

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



ON A BRIGHTER PATH



BRIGHTON CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT



The Year

Everyone who turns to Brighton Center comes with a different story, a different challenge and a different goal but they all come to begin a new journey... **On A Brighter Path**. Through partnering with individuals and families, we walk on that path together as a team. We empower those we serve to accomplish their hopes and dreams through individualized bundling of services. We wrap a support system around individuals and families through our comprehensive array of 39 distinct programs which address the curves, bumps, and uphill challenges life throws in their path.

Even those who never imagined their path would lead to asking for help found that not only does hope exist, but that it's possible to come out of a dark place to an even brighter future. After 48 years of serving the community's needs, we know it takes time, support, and understanding to help families **On A Brighter Path** toward self-sufficiency.

Many of the families who turn to Brighton Center have struggles related to finding jobs paying a livable wage, affordable housing, access to quality childcare options, managing

limited finances, and pursuing educational goals without taking on additional debt. As the primary safety net in Northern Kentucky, 3,188 families this year turned to the Center during a crisis in need of food, clothing, or financial assistance. About 48% of those people had never asked for help before. We tackle the issues that lead to a crisis in the first place as a team, always keeping in mind the hopes and dreams of those we help.

We stand alongside families as they reach **A Brighter Path** through accomplishing



OUR IMPACT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS:

1,759 children in our Early Childhood Education programs enrolled for at least six months demonstrated growth in multiple domain areas.

38,319 individuals received help during a crisis, had a basic need met, and received connection to other services in the community.

1,340 women were served residentially through the Brighton Recovery Center for Women, and **83%** reported no relapse six months after completing Phase 1 of the program.

957 homes saved for families facing foreclosure.

5,020 families served with free tax preparation resulting in **\$7,600,372** in tax refunds.

2,514 homeless and runaway youth received crisis services at Homeward Bound.

38,091 individuals received workforce services such as intensive job readiness, training or placement. **88%** retained employment at six months.

in Review

educational or job training goals, saving their home from foreclosure, beating addiction to reclaim their life, celebrating a child who is ready to succeed in kindergarten, or finding employment making a livable wage with opportunities for advancement.

As an agency we take great pride in the many partnerships and collaborations we participate in to create stronger families, a better community and an empowered region. It is only together, that we make lasting change a reality.

Thanks to the generosity of so many passionate supporters, Brighton Center continues to innovate, tackle regional issues, and provide solutions to meet the needs of the community. We know the path is often long, but we never stop working to make **A Brighter Path** for tomorrow. Last year, the lives of over 84,000 individuals, from infants to senior citizens, were impacted throughout all eight counties of Northern Kentucky and beyond.

As you read incredible stories of strength and triumph, remember that the path is constantly

evolving and the work is never complete. The need is great and your support is needed more than ever to help transform lives and put individuals and families **On A Brighter Path**.


Anne Busse
Board Chair


Tammy Weidinger
President & CEO

Brighton Center at a Glance

MISSION

To create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through support services, education, employment, and leadership.



Turner Construction employees volunteer to help a family with home repairs

VISION

To be an innovative leader that strengthens the vitality of the community and engages people as they work and live to achieve their hopes and dreams.



A family excitedly shows off their purchases from the Used Toy Sale



Kyle, a member of Youth Leadership Development, shows off his high school diploma

CORE VALUES

- ▶ Each individual has inherent worth and dignity.
- ▶ All families and individuals know their situation better than anyone and are able to examine choices and make decisions that will affect their lives.
- ▶ Our community is strengthened by our partnership with families and individuals to encourage them to serve as resources to each other, and to establish, promote, and build civic, school and community responsibility.
- ▶ Our programs are community-based, accessible, appreciative of differences, operate with a minimum of bureaucracy, and have a positive impact on families and individuals.
- ▶ Our employees are committed to continual growth and change and a willingness to meet community needs. Our employees establish a respectful relationship with families and individuals that builds on and enhances strengths, and fosters involvement in community life.
- ▶ We encourage collaborative efforts that will result in better services for the families and individuals of our community.
- ▶ We offer community-wide leadership in planning and developing effective services.
- ▶ We are accountable to our community, funders, and Board of Directors for the effectiveness of the services we provide.

ACCREDITATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Brighton Center is an accredited charity through the Better Business Bureau and meets all standards for charitable accountability including governance and oversight, measuring effectiveness, finances, and fundraising.


- ▶ Our **Bright Days Child Development Center** is 3 STAR rated and accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders.
- ▶ Our **Center for Employment Training** is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and is approved to receive Title IV funding from the Department of Education.
- ▶ Our **Homeward Bound** and **Independent Living** programs are CARF accredited demonstrating that we are guided by internationally recognized service standards and best practices.

We are monitored by external funding sources. Our **Homeward Bound Shelter**, which serves homeless and runaway youth and our **Bright Days Child Development Center** must be compliant with requirements of licensing.

