Come see how we’ve grown – with your help!
Thank you for helping us make fiscal year 2014 our most successful ever.

**WE SERVED**

23,569 children and parents this year. That's double the number we served just five years ago!

**OUR MISSION**

Beech Acres Parenting Center inspires and equips today’s parents, families, and communities to raise capable, caring, contributing children.

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**FOOTNOTES:**

* Indicates a gift through a fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
$ Indicates this donor has recently passed away

**THE BEECH ACRES PLEDGE**

Every dollar you give goes directly to programs.
Growing great families together

We're growing great families together—you, along with all of us here at Beech Acres Parenting Center, and everyone in our community. Last year, we served 23,569 children, parents, and other dedicated adults, double the number we served just five years ago. How's that for growth?

Families grow as they add new members, and children grow up a little with each passing day. If you're a parent, you know that all too well. By using the resources we offer, families also grow stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

Throughout this report you'll see how.

You'll read about a young girl who came to us directly from residential care and really struggling. She was one of 407 people we reached this year in Warren County. We opened an office in Lebanon this past year, along with one in Butler County, and became the therapy provider for the Warren County Learning Center.

You'll also read about a couple who thought their marriage was at its end, before they learned how to communicate through our Building Strong Marriages & Relationships program—which served more than 2,000 people this year. You'll meet a mother who overcame her skepticism about our Parent Education classes and a family who has adopted four foster children. Each of these is but one example of our impact on the community.

Parents and children come to us with everything from day-to-day parenting questions to serious emotional trauma. We serve each person and family as the unique individuals they are and connect them with the resources that address their specific circumstances. This year we served more children and families than ever before. We learned new things and grew stronger and better at what we do. But we didn't do it alone. You nurtured our development by contributing 55% more to our annual fund than in the previous year and 79% more than two years ago.

That's how we grow together.

Our 2015 fiscal year is already underway, and it holds great promise. One project we're particularly hopeful about is a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. That grant will enable us and our partner, the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, to help fathers build lasting family connections, especially when they have recently returned from incarceration or are recovering from substance abuse. To stay up to date with this exciting project and all that we're doing, please sign up for our bi-weekly e-mail newsletter. Simply visit beechacres.org and enter your e-mail address on our homepage.

Thank you for being part of our family, and for letting us play a part in yours.

Sincerely,

James R. Mason
President & CEO
What’s keeping kids from growing up to be their best?

Across the country, kids aren’t able to grow up the best they can be, because the odds are stacked against them.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
- More than 400,000 abused and neglected children are in need of foster care nation-wide.
- Only 50% of them graduate from high school.

According to the Pew Charitable Trust, more than 20,000 children repeat kindergarten each year in the United States—because they enter unprepared.

Kids who grow up in single-parent homes are
- Almost 20% less likely to graduate from high school.
- 10% more likely to develop a health problem.
- Twice as likely to become divorced as adults...perpetuating the cycle.

80% of low-income children cannot read by third grade, a key warning sign that they may never graduate from high school.

According to Childhelp, 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the cycle.

State-wide, only 47% of children who are removed from their homes—generally due to abuse or neglect—become reunited with their families of origin.

Read on to learn how you’re helping kids to grow capable and confident, by investing in Beech Acres Parenting Center.

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A light at the end of the tunnel

In the fall of 2013, Beech Acres became the therapeutic service partner for the Warren County Learning Center, a school in Franklin, Ohio for children experiencing social and emotional problems which prevent them from being successful in the typical school setting. Beech Acres’ work there is funded by Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties and the Warren County Educational Services Center. Samantha Fehling works for Beech Acres as an outpatient mental health therapist and the team lead there. She shared this story about a child she worked with this past school year.

I began working with a 16-year-old girl in January. Let’s call her Rachel.

Rachel had just spent a year in residential care, and was coming to our school to smooth the transition back into her home. She was struggling. When she looked in the mirror, she hated who she saw looking back at her. She fought the urge to hurt herself. She was having major conflict with her parents and struggled to form appropriate friendships.

