Steve, Alan, Ben, and Mike called upon their varied experiences with other charitable causes in creating Boston BullPen Project and determining how they wanted their organization to operate.

Ben Levin, Esquire, Steve Alperin, Michael Connelly, Alan Stern, M.D.

Boston BullPen Project's Vision

To provide help to a wide and diverse community of Massachusetts residents, including veterans, families, at-risk youth, homeless, patients, and others

To partner with agencies and groups that are experienced with offering support to in-need residents, ensuring help is provided where it's needed most

To identify gaps in social services and respond quickly and effectively to critical needs that would otherwise go unfulfilled

To promote a spirit of "paying it forward." Recipients of Boston BullPen Project's help receive a gift card to share with a friend or family member in need

How BullPen Works

All requests for Boston BullPen Project's help originate from our partner organizations. The role of our social service partners is to serve as intermediary who identifies individuals in crisis. Our grants do not pass through the organizations but instead directly to the creditor whether it be a landlord, utility company, or grocery store.

The BullPen evaluates each request on the following criteria: that it is a one-time ask, and that the help provided will empower the recipient to move on from a difficult situation, to better themselves, to meet the essential living needs of them and/or their family, and to ensure that the problem is solved going forward. Most requests are approved and fulfilled in less than 48 hours.

The Power of Philanthropy and “Paying it Forward”

For those in need, a missed rent payment, a lapse in insurance coverage, or a lack of transportation can mean the difference between persistent struggle and a path to success.

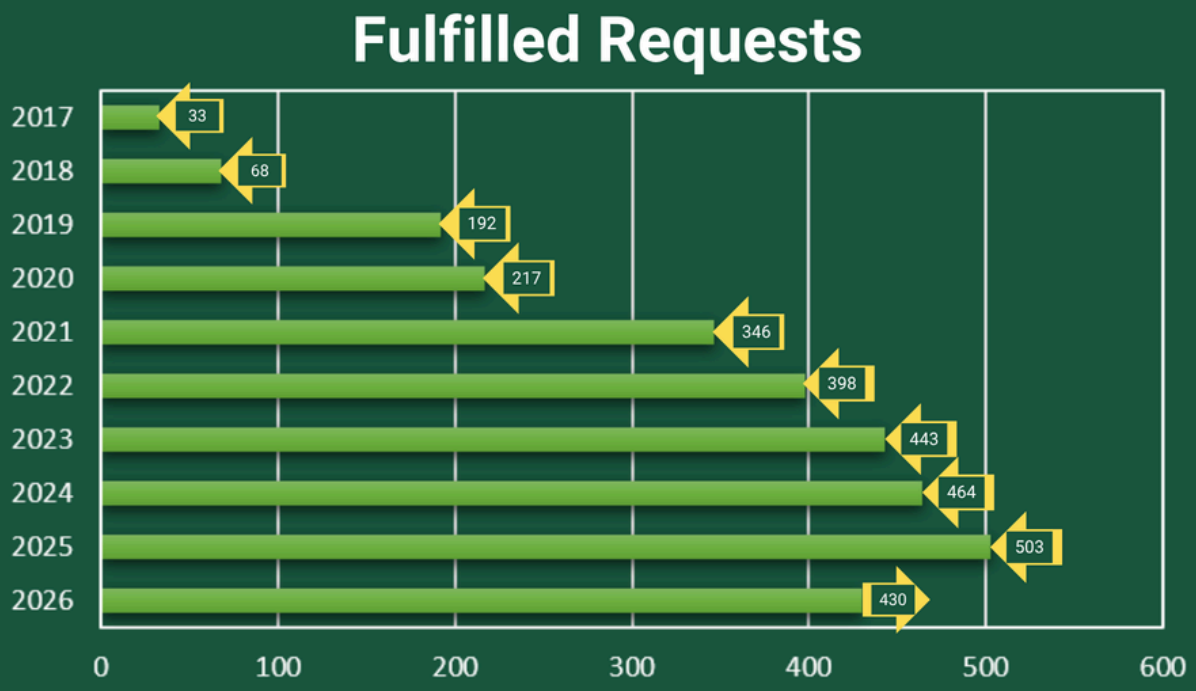
Boston BullPen Project provides specific support at critical junctures for struggling families and individuals. We are committed to meeting these urgent needs, with the ultimate goal of improving the overall quality of life.

