

Brookview House

Brookview’s previous space had been created in the mid-1990s and housed a program that’s specialty is homeless and at risk children. When the number of housing units in the building increased, more residential space was needed within the building. Also, there was an increase of homelessness and at risk families citywide, which meant higher demand for both housing and child care.

Brookview wanted to enhance the quality of the space by creating a computer center, a study area with age appropriate tables and chairs, to enlarge the kitchen area and add counter space and seating. The completed project includes these changes along with added staff office space and Director’s office, windows for natural lighting, rubber foam tiles in the backyard, and an added entrance that is separate from that to the main building.



Challenges

- City of Boston permitting process
- Getting everyone to understand that we are building a program, not just housing – for our model of services, the two are inseparable – and getting funding for the child care program.
- Ensuring that the project came in on schedule and on budget.
- Designing the project you have for X number of children – the number changes drastically due to square footage requirements.

Advice

- Let children incorporate their ideas.
- Hire a good Project Manager.
- Get all your ducks lined up before you start the project i.e. Talk to all potential funders before you start and keep communications open throughout the process

# Children Served	26
# Slots Improved	39
# Slots Added	13
# Employees	4
Total Project Cost	\$423,000
Size of Program Space	2,200 square ft.
Time to Complete	2 years
Sources of Funds	Childcare Trust Corporations Individuals Foundations

For more information about Brookview House, visit their website:
www.brookviewhouse.org