

Thanks to you families like Angela's are receiving the assistance they need to thrive



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted some communities more significantly than others. The Black community, people experiencing homelessness, single parent families, and those providing kinship care have all fared far worse as the pandemic continues to ravage our communities.

Angela, like many grandparents in Ohio, found herself in the unexpected situation of raising her three grandchildren due to an ongoing case with Child Protective Services involving their parents. Angela is a devoted and caring grandmother but

was also woefully unprepared for the challenge of raising three children. **However, her own resilience and YOUR support empowered Angela to step up when her grandchildren needed her most.**

Knowing she had to improve her housing, financial, and emotional situation to provide a safe and loving home for her grandchildren to thrive in, Angela sought out the services of Kinship Connections through Beech Acres Parenting Center.

"In the time that I have worked with Angela she has stepped up to every

challenge including relocating herself and the kids to a much safer apartment close to a playground and away from the many negative issues in her original home," Melissa Hadley, Angela's Kinship Educator said.

With their housing situation under control, Angela turned her attention to getting the children support for their mental well-being. Her primary concern was getting the children involved socially and for them to have a safe person to talk with in order to learn ways to express their emotions appropriately. **Thanks to you, Behavioral Health support is now available for kids in kinship care.**

Services began in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic which presented a challenge in working face to face with this family. Angela was flexible in using safe public locations for the children's sessions and utilizing telehealth options. Over the past two months, the children have been consistently engaged in sessions and have made progress in building rapport with the clinician. Angela has even participated in some of the fun group activities with the children, which has assisted them in positively building on their relationship.



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Continued Need for Loving Foster Homes Results in Expanded Services

Currently we have a record-breaking 116 children being cared for in our loving foster homes!

Our dedication to and expertise in providing an exceptional foster care program for more than 40 years has led to some exciting developments this year. We recently signed a new contract with Highland County expanding east of Cincinnati to include families in need in this rural county. This expansion has helped more children find caring homes to stay in while working toward reunification or adoption. "Our team has been consistently seeing referrals from other counties over the past few months,"

Tricia Raby, a Supervisor in Foster Care and Adoption said. "We were able to match and place four children (two separate sibling sets of two) recently in two of our foster homes."

Montgomery County was experiencing an increase of children needing foster care placement and approached Beech Acres for help improving their foster system. Their challenges included finding homes that could help children with mental health needs as well as keeping siblings together. We are excited about the expansion plans we are implementing in the Dayton region to help children find the supportive and loving homes they deserve.

Another recent innovation is our pivot to virtual pre-service training as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This provided easier access to interested families who may have previously been unable to attend in-person training. We even welcomed parents from Nicaragua to a recent training taking our awesome foster care training international!

Thanks to your continued support, our foster program is expanding, and our foster parents can build on their skills to meet the needs of children in Hamilton, Highland and Montgomery County.



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How about some good news!

This year “good news” has not been particularly easy to come by. I feel fortunate to be able to deliver some great news about Beech Acres Parenting Center, alongside some bittersweet, but also good personal news.

First, I am thrilled to say that despite the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and compounded by unprecedented demands for racial justice, Beech Acres Parenting Center has found a way to not only survive, but to grow and thrive. Thanks in large part to your continued and unwavering support of our organization and the parents, families, and communities we serve.

We’ve seen tremendous and exciting growth in our Child Welfare continuum: Foster Care, Parent Enrichment, and Kinship Connections. Foster Care continues to be an important and growing need in our community. Our team, under the leadership of Rická Berry and Jessica Thompson, expanded its reach with a new contract with Highland County. Because of you we are now offering virtual training, significantly opening up the opportunity for loving parents to begin their foster care journey. With the ability to provide pre-service training classes virtually, we were able to enroll two attendees currently living in Nicaragua!

Kinship Connections expanded to its 5th county, increasing its ability to reach more grandparents and kin caregivers as that population continues to grow in volume and need. Thanks to your generosity we also began implementing Behavioral Health services and are already actively seeing children in care.

Our Parent Enrichment Program, which provides struggling parents with the training they need to reunite with their children, received a grant which doubled our capacity for services in Hamilton County.

Our newer programs also saw significant growth as well. The Character Effect™ TRIPLED in size locally and also expanded NATIONWIDE securing contracts in Texas. Parent Connex™

continued steady growth by offering support to all Tri-Health employees during the pandemic.

