



DARE TO HOPE

Mid-Campaign Impact Report • September 2026



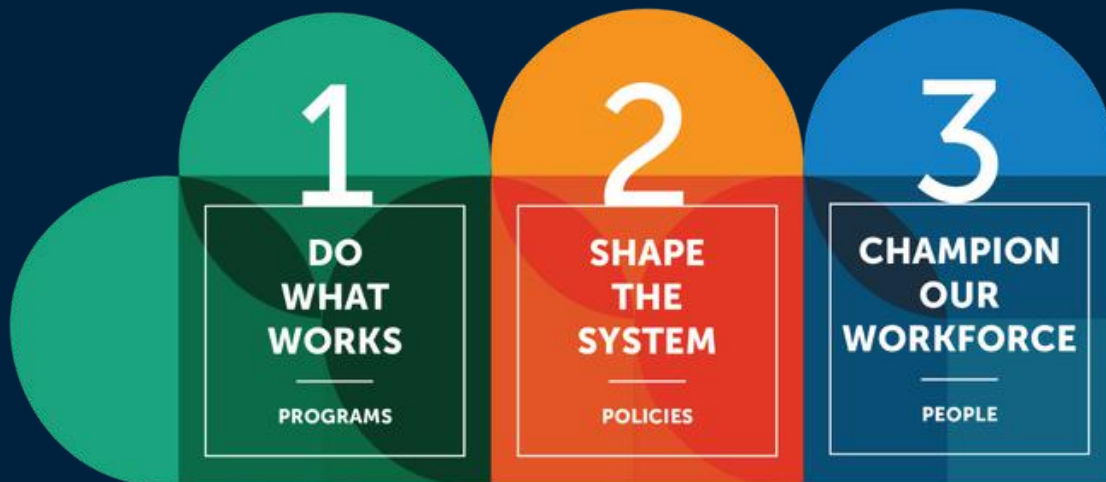
DARE TO HOPE

POWERING DREAMS EMPOWERING FUTURES

State funding covers the bare basics. Your support is helping HopeWell focus on the programs, policies, and people that lead to better outcomes for children and families across Massachusetts, especially those experiencing foster care.

OUR GOAL

RAISE \$12 MILLION BY 2027
TO FUEL 3 KEY PRIORITIES



TOTAL RAISED SO FAR:
\$8.7 Million

Thanks to your support, HopeWell has made meaningful progress toward these 3 key priorities...



DO WHAT WORKS

Implemented HopeWell's first-ever centralized database to collect, understand, share, and apply information and insights that help us improve our practice.

Supported 17 "unfunded" youth in My First Place™, ensuring they received housing and education/employment support after aging out — even without DCF reimbursement.

*"Unfunded" youth are those aging out of foster care, who, for a variety of reasons, aren't eligible to receive DCF-funded services. HopeWell pays out of pocket to provide them with support during a pivotal time in their lives.

Hired our first Senior Director of Data & Impact, who is helping us ensure the children, adults, and families we support are making progress toward their goals.

Launched a targeted initiative to reduce homelessness among young people who have experienced foster care by expanding the use of federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing vouchers in Massachusetts. This includes formally collaborating with community partners and five (and counting) Public Housing Authorities to provide youth with supportive services, such as housing search assistance and education/employment support — all without state funding.

Partnered with an educational consultation company to help caregivers advocate for their child and navigate Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Continued thoughtful and robust development of our RISE program, with 67% of students participating for the full 2025-2026 school year reading at or above their grade level benchmark, or closing the gap to their grade level benchmark by at least 50%.

PROGRAMS

POLICIES



SHAPE THE SYSTEM

Provided written and oral testimony in support of several bills, including two that have been signed into law: *An Act Protecting Benefits Owed to Foster Children* passed in July 2025, and *An Act Enhancing Child Welfare Protections* in August 2026, the most significant child welfare reform in MA in decades.

Launched Next Gen Leaders, a unique, youth-led initiative that empowers young adults with lived experience in foster care to use their voices and expertise to improve MA's foster care system — ultimately leaving it better for the next generation. The group is facilitated by HopeWell's Chief Policy & Impact Officer, Julie Segovia, PhD.



CHAMPION OUR WORKFORCE

Raised salaries for our direct-care staff so HopeWell now pays at or above the 75th percentile for these positions compared to our peer providers.

Recruited and supported 12 paid Master's and Bachelor's level interns, strengthening HopeWell's workforce.

Paid \$92,745 in education benefits to support staff member's learning, growth, and development so they can meet the evolving needs of the field. This includes student loan pay-down assistance, tuition and licensing fee reimbursement, bonuses for licensure attainment, and meaningful professional development opportunities.

PEOPLE

Our *Dare to Hope* campaign ends December 31st, 2027.

LOOKING AHEAD...

WE WILL:

Continue to improve the child welfare system through advocacy focused on legislation that enhances the lives of children and families involved in the system.

Expand efforts to raise awareness and double the use of FYI vouchers for young people across Massachusetts.

Dive deeper into data and impact measurements across our programs, ensuring we continuously adjust and improve the supports we provide to children and families.

Hire a Caregiver Support & Engagement Specialist in our RISE program to equip caregivers with the knowledge, tools, and support necessary to advocate for a child's educational needs and promote learning at home and school.



DARE TO HOPE

hopewellinc.org/dare-to-hope

