



## BEECH ACRES RECEIVES HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRANT

**Cincinnati, Ohio** – A Beech Acres Parenting Center project has been selected to receive a grant from the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child (HCDC) that will allow it to integrate a focus on building executive function skills into its current peer mentoring programming for parents and caregivers. Beech Acres was one of only six organizations selected to work with the Harvard center on this nationally competitive grant.

According to HCDC, executive function and self-regulation skills are like an air traffic control system in the brain. These skills help us to manage multiple streams of information, make decisions and plan ahead. Developing these skills is very important to how well people perform in life. While no one is born with them, we are all born with the potential to develop them. Significant childhood stress can interfere with the adult development of these skills. HCDC research has shown that improving executive function among adults leads to better quality parenting and economic self-sufficiency.

“Focusing on these critical executive function skills has led to exceptional results for families in other parts of the country, and we’re excited to bring this nationally-recognized framework for programming to support families here in Greater Cincinnati,” said Jim Mason, president and CEO of Beech Acres Parenting Center.

Beech Acres will be modeling its offerings from a similar program already underway in Colorado. The difference will be leveraging Beech Acres’ peer mentors. Peer mentors frequently have walked a similar path in their parenting journey to those they mentor, and their experiences offer a unique lens to their support. Beech Acres will incorporate executive function skill development into its existing partnerships with local schools in Greater Cincinnati.

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### **About Beech Acres:**

*At Beech Acres Parenting Center, we uncover the natural gifts of children by unleashing the power of parents and caregivers. As a contemporary parenting center, BAPC serves over 17,000 people annually through a wide range of services including foster care, kinship care, adoption, behavioral health support in schools, parent coaching and much more. All of our programs are founded in our Natural Strength Parenting™ framework which enables parents to unlock their own potential by building on their unique strengths. For more information, visit [www.beechacres.org](http://www.beechacres.org).*

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