

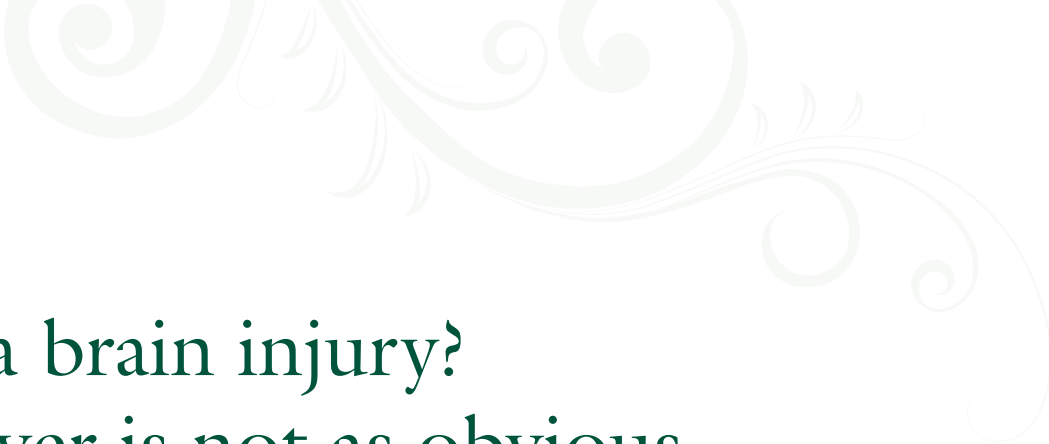
Thriving After Brain Injury

IVY STREET
S C H O O L



“ A neuropsychologist recognized our daughter’s symptoms as indicating a brain injury—not developmental delays—and advised us to find a school specifically for students with brain injury. The difference has been life changing for our daughter.”

Karen Burns and Maryann Civitello



What is a brain injury? The answer is not as obvious as you think.



Defining a brain injury. The first complicated step to the answers you need.

The impact of any brain injury is significant. Often the most important step in overcoming a brain injury is to actually identify it.

The alarming truth is that there are many causes of brain injury. Some injuries or illnesses are so severe that a brain injury is easy to diagnose. But some injuries are more subtle or occurred so early in a child's life that the connection between the injury and problems in adolescence is not always obvious. Many times brain injuries are not even diagnosed.

For a young adult, the symptoms of a brain injury can show themselves in unique and extreme ways. Symptoms can include deteriorating academics

and family relationships, difficulty with social skills and peer interactions, a change in ability to follow rules, emerging disorganization and difficulty with problem solving. Adolescents may exhibit compulsive or impulsive behavior, loss of inhibition, decreased frustration tolerance, anger, anxiety and depression.

For adolescents with brain injuries, suspected brain injuries, or other neurological challenges, finding the right school is the vital next step toward a future everyone can look forward to. Many families have found their answer at the Ivy Street School.

You may find your answer here too.

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When you place a child in a classroom where the teachers have specialized expertise and experience in brain injury habilitation and rehabilitation that also addresses social skill development and behavioral training, you pave the way for better outcomes.

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Marilyn Price Spivack, Founder, Brain Injury Association of America



Not just a school. A one-of-a-kind school.

The Ivy Street School is more than just a school. This is a place that specializes exclusively in the treatment of brain injuries, the leading cause of disability among adolescents. We have developed proven, organized systems for treating the wide range of brain injuries, and we are one of only a handful of schools in the country to do so. But brain injuries are not just about symptoms. Successful treatment depends on finding and nourishing markers of motivation, confidence, and self worth in each individual. That's where Ivy Street excels.

Founded in 1993, we were one of the first schools in the United States to focus on brain injuries. It's an environment where everyone can feel welcome, included, and part of the community. Our year-round program serves students from around the country. Some attend Ivy Street during the day and live at home, but most are boarders. For residential students, learning continues beyond the classroom and new skills are tested and reinforced during interactions with peers and the community around the school. This is the groundwork for lasting change, for developing skills to take back to the community for a full and satisfying adult life.





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Our knowledge of the effects of brain injury and treatment continues to expand, allowing professionals experienced in managing brain injury to promote more successful recoveries. To best meet their individual needs, the injured child and their family require a range of services by experienced professionals, coordinated on a daily basis. Such coordinated services are nearly impossible for a traditional school, but it's what Ivy Street does on a daily basis.”

