

INSIDERS' SCOOP

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**FOUNDED
IN 1849** IN
RESPONSE TO
THE CHOLERA
EPIDEMIC.

THANKS TO YOU, STILL
HELPING **KIDS** AND **FAMILIES**
DURING **TODAY'S** PANDEMIC.

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You are helping students learn, teachers teach, and parents engage – especially during this unprecedented time.

Beech Acres was founded in 1849 at the height of a cholera epidemic. When thousands of parents died, compassionate and visionary citizens came together and built a clean, modern orphanage for kids to grow into contributing citizens.

Thanks to compassionate and visionary citizens like **YOU**, Beech Acres Parenting Center is still here to meet this modern challenge. Our mission-driven, adaptable spirit has sustained time, but our work has changed dramatically over the years.

Thanks to **YOU** Beech Acres Parenting Center has made a significant investment in partnering with schools; because today, parents and teachers are the adults with a primary effect on creating successful futures for children.

I never imagined when schools opened last August that they would stand empty for 2½ months. The **COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly impacted everyone's lives** and dramatically shifted our daily routines in previously unimaginable ways.

Fortunately, **YOUR support has enabled us to leverage virtual technology with the creativity and commitment of Beech Acres staff to ensure children and families continue to get what they need...** as you will see in this issue of Insider's Scoop. We have partnered with school principals, checked in with hundreds of parents, delivered laptops to children with no previous internet access, provided food and household necessities, delivered tele-counseling to hundreds of children, and even conducted virtual training for teachers.

No one knows what school will look like in the fall. Still closed? Two days/week in the building plus virtual? Completely open? Thanks to **YOUR support**, we will be prepared for any of those possibilities. After months of quarantine and no school children, parents and teachers will be more stressed than ever at the beginning of the school year.

Our services will be more important than ever. Helping students, teachers and parents adapt to the 'new normal' during COVID-19 is essential to promoting their security and well-being.

Our enduring partnership with our generous supporters has enabled Beech Acres to adapt to big changes in society for 170 years. And because of **YOU**, we will continue to thrive as we deliver our steadfast mission of inspiring and equipping today's parents, families and communities to raise capable caring, contributing children. **Together, we got this!!**

Be Well,

James R. Mason
President & CEO



Your support of *Beyond the Classroom*[™] and *Kinship Connections* helped Tanner succeed at Sayler Park School

Why would a new student miss almost every day of the first five weeks of school?

Belove Moore, the Beech Acres Peer Support Provider, made a connection with his home and discovered that Tanner* was being taken care of by his grandmother – and she needed help.

After connecting with support through our *Kinship Connections* program, grandma and Tanner began to have more stability in their lives, which led to improved attendance.

Your gift empowered grandma to be more confident in raising Tanner and helped improve his attendance.

Once Tanner returned to school, it became clear why he did not want to come to school. **He demonstrated sensory needs that presented an obstacle for him to fully engage in certain areas of the school and times of the day – which is what he was trying to avoid by staying at home.**

His sensory issues coupled with increased anxiety was causing him to feel disconnected from his teachers. Our team was able to advocate for him to the teachers and find ways for them to connect through his strengths of curiosity, perseverance, and love of learning.

Your generosity provides valuable mental health services right where children need them most – in schools.



Having access to mental health services right in Sayler Park School **eliminated the transportation barrier. Tanner began making major progress across all areas;** his truancy decreased, he made great strides in therapy, his grades improved, he was making friends.

Because of you, Tanner was thriving.

Then, just days away from being released from services, Tanner's grandmother suddenly died.

Tanner switched schools to live with his uncle, but our team stayed with him to help him during his grieving and transition. Fortunately, because of earlier interventions, Tanner had developed the resilience he needed to continue to succeed.

Thanks to you, Tanner and hundreds of students with a challenging story of their own, are provided with the tools they need to overcome their obstacles and be successful.

*Names have been changed to protect clients' privacy.

Thanks to YOU, the work

A child's anxiety is lessened when she learns she can connect to her therapist via telehealth

The importance of regular mental health check-ins, especially during times of uncertainty, is obvious. **But how well can therapists connect with their clients over a computer screen?** Courtney Meder, a therapist at Hays-Porter Elementary School, found out during a recent online session with a client.

Courtney was discussing “feelings” with Maddie*, a 4th grader at Hays-Porter. Courtney asked when Maddie would feel certain emotions. **When talking about “worry”, Maddie said she worries that Courtney will forget to contact her on the day of their online session.**

Kids like Maddie are feeling the effects of social isolation. They're missing their friends, teachers, therapists, doctors, and family. They are missing human interaction. Therapists like Courtney have been able to quickly pivot and adapt to telehealth, **maintaining continuity of services with minimal disruptions to 652 kids like Maddie** since the crisis began.



