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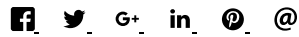
Peabody event highlights Bed for Every Child campaign

By Mary Markos Staff Writer Dec 15, 2017



Ken Yuszkus/Staff photo Kai Potter skates with help from Bruins' mascot, Blade, during a charity event for the Bed for Every Child campaign Friday at the McVann-O'Keefe Skating Rink in Peabody.

Ken Yuszkus



PEABODY — Three boys who have been sharing a king-size bed with their mother since they moved from Alabama in the fall finally have a bed of their own.

Kevin, 11, Kevion, 8, and Kailyon Morrissey, 6, are among 500 children in the state to receive a free bed this year under A Bed for Every Child, an initiative of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

The coalition partnered with the Boston Bruins and Bob's Discount Furniture this year to give beds to children whose families otherwise couldn't afford one.

"We came here with pretty much nothing. This community has been so helpful for us," the boys' mother, Tiffany Morrissey, 31, said. The family moved to Lynn in September. "It makes me feel like they're stepping in to help out — it makes me feel like I'm being loved."

Morrissey, whose parents live in Lynn, is working part-time as a cashier to pay her way through nursing school.

The family joined more than 40 fifth-graders from the Lincoln-Thomson Elementary School and others at the McVann-O'Keefe Skating Rink Friday for an event designed to raise awareness for the initiative. Twenty twin beds with Bruins themed bedding were on display. About half of the children at the event received a bed.

The coalition, an organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Massachusetts, launched A Bed for Every Child campaign about four and a half years ago with a goal to deliver 250 beds by Christmas for children without their own bed. With a donation of 250 beds, Bob's Discount Furniture helped the coalition double its goal this year.

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