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**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

1. Join a dynamic group of volunteers who want to help Beech Acres make a positive impact on children and families.
2. Plant a Beech-Family Tree and share your family's love story to help seed a strong future for us all.
3. Stay up to date with Beech Acres and give us a follow on social media.



2024 Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

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## Young Moms Harness Their Innate Strengths

We are excited to be ending this fiscal year stronger than ever. With a focus on three key areas of impact: youth well-being, upstream prevention, and policy & advocacy initiatives, we have fueled real change by **building strong relationships in families and across communities** that together set the foundation for tomorrow's strong future.



A strategic priority this year has been to provide help to those not easy to reach, individuals with significant unmet needs at the margins of society who are often underserved. Since we know our Natural Strengths Practices can make a difference in their lives, we want to be there to **support the personal transformation and the systematic change essential to growth.**

With this critical perspective in mind, we had the privilege of **launching a groundbreaking program at Dohn's KTMIS School (Keeping Teen Moms in School)**. This was the brainchild of The Character Effect™ Specialist, Linda Felder, who branded the initiative as "My Destiny Awaits Me." It is a one-of-a-kind approach where Beech Acres coaches provide **monthly in-school workshops helping dozens of young moms harness their innate strengths. Our goal has been to ensure these girls finish high school and pursue careers with the self-confidence and agility needed to thrive.**

Our trailblazing work at Dohn's school is thanks to the passionate collaboration between Linda, Parent Connex® specialist, Dawn Merritt, and Beyond the Classroom™ Behavioral Specialist, Chandra Hyman. Not only did this tireless team champion and execute this program, but they also brought



in external partners such as Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Cincinnati Zoo, supplementing the young moms' critical needs with resources like car seats and interactive workshops.

They combined fun activations like "Affirmation Jars" and the creation of strength bracelets with authentic conversations built on sincere connections. Their support **infused the young moms with renewed hope**, providing them with the everyday strength-building tools needed to flourish.

This wonderful example of collaboration across our programs speaks for itself. The proof of impact is Dohn School leadership asking us to expand our presence next school year with a request for daily on-site support. **We are excited to meet this challenge.** Grateful to be in the position to keep moving this invaluable work forward, we look to the future of potentially expanding to similar communities across the region and beyond.

Thank you for your generous support that makes it all possible. **We couldn't plant seeds of positive change without you.** Nor could we nurture the strong relationships in hard-to-reach spaces that are essential to healing humanity during these challenging times.

*Laura*

Laura Mitchell, President & CEO

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

**Meet Mike Camery and Jackie Dieckman, dedicated supporters of Beech Acres Parenting Center** since 2011. Their generosity began with donations to fuel our in-kind holiday and back-to-school programs, which later sparked their commitment to give on a monthly basis. Jackie recalls when they transitioned from yearly to monthly giving, "We know that once you buy school supplies, you still need groceries on the table and all the other things for a successful home life. Rather than just providing a monetary gift, you work with the families and teach them how to be the kind of parents that their children need. We looked at our finances and decided **this is something we want to do because we believe in your mission and purpose.**"

For those considering monthly giving, Mike and Jackie encourage donors to look at the needs in the community. "Times are always changing. We see news stories of young

people getting in trouble every night. Perhaps if they had better guidance, their lives would be different. **Families are often struggling because they don't have the emotional tools to deal with the tough situations they are in.**"

Mike and Jackie, your steadfast dedication propels our work forward and transforms lives. Thank you for five years of unwavering philanthropic support. Your commitment has made a direct impact in expanding Beech Acres' services that promote strong families and thriving children.

Interested in joining Mike and Jackie as a monthly donor? Scan the QR code to make a lasting impact. Together, we can build stronger families and communities.



**"You are serving the community in the best way and we support that."**



The Ida C. Kayser Trust, Fifth Third Bank Trustee, Jones Family Trust, and Robert & Adele Schiff Family Foundation

# JOURNEY WITH JANEL



Grappling with the recent loss of her brother and unforeseen housing instability, Janel suddenly found **her world turned upside down**.

Struggling to cope, she grew concerned about the toll it was taking on her daughter. In her quest for support, Janel contacted Job & Family Services to learn about available resources. She never imagined this would set motion to her most trying experience yet. In an unexpected turn of events, Janel's daughter was placed in foster care.

***"My baby had never been away from me," Janel explained. Having grown up in the foster care system herself, she never envisioned her daughter having to share the same experience.***

Desperate and overwhelmed, Janel was referred to Beech Acres for visitation services. From the first interaction, she could sense something different. "They wanted to get to know me before reading my file and didn't make assumptions about what happened. They treated me like a person."

Soon after, Janel was paired with a Family Specialist who began coordinating visitation with her daughter. She recalls their time spent together partaking in various activities, such as reading books and making art projects. Though Janel treasured the visits, she could not overlook that they all ended in the same painful goodbye. Battling the weight of her circumstances, she received consistent support from Beech Acres, reminding her to lead with communication and the power of patience.

The steady progression of growth started to become visible to Janel and others. Continued practice of **healthy coping skills and parent coaching techniques** were accompanied by more impactful visits. With a little help from Beech Acres, Janel and her daughter celebrated her 5th birthday together with cake and gifts. Finally, it felt like she was moving in the right direction.