Kids are accessing online curriculum and continuing their education

The **coronavirus pandemic laid bare inequalities in our schools around technology**, including access to equipment and reliable broadband. One family in Sayler Park found their **son unable to participate in distance learning. While they had access to broadband, they did not have equipment** for their son to connect online with his teacher and classmates.

encore
TECHNOLOGIES

After a same-day **donation of a reliable, clean laptop from Encore Technologies**, this **little guy is online and learning!**

“Since Encore’s inception, participation in our community has been core to the business. **Technology plays a greater role to access and resources for children and their learning, especially in today’s world, and enablement of that is important to our company.** We are proud to be able to donate to Beech Acres,” said Rick Dobson, Senior Vice President of Enterprise Solutions at Encore Technologies.

A mom is empowered to help her child succeed with distance learning

A single mother in the Kings Local School District was concerned after her daughter’s school moved to distance learning to comply with the state’s stay-at-home orders. Her daughter **struggles with behavioral issues at school** but was receiving the support she needed through Beech Acres’ Beyond the Classroom™ school-based program. Suddenly, mom was **responsible for not only her daughter’s emotional needs at home, she was now forced to support her academically as well.**

Alyssa Rieman, the Beech Acres Parenting Center Team Lead at her school, responded quickly to make sure this family had what they needed to survive distance learning. Together, **they created a plan to support both the student, and mom.** Mom was able to learn and implement specific interventions like those used in the classroom, with promising results in her daughter’s academics as well as an improvement to the family dynamic.

*Names have been changed to protect clients’ privacy.

continues during COVID-19

A grandmother gets groceries and cleaning supplies she needs

Ms. Myra*, a grandparent caring for four grandchildren, called looking for help. She said, “Can you help me out? **I don’t have enough food, cleaning supplies, and paper products,”** Dawn Merritt, Kinship Connections Manager recalled. **“I told her not to worry.”** Dawn visited five stores before finding the supplies she needed at a local Family Dollar. “An employee asked if she could help me find anything,” Dawn said. “I told her about Ms. Myra’s situation, and she told me to wait there.” The employee returned with two bags full of toilet paper and supplies. She said she was saving them for her own family, but it sounded like Ms. Myra needed them more. Dawn overnighted the items to Ms. Myra and her family that same day.

Struggling family is equipped to successfully navigate learning and working from home

One family was desperate for help. **Work from home, distance learning, cabin fever, and heightened stress and anxiety soon began to take its toll.** Control battles erupted everywhere. Seemingly simple, everyday routines like getting out of bed, getting dressed, completing homework, and helping with chores **became intense fights.** Boredom led to increased screen time, decreased communication, and total frustration.

Their pediatrician referred them to Dave Brewer, a Parent ConnexTM Parenting Specialist. Dave was able to work with the family remotely. **Dave helped the family view their power struggles as an opportunity for a profound shift at home. The family worked together to establish goals** including getting up at a reasonable time, completing chores, finishing their homework, and showing kindness towards their siblings. **Their “rewards” included free time, the ability to choose a fun activity or toy, and the most coveted reward of all, screen time** for Fortnite, Minecraft, and Snapchat.

Families connect with community resources for food and other needs

“You are a great blessing in these uncertain times.”

“I was able to get some food over the weekend! They officially cut our hours at work, but God is good because he sent me you and a few others to help.”

“I am forever grateful to you. I can’t thank you enough”

“I appreciate you more than you know. Thank you.”

These are just a few text **messages of gratitude** Family Peer Support provider Ja’Vana Bradford received **after recently helping families secure food and other basic needs.** Family Peer Support providers like Ja’Vana have experienced circumstances similar to their clients, so they can relate to them on a personal level and help them access community resources, behavioral health services, and meet basic needs.



We echo their messages of gratitude to YOU, our donors, who make these stories of hope possible. Thank you!

Thanks to YOU, more students and schools are getting the help they need

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM™

The Character Effect™
Being mindful. Building strengths.

2019-20 Partner Schools for Beyond the Classroom™ (BtC) and The Character Effect™ (TCE)

School	Location	Program
Academy of World Languages	Evanston	BtC
Arnett Elementary	Erlanger	TCE
Berry Intermediate	Lebanon	TCE
Cheviot Elementary	Cheviot	BtC
Cincinnati College Prep. Academy	West End	BtC and TCE
Columbia Intermediate	Landen	BtC
Corryville Catholic	Corryville	BtC
Dater Montessori	Westwood	BtC
DePaul Cristo Rey High School	Corryville	BtC
Frederick Douglass Elementary	Walnut Hills	TCE
Hampton Bennett Early Child. Ctr.	Franklin	TCE
Hays-Porter Elementary	West End	BtC and TCE
Holy Family School	East Price Hill	BtC and TCE
J.F. Burns Elementary	Kings Mills	BtC
Kings Mills Elementary	Kings Mills	BtC
Miles Elementary	Erlanger	TCE
Mt. Washington Elementary	Mt. Washington	BtC
Our Lady of Grace	Groesbeck	BtC
Oyler Elementary	Lower Price Hill	BtC
Purcell Marian High School	East Walnut Hills	BtC
Sands Montessori	Mt. Washington	BtC and TCE
Sayler Park Elementary	Sayler Park	BtC
St. Boniface	Northside	BtC
St. Clement	St. Bernard	BtC
St. Francis DeSales	East Walnut Hills	BtC
St. Joseph	West End	BtC
South Lebanon Elementary	Kings Mills	BtC
Southern Ohio Learning Center	Wilmington	BtC
Warren County Learning Center	Franklin	BtC and TCE

Your Impact:

Over 7,700 teachers, staff, parents and students have been served at 29 schools in our region this year.