For a therapist, treating a young person like this can feel overwhelming.

Thankfully, when I began working with Rachel, I had the support of my team. When I felt I had hit a wall, I was able to talk to Sharidon Wolz, our Program Director for Behavioral Health and Child Welfare, for encouragement and guidance.

We linked Rachel’s parents with Stacey Richardson, our parent peer support worker in the school, a fellow mom who also had a daughter in our program. We assigned Rachel a behavioral support worker who found additional outside resources for her and helped build her social and emotional skills.

I used Beech Acres’ resources to bring the best of myself to each session with Rachel, in order to bring out the best in her.

Over the semester, Rachel made tremendous progress. I’m proud to report that she successfully graduated from our program.

When I saw Rachel and her mom on the last day of school, her mom embraced me. I’ll never forget what she said to me:

“Thank you for believing in my daughter and in my family. Thank you for bringing us together to help make a difference in my daughter’s life. No one has ever been able to do that before.”

See, Rachel’s mom knew they still had a long road ahead, but she also knew there was a road ahead, and that is a victory in itself.

Now, Rachel is enrolled in Warren County Career Center and is making new friends. This fall she attended her first homecoming, something she has not been able to do before. Her mother says, “I sometimes think back over the past just so I can see how far she has come and how much my family has grown.”

Sometimes it feels like there’s no light at the end of the tunnel, but that is exactly the joy of our job—to show families the way to that light.

Our school coordinators are the “go to” people for crisis situations in schools. We make sure there are friendly faces, armed with therapeutic interventions and in-depth knowledge of school and community services, to support students, parents, teachers, counselors and principals. The result is that children in “crisis” can stay in school where they can succeed. This year, you provided $50,000 to make these services happen! Visit beechacres.org/coordinator to read a success story.

• Last year we provided 6,301 hours of therapy to children.
• We served 2,912 parents and children through our behavioral health services.
• We worked in 19 different schools.
In every program, Beech Acres begins from the assumption that all parents love their children and want what's best for them. We provide parenting solutions to bring out the best in each family—through every stage of life.

A coach in her corner

Mary could hardly believe her son was already ten—he was growing up so fast. Ryan asked if he could stay home alone after school. Many of his friends were already doing it, but it was a decision no parent would make lightly.

Mary scheduled a parent coaching session with Sharon James, one of Beech Acres’ parent educators. They talked through the pros and cons, and discussed Ryan’s strengths. They reviewed some talking points and some ideas for assessing whether Ryan was ready for the responsibility. Following Sharon’s guidance, Mary had a great talk with Ryan that night. She and her husband decided to let Ryan try coming home after school alone. After trying it once, then a few days a week, he showed he could handle it. Now, several months have passed and Ryan is doing great. Mary feels she found a trusted friend in Beech Acres and is confident in her choice.

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You provided 90 backpacks filled with supplies for kids whose parents couldn’t afford them.

We served 5,587 parents and children through our Parenting Solutions in fiscal year 2014.

A letter from a participant

Being in the Beech Acres program has really helped me and my family. When we first started with the program, I was devastated. I felt like I didn’t need the coaching. As I kept going, I’ve learned that I’m not perfect. I learned how to communicate better with my kids and learned that there are other ways to discipline. My kids trust me now and I have Beech Acres to thank.

-T. S.
My husband was reluctant to attend, but agreed to go for the sake of our marriage. To my surprise, my usually introverted husband was transformed and actively participated in the class. Beech Acres’ facilitators are excellent! They didn’t have us sit in a boring, lecture-style class. Their teaching style radiates their passion for what they’re doing. We left with a renewed energy to make our marriage work.

– LaShanna

Read LaShanna and Michael’s full story on our blog: beechacres.org/marriage-story

In FY14, we served more than 2,000 people through our Building Strong Marriages & Relationships program.