Building Self-Sufficiency

Brighton Center believes self-sufficiency is taking responsibility to provide for yourself and your family using available resources to maintain the best quality of life possible. Our comprehensive approach to bundling services and programs allows us to meet the often complex needs of a family. Our approach is based on a philosophy that families become our partners in creating change by sharing their hopes and dreams then setting goals to accomplish them. Self-sufficiency is a constantly evolving process and we have learned that families move through the continuum based not only on their current situation but also their long-term goals. They move back and forth through the process as new or developing opportunities, challenges, or life goals come about. These ideas guide our work, our interactions with the community, and our actions in helping people build connections, skills, and a future.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS 

6,713
youth received information about how to access a Safe Place

6,464
individuals learned about Brighton Center services through Community Engagement initiatives

3,171
seniors were reached through community education events by the Senior Medicare Patrol

BUILDING SKILLS 

13,324
individuals received workforce services such as intensive job readiness, training, or placement

1,137
individuals developed skills and increased their knowledge foundational to independent living and home retention

1,133
families made a significant step toward reaching their self-sufficiency goals

BUILDING A FUTURE 

1,023
individuals were employed a minimum of 90 days

1,796
customers, residents and seniors volunteered to strengthen and serve the community that supported them

1,155
individuals built financial assets for the future

Brighton Recovery Center for Women

Each year millions of women fall victim to the devastating grips of addiction. Women are the fastest growing segment of people with substance use issues in the U.S. and often become addicted faster, have a harder time stopping, and are frequently the last to seek help. Our region has experienced first-hand the shocking effects of addiction, however, for women who come to the Brighton Recovery Center, a second chance at life begins as they start **On A Brighter Path**.

IMPACT

75 women completed the recovery program and transitioned to aftercare

26 women entered Brighton Recovery Center's Culinary Training Program

87 percent of the Women reported no relapse after six months



Center Table, Catering with a Purpose, is a full service catering and culinary training component of the Recovery Center. Center Table provides residents in Phases I and II of the program with educational training and life skills, as well as food service certification in order to gain work in the food service industry after program completion.

Programs & Services

- ▶ Recovery Center
- ▶ Women's Jail Intervention Program
- ▶ Culinary Training Program
- ▶ Center Table



SONYA'S STORY

I started drinking and using at the age of 14. I would sneak alcohol out of my parent's liquor cabinet and fill the bottles back with water. I knew then that something was wrong. I started using drugs like marijuana and LSD in high school. Later on, I was introduced to crack cocaine. I used crack for years and would attempt to clean myself up for a few months only to fall back down again. I thought that if I tried heroin that I could stop smoking crack, and I did, but it became an even bigger problem.

I would end up in jail, or in a hospital overdosed, I robbed my family, I did things I never imagined I would. I was in and out of treatment nine times but nothing worked until I was locked up for so long that I was able to detox and get off heroin. When I was released from jail the vicious cycle would begin all over again.

My time finally came when I was arrested for a Parole Violation and was extradited to Kentucky, I spent a substantial amount of time in jail and was sentenced to **Brighton Recovery Center for Women**. While there I was introduced into a new way of life, I did what was asked of me and I changed. My time at Brighton was not an easy stroll in the woods. I struggled to find my way, to obey authority, and to not do it all my own way. It was time I tried a different way because, so far in life, my way got me nowhere. They talked about a spiritual awakening and I thought it would never happen for me, until one day I went to an AA conference and it happened like a ton of bricks. I changed, I felt amazing and for once in my life I thought that I could do this thing called life without substances. I worked the steps and magic started happening, I was granted a life better than ever imagined.

Today, I have over 5 years of sobriety. I work at the Brighton Recovery Center, the same place that saved my life. I have a wonderful family and relationships I never could have imagined. I will be graduating from the University of Cincinnati in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Substance Abuse Counseling. My plans are to complete my Masters in Mental Health Counseling and I would love to focus my work on Veterans. I have the story book life and I could not have done that without Brighton Center and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Early Childhood Education

Every child deserves access to high-quality educational experiences that ensure they are on track for success in school. Unfortunately, the reality is that many families struggle with the choice to provide basic daily necessities or critical early childhood experiences. Our early education services focus on working with parents and their children to reach important developmental milestones from birth through the start of kindergarten and beyond putting every child **On A Brighter Path**.



SABRYNA'S STORY

Sabryna enrolled in **Every Child Succeeds** early in her pregnancy. Her pregnancy was difficult, but with guidance during home visits, Sabryna learned about healthy pregnancy habits and following doctors' orders. She delivered a healthy little girl named Addy. Sabryna was excited to be a new mother, however, after she and her home visitor discussed signs of postpartum depression, Sabryna noticed that she was experiencing many of these symptoms. Her home visitor, Jamie, referred her to an in-home therapy option for families dealing with postpartum depression.

As first-time parents, Sabryna and her husband Josh have not only supported each other through the many obstacles they have faced but have also had the support of Every Child Succeeds. Sabryna continues to work on goals and discusses progress with her home visitor on a regular basis. Since enrolling in ECS she has gained employment, moved to a newer, safer apartment, enjoyed a small family vacation, started potty training with Addy, and assisted Addy in learning new concepts.

When Sabryna first started Every Child Succeeds she was in school for cosmetology, but later changed her major to early childhood education. She has said that being in the program helped with some of her classes. She is hoping that Addy can see her hard work and will develop an interest in school as well.