Dr. Douglas Katz, Medical Director, Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital Brain Injury Program

two brain injuries are
same. That's what our
curriculum is all about.



Every brain injury is unique and comes with its own set of realities. That's where the power of an Ivy Street education kicks in. The first steps are often neurological and neuropsychological assessments. Once the details of an injury are known and how the child is functioning has been identified, Ivy Street can craft an individual education program unique to the child and begin to build a path to the future. Our teachers know the techniques that help each child to be successful, allowing them to reach academic goals that previously seemed unachievable.

Each student is immersed in a structured learning environment built around self-management skills. The academic curriculum is tailored to each student, and includes everything from functional life skills to state test preparation for diploma students.

Every student at Ivy Street works with a team that includes certified brain injury specialists, clinical and restorative therapists, special education teachers, vocational counselors and residential staff. It is a comprehensive therapeutic environment offering a range of clinical services including occupational therapy, speech work, nursing care, and adaptive physical education. These one-on-one and group services are key to helping students cope with brain injury in their everyday lives, today and moving forward.

Our small size, team approach, and expertise working with brain injury make it possible for us to develop innovative education plans that focus on the whole child.

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In a split second, everything in my life was turned upside down. But luckily my father found Ivy Street. It is the place that gave me back my life. It assisted me with my speech, my mobility, my education, my basic living skills, and helped me get back into the community. It helped me get back the life I thought I had lost. I owe Ivy Street everything.”

Amanda Smart, Ivy Street School Graduate



All school communities thrive on friendships and a sense of belonging. Here, every student experiences it.

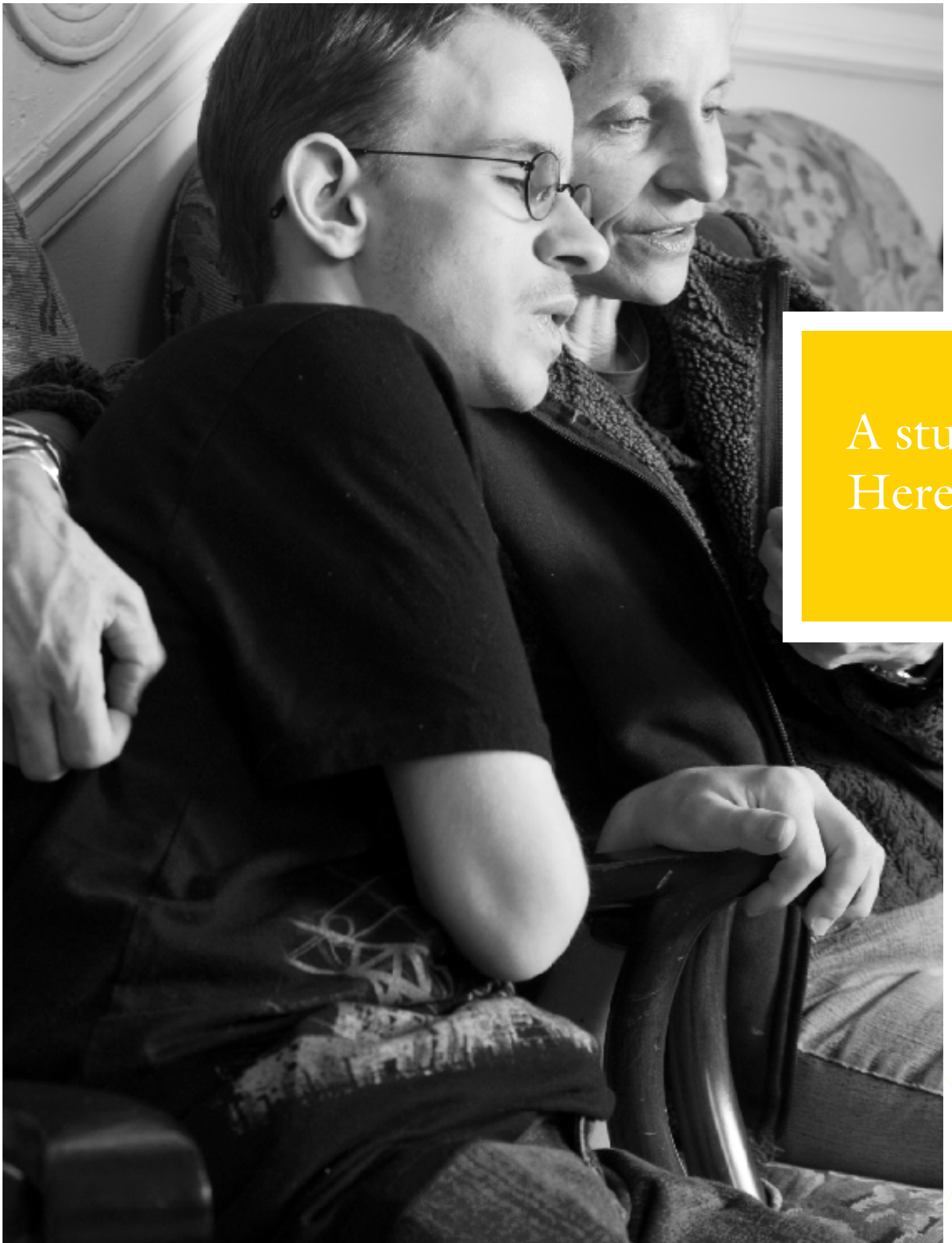
Every school has a social element to it, and every student wants to find his or her place within it. For many students, Ivy Street School is the first place they feel truly supported and included. Among peers, they are free to pursue passions, cultivate friendships and build a strong sense of self. In class and after school, we use dyads and small groups to teach students how to talk with each other and develop close relationships with other students. Our accepting, close-knit community offers all the typical school experiences — a prom, sports teams, arts, hobbies and the chance to make true friends.