Parents who stay together have kids with better odds for success in school, work, health, and adult relationships.

90% of adult participants in these classes reported an increase in their communication and conflict management skills.

You provided $14,000 worth of holiday gifts for families who would have gone without. That means 115 families had a happier holiday!
Beth and Scott Lammers just knew that becoming foster parents was the right thing for them. When they decided it was time to become licensed, they thought immediately of Beech Acres. They had heard that Beech Acres advocates for the whole family, not just for the children.

“As we were going through classes we knew,” Beth says. “We wanted to do it tomorrow.”

Beech Acres provides thorough training and home visits before parents can become licensed, along with ongoing training and support once there are foster children in the home.

The Lammers knew a family who had been caring for two young nephews and were not going to be able to continue doing so. With encouragement from their teenage son, the Lammers took in the brothers. Soon after, Beth got a phone call about twins born at 34 weeks with complications, whose parents were unable to care for them. They’ve been around for the biggest moments of our lives.”

Read more and see photos of the Lammers family at beechacres.org/foster-family

There was a time, Beth says, when she spoke to their Beech Acres social worker, Becca Hammoor, every day. Becca was always there to support them, through visits with biological families, doctor’s visits, and scary diagnoses. “I feel like the social workers at Beech Acres are my true friends. They’ve been around for the biggest moments of our lives.”

We licensed 13 new foster homes this year.

Some foster children, like the Lammers’, go on to be adopted. But whenever possible we work to reunite children with their families of origin. One way we do this is through our highly successful Intensive Family Restoration Services (IFRS) program.

- This year we doubled the number of parents and children we served through IFRS to 413.
- 79% of kids in IFRS were successfully reunited with their families, compared with a national average of 50%.

Stability, for a foster child placed through Beech Acres, well exceeds the national average.

You nurtured our development by contributing 55% more to our annual fund than in the previous year and 79% more than two years ago.
Foster Care and Intensive Family Restoration Services

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FINANCIALS

| Net Assets Beginning of Year | $57,995,575 |
| Net Assets End of Year (6/30/2014) | $66,193,776 |

Expenses

- Development: 301,114 (3%)
- Administration: 492,592 (6%)
- Program Services: 8,036,337 (91%)

TOTAL: 8,830,043 (100%)

Income

- Beech Acres Investment: 2,288,287 (26%)
- Community Support: 1,178,780 (13%)
- Program Services: 5,362,976 (61%)

TOTAL: 8,830,043 (100%)
My husband was reluctant to attend, but agreed to go for the sake of our marriage. To my surprise, my usually introverted husband was transformed and actively participated in the class. Beech Acres’ facilitators are excellent! They didn’t have us sit in a boring, lecture-style class. Their teaching style radiates their passion for what they’re doing. We left with a renewed energy to make our marriage work.

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For a therapist, treating a young person like this can feel overwhelming. Thankfully, when I began working with Rachel, I had the support of my team. When I felt I had hit a wall, I was able to talk to Sharidon Wolz, our Program Director for Behavioral Health and Child Welfare, for encouragement and guidance.

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When I saw Rachel and her mom on the last day of school, her mom embraced me. I’ll never forget what she said to me:

“Thank you for believing in my daughter and in my family. Thank you for bringing us together to help make a difference in my daughter’s life. No one has ever been able to do that before.”

See, Rachel’s mom knew they still had a long road ahead, but she also knew there was a road ahead, and that is a victory in itself. Now, Rachel is enrolled in Warren County Career Center and is making new friends. This fall she attended her first homecoming, something she has not been able to do before. Her mother says, “I sometimes think back over the past just so I can see how far she has come and how much my family has grown.”

Sometimes it feels like there’s no light at the end of the tunnel, but that is exactly the joy of our job—to show families the way to that light.

Our school coordinators are the “go to” people for crisis situations in schools. We make sure there are friendly faces, armed with therapeutic interventions and in-depth knowledge of school and community services, to support students, parents, teachers, counselors and principals. The result is that children in “crisis” can stay in school where they can succeed. This year, you provided $50,000 to make these services happen! Visit beechacres.org/coordinator to read a success story.