Sabryna and Addy progressed through the program moving from weekly visits to bi-weekly visits by always challenging Addy and taking the weekly activity or material and applying it to Addy's learning. Sabryna also has handmade blocks, counting lady bugs, and a touchy feely caterpillar as teaching tools for Addy.

Sabryna and Addy will graduate after completing Every Child Succeeds in the spring of 2015. Sabryna's transition goal is to enroll Addy in our **HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)** program to prepare her for kindergarten and long-term success in school.

IMPACT

96 percent of the children that graduated from Bright Days Child Development Center were determined "school ready" and prepared for kindergarten

83 percent of the children in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) were assessed age appropriate in concepts and language skills

100 percent of children served by Every Child Succeeds have a medical home and 99.6% of the children demonstrated typical development in all areas (social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development)

99 percent of children enrolled in Bright Days Child Development Center for at least 12 months assessed age appropriate in language and cognitive skills.

Programs & Services

- ▶ Every Child Succeeds
- ▶ Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- ▶ Bright Days Child Development Center
- ▶ Family Day Care

Community & Youth Services

Brighton Center, at its very core, is a community based agency invested in creating a better place for the people who live and work in Northern Kentucky. The needs of the community are the driving force behind the work we do in engaging all residents from young children to senior citizens. Our programs and services come from listening to the pulse of the community to ensure we are all given the chance to walk **On A Brighter Path**.

IMPACT

- 39** community driven initiatives led by residents
- 799** residents volunteer to do neighborhood based work
- 93** percent of individuals receiving services through Street Outreach obtained safe living arrangements



Committee members of the Newport Parks Renaissance Commission

Programs & Services

- ▶ Community Organizing
- ▶ Homeward Bound Shelter
- ▶ Independent Living Program
- ▶ KY Adolescent Treatment-Enhancement and Dissemination (KAT-ED)
- ▶ Project Safe Place
- ▶ Street Outreach
- ▶ Youth Leadership Development

Brighton Center's roots began in Newport and since that time our Community Organizing program has worked with the residents of Newport to have their voices heard, and to develop a strong, safe, and accepting community thereby improving their quality of life. This past year residents came together to improve the safety and visual appeal of their parks.

Initial planning and organizing between residents led to the creation of a formal committee called the Newport Parks Renaissance Commission. The committee includes representation from all of the local active neighborhood associations including, East Row Historic District, Clifton Neighborhood Association, Cote Brillante Neighborhood Association and the Westside Citizens Coalition. Representation from Newport Schools and the City of Newport joined the committee as well.

The committee spent the first few months collecting feedback, setting goals, planning,

and deciding exactly which projects to tackle first. Blueprints were created to share with the committees' master plan for the parks. The committee then hosted fundraisers and applied for grants all while hosting several park events such as picnics, grill outs, and concerts to get residents more involved and excited about the work.

Efforts to beautify the parks have also captured the attention of youth who have expressed their concerns, hopes, suggestions, and helped with restoration efforts.

Since forming, the committee led by residents, has raised about \$6,000 for the parks and dedicated nearly 100 hours of their time. Physical improvements have already taken place and include the removal of a dead tree, brush, and painting playground equipment. Future projects will focus on repairing a park shelter, planting grass and trees, and adding swings.

Community & Youth Services

Life as a teenager is often a complicated and exciting time. Programs and services for youth aim to ensure they have positive outlets for growth, safety nets during a crisis or hard times, and a support system to navigate into adulthood. Residential and community based services put at-risk youth **On A Brighter Path**.



2014 Newport High School Graduates who participated in YLD & Teen Coalition

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

The **Youth Leadership Development (YLD)** program provides a best practice program that includes structured activities and opportunities, in a safe and supportive environment, for youth to acquire and improve their life skills, decision making, and leadership skills. Youth learn to connect with peers, adults, and other resources that will continue to channel their energies in positive directions and will assist them in obtaining future life skills.

Five years ago, graduates from YLD who had just entered high school, requested that Brighton Center continue a program for high school youth to help transition them through career/college development. They wanted guidance in healthy relationships, to continue community service projects, learn about job applications, banking, ACT testing, financial aid and scholarships. **Teen Coalition** includes service learning, goal setting, and connections to school and community with emphasis on planning for adulthood. Teen Coalition has no formal funding, but Brighton Center saw and heard the teen's needs.

Teen Coalition is designed to be a life changing, life skills program with potential to change generational poverty, homelessness, and the employment challenges too often the norm for so many families. The main emphasis is on graduation from high school and continuing their education/training beyond high school.

This past school year eight members entered their senior year. Over the past four years they have participated in college tours, job shadows, obtained jobs, and provided peer support to each other as they learn about healthy relationships and other life skills. Throughout their time with Teen Coalition, they remained connected and active in their community.

Seven of the eight graduated are either employed, pursuing post-secondary education at Universities, have entered the military, or continued with Brighton Center at our **Center For Employment Training**. One youth is still continuing with GED classes through Brighton Center's **Step Up** program.

These youth have taken the next step in becoming self-sufficient.

