



24 Main Street  
Swansea, MA 02777  
(508) 679-0183

[stevensprograms.org](http://stevensprograms.org)  
[info@stevensprograms.org](mailto:info@stevensprograms.org)



[facebook.com/stevensprograms](https://facebook.com/stevensprograms)

## ■ ■ ■ Welcome to Stevens! ■ ■ ■

Thank you for visiting Stevens Treatment Programs during **Swansea's Holiday in the Village** event. We're excited that you're here and hope that your holidays are not only festive and safe, but spent with the ones you love. That truly is the magic of this season.

In July of 2018, I had the honor of stepping into the role of Executive Director at Stevens. The retirement of Tom Drooger, after 33 years of service, has been a loss to the organization. I hope to pay tribute to Tom and those who have come before me by continuing to respect the legacy and mission of Stevens in all that we do.

**Holidays can be a particularly challenging time for those who have experienced trauma and loss. Please help us bring smiles to their faces on Christmas morning by participating in our Giving Tree.**

2019 will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stevens' operation as a safe haven and home for children. We've grown and changed in many ways since the beginning steps that saw the formation of our stalwart Swansea institution. But what has not changed has been our dedication to addressing the needs of at-risk adolescents. In celebration

of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be holding events — some larger, some smaller — throughout 2019. Look for more information about this in coming months.

This year Stevens will also be embarking on a Strategic Planning process that will help guide our vision for the future. Through examination of our strengths, needs and core philosophies, we will develop a plan to ensure that we keep the mission of Stevens alive, and continue to be a leader in the field of residential treatment. As a member of the Swansea community, we would love to

hear your voice. If you are interested in participating in a community focus-group, please contact me at the email address below my signature.

Through the support of Stevens' residents, their families and the larger community, the young men we serve are given

the opportunity to grow, heal, learn and succeed. But this holiday, many of them will not have the opportunity to be surrounded by the love of family that blesses many of us. Holidays can be a particularly challenging time for those who have experienced trauma and loss. Please help us bring smiles to their faces on Christmas morning

by participating in our Giving Tree. Your generosity would be deeply appreciated by the clients and staff at Stevens.

This year, Stevens Annual Appeal will help support the development of a basketball team for the boys. This group sport will allow the boys to develop skills in teamwork, sportsmanship, and conflict resolution, and will give them the chance to have recreational time participating in a sport they love. If you would like to receive more information about the Annual Appeal, please contact me directly.

I am thrilled that you have taken the time to experience the awe of the Stevens' Home. If you would like any additional information about Stevens, feel free to reach out. Also, please connect with Stevens on our brand new Facebook page (the link is on the left).

I am looking forward to a future working together to make the world a safer and more loving place — one boy at a time.

Sincerely,

Ivy A. Medeiros, LICSW  
Executive Director  
[imedeiros@stevensprograms.org](mailto:imedeiros@stevensprograms.org)

See reverse side for a history of Stevens.

# ■ ■ ■ A Brief History of Stevens! ■ ■ ■

**B**uilt in 1855 as the premier mansion of its time, the former James E. Birch mansion remains true to character of the home Birch created and the legacy left behind from his business partner, Frank S. Stevens.

Birch, who made his money with Stevens in the Gold Rush and a stagecoach business, built the mansion, at 24 Main Street, for his wife Julia Chase Birch, and his infant son, Frank S. Birch.

But Birch would get little time to enjoy his mansion. On the way back to Swansea from California, the ship he was traveling on, the **SS Central America** sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras on September 12, 1857.

Stevens would end up marrying Birch's wife Julia and the two would live in the house until Julia's death in 1871 at the age of 44.

In 1873, Stevens married Elizabeth Case, and together the two would change the face of Swansea. The Stevenses would go on to donate acres of land and buildings to the town, including the town library, Town Hall, the Christ Church and many others.

The Birch-Stevens mansion and estate was run as a gentleman's horse farm for years until Elizabeth's death in 1930 when the property reached its first crossroad. Without any children of her own, Elizabeth left a lengthy will and estate, estimated in the multi-millions, with instructions to "use the mansion and the grounds to

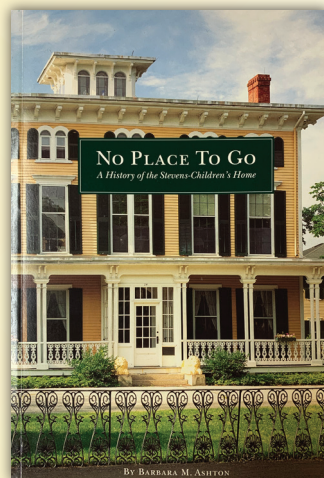
benefit people." With no specifics, Elizabeth left the fate of the property in the hands of her attorney and the board of trustees.

With the Stevenses' connection to the Children's Home of Fall River, which at the time faced issues finding placements for the older boys, the decision was made to turn the Stevens estate into a home for boys. The home first opened its doors in 1939 as the Frank S. Stevens Home for Boys.

A long tradition of service to boys whose needs had gone unmet by traditional and familial structures had begun. Originally considered an orphanage, the home transitioned to a program providing services to a growing population of boys whose needs could not safely be met in the community, or public school setting.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the residential, educational and clinical programs were restructured to provide treatment for adolescent boys with significant behavioral challenges and emotional needs. Stevens quickly developed a reputation for being able to successfully serve and care for youth with complicated treatment issues.

Although the profile of the typical Stevens client has changed, Stevens has been unwavering in its mission to serve youth in need: to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art treatment to adolescent males of varying needs and cultural backgrounds. Clients become empowered with the skills necessary to rejoin their families and communities with success.



**For a thorough history of Stevens, pick up a copy of Barbara M. Ashton's "No Place To Go: A History of the Stevens-Children's Home."**



**Frank S. Stevens**



**Elizabeth Stevens**