A small school located in a safe, quiet residential neighborhood, we are within walking distance of public transportation, community employment sites, shops and restaurants. Our historic neighborhood is next to a thriving university, many of the city's best hospitals, a wildlife sanctuary, and the famous grounds of Fenway Park. Local Boston cultural events and attractions offer rich after-school experiences.

With these opportunities in their backyard, students find not just a supportive school community but a connection to the real world. It's a place to belong, and to build the skills they need to have the kind of life they want.

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Many times I have not understood my own daughter as well as the Ivy Street staff. You have shed a light on our situation with such in-depth care and knowledge. This has guided both myself and my husband Marty throughout the years. Your therapy has been such a key ingredient for her success. Our daughter Stephanie will never forget what you have taught her. You have given her the tools to live with herself.

”

Carolyn Leonard, parent

ent. A student's family.
they're one and the same.



A brain injury doesn't just affect the child, it affects the child's entire family. Sending a child away to school may be the hardest decision a family has had to make. But Ivy Street isn't just a place for students. A parent advisory council and a family support group, led by a professional clinician, give families the opportunity to shape the school, share their experiences and learn together. We want each family to teach us about their child and about their family's culture and traditions.

We can also help families learn new skills. With training in our effective skills-based behavior management program, families have new tools to help their children develop their full potential. Families are part of the therapeutic team and together we provide the support and encouragement needed for students to thrive. Our goal is for families to carry what they've learned at Ivy Street back into the home, where it can make a difference over the course of a lifetime.

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Our real job is preparing students for the future. We help them develop their own unique balance of realism and hope, and give them the skills to engage the world around them.

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Dr. Ron Allen, Ph.D., BCBA, CBIS, Director of the Ivy Street School



In the end it's about individual goals and transitioning to adulthood, ready to go.

The curriculum at Ivy Street puts a strong emphasis on life skills and community activities. Right from the start it's about developing the social, behavioral, academic and life skills that each child needs to have a successful life as an adult.

The staff team working with each student regularly consults the student's family, local school system and other community partners to develop the strongest individual education plan and goals for the future. Our residential program is structured so that students who achieve strong independent living skills may transition from on-campus to supported off-campus living. Every student participates in a Culinary Arts program structured for life skills and vocational experience.

Early vocational training is critical to future success. The skills for working with co-workers and supervisors, taking on responsibility, and approaching work with the right attitude can only be learned on the job. This is why we partner with employers, including Boston University, an animal shelter, local hospitals, a day care center, and one of Boston's top restaurants to create tailored volunteer and work opportunities. Students provide valuable services to local businesses, discover their own interests, and take the very first steps in their careers.

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Every new beginning has a starting point.

Ivy Street is about transforming lives. If brain injury is not recognized and appropriately treated, an adolescent's school performance and behaviors will continue to deteriorate and the hope for a satisfying adult life will diminish. Adolescents with brain injuries are usually extremely isolated and often end up unemployed or involved with the mental health or juvenile justice systems. Exposure to the world of work and immersion in a community that recognizes their unique challenges and feelings can open a world of opportunity.