IMPACT

100 percent of youth participating in Youth Leadership Development (YLD) were promoted to the next grade level

514 homeless and runaway youth ages 11-17 received crisis services by our Homeward Bound Shelter, and 101 were served residentially

82 percent of youth in the Independent Living Program made progress toward or completed their educational goals



- ▶ Brighton Center manages over 120 Safe Place Sites
- ▶ Over the last five years, 25,125 individuals have accessed Safe Place for help
- ▶ 64% of youth accessing Safe Place services were returned home or to a relative's home

The Safe Place number is
1-800-RUNAWAY
(1-800-786-2929)

Family Center

For a family struggling to make ends meet, survival can be a daily or even hourly battle of hard decisions. Over the past several years, families who never imagined needing our help walked through the doors of the Family Center having exhausted all of their resources but soon found hope and the support needed to begin **On A Brighter Path**. We partner with families to set long-term goals and resolve the barriers that left them on the brink in the first place. Family Center staff work with families to not only make sure their future is brighter, but that their dreams are achievable.

IMPACT

3,188 families received help during a crisis, had a basic need met, and received a connection to services in the community through Emergency Assistance

1,542 families received food through our USDA Commodity distribution

5,057 individuals received clothing vouchers for our Clothing Closet



A mother and her son shop in the food pantry at the Family Center

Programs & Services

- ▶ Clothing Closet
- ▶ Family Support – Emergency Assistance
- ▶ Financial Opportunity Center
- ▶ Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- ▶ Safety Net Alliance
- ▶ Senior Medicare Patrol
- ▶ Senior Support
- ▶ Stable Families
- ▶ USDA Commodity Distribution
- ▶ Volunteers

JENNIFER'S STORY

Jennifer's first experience with Brighton Center was when she made the decision to leave an abusive relationship to better the lives of herself and her children. Jennifer diligently worked with a case manager at Women's Crisis Center to develop a plan, but despite having full-time employment she lacked the financial resources to secure a new home for herself and her children, she was on the brink of homelessness.

Jennifer and her case manager contacted Brighton Center to develop a plan for housing and financial stability moving forward. Together, with staff, a plan was developed to engage community resources to help Jennifer find quality, affordable housing that she and her children could feel safe in. Jennifer was connected to security deposit assistance and first month's rent to alleviate the costs of moving. This critical assistance stabilized the family's already limited financial resources.

Jennifer worked with staff to discuss her long term goals of owning a home, being able

to provide for herself and her children, and setting a good example for them. By meeting on a monthly basis through our **Dream It Do It** program, Jennifer has been able to meet her most basic needs, stretch her budget, and take steps towards her larger goals.

Since her initial contact with Brighton Center, Jennifer's situation has changed drastically. She is supporting her family independently with stable housing and has maintained her job of four years. She also enrolled in school to finish the last few credits of her Associate's Degree. Jennifer now looks back on her hesitation to ask for help and realizes that asking for help provided her with the opportunity to explore options and create opportunities that she may not have been able to see at the time.

Jennifer's hopes and dreams that she didn't think were possible prior to enrolling in Dream It Do It, are now becoming a reality.

Financial Services

The path to financial stability often starts with a good education, starting a career, and managing finances. The reality though is that a bump or unexpected curve on that path can send a family into a downward spiral very quickly. Our Financial Services focus on educating, empowering, and supporting families as they take charge of their money by making smart, informed decisions toward a better future **On A Brighter Path.**



CONNIE'S STORY

Homeownership seemed like a dream for Connie. Due to disability, her only source of income was Social Security. As a life-long renter, she never imagined qualifying to purchase her own home but set out on a journey to at least try. She attended the Making Cents of Homeownership class provided by **Financial Services** in the spring of 2013. She took lessons learned from the class and began building her credit, saving what she could, and shopping savvy.

A year later, she met with a financial specialist to begin the buying process. One-on-one counseling sessions helped Connie understand the mortgage application, taxes, and related homeownership documents. The electric company was also contacted to help Connie determine utility expenses and enter a

weatherization program to save on costs. Connie also received a grant from the city toward her down-payment.

A little over a year after setting out on her dream to own a home, Connie closed on her very own house. Connie worked hard to ensure she was educated, followed the suggested steps, and made informed decisions. In the end, owning a home ended up costing less than paying rent and she now has an asset for the future. Connie looks forward to continuing her journey with Brighton Center by taking part in the **Homeownership Club**.

Connie is an excellent example of how despite many obstacles toward achieving a dream, her hard work, perseverance, and willingness to partner with staff resulted in homeownership.

IMPACT

98 percent of individuals served increased their knowledge of financial concepts

222 families that applied for foreclosure prevention avoided foreclosure on their home

851 individuals received free tax preparation that brought \$1,092,128 in combined refunds back to hard working Northern Kentucky families through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA] sites

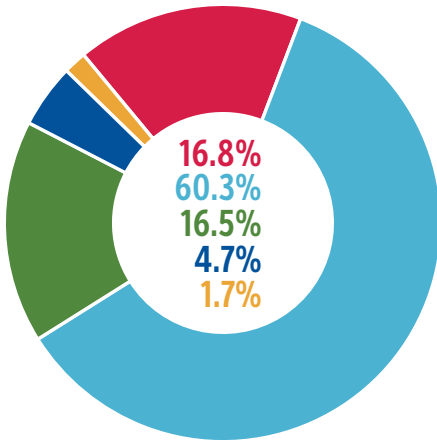
Programs & Services

- ▶ Credit \$mart Loans
- ▶ Financial Education
- ▶ Foreclosure Prevention
- ▶ Homeownership Program
- ▶ Individual Development Accounts
- ▶ Reverse Mortgages
- ▶ Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Statement of Activity

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014*

BRIGHTON CENTER REVENUE



BRIGHTON CENTER, INC.