“Paying it forward” is an essential element of Boston BullPen Project’s mission. There’s power in giving, and even the smallest of gestures can make a big impact. That’s why every recipient of a Boston BullPen Project donation is also provided a gift card to share with someone else in need, thus empowering the recipient to be part of the circle of giving.

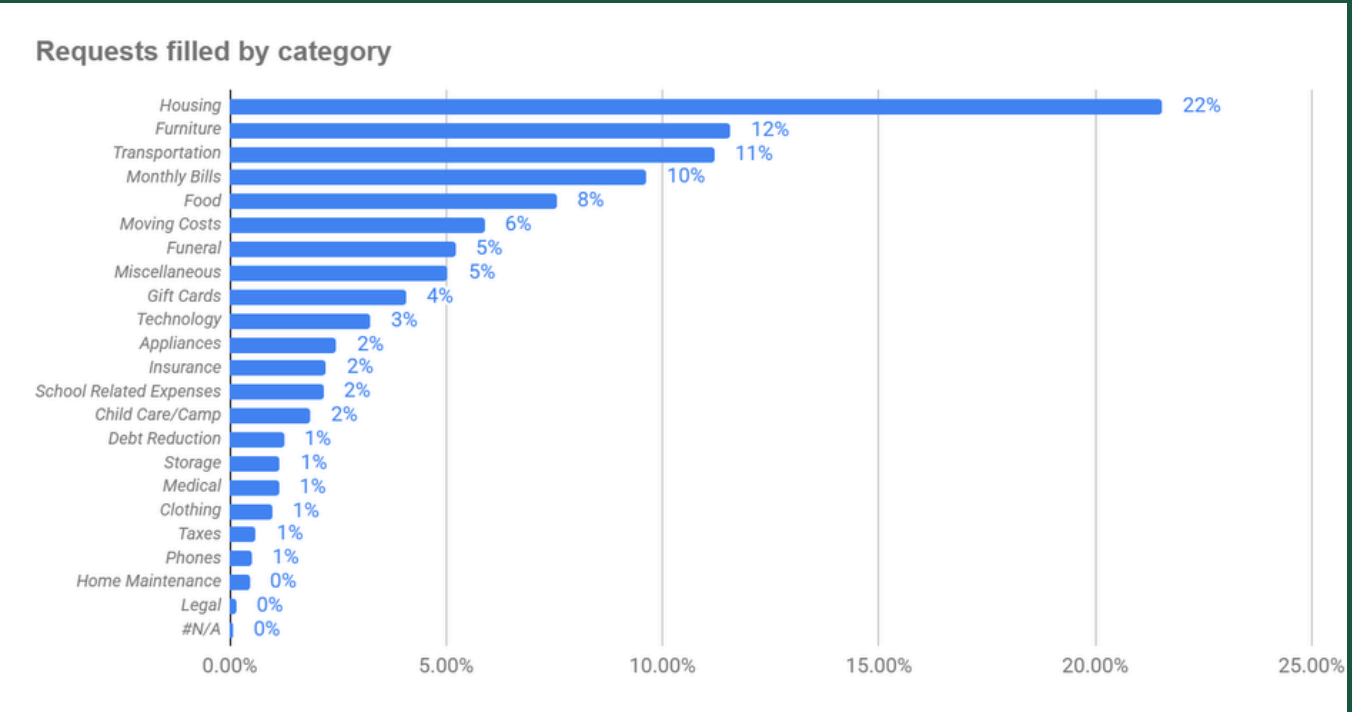
BullPen Stats

Since 2017, Boston BullPen Project has:

- Partnered with 90+ social service organizations
- To date, 97% of funds raised have been committed to help individuals in need.
- Approved and fulfilled more than 3,094 requests, which helped more than 10,521 people, most in less than 48 hours
- Provided more than $2,184,779 in financial support thru September 19, 2026, with an average grant of $655



Funding Areas...as of September 2026



Currently, Boston BullPen Project is unable to honor requests from individuals. Donation requests will only be considered when initiated from one of the partner organizations listed on the website

Founding Board

STEVE ALPERIN

Steve is a retired portfolio manager, former left-handed pitcher and a 1987 graduate of Bentley College (now University). He worked with Harvard Management through 2011 and retired from the investment business in 2016 to spend more time with his family, serve as a hospice volunteer for Hebrew Senior Life and to help start the Boston BullPen Project. He lives in Wayland with his wife Krista and their four children.

