

# NEWSLETTER



Mirella Cruz with daughters Aurora and Amariz

## Parent Leader Mirella Cruz Joins Families First's Board

Mirella Cruz is an extraordinary woman.

As a single mother to two young girls, you can probably imagine the challenges Mirella faces as a parent every day.

But she has never let her challenges define her path. Plus, things feel more manageable after she participated in Families First's *Power of Parenting* program.

She recalls: *"The program isn't just eye-opening, it keeps you emotionally sane. It brings some form of peace to your life with your kids."*

Since then, Mirella has applied what she learned to helping other parents in her community as a Parent Leader.

Mirella feels connected to parents in our programs, because she's been one.

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Families First's Madeleine Otani Oldman meets with Salome McCabe and Nedgie Clerjuste in Boston's South End.

## Community Spotlight: The South End

Families First is excited to announce a new collaboration that will bring together partners from the health and early education sectors.

In partnership with Boston Basics, the South End Community Health Center, and the Harrison Avenue Head Start, Families First will provide the *Power of Parenting* program for parents in the South End.

Boston Basics will also train staff at partner sites (such as nurses and day care providers) to reinforce their five simple but powerful evidence-based parenting practices with parents with whom they come in contact.

Together, through our combined array of services, we will ensure that parents have access to the education and support they need to promote their children's healthy development.

When you support Families First, you make innovative partnerships like this one possible. Thank you!

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In this way, Mirella brings a unique perspective to the board. Excited for her new role, she says:

*"I hope to bring a perspective from the receiving end of the program, knowing the impact it has had in my life and other parent's lives."*

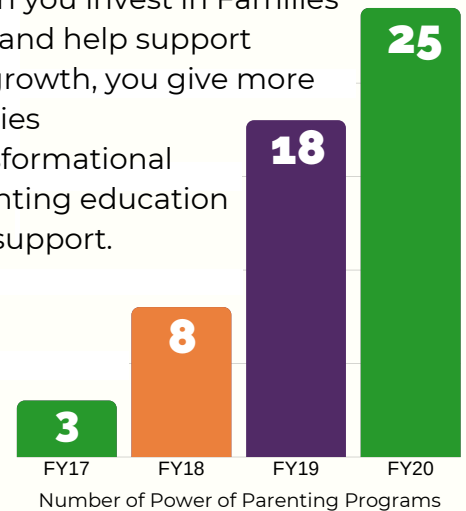
As a new member of our board, Mirella's voice will be incorporated into key decisions made by leadership at Families First.

In the next few months, we will bring another parent onto the board. By elevating the role of parents in the organization, Families First is ensuring even greater outcomes for families and communities.

## You Can Support Families First's Growth!

Today Families First is on an exciting path to grow the *Power of Parenting* program in Boston and across Massachusetts.

When you invest in Families First and help support our growth, you give more families transformational parenting education and support.



## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE COVITZ

When children are given an opportunity to succeed, we succeed as a community. With strong investment from supporters like you, parents across Boston are gaining the resources and support they need to set

their children up for success. Thank you. Right now, you have the power to help more parents build a brighter future for their children. Give generously today, and you will impact generations to come!