

Dear friends of BYs,

This summer, Boston Youth Sanctuary (BYS) has carefully reflected upon the considerable challenges that we faced this past school year and since reopening post pandemic, largely with staffing and organizational leadership. As many of us have done post pandemic, we at BYs have put a lot of thought into our capacity to provide high quality, effective care that prioritizes the best interests of the children and families we serve.

It is with an extremely heavy heart that we share that **BYS will not be able to reopen in the fall this year and will instead pause programming, effective September 1, 2024, until further notice.**

We have painstakingly explored and come to the conclusion that in order to provide the quality and depth of services necessary for BYs' unique trauma-informed and community-based model and for the services to be effective, BYs requires staff with specialized training and experience that can appropriately facilitate individual support and group-oriented therapeutic activities while maintaining high child to staff ratios. Post pandemic, it has been incredibly challenging to find, train and retain staff who are mission aligned, dedicated to the work and the community.

BYS will be taking this opportunity to explore how we can continue to address the needs of our youth and families and the best way that we can be of service to the community.

Your support and partnership as part of the BYs network has been paramount to our success and we could not do the work we do without you. Thank you for being part of something that can only be described as "*magical*" (M.H., age 7, 2013) and for supporting and believing in what BYs was, is and will be.

Respectfully,
Jana

Jana Karp, M. Ed
Executive Director