Through Beyond the Classroom™

- More than a third of all families received a needs assessment check-in to ensure students and parents are getting the help they need
- 9% of students received behavioral health support
- 81% of students demonstrated emotional/behavioral improvements after receiving services

Through The Character Effect™

- *90% of teachers feel better equipped to manage classroom behavior
- *82% of teachers believe their students perform better academically
- *55% of students showed improvement in their social & emotional skills
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention designated The Character Effect™ as evidenced-based



*2018-19 results;
2019-20 currently being analyzed.

“We went from 635 annual discipline events to just 84 in the year after we introduced The Character Effect in combination with Beyond the Classroom. It has made a profound and positive impact on our learning culture in the school, BtC and TCE resources effectively guide teachers to teach and discuss social emotional issues in a safe environment.”

- Lee Vincent, Principal for grades K-3 at Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Helping kids and families succeed is only possible thanks to the support of generous donors like you and our dedicated corporate partners



Niki Lunsford of Citigroup

Citigroup Inc. Florence, which employs nearly 2,000 employees locally, made a generous financial contribution to Beech Acres Parenting Center to support the innovative work

of The Character Effect™ at Miles and Arnett Elementary schools in the Erlanger-Elsmere school district. “We are a proud partner,” said Niki Lunsford, Vice President of Communication and Public Affairs for Citigroup. “The Character Effect™ is something we truly and strongly believe in.”

Citi was attracted to The Character Effect™ because of its focus on character strengths, mindfulness, and the ability to have a powerful impact on students, teachers, and parents in their community – including their own staff. **“Education is one of our key priorities for community support,”** Lunsford said. “Beech Acres has an important mission, and The Character Effect™ enabled us to support a school in our own backyard where many of our employees’ children attend. **We like that The Character Effect™ helps kids embrace who they are and enables them to be a good student, good son or daughter, and a good friend.”**

Beyond their generous financial support, Citi was also excited about enabling their employees to engage parents at events like the Spring Strength Spectacular, **“We were really looking forward to this event! “This is something we love to do, empowering our employees to be part of the story. We had fun unicorn costumes and everything!”**

Volunteerism is an important part of Citi’s community outreach. While they are disappointed in the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on events, they look forward to remaining involved in the future. “Our employees are so generous,” Lunsford said. **“We contribute over 15,000 volunteer hours per year from our site. When the time comes, we look forward to rallying our troops to support Beech Acres Parenting Center and our other partners!”**



IT Supply Solutions

IT Supply Solutions helped bridge a technology gap that put kids at risk of falling behind in school. Shortly after the stay at home order was issued in Ohio, a new reality began to set in for families in neighborhoods across the state. Distance learning, working from home, job searching, or applying for unemployment benefits quickly began tying up valuable technology resources in homes. **Suddenly the laptop was a coveted commodity.** Even among our own staff.

And, for students receiving **school-based mental health services, access to the internet and a computer was a necessity for their continued sessions virtually**, via telehealth.

Mike Franxman, owner of IT Supply Solutions in Florence, Kentucky was able to **donate 10 computers** to Beech Acres Parenting Center and provide an additional 10 at a deep discount. **“It was just the right thing to do at the given time,”** he said. **“We all need to take advantage of that moment when we, as local businesses, can put out a helping hand and have an impact, especially on a family here in the Tri-state.** For IT Supply Solutions, that’s a no-brainer to act and make a difference.”

The donated laptops were distributed to students who needed them at Sands Montessori, Mt. Washington Elementary, Cheviot, Academy of World Languages, Dater Montessori, Our Lady of Grace, Cincinnati College

Preparatory Academy, Sayler Park School, and Hays-Porter.

The remaining 10 were deployed to Beech Acres Parenting Center staff who found themselves working from home alongside their children learning from home. The laptops helped ease some anxiety for employees who remained committed to serving Beech Acres’ parents, children, and families during the pandemic.

Thank you, Citigroup Inc. Florence and IT Supply Solutions for investing in children and families in our community!

Is your business or organization looking for ways to support the community, while engaging your employees for philanthropic and volunteer opportunities? Contact Elise Hyder 513.233.4729 or EHyder@BeechAcres.org.

EMPOWERING
PARENTS
STRENGTHENING
KIDS
TOGETHER



3

THINGS YOU
CAN DO
TO MAKE A BIG
DIFFERENCE:

1 Tune in to
Friday Facebook Live at
10 AM for parenting tips
during the pandemic

2 Pass along this publication to
a friend or neighbor

3 Donate to the Beech Acres
COVID-19 Emergency Fund
at beechacres.org/donate