I used Beech Acres’ resources to bring the best of myself to each session with Rachel, in order to bring out the best in her. Over the semester, Rachel made tremendous progress. I’m proud to report that she successfully graduated from our program.

When I saw Rachel and her mom on the last day of school, her mom embraced me. I’ll never forget what she said to me:

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Sometimes it feels like there’s no light at the end of the tunnel, but that is exactly the joy of our job—to show families the way to that light.

- Last year we provided 6,301 hours of therapy to children.
- We served 2,912 parents and children through our behavioral health services.
- We worked in 19 different schools.
What’s keeping kids from growing up to be their best? 

Across the country, kids aren’t able to grow up the best they can be, because the odds are stacked against them.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
- More than 400,000 abused and neglected children are in need of foster care nation-wide.
- Only 50% of them graduate from high school.

According to the Pew Charitable Trust, more than 20,000 children repeat kindergarten each year in the United States—because they enter unprepared.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health:
- 46% of children, at some point during their lives, have a mental health disorder.
- 50% never get the treatment they need.

Kids who grow up in single-parent homes are
- Almost 20% less likely to graduate from high school.
- 10% more likely to develop a health problem.
- Twice as likely to become divorced as adults…perpetuating the cycle.

Across the country, kids aren’t able to grow up the best they can be, because the odds are stacked against them.

80% of low-income children cannot read by third grade, a key warning sign that they may never graduate from high school.

State-wide, only 47% of children who are removed from their homes—generally due to abuse or neglect—become reunited with their families of origin.

According to Childhelp, 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the cycle.

Read on to learn how you’re helping kids to grow capable and confident, by investing in Beech Acres Parenting Center.
Growing great families together

We're growing great families together—you, along with all of us here at Beech Acres Parenting Center, and everyone in our community. Last year, we served 23,569 children, parents, and other dedicated adults, double the number we served just five years ago. How's that for growth?

Families grow as they add new members, and children grow up a little with each passing day. If you're a parent, you know that all too well. By using the resources we offer, families also grow stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

Throughout this report you'll see how.

You'll read about a young girl who came to us directly from residential care and really struggling. She was one of 407 people we reached this year in Warren County. We opened an office in Lebanon this past year, along with one in Butler County, and became the therapy provider for the Warren County Learning Center.

You'll also read about a couple who thought their marriage was at its end, before they learned how to communicate through our Building Strong Marriages & Relationships program—which served more than 2,000 people this year. You'll meet a mother who overcame her skepticism about our Parent Education classes and a family who has adopted four foster children. Each of these is but one example of our impact on the community.

Parents and children come to us with everything from day-to-day parenting questions to serious emotional trauma. We serve each person and family as the unique individuals they are and connect them with the resources that address their specific circumstances. This year we served more children and families than ever before. We learned new things and grew stronger and better at what we do. But we didn't do it alone. You nurtured our development by contributing 55% more to our annual fund than in the previous year and 79% more than two years ago.

That's how we grow together.

Our 2015 fiscal year is already underway, and it holds great promise. One project we're particularly hopeful about is a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. That grant will enable us and our partner, the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, to help fathers build lasting family connections, especially when they have recently returned from incarceration or are recovering from substance abuse. To stay up to date with this exciting project and all that we're doing, please sign up for our bi-weekly e-mail newsletter. Simply visit beechacres.org and enter your e-mail address on our homepage.

Thank you for being part of our family, and for letting us play a part in yours.

Sincerely,

James R. Mason
President & CEO

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23,569 children and parents this year.

That’s double the number we served just five years ago!

**OUR MISSION**

Beech Acres Parenting Center inspires and equips today’s parents, families, and communities to raise capable, caring, contributing children.

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GROWING GREAT FAMILIES TOGETHER

fiscal year 2014 annual report