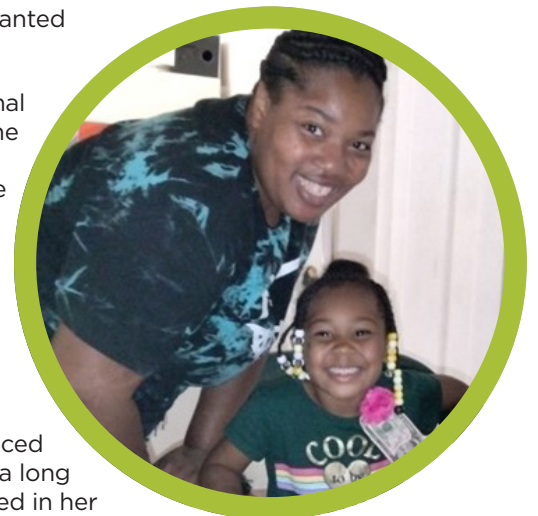
Janel's strides were soon validated, as she was notified that her progress had granted in-home visitation—bringing her one step closer in her journey.

**She forged ahead with one central focus: getting her daughter back.** As the final review of her case drew near, Janel reflected on the various peaks and valleys she had experienced on this harrowing journey. With the judge set to decide next steps toward reunification, she grasped the weight of being able to demonstrate her newfound skills in court.

The day that once seemed impossible to reach finally arrived. The hearing was underway, examining information from service providers and all legal parties.

**Beech Acres advocated for reunification, providing a detailed history of Janel's progress and positive parent-child interactions.** The court concluded its review and announced its decision: Janel's daughter was going home.

"I was happy and rejoicing. All the burning of being apart was gone and I embraced my baby. She hugged me and said, 'Mommy, you did it!' We held each other for a long time." Janel shares that what she has taken from Beech Acres is not only reflected in her parenting but through all her interactions.



***"Now I treat every moment like a super-moment because we never know how much time we have together. There are no words to describe how happy I am to be reunited."***

## On The Cover: Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

On May 10th, Beech Acres hosted its annual foster care appreciation dinner to celebrate the unsung heroes who selflessly shift the course of a child's life through love: foster parents. Thank you to our event sponsors who helped make this year's celebration a memorable evening for those who make a difference each day!

**Thank you to our generous sponsors!**



**Eric Kearney & Jan Michelle Lemon-Kearney, Jeff Ruby Foundation, Britney Hamberg, RC Capital, and Kenwood Baptist Church**

# Celebrating 175 Years

## A bold vision for strong families and thriving kids

Beech Acres is celebrating 175 years of growing strong families and thriving children! To commemorate this milestone, we are raising \$1.75M to support programs that empower all children and caregivers to reach their endless potential. Acknowledging the power of our collective impact, we welcome your participation, contribution, and/or sponsorship of Beech Acres' 175th anniversary season of events. With the generous investment of partners like yourself, we can make meaningful change in the lives of Greater Cincinnati families for another 175 years.



**Prevention  
in the Park**



**Love Grows  
Here Community  
Mosaic**



**Tree Planting  
Campaign:  
Love Grows Here**



**Love Grows  
Here Breakfast**



**The  
"Love Talks"  
Collection**



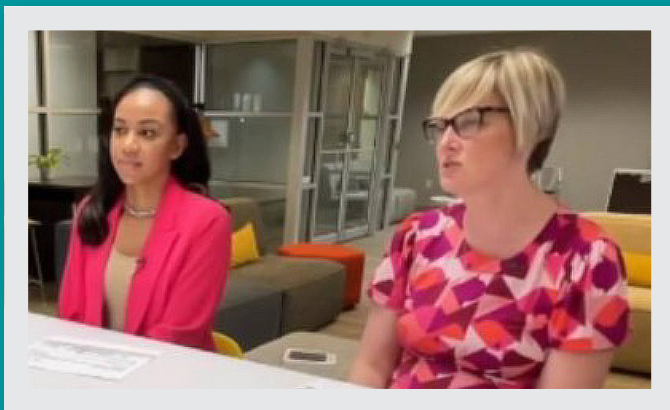
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or contact Bryan Goldman,  
Development & Fundraising  
Manager at 513.233.4729 or  
[bgoldman@beechacres.org](mailto:bgoldman@beechacres.org)



## GROWING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE



Our leaders, Dr. Carrie Bungler and Victoria Jamison recently presented the organization's strategies for preventing youth violence at the City of Cincinnati Healthy Neighborhoods Committee meeting. The collaboration has provided thousands of residents with therapy, coaching, and community support. Beech Acres stands by all those impacted by violence and appreciates the philanthropic partners who make these critical strides toward a safer community possible.

## Beech Acres receives the Donald & Marian Spencer Spirit of America Award

Thank you to the Cincinnati Association for recognizing Beech Acres Parenting Center as a recipient of the 2024 Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards! Named after Cincinnati's "First Couple of Civil Rights," the Spencer Awards honor nonprofits and businesses who exhibit conspicuous and enduring contributions to promote greater inclusion and diversity in the community.