None of this exciting growth would be possible without supporters like you.

This successful expansion reminded me that Beech Acres remains solid and poised for the future. This organization was created out of need during a pandemic in 1849 and faces a different need during a pandemic in 2020. We’ve been able to pivot to meet the ever-changing needs of parents, families and children for over 170 years, and we have never been better positioned to address the needs of parents now and in the future.

With that said, after 42 years, I have decided to retire from Beech Acres Parenting Center effective June 2021. I am very grateful for what we’ve accomplished together as donors, staff, board, and community partners. And I am very enthusiastic about life’s next chapter with my wife, Debby, our three terrific kids, their spouses, and eight fabulous grandkids. I look forward to lots of fun with family and friends, while embracing new opportunities for meaning and contribution. I leave a financially strong organization with a mission-driven, innovative staff and board as the solid foundation for a new CEO to co-create new levels of impact I can’t even imagine.

Thank you for your support these 42 years. With your continued support, Beech Acres will continue to deliver our mission of inspiring and equipping today’s parents, families, and communities to raise capable, caring, and contributing children for generations to come.

I expect to be around until next June, so feel free to connect to say ‘so long’.

James R. Mason
President & CEO



With YOUR help The Character Effect™ has tripled over last year in persons served...and expands nationally!

Thanks to you, we are serving over 15,000 students, teachers, parents, and other school staff!

This universal social and emotional program focuses on self-care for teachers, which is much needed during this challenging and stressful year. Already, the team has successfully facilitated virtual trainings for over 600 teachers and staff.

We’re also excited to be taking The Character Effect™ nationally with the full program being implemented at a small school in Texas! The assistant director was thrilled to find a program best suited for her school: *“I am excited to have the program and to make an impact with teachers and the students. In conversations with the director, there is such a need and she gave me the trust to find the right one and I feel like I have.”*



Adapting to this new world, Linda Felder and Sean Guiliano augmented a scheduled parent drive-through at Pennyroyal Elementary School in Franklin, OH by passing out The Character Effect™ cookies, welcome letters and a character strength activity.

Driving for Solutions and Giving Back



“Beech Acres is a great example of an organization that reinvented itself over many years to better address its mission. Jim Mason and his team have transitioned Beech Acres from an orphanage to a parenting center. Great example of an organization driving for solutions rather than treating the symptoms! We love Beech Acres!” - Bill and Jenny McCloy

Bill and Jenny McCloy have long supported the mission and vision of Beech Acres Parenting Center. Being awesome parents to four children naturally engendered them to support Beech Acres but their philanthropic spirit doesn’t end there. The McCloy’s support several local organizations including the Boys and Girls Club of

West Chester/Liberty, DePaul Cristo Rey High School, LADD, Life Town, The Learning Experience, St. Vincent de Paul, Stepping Stones, St. Joseph Home, and The OSU Fisher Business school alumni board. Bill McCloy also serves as President of the board of directors of Ken Anderson Alliance (KAA) and Jenny McCloy serves as board chair for Melodic Connections.

The McCloy’s philanthropic spirit was ignited with the birth of their second son, Sam, who was born with Down syndrome. This led to their connection with and their support of the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati. Witnessing Sam’s perseverance sparked a desire in the McCloy’s to give back and make the world a better place for everyone, particularly those with disabilities.

The McCloy’s support of the community goes beyond generous financial contributions to these organizations. Jenny and Bill are actively involved in the community and engaged in the causes they support. Beech Acres Parenting Center President & CEO met Bill through Vistage, a leadership organization for executives. Jim and

Bill recognized in each other a kindred spirit of innovation that brought them together. “Bill’s an innovator and an entrepreneur,” Mason reflected. “He thinks outside the box.”

That “outside the box” mentality which has sustained Beech Acres Parenting Center for over 170 years resonated with Bill, particularly our innovative efforts to bring Natural Strength Parent Coaching to the business as a benefit to their employees. “Every corporation should be offering Beech Acres services to their employees,” Bill said.

Bill and Jenny’s passion for philanthropy, leadership in the community, and their incredibly generous spirit have not gone unnoticed. The couple were recently recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cincinnati Chapter as the 2020 Philanthropists of the Year! This much deserved honor reflects the impact the McCloy’s have had not only on Beech Acres Parenting Center but on the Greater Cincinnati community and the world. Thank you, Bill and Jenny for your generous spirit and zest for giving back to the community.