



**Contact:** Rebekah Farley  
[rfarley@boyshaven.org](mailto:rfarley@boyshaven.org)  
Boys & Girls Haven  
2301 Goldsmith Lane  
Louisville, KY 40218  
859-351-7384

**February 13, 2019**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Construction Begins After Fire Destroys Apartments for Teens in Foster Care**

*Boys & Girls Haven announces the next step on the road to recovery after kitchen fire destroys building housing young people preparing to age out of foster care.*

**Louisville, KY** – After an accidental kitchen fire in November destroyed all 17 apartments in the Boys & Girls Haven Pre-Independent Living (Pre-IL) program, the 501c3 nonprofit agency announced construction is underway on repairing the Klondike Lane building.

“We are excited to have construction crews onsite,” says Read Harris, Boys & Girls Haven CEO. “November 27<sup>th</sup> was a low point for our organization, but today represents a high mark as we celebrate the way our community embraced these young people and paved a smoother road for the recovery process.”

The Boys & Girls Haven Pre-IL program is one of the few transitional, supportive living programs for both boys and girls in foster care in the state of Kentucky. The program offers fully staffed and supervised dorm-style living to provide young adults, aged 18-21, with the independence, accountability, and support needed to successfully transition from foster care to adulthood.

Teens currently enrolled in the program are housed in apartments just a few miles from their former home. Says Harris, “While our temporary accommodations house up to four young people per apartment, the newly reconstructed space will offer young people a bit more leg room with just one or two people per apartment.”

Donations from individuals, civic groups, and businesses allowed the agency to meet all of the immediate needs of the young people in the interim. According to Harris, insurance will cover a significant portion of the initial construction costs, but Boys & Girls Haven is still assessing the possibility of further funding needs related to both the fire losses and other reconstruction on their 70-year-old campus on Goldsmith Lane.

“In addition to the recovery costs for the apartment building, we are also in the middle of repairing two cottages on our residential campus,” says Harris. “We are reliant on the heart of the Louisville community to get these projects off the ground and provide our kids the best they deserve.”

Boys & Girls Haven is working with Purofirst Disaster Services to rebuild the apartment building and with Prodigy Construction to complete repair of the campus cottages. The contractors estimate young people will be able to move back into both space by or before summer 2019.

“We anticipate an exciting ribbon cutting in late June or early July,” says Harris. “We have a lot to celebrate with our community.”

*Boys & Girls Haven is a full-service foster care agency located in Louisville, KY. Since 1948, the 501c3 nonprofit has transformed the lives of thousands of abandoned, abused and neglected children by providing stability, education, and life skills that will lead to success in adulthood. We employ a multifaceted, therapeutic approach including residential and in-home foster care, transitional living programs, career and life skills training, preventative community-based counseling services, and a variety of other programs and services.*

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