

MEMBERSHIP MONDAY: Walker Therapeutic & Educational Programs

Highlighting Walker Therapeutic & Educational Programs' Impact on the Community

This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Walker Therapeutic & Educational Programs (Walker), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and families across Massachusetts. For more than 60 years, Walker has provided specialized education, behavioral health, child welfare, and family support services to help children and young people navigate emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Through a continuum of therapeutic, educational, residential, and community-based programs, Walker empowers children and families with the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive.

Who is Walker and What do They do?

For more than six decades, Walker Therapeutic & Educational Programs (Walker) has supported children, youth and families across Massachusetts. The organization traces its roots to 1961, when Dr. Albert E. Trieschman of Boston Children's Hospital opened The Walker Home for Children on the organization's Needham campus. Beginning with fewer than 10 boys, the program introduced a therapeutic approach that recognized the importance of supporting children not only during formal therapy, but throughout their daily lives and environments.

Since those early years, Walker has grown considerably in both its reach and the types of support it provides. Today, the organization works with children and families from approximately 150 communities throughout Massachusetts, offering a continuum of educational, behavioral health and child welfare services. Across its programs, Walker works to help children and young people navigate emotional, behavioral and learning challenges while also providing support and resources to their families and communities.

Services include:

- **Special Education:** Therapeutic educational programming through Walker School in Needham and Walker Beacon School in Watertown, combining academics with clinical and individualized student supports.
- **Residential Services:** Therapeutic residential and group home programming for children who benefit from structured, out-of-home care and support.
- **Community Behavioral Health:** Individual and family therapy, psychiatric services, in-home therapy, therapeutic mentoring and school-based outpatient services for children, adolescents, adults and families.
- **Crisis & Stabilization:** Short-term assessment, stabilization and therapeutic care through Walker's CBAT and ICBAT programs for children experiencing significant behavioral health needs.

- **Therapeutic After-School Services:** Clinical and recreational programming that provides youth with therapeutic support while also engaging families in their care.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health:** Consultation and support for early education programs, educators and families to strengthen young children's social-emotional and behavioral development.



One of Walker's therapeutic learning spaces where students are supported every day.

When did Walker join the Providers' Council and why?

Walker has been a member of the Providers' Council since 2013, marking more than a decade as part of the Council's statewide network of community-based human services organizations. In 2018, Walker was also honored with the Peer Provider Award at the Providers' Council's **43rd Annual Convention & Expo: RISE!**, recognizing the organization's meaningful contributions to the human services sector. Through its membership, Walker stays connected with peers across the human services sector while engaging in professional development, advocacy, and collaboration.



Chewy, Walker's therapy dog and a favorite among students and staff.



A Voice from Walker

The children, youth, young adults, and families we serve are often connected to multiple systems and services at the same time, and Walker's role is to be a steady, trusted presence across all of them. What has impressed me most since joining Walker is the extraordinary skill, compassion, and commitment of our staff. My responsibility is to make sure they have the resources and support they need to continue making a difference every day.

– President and CEO, Dr. Patrick Tutwiler



Looking Ahead: Walker's Continued Support to Families and Communities

Looking ahead, Walker continues to expand its impact through innovative initiatives, leadership, and community engagement. Some upcoming highlights include:

- Walker will present “Practical AI for Human Service Organizations” at the **Providers' Council's 51st Annual Convention: Unshaken in Purpose**, on **October 26th** at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The session is designed for organizations seeking practical guidance on where AI can add value in human services and where caution is warranted.
- **Walker's Fore the Children Golf Tournament** will be held on **September 28th at Woodland Golf Club**. Proceeds support Walker's programs and services for children, youth, young adults, and families across Massachusetts.
- Dr. Patrick Tutwiler joined Walker as President & CEO in February 2026, bringing extensive experience in education, public service, and organizational leadership.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Walker, their services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers' Council.

[Providers' Council](#)

[Walker Therapeutic & Educational Programs](#)