Contributions, Support, and Revenues:

● Allocations of funds from United Way	\$1,564,296
● Direct contributions	1,123,455
● Contributions by associated organizations	161,781
● Special events, net of related expenses	74,768
● Contributions by unassociated organizations	176,682
● Fees and grants from governmental agencies	5,607,728
● Program service fees	39,244
● Sale of supplies and services	114,928
● Other income	12,547
● Investment income	420,533
Total Contributions, Support, and Revenues	\$9,295,962

Expenses:

● Personnel (Salary, Taxes, Benefits, Hiring)	\$6,041,729
● Operating	2,591,927
● Depreciation	66,302
● Donated goods	535,513
Total Expenses	\$9,235,471

Expenses by Function:

Program services:

Brighton Recovery Center	\$934,880
Early Childhood Education	1,970,674
Community Investment	847,809
Family Center	709,328
Workforce Development	1,695,062
Financial Services	592,905
Youth Services	919,981

Supporting services:

Fundraising and public relations	267,282
Indirect costs - management and other	1,297,550

Total Expenses by Function:

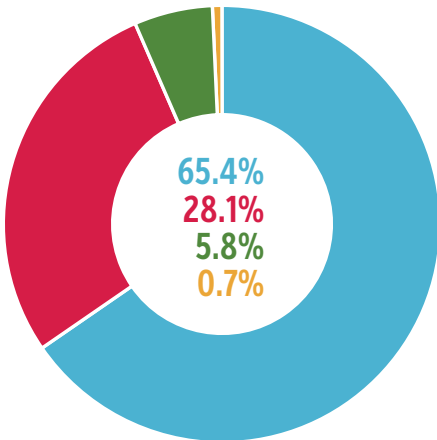
\$9,235,471

Net Assets - Total

Beginning of Year	5,109,576
Change in net assets - total	60,491
End of Year	5,170,067

*Per Brighton Center, Inc. June 30, 2014 Financial Statements audited by Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd.

BRIGHTON CENTER EXPENSES



BRIGHTON PROPERTIES, INC.

Contributions, Support, and Revenues:

Reimbursements from associated organizations	\$228,349
Non-cash contributions	60,000
Contributions by unassociated organizations	28,234
Contributions received for Scholar House project	372,500
Reimbursements for Grant County Initiative	54,522
Building rental	705,462
Property management fees	52,955
Developer's fees	10,000
Other income	963
Total Contributions, Support, and Revenues	\$1,512,985

Expenses:

Personnel (Salary, Taxes, Benefits, Hiring)	\$432,453
Operating	788,174
Depreciation	179,249
Total Expenses	\$1,399,876

Net Assets - Total

Beginning of Year	1,685,909
Change in net assets - total	113,109
End of Year	1,799,018

*Per Brighton Center, Inc. June 30, 2014 Financial Statements audited by Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd.

Agency Programs

Individuals Served by Program

Brighton Recovery Center for Women

Brighton Recovery Center	311
Culinary Training Program	26
Women's Jail Intervention Program	206
Total	543

Early Childhood Education

Bright Days Child Development Center	133
Family Day Care	227
Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY)	108
Every Child Succeeds	366
Total	834

Financial Services

Financial Education	450
Homeownership	51
Foreclosure Prevention	1000
Individual Development Accounts	163
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites	851
Credit Smart Loans	72
Total	2,587

Workforce Development

Center for Employment Training	266
Career Connections	25,504
Step Up	141
Total	25,911

Family Center

Commodities	2,022
Stable Families	204
Emergency Assistance	6,805
Senior Support	186
Total	9,217

Community Investment

Community Organizing	6,464
Youth Leadership Development	409
Volunteers	3,124
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	456
Senior Medicare Patrol	3,743
Community Events	8,733
Holiday Drive and Used Toy Sale	3,213
Clothing Closet	11,611
Total	37,753

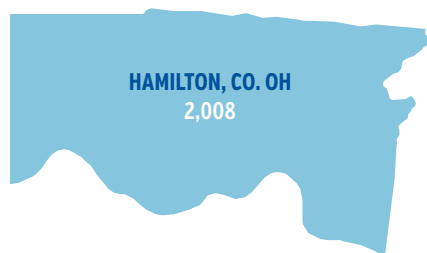
Youth Services

Homeward Bound Shelter	514
Safe Place	6,713
Transitional Living Program	75
Ky Adolescent Treatment-Enhancement & Dissemination (KAT-ED)	65
Street Outreach	182
Total	7,549

