
From the first, Boys Town has been supported entirely by the voluntary contributions of those who rejoiced in the idea of a community for boys of all races, classes, and creeds. The Home receives no subsidy from any religious, community, or governmental agency.

—Father Flanagan



**FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Father Flanagan League
14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

www.fatherflanagan.org

Donations

**We are a federally recognized 501c3 nonprofit
charitable organization for
religious purposes.**

**Donations may be made out
to FFLSD and sent
to the address above.**

Photos, prayers, writings of Father Flanagan
Used with permission of Boys Town Hall of History
Father Steven E. Boes, Executive Director



Father Edward J. Flanagan
Founder of Boys Town, Nebraska

*Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion*

Prayer Leaflet

Year Eight—July

Father Flanagan's Prayer :

Bring about, Dear Lord, a spiritual union of all the nations of the world built on the understanding that we are all Your children and You are our Heavenly and Eternal Father.

Teach us all the great dignity of our state in life as children of You, brothers of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, nurtured and strengthened by Your Holy Spirit....

All this we ask, and beg of You, in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen!

*Then the wolf shall be
a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down
with the kid;
The calf and the young lion
shall browse together, with
a little child to guide them.*

Isaiah 11.6

FROM FATHER FLANAGAN

History of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home—article from early edition (1920's) news publication of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home—Part II

When the architect first planned our main building he was told to so design it that additional units could be added from time to time as financial conditions permitted, until it was of such a size that at least 1,200 boys could be accommodated at one time. This he did, and while I shall, in all probability, never live to see the entire structure completed, still it is my hope and ambition to add at least two more units to the present one before I am obliged to quit my labors.

With pitiful appeal after pitiful appeal ringing in my ears; with the sad look in the eyes of the boys who are refused admission still in my memory; with the realization that there are hungry, homeless, abandoned boys wandering the face of the world in search of shelter, I know that I shall never cease my efforts while there is one boy left uncared for; while there is one boy calling vainly for aid.

At present, we are caring for 280 boys, and this is the very greatest number we can crowd in. In fact it is only by a great deal of "moving over" that we are able to care for that number. But we are doing it, and will continue to do it.

Before closing this article I want to invite every one who reads these pages to visit Overlook Farm, "The Mecca of the Homeless boys." I want everyone to know that Overlook is always open and that visitors are always welcome.

There are no iron bars at Overlook, and no steel doors, so entering is as readily accomplished as leaving. Come at any time of the day or night and you will find someone ready to show you around.

We have some splendid athletes among our boys, and you will be sure to find a ball game, a basketball game, or other athletic activity taking place on nearly any Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Then, too, we have a splendid band, made up exclusively of our boys, and under the able direction of Mr. Dan Desdunes, one of the best band masters in the middle-west, they turn out some wonderful music. They play entirely by note, and are considered remarkable musicians by all critics who have heard them. They give regular Sunday afternoon concerts...

So come on over and bring your friends.

We know you'll enjoy your visit.

Letter from Fr. Flanagan to Mr. Hartzell 1947

Mr. Hartzell:

It was a grand surprise to receive your letter of February 22, enclosing the splendid gift of \$100.00 from the Fairmount Methodist Church of Jackson County, Missouri. I want you to know that I am very deeply grateful to them, but especially to you for making the request of this amount to be sent to Boys Town in appreciation of the land you had donated for the expansion program. I am making proper acknowledgment to them today.

We have just inaugurated an extensive survey of trade programs all over the country with a view to establishing the best possible training for our boys as soon as the new trades building is available. I am hoping that will be this fall.

Included in the vocational curriculum to go into effect next fall will be mechanical arts; automotive and aviation engines; sheet metal; machine shop—including arc and gas welding; elementary electricity; electric maintenance and appliance service; carpentry, cabinet making and pattern making; all phases of printing; a complete ceramics course, including design, decoration, and chemistry; baking, shoe repairing; barbering; and tailoring.

The homeless boy needs more individual attention than any other, because he was deprived of it so long. I don't know of a better way to give him that attention, that recognition he hungers for, than by helping him find himself through a trade or hobby he likes and in which he can excel. With kind personal regards to you, dear Mr. Hartzell...

FATHER FLANAGAN PRAYER

God of mercy, love and compassion, we are grateful that You gave Father Edward Joseph Flanagan special graces to love, protect and guide neglected, vulnerable and oppressed youth. Thank you that the work he began with the foundation of Boys Town, has continued to spread throughout the world. We pray that You inspire many to adopt his caring, loving ways as mentor and protector of youth.

Loving Father, we bring our own needs to you now, asking that through the intercession of Father Flanagan, in accordance with your Holy Will, you grant us these special favors: _____.

Thank You for Your Faithfulness and Providence, and for hearing these petitions which we ask in the Name of Your Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**