

PRESENTATION SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.



"I encourage individuals and institutions that care deeply about Boston and urban education to join me in supporting PSF's innovative plan to transform the Presentation School building into a community center serving the needs of children and families." —
Mayor Thomas Menino



The Presentation School Foundation (PSF) is a non-profit, secular organization formed by a grassroots community group in response to the closing of Our Lady of the Presentation Elementary School (OLP) in 2004. *PSF's mission is to strengthen Boston's diverse Allston-Brighton neighborhood by providing affordable educational and related community services, which will promote family and community stability.*

PSF worked tirelessly to achieve the goal of acquiring the former school building and convert it into a multi-service community center serving children and families. In October 2007, that goal was achieved thanks to the sustained and passionate efforts of the local community — an "**exceptional effort to buttress an urban community,**" according to a *Boston Globe* editorial. We are now in the process of renovating the building and developing the programs to be offered to children and families.

PSF is about **Community**



Mayor Thomas Menino at PSF's 2005 Family Oktoberfest

PSF was formed in June 2004 when the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) announced its plans to close a longstanding community anchor, the Our Lady of the Presentation Grammar School in Brighton, MA. Recognizing the impact of the school's closing, a united community called upon the RCAB to allow PSF to buy the building and ensure its continued presence as a community institution.

Our community expanded from local to global in June 2005 after children and teachers were locked out of the school two days before graduation. Within days, the story had been covered internationally via prominent newspapers, television, and radio stations, prompting calls from across the country. With supporters such as Mayor Thomas Menino, U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, and Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, PSF persisted in its call to own the building. In October 2006, under the leadership of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, the RCAB not only agreed to sell the building to PSF, but at half the price. Thanks in large part to this contribution, as well as support from institutions such as New Balance and The Boston Foundation, and over \$100,000 in contributions made by individuals from the local community, PSF purchased the building in October 2007.

PSF is about **Families**

Families are an endangered species in Boston. In a Boston Foundation study of the hundred largest cities in the U.S. (based on 2000 Census data), Boston ranked 95th in the percentage of population under age eighteen. Allston-Brighton is a neighborhood even further at risk. Census data also shows that between 1990 and 2000, Allston-Brighton showed a startling 14.7% increase in poverty to 23% overall — making it the neighborhood with the third highest



Families enjoying an event at the Faneuil Branch of the Boston Public Library

poverty level in Boston. With owner-occupancy rates declining to 19.3% (while the rates for most other neighborhoods in the city increased to an average of 30.7%) and the growth of surrounding colleges and universities, families are being squeezed out of Allston-Brighton. With a 6.5% decline, family households account for only 32.7% of households in Allston-Brighton, as compared to a citywide average of 48%.

PSF is about **Educational and Community Services**

The OLP Building was built for children. By 2004, however, the building was only being used for a portion of the day and half of the year. PSF envisions year-round, full-day programs that will bring children, families, and the community at large back into the building.

In conjunction with partners such as the Faneuil Branch of the Boston Public Library, renowned for its childrens' programs, and the Oak Square YMCA — a thriving, fully-accessible facility — the building will serve as a cornerstone of a Community Campus where families with children of all ages — from eight-years-old to eighteen to eighty-years-young — could come together and take full advantage of programs offered throughout the campus.

PSF Proposed Programs:

- Year-round, full-day affordable preschool
- After school and summer programs
- Educational enrichment programs
- Adult education (including ESOL and immigrant outreach)



The Community Campus

For example, a nine-year-old could be dropped off at the YMCA for swim practice, while her grandmother attends an ESOL (English as a Second Language) class. A father could bring his third grader to the library for tutoring and then walk next door to where his four-year-old attends preschool for a parent/teacher conference. Local residents could come together for an outdoor movie on a beautiful summer night.

Among PSF's many volunteers are local teachers, parents, and students, all of whom are working towards filling the building with a myriad of programs. Even before it owned the building, PSF made a difference in the lives of local children and their families. In August 2007, PSF organized the City of Boston's Countdown to Kindergarten Allston-Brighton event, doubling the number of children participating from the previous year.

Building upon relationships with its many supporters, PSF has also been working with WGBH and the Museum of Science on an innovative pilot program focused on engaging middle-school students in science and engineering as well as writing and media literacy. The selection process for a pre-school provider is currently underway.



Local children in a YMCA after-school program.

PSF is about **Making a Difference**

Our mission is to provide educational and community services that strengthen Boston's diverse Allston-Brighton neighborhood. In October 2007 we purchased the OLP school building, thereby ensuring that the management of this important community anchor remains in the hands of the community. Since 2004, we have continued to host and organize community events that draw families together in new ways. Through these events, PSF has helped maintain a sense of stability in this rapidly changing neighborhood.

The challenges, however, remain immense: despite widespread support from many civic institutions, local businesses, and friends and neighbors, the fact remains that in a community at risk, residents can not bear this fiscal burden alone.

In May 2007, PSF and six of its founding members received Community Service Awards from the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation "**for creating a vision over the last three years, inspiring Allston-Brighton and the whole city to believe in the strength of our community.**" With the purchase of the OLP school building, we have made the impossible possible. We invite you to become part of the PSF story. *For more information about PSF and how you can help, please contact us at info@psf-inc.org.*

A partial list of PSF supporters:

<i>Aberdeen & Reservoir Civic Association</i>	<i>Friends of the Faneuil Branch Library</i>
<i>Aberdeen-Brighton Residents Association</i>	<i>Friends of the Oak Square Common</i>
<i>Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition</i>	<i>Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin</i>
<i>Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation</i>	<i>Harvard University</i>
<i>Allston-Brighton Little League</i>	<i>Hobart Park Neighborhood Association</i>
<i>Allston Civic Association</i>	<i>State Representative Kevin Honan</i>
<i>Former Boston City Councilor Felix Arroyo</i>	<i>Houghton Chemical</i>
<i>Asian American Civic Association</i>	<i>Irish Immigration Center</i>
<i>Doug Bacon</i>	<i>U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy</i>
<i>Bank of America</i>	<i>U.S. Senator John Kerry</i>
<i>Bay State Charitable Foundation</i>	<i>Former Boston City Councilor Jerry McDermott</i>
<i>The Bligh Family</i>	<i>Mayor Thomas Menino</i>
<i>Brighton-Allston Improvement Association</i>	<i>Mercantile Bank</i>
<i>Boston City Council</i>	<i>State Representative Mike Moran</i>
<i>Boston College Task Force</i>	<i>Newbridge Realty</i>
<i>The Boston Foundation</i>	<i>New Balance</i>
<i>Boston University</i>	<i>Pine Village Preschool</i>
<i>Brazilian Immigration Center</i>	<i>Porter Belly's</i>
<i>Brighton Board of Trade</i>	<i>Prime Realty Group</i>
<i>Brighton Garden & Horticultural Society</i>	<i>State Senator Steven Tolman</i>
<i>Brighton Main Streets</i>	<i>Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Senior Center</i>
<i>U.S. Representative Michael Capuano</i>	<i>WGBH</i>
<i>Citizens Bank Foundation</i>	<i>Whole Foods</i>
<i>Clipper Ship Foundation</i>	<i>YMCA</i>
<i>Devlin's</i>	