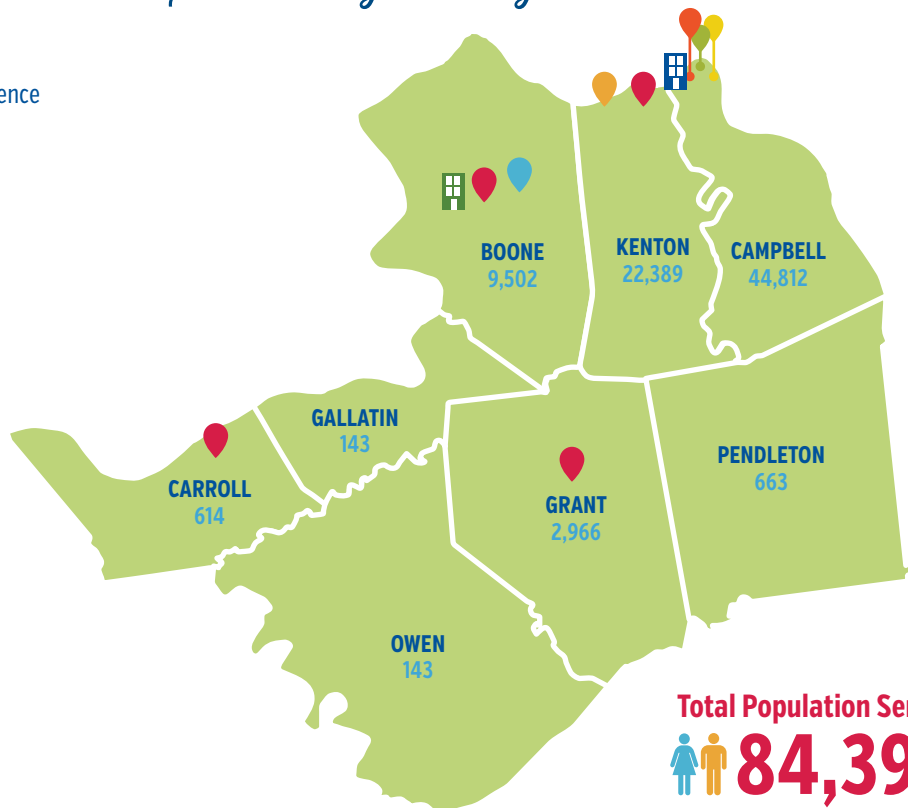
Total of Individuals Served by Programs 84,394

Individuals Served By County

- Kentucky Career Center / NKY
- Brighton Recovery Center for Women / Florence
- Family Center / Newport
- Shelby Street Office / Florence
- Center For Employment Training / Newport
- West End / Administration - Newport
- Homeward Bound Shelter / Covington
- Bright Days / Newport



Other Counties / 1,154



Workforce Development

Gaining employment with a livable wage and benefits is often one of the most challenging issues faced by individuals and families working toward self-sufficiency. Our region, like so many others, is experiencing a new reality in the job market. Certain career paths may no longer be viable options for employment, new skills sets may be required to become competitive, and a completely new career path is often a daunting reality to deal with. In order to thrive, we must continue to put people **On A Brighter Path** by creating a strong workforce that has the education and skills to move our region forward. Our Workforce Development programs do exactly that.

IMPACT

20 individuals received their GED through Step Up and Center for Employment Training (CET)

88 percent of those receiving intensive career advisement through Career Connections entered employment, and 94% retained employment for six months after placement

124 individuals received training through CET; individuals that completed training saw an average wage gain of over \$15,670 per year

BRIGHTON CENTER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Melissa Hall Sommer, Director of Workforce Development and CET graduate Brittany Gee presented Brighton Center's success with the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) philosophy of service bundling at The White House in the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) "What Works Showcase".

Programs & Services

- ▶ Center For Employment Training
- ▶ Career Connections
- ▶ Step Up



Brittany presenting at The White House

BRITTANY'S STORY

Brittany, like so many others, was dealing with the effects of the struggling economy when she sought assistance at a local career center. After losing her job and falling behind on bills, she was facing foreclosure and running out of options.

At the career center, she met with a Brighton Center employee from Brighton Center's **Center for Employment Training (CET)** who told her about the debt free career training and connections to additional family and work supports.

Brittany enrolled in CET's Medical Assisting skill division despite feeling unsure of what to expect but very determined to succeed and create a better life for herself and child. From the start, Brittany greeted her classmates with professionalism and a positive attitude. She was always willing to lend a helping hand, give encouragement, and assist others. She worked tirelessly at mastering her clinical and patient care skills.

While working toward a new, high demand career, she also worked with staff to stabilize her home situation. **Emergency Assistance** services connected Brittany to family and work support resources such as public benefits and basic necessities. She also worked with coaches in **Financial Services** and successfully saved her home from foreclosure along with attending financial education workshops.

While at CET, Brittany was hired for Federal Work Study as the Front Desk Assistant and consistently demonstrated a strong commitment and adaptability to changing schedules and requirements of the position. Brittany displayed genuine compassion and excellence in treating others with respect and care.

Brittany was hired by St. Elizabeth Healthcare at a livable wage with benefits and now has the tools, skills, and resources to sustain self-sufficiency. She is also planning on continuing her education by pursuing an Associates Degree in nursing.

Brighton Properties

Brighton Properties (a wholly owned subsidiary of Brighton Center), has provided the community with safe and affordable housing units since 1997. A dedication to continuing efforts around strengthening the community has allowed Brighton Properties to act as a strong force in the movement to change the housing environment in Northern Kentucky. Housing is the foundation for strong communities and a mix of housing options leads to a flourishing community with lower crime rates, better performing schools, stronger local economics, and better overall quality of life. Brighton Properties puts residents **On A Brighter Path** by removing the barriers to affordable housing options.