ALAN STERN, M.D.

A graduate of Brown University and the University of Vermont College of Medicine, Alan is a practicing physician at Needham Pediatrics. He is actively involved in teaching medical students at Harvard Medical School.
Alan has also served on various boards and committees over the years, including The Practicing Pediatricians of Children's Hospital, the Needham Board of Health, The Children's Room and Franklin Park Zoo. An avid baseball and lacrosse fan, he lives with his wife Lori in Needham and has three adult age children, Reuben, Jeremy and Celia.

BEN LEVIN, ESQUIRE

Ben is a lawyer and partner at Levin and Levin, LLP. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Boston University College of Arts and Sciences in 1999 and his Juris Doctor from Massachusetts School of Law in 2004. An avid Boston sports fan and fitness devotee, he lives in Hingham with his wife Tamala and their two children.

MICHAEL CONNELLY

A Bentley College graduate (where he played baseball with fellow BullPen board member Steve Alperin), Michael is a Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending. Passionate about sports and writing, he has married these interests and authored six sports-themed books over the last two decades. He is also passionate about giving back to his community and is a lifelong resident of West Roxbury, where he lives with his wife Noreen and son Ryan.

Partner Organizations

Boston BullPen Project partners with established social service organizations to identify and fulfill immediate, short-term needs that may fall outside these programs' missions or budgets. The organizations are thoroughly reviewed to ensure that donated funds are responsibly distributed.

- A Place to Turn
- Beacon Academy
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Bruins Foundation
- Boston Community Pediatrics
- BMC Immigration and Refugee Health Center
- Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
- Boston Rescue Mission
- Boston Youth Wrestling
- Bread of Life
- Breaktime
- Bridge Forward
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- Bristol Community College
- Caritas Communities
- Catholic Charities - Milford
- Catholic Charities - Southbridge
- Catholic Charities - Leominster
- Catholic Charities - Worcester
- CCHERS
- Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery
- Christopher's Haven
- City of Boston LGBTQ+ Advancement
- Codman Square Neighborhood Development
- Community Service of Newburyport
- Compass Working Capital
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Dismas House
- Duet
- Elders Living at Home Program
- Everyday Boston
- Family Aid
- Family Promise Metrowest
- Facing Cancer Together
- Father Bill's & MainSpring
- Father's Uplift
- Fragile Footprints
- Fenway Health
- Fish Family Foundation
- Foundation To Be Named Later
- Franciscan Children's
- Haven Project
- Heading Home
- Hebrew Senior Life
- HomeStart
- Housing Families
- Hyde Square Task Force
- InnerCity Weightlifting
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Jewish Family & Children's Service
- La Colaborativa

Partner Organizations

Boston BullPen Project partners with established social service organizations to identify and fulfill immediate, short-term needs that may fall outside these programs' missions or budgets. The organizations are thoroughly reviewed to ensure that donated funds are responsibly distributed.

- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
- Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund
- Millis Housing Authority
- More Than Words
- Multicultural AIDS Coalition
- Needham Housing Authority
- New England Center and Home for Veterans
- New England Innocence Project
- One Family
- Open Sky Community Services
- Partakers
- Pine Street Inn
- Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction
- Project Citizenship
- REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
- Red Sox Foundation
- Room to Grow
- Silver Lining Mentoring
- Small House
- Social Equity Access Fund
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Somerville Public Library
- Somerville Public Schools
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- Springfield Rescue Mission
- Squashbusters
- St. Francis House
- St. Mary's Center for Women and Children
- Teen Empowerment
- The Fountain Fund
- The Base
- The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health
- The Children's Room
- The Home for Little Wanderers
- The Second Step
- The Valedictorian Project
- The Wily Network
- Veterans CARE
- Veterans Services
- Veterans Transition House
- Victory Programs
- Waltham Creative Start Children's Center
- Waltham Family School
- Wildflower
- Women's Lunch Place
- Women's Money Matters
- Year Up
- YWCA Newburyport

Contact Information

For media inquiries and all other questions, email
contact@bostonbullpenproject.org

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Logo available for download here.