Many of our graduates are able to live and work in the community with minimal assistance and some go on to higher education. Others need continued

residential and vocational supports, which may be provided by our parent organization, MAB Community Services, or another service provider.

Ivy Street offers rich experiences in the outside world, behavior management that focuses on positive reinforcement, a peer group that learns and socializes together, and a wealth of expertise on brain injury that informs every lesson.

The Ivy Street School can be the most important step to helping a child with a brain injury transition into a rewarding adulthood.

Every child deserves a chance at that.

200 Ivy Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

Admissions: 617-620-7779
admissions@ivystreetschool.org

www.ivystreetschool.org



IVY STREET SCHOOL

THRIVING AFTER BRAIN INJURY

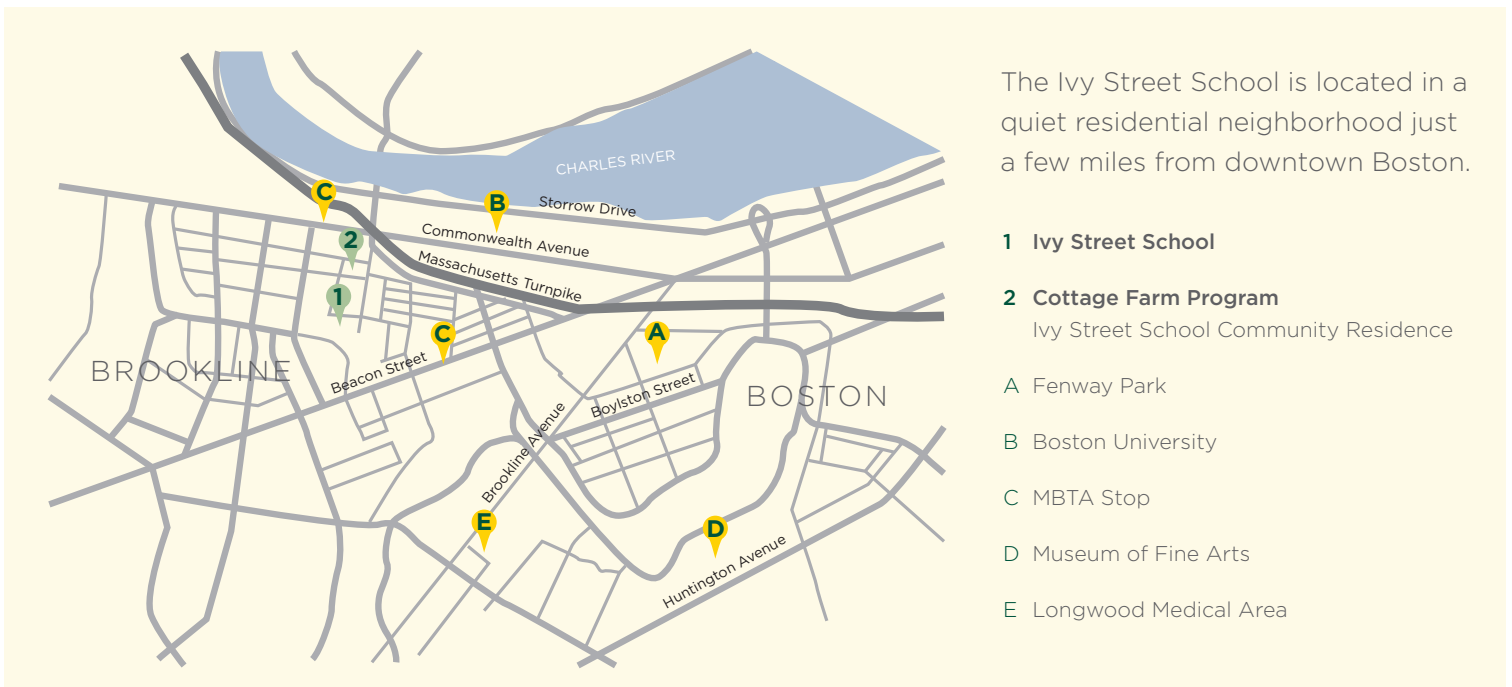
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The Ivy Street School is a program of MAB Community Services, an organization that has been creating opportunities for people with disabilities since 1903. Our experience allows us to forge strong community partnerships to meet the pressing need for high quality services and transform lives.