Monika in her apartment at Saratoga Place in Newport

MONIKA'S STORY

Monika came to United States from Germany at the age of 18 and through television taught herself to read, write, and speak English. After settling into Northern Kentucky and raising her family, Monika experienced a rough patch. She found herself homeless at the age of 69 and living with friends. Her only source of income was Social Security. A friend recommended contacting Brighton Center and with a quick internet search she found Saratoga Place Apartments. Saratoga Place offers seniors a safe and secure place to live with an on-site support specialist and access to additional Brighton Center services. Monika called to inquire about an opening and soon had her very own place to live. She turned to Brighton Center for help in furnishing the apartment because she only had one suitcase of personal belongings with her. She received a couch, chair, and coffee table to get started. Monika enjoys living close to necessities like the grocery store, bank, and her part-time job at Dixie Chili. Having her own place to call home gave Monika a new lease on life and a renewed sense of pride in achieving self-sufficiency.

Facts & Figures

In the United States, the 2014 hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment is \$18.92. This national average is more than two-and-a-half times the federal minimum wage, and 52% higher than it was in 2000. In no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.

*National Low Income Housing Coalition

IMPACT

38

units for women in recovery

33

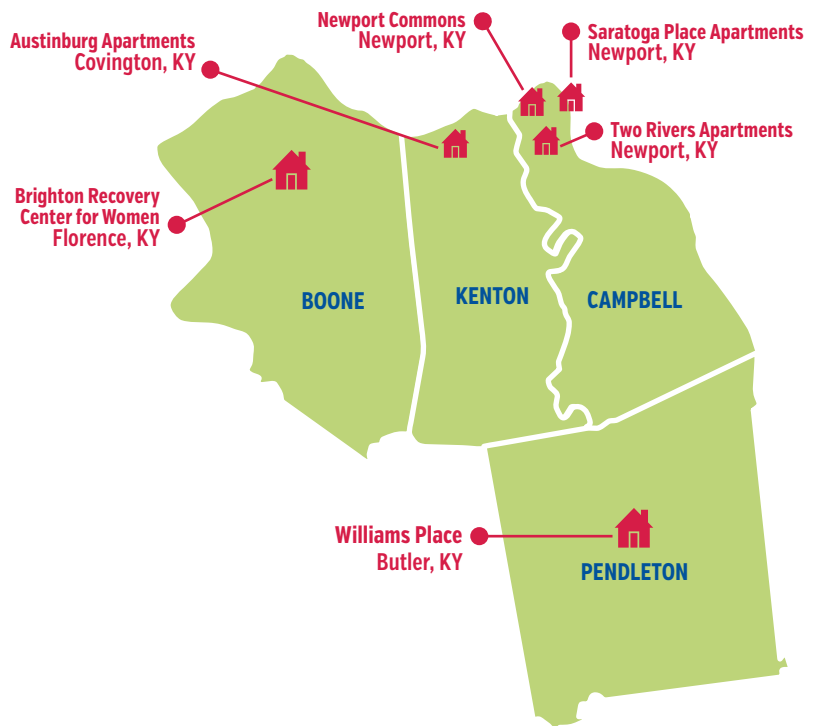
units for low income families

207

units for the elderly

12

units for the disabled



Volunteers & Giving Back

Employees at Enterprise are there for us in so many ways, from organizing a huge food drive at Christmas for the last 7 years to working in the Clothing Closet. Enterprise employees dig in and make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. They come in when we ask and respond to our needs when we call them. When we opened the Recovery Center, Enterprise was there to sponsor a room for a future resident. By providing discounted van rental, we're able to overcome the huge hurdle of transportation and take the youth in the Youth Leadership Development program to visit colleges and take field trips that expand their experience and thinking. Enterprise is also always willing to be a part of a fundraiser that are important to the Center.



Volunteers from Enterprise

We particularly want to recognize and honor Jeff Rensing's leadership. For 5 of the 6 years he's served on our Board of Directors, he's been the Chairperson of either the Program or Personnel Committee and he's currently serving his last year on our Board of Directors as Secretary. He always shows up with donations and seeks ways to help and be a part of the life of Brighton Center. His dedication to furthering Enterprise's corporate commitment to the community is amazing.

Enterprise Holdings has extended their collective hands to Brighton Center and the community we serve for 10+ years! They've figured out how to not just volunteer, but meet a need in the community. We were happy to present Enterprise with our Elizabeth Herald Community of Support Award at our recent annual Board meeting.

IMPACT

3,124

Volunteers

33,018

Total volunteer hours

\$705,265

Value of volunteer hours;
this number equates to 29 full-time positions

Volunteer Groups

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Accenture | Dixie Heights Soccer Team | L'Oreal |
| Alive in You | Durand Church of the Nazarene | Mt. Notre Dame YPC |
| Amazon | Enterprise | Northern Kentucky Cooperative Educational Services |
| Anne O Family | Ethicon | Notre Dame |
| Attica Presbyterian Church | Fidelity Investments | Omnicare |
| Brighton Emerging Leaders | Fifth Third Bank | One Hope Church |
| Better Bodies | First Church of Christ | Procter & Gamble |
| Bishop Brossart | Ft. Thomas Ministerial Association | Pep Promotions |
| Blessed Sacrament | Franciscans for the Poor | PNC Bank |
| Brighton Recovery Center | GAP | Indiana Presbyterian Church |
| Campbell County Mom's Group | Girl Scout Troop 1895 | Roger Bacon High School |
| Campbell County School System | Girl Scout Troop 40121 | Seven Hills Church |
| Calvary Christian School | Go Cincinnati - Crossroads Church | St. Henry High School |
| Center for Employment Training | Hilltop Church | St. Joseph School, Cold Spring |
| Cincinnati State | IHM/St. Gertrude | Starfire |
| Clark Montessori | Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Gertrude School | The Bank of Kentucky |
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Collecting donations for the Fox19/Remke coat drive



RSVP volunteers with over 20 years of service

Volunteer Spotlight

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM [RSVP]



Jim volunteering at the Family Center

Following a large corporate buyout and unexpected early retirement, Jim Scheve set out to find a meaningful opportunity to occupy his time. His search led to our **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP]**. Over the past 2.5 years Jim has volunteered over 2,000 hours of time helping with the **Choice Food Pantry** and **USDA Commodities** distribution, **Senior Medicare Patrol**, **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**, the Holiday Drive, and as an RSVP representative at his apartment building... along with anything else he can help with. Jim says, "It is good to feel like you are making just a small difference in someone's life and very rewarding to see people really trying to better their lives."

Volunteer Opportunities

- ▶ Sponsor collection drives for clothing, food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and/or baby items
- ▶ Assist with fundraising events
- ▶ Plan an activity for seniors at any of our independent living homes
- ▶ Assist with Clothing Closet donation sorting and organizing
- ▶ Help with weekly after-school group activities for 10-14 year-olds
- ▶ Invite youth to your worksite for a job shadowing experience
- ▶ Help organize and carry out a community service project with the youth
- ▶ Plan a party or special event for a group of children at our Bright Days Child Development Center
- ▶ Help a few Saturdays during the tax season at any of our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites
- ▶ Lead an activity with youth at Homeward Bound Shelter to promote positive social interaction (cook dinner, play board games, etc.)
- ▶ Present the realities of the workplace and how to find success on the job for those involved in Workforce Development programs

IMPACT

433 volunteers participated in RSVP for a total of 60,314 hours at 31 volunteer sites throughout Northern Kentucky

Thank you for your support!

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Thank you for giving Brighton Center the privilege and the honor through your generous donations, to touch hundreds of lives each and every day in so many meaningful ways.

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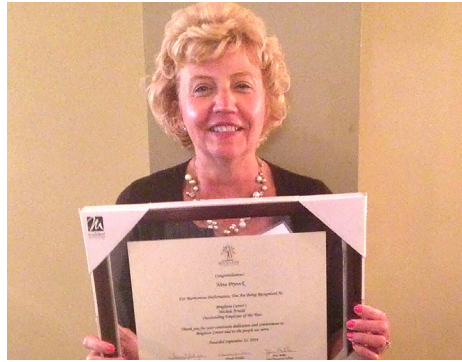
Employee Awards

Maria Tenjo



Maria came to Brighton Center as a home visitor for **Every Child Succeeds**. In the first year it was evident that she would be a great asset to the program. Her creative use of curriculum, as well as engagement with both mothers and fathers allowed her to perform as a top home visitor, accomplishing an average of 55 visits per month. Also, her skills as an interpreter have been invaluable for bridging the Center with the growing Hispanic populations. In 2009, Maria received the Directors' Award and in 2010 received the Boiled Frog Award. Maria's performance as a leader has been reflected through her team whom she engages in team building activities. Her passion and hard work is key to her success.

Nina Prysock



Nina began with Brighton Center in the Family Center as a coordinator for our **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** and the **Senior Medicare Patrol**. She approaches her work with skill and grace, embracing changes as they come. She is a highly skilled and organized planner, and has grown her program over the years, managing 480 volunteers among 31 volunteer stations. She was the recipient of the Directors' Award in 2008 and 2010, as well as receiving the Boiled Frog Award in 2010. Nina's willingness to support Brighton Center's many programs outside of her own shows her strength as a team player and a leader.

SUPER NOVA AWARD

Lauren Copeland

Lauren's Brighton Center path began in 2010 as a **Youth Leadership Development Specialist**. In 2011, she changed positions and became the **Hearth Case Manager**. Currently, she serves as the **Family Center Coordinator**. She is known to bring energy, charisma, and a positive attitude to the Center. Her climb through agency ranks was driven by the capacity to take on additional responsibilities and choice opportunities for professional development. Lauren's passion and concern for the customers is genuine. She truly reflects Brighton Center's core values. Her continued support of fellow employees, as well as customers, can be seen on a daily basis.



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www.brightoncenter.com

Brighton Recovery Center for Women

Director: Anita Prater
375 Weaver Road
Florence, KY 41042
Phone: [859] 282-9390

Community and Youth Services

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13 E. 20th St.
Covington, KY 41014
Phone: [859] 581-1111

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7th & Park Ave.
P.O. Box 325
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Family Center

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799 Ann Street
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