

Beech Acres recognizes foster, kinship parents for decades service

By Peter Osborne
KeyPoint

Beech Acres Parenting Center, which for over 40 years has been providing foster care and kinship care programs for children in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and Montgomery County, recognized kinship care and foster parents who have provided five or more years of service in a special night of thanks on May 12 at the American Sign Museum in

Cincinnati. This program, sponsored by the TQL Foundation, took place during National Foster Care Awareness Month.

Every night in Hamilton County, more than 1,500 children are in need of a loving foster home. Statewide, more than 16,000 children are in Ohio's foster care system. Beech Acres provides comprehensive training, ongoing support, and peer connections to ensure foster parents can be

successful. Foster parenting is an enormously rewarding experience — providing a loving home to the most vulnerable children in the community. More information about becoming a foster parent is available at beechacres.org.

This year, Beech Acres placed added emphasis on supporting kinship care parents — the aunts, uncles, grandparents and other family members who are often pressed into service at

a moment's notice to care for a loved one's child. Kinship caregivers reduce traumatic experiences for children because they are more likely to know and understand the child's circumstances and needs. Beech Acres provides support to help kinship providers keep children in a familiar family setting. Nationwide, 2.7 million U.S. children are living in kinship care situations.



Beech Acres CEO Laura Mitchell (left) and Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney. Kearney read a Proclamation from the City of Cincinnati declaring May 12, 2023 as "Beech Acres Day" in Cincinnati. Photo contributed.