Press

FEATURED IN
The Boston Globe,
December 23, 2018.

Read Article

FEATURED IN
Needham Times,
October 1, 2021.

Read Article

FEATURED IN
MassNonprofit News
June 7, 2023.

Read Article

Awards & Honors

- Retik Mello Foundation Grant Recipient, 2022, 2023, and 2024

- Room to Grow Champion of Change, 2023

- Red Sox Foundation Grant Recipient, 2023

- Cummings Foundation $30 Million Grant Program Winner, 2023

Awards & Honors

- One Family Partner Recognition Award Recipient, 2023

- Beacon Award Recipient from Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 2021

- Boston BullPen Project – Supported by Boston Resiliency Fund Grant Recipient, 2020

- Year Up Urban Empowerment Award, 2019
- Year Up Outstanding Community Partner Award, 2017

The people served by Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program experience incredibly complex and urgent needs, and the Bullpen Project is always right alongside us in our work, stepping up to help us solve incredibly difficult challenges quickly and with compassion and understanding. You provide lifesaving and life-changing support, often stepping in when there is nowhere else to turn. For your partnership and for the profound impact you have on the lives of the people we serve, we truly cannot thank you enough.

Dr. Jim O'Connell,
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

"It is beyond amazing that the Boston BullPen can react so quickly. It makes such a huge difference to people. Thank you for everything you and the fund do each and every day."

—Lora Tarlin, JF&CS

“I would like to extend my sincere thanks... for selecting the New England Center and Home for Veterans as a charity with whom you are interested in working. Stephen is a success story here at the Center, and his gratitude for your support cannot be overstated. Hillary, his social worker, has sent me copies of the receipts for his excise tax bills and his learner’s permit. These payments have given him a tremendous step to independence. In fact, he has gotten a job, something that he previously did not think was achievable.”

—Charlene F. Pontbriand, New England Center and Home for Veterans

“

The BullPen Fund is funding critical services that support the success of the young adults we serve. We are very appreciative of the partnership we have with the BullPen Fund.

”

Linda Swardlick Smith, Year Up

"With our son hospitalized with Acute Transverse Myelitis, it put a great financial strain on our family. We had already fallen behind on bills and ended up in an even bigger hole trying to get back and forth to our son in the two months he was in care. Then BullPen happened. They blessed us with a generous donation that helped to ease the financial burden on our family and ultimately has allowed us to move forward and stay in our home."

—Client, Franciscan Children's

"I'm writing this letter to express how grateful and thankful my son and I are that you've been able to provide a roof over our heads for the past three weeks. Not having to worry about where we will be sleeping at night has been the biggest weight lifted off my shoulders. I've faced a lot of adversity this past month that I'd never thought I would face in my life. BullPen has motivated me in such a positive way to continue on my journey and to never give up hope. I've been able to continue being a great intern, bringing my full self, and being the best mother to my two-year-old son. I believe, through your support and knowing that there are organizations that help support individuals and families who face these trials, I've become a stronger person."

—Student, Year Up

“

This means so much to me. I've been working so hard to regain custody of my boys and now I will have beds and furniture to welcome them home. The bedding for me and the boys makes everything complete and cozy. The boys get to start overnight visits in a few weeks. I can't wait to put together their beds and show them their new room.

”

Client, Jewish Family & Children’s Service

“

Thank you Boston BullPen for your generous assistance. Without your help, I would have struggled to pay the rent at a very stressful time for my family. Now my young daughter and wife have a safe place to stay while I recover.

”

Patient, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute