



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and happy autumn!

It has been a busy fall, and I'm thrilled to share exciting updates from The Home! Unity House, our second community-based group home serving LGBTQ+ youth, is breaking new ground in the Granite State, and we are so pleased to have found a wonderful property in Keene, New Hampshire, for this much-needed program. We look forward to welcoming our first cohort of teens.

I know you believe as I do that when a young person is living in a safe, supportive environment, magic happens. Some of you were fortunate to meet DaSean Greene at Voices & Visions last spring, but we wanted to introduce everyone in our community to this extraordinary talent. DaSean's journey illustrates what independent living and housing solutions can mean for young adults who have aged out of care. He is proof that when youth ascend from stable ground, the sky is the limit!

Since we're reaching for the stars, I'd like to personally thank the Red Sox's Tanner Houck for partnering with The Home and for using his platform to give voice to the need for foster and adoptive homes for children. He has a heart to match his 6'5" stature and our kids are loving every minute with him! Recently, Tanner was nominated for the Major League Baseball Roberto Clemente Award for his character, community involvement and contributions and chose The Home as his charity of choice and the beneficiary of MLB Charities' generous \$7,500 donation. On behalf of everyone at The Home, congratulations, Tanner, and **thank you!**

In other sporting news, The Home has been named an official charity for the 128th Boston Marathon® presented by Bank of America. I encourage anyone seeking a bib to apply; my daughter and I ran for The Home last year, and it was an experience we will never forget! You can also go the distance for our kids by participating in our holiday campaigns. We've enclosed information on how you can further the work of The Home in a festive way. Thank you for your support!

Gratefully,

Lesli Suggs, LICSW
President & CEO

PITCH PERFECT

TANNER HOUCK PARTNERS WITH THE HOME

Red Sox pitcher Tanner Houck has teamed up with The Home to raise awareness about the importance of adoption and spread joy to children across our agency. The Major Leaguer has been vocal about the difference his adoptive sister, Reanna, has made in his own life, and he is using his platform to address the critical need for foster and adoptive families.



Tanner credits Reanna with opening his eyes not only to how privileged he was to have a loving family, food on the table and a warm bed, but to the foster

care and adoption process. He recalls when his mom, knowing she'd soon be an empty nester, sat him and his sister down to discuss her desire to foster a child, saying simply: "I'm not done being a mom." Shortly thereafter, she rolled up to a baseball game with a stroller, and Tanner met his new sister. From that day on, Reanna was a part of their baseball family. "I wouldn't trade any of it," says Number 89.

In addition to his advocacy work, Tanner has been visiting programs across The Home, spending time with the kids in our care and showing them they have someone in their corner. "I love getting to hang out with them and [getting to] be that brotherly figure. That's where my heart is."

Youth across our programs have been treated to Red Sox games, tours of Fenway Park and the Red Sox Hall of Fame and have met Tanner on the field for photo ops and baseball signings. The outings have even been used to further The Home's permanency work; children from our adoption and foster care programs have met extended family members at the ballpark to join in the fun and build the lasting, loving connections that, in time, can lead to forever homes. ●

➔ VISIT www.youtube.com/@TheHomeforLittleWanderers to view the interview: **Adoption from a Sibling's Perspective**, featuring Tanner Houck.

CASTING HIS SPELL

MAGIC MAN DASEAN GREENE LIVES HIS DREAM



If you attended The Home's Voices & Visions event last April, you met magician and entrepreneur DaSean Greene. A natural entertainer, DaSean mingled during the cocktail hour, mystifying partygoers with his sleight of hand, and coin and card tricks. Later in the evening, DaSean and his journey to success were honored in the program. Weeks before the event, DaSean received news he had been waiting to hear; he had been accepted into the Junior Society of The Academy of the Magical Arts, "the Harvard of Magic" for gifted young magicians. Access to the Magic Castle in Hollywood, the private club of The Academy of the Magical Arts and the stage for a weekly lineup of magic shows, is a privilege of membership. In July, DaSean boarded a plane for the first time in his life, and he went there.

DaSean has been studying the art of magic since age eight—he was hooked after his father showed him two card tricks when DaSean visited

him in prison. Now 20, DaSean is serious about his craft. This Hollywood visit would be a work trip. "I was not there to have fun," he says. "I was there to work and network. I was there to be this soldier." But when DaSean stood before the Los Angeles castle, the magical mecca that drew luminaries like David Copperfield and David Blaine to its hallowed halls, any preconceived ideas vanished. "All of it left me," he shares. "I had no soldier in me. It wasn't about the plans I had or targeted connections. It was just about being home."

For an individual who has been in state programs since age 14 and has feared homelessness, this speaks volumes. Today, DaSean resides in one of The Home's independent apartment units in New Hampshire, a newer program established for young adults who have aged out of state care. Given that DaSean feels there have been times in his life he has raised himself, it is an empowering setup. With a place of his own, instead of using his mental energy on finding a safe place to sleep, he has the freedom to focus on building his business, Magicman Entertainment, and on his public speaking engagements. For the latter, DaSean encourages youth to work toward their dreams with intention, and not to allow anyone to distract them in their pursuit. He is real with his audiences and motivational, revealing that, while he still struggles at times, he has found a "cure-all" in magic...and his calling.



"I'm a big believer in anything's possible," says DaSean. "My job is literally to work in the impossible." DaSean's visit to the Magic Castle didn't disappoint. Miracles were everywhere, from the piano-playing ghost that took requests to an imagination-defying routine in which, in a poof of confetti, a long scarf morphed into a bouncing ball, then back again. "I saw things that I didn't think existed in this world."

"I'm a big believer in anything's possible. My job is literally to work in the impossible."

— DASEAN GREENE

DaSean absorbed it all, taking in the shows, workshops and gleaning a wealth of tips and techniques from presenting magicians. He says he gained 30 years of knowledge during his time there, as well as validation within this community of illusionists. "It was a symbol that I was able to get past everything that I have been through and do what I love." ●



DaSean performs at corporate events, online classes and "magical moments," including parties, weddings and galas, and is also available for motivational speaking. Visit www.themagicman1776.com for more information.



BANK OF AMERICA 

OFFICIAL CHARITY

RUN BOSTON WITH THE HOME!



The Home for Little Wanderers is thrilled to have been named an official charity for the 128th Boston Marathon® presented by Bank of America, and awarded a number of charity bibs for 2024!

We are delighted as an organization to be part of Bank of America's inaugural partnership

with the historic Boston Marathon and to receive five bibs that will be granted to a select group of fundraisers ready to conquer 26.2 iconic miles for the children and families in our care. The Home has been distinguished as a member of the 2024 Bank of America Boston Marathon Official Charity Program due to our deep commitment to children's well-being and to building healthy communities. Last year, our President & CEO Lesli Suggs, LICSW, ran the Boston Marathon to give visibility to the youth and families served by our organization, raising over \$20,000 for our organization. Will you follow in her footsteps? ●



WHY I RAN BOSTON:

- ♥ To give visibility to the children and families served by The Home.
- ♥ To raise awareness about the impact of abuse and neglect.
- ♥ To raise awareness of the impact poverty and lack of resources have on the ability of a family to meet the needs of their children.
- ♥ To raise awareness about the mental health crisis that impacts kids' ability to thrive in school and in their communities.

➔ VISIT thehome.org/run to apply or learn more about joining our 2024 running team.

SAVE THE DATE:



GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Be part of the worldwide initiative for giving back! Donate to The Home this Giving Tuesday, which follows the two biggest shopping days of the year—Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Please consider making a donation online at thehome.org/givingtuesday on November 28, and share your support of The Home on social media!



VOICES & VISIONS - APRIL 25, 2024

Join us at the Fairmont Copley Plaza for our signature springtime fundraiser to celebrate The Home's impact and ensure better, brighter futures for kids! More details coming soon at thehome.org/vv.

SEASONS OF LOVE



Young artists at The Home have been getting creative and busily working on the artwork for The Home's 2024 Calendar of Children's Art, and we're counting the days until its arrival. Usher in a new year with the artistic expressions of youth served by The Home—and a daily reminder of your valued support! Stay tuned for more information!

➔ FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit thehome.org/shop.

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