

STRONG ROOTS

Create a Lasting & Growing Legacy



SPOTLIGHT

SPRING 2016

**“It takes a noble man
to plant a seed for a
tree that will someday
give shade to people
he may never meet.”**

David Trueblood

THE MISSION OF BRIGHTON CENTER

is to create opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment, and leadership. We will achieve this mission by creating an environment that rewards excellence and innovation, encourages mutual respect, and maximizes resources. With each issue of the Spotlight, we will share Brighton Center's mission in action with stories of lives transformed and hope restored.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS



BRIGHTON CENTER AWARDED STEM BIKE CLUB FOR NEWPORT YOUTH

Brighton Center is excited to be a part of the STEM Bicycle Club for 2016. The Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative [GCSC] selected Brighton Center, in partnership with Newport Independent Schools, to host a STEM Bicycle Club this spring for Newport Middle School students. Only 18 schools / school partners were selected for the 2016 STEM Bicycle Club. The STEM Bicycle Club is a "heads on, hands on" project that engages middle school students for 10 weeks in the after-school environment. Students break down and re-assemble bicycles they get to keep. The STEM Bicycle Club builds student confidence and problem solving skills while reinforcing and bringing relevance to math and science principles taught during the school day. Through the involvement of community mentors and coaches, the club also exposes students to STEM career possibilities. Youth at Newport Middle School were invited to submit an essay, poster, or video expressing why they wanted to be a club member. 15 youth were selected to participate in the Bicycle Club based on their application and in February the fun began! We have been lucky to partner with GE who is providing one-on-one adult mentors or "coaches" to the students and local non-profit Riding Forward. The students and their "coach" will work each week through a guided curriculum. The lessons are hands on, interactive, educational, and fun! At the end of the 10 weeks the students will celebrate their accomplishment and new bikes at a celebration ride at University of Cincinnati on May 14th. This amazing program is provided at no cost to the student. All supplies, training, bike equipment, and tools were provided at no cost by the GCSC. The STEM Bicycle Clubs are supported by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Duke Energy, nine area Walmart stores, Time Warner Cable, GE, and many other companies and partners across the region. The youth who complete the program will gain so much more than just a new bike!

GRANT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED MOTHERS

In the summer of 2015, Brighton Center was one of seven organizations across the nation selected from a narrowed field of 30 to receive a \$850,000, 30-month grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to implement the Step Forward program. Step Forward, takes a two generational approach to increase educational, employment, and economic security outcomes for unemployed mothers and their children through advancing formal partnerships between workforce development and early care stakeholders serving children through the age of eight. Program staff will advance a partnership model with the Center for Employment Training, Gateway Community and Technical College, Early Childhood Education [ECE] partners, local schools districts, and the business community. This grant will result in 100 mothers completing training and securing employment while children reach educational milestones. These economic and educational gains will be underpinned by providing opportunities for parent engagement and building social capital. Step Forward employs a place-based strategy focusing on the communities of Covington, Newport, and Erlanger/Elsmere. This approach reinforces community development and asset building adding to the vitality of the community and the families who live there.



SOBER LIVING HOUSE NOW COMPLETE

Women looking for another support on their road to recovery have an additional service available in Brighton Center's newest program, the Sober Living House. The house, located in Covington, was donated by Wells Fargo last year along with a \$10,000 donation to complete needed renovations. The house features room for five women who have completed a Recovery Kentucky Program such as the Brighton Recovery Center and continue with case management services. Women will also benefit from access to any of Brighton Center's programs or services to reach self-sufficiency. Residents may stay as long as they are in compliance and in need of services.



50th Anniversary

50 Years of Providing Hope
1966-2016

50 years ago a movement of hope was started. A movement to create opportunities for individuals and families to achieve their hopes and dreams. A movement that has resulted in thousands of lives changed for the better with not only a long-standing support system, but also the tools, resources, and empowerment the residents of our region need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Brighton Center was founded in 1966, then known as the Brighton Street Center, by Reverend Bill Neuroth as a summer recreation program for youth. At the time, a large number of families were migrating from rural Appalachia to the urban core of Newport for better living conditions and employment opportunities.

By late 1968, when Bob Brewster became Executive Director of the Center, services included Emergency Assistance, youth programming, and Community Organizing. Over the next 43 years, Bob Brewster moved the organization from a small community based agency to Northern Kentucky's most comprehensive social service agency. Over the years, programs and services were added in

response to the needs of individuals and families looking to create a better life. In 2011, Tammy Weidinger became President & CEO with 30 years of experience at the Center already under her belt.

The accomplishments of the last 50 years are a testament to years of collaboration, a strong Board of Directors, highly qualified staff, the tireless work of volunteers, the generosity of donors, and the determination of our customers.

Brighton Center has grown to serve tens of thousands of individuals and families each year from infants to senior citizens all across Northern Kentucky and beyond. Our comprehensive array of 37 programs and services allows for customers to receive individualized and bundled services based on their current situation and hopes for the future.

Our legacy is not only in our roots and our ability to evolve with changing times, but also in those who come to Brighton Center to create a better future. Hope Changes Everything!

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Cincinnati Airport Marriott



1966-2016

Tickets available at www.brightoncenter.com

SHARE WHAT YOU CAN

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Tower Park Amphitheater Fort Thomas, KY
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

A night of summer fun stocking Brighton Center's Food Pantry with Live music by the Naked Karate Girls.



WINE OVER WATER

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Purple People Bridge, Newport, KY
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Sample assorted wines, beer, and food while enjoying live music and breathtaking views.



Tickets are \$30 in advance available starting June 1 at: www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater

BUILDING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS STARTS WITH SOLID ROOTS

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

IN HER OWN WORDS: My name is Natasha Stockton. I graduated from Brighton Center's Center for Employment Training (CET) Medical Assisting program in May 2010.

In 2009, as a single mother, I was working at Snappy Tomato Pizza for about five years. It paid the bills and kept my son and I afloat. At that time I was also receiving food stamps, daycare assistance, and a medical card. I was barely making ends meet and knew I wanted more. I had no benefits and my pay wasn't going to get much higher. I wanted to go back to school but required something shorter than a four year program. At the time I was living in Newport, KY, and from word of mouth I heard of Brighton Center's CET Medical Assisting (MA) program. I decided to give it a try, but was nervous at the same time. It would mean I would go to school full-time, Monday through Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm. How was I going to work? How was I going to pay bills? When would I see my son? There were so many questions and I worried that CET may not work for me.

After debating back and forth I decided to give it a try. I started the MA program in April 2009. I went to school Monday through Friday, and worked one night a week to put money in my pocket. I received K-Tap (which at the time was \$275), a medical card, daycare assistance, and food stamps. All of those things allowed me and my son to live comfortably enough, but it was still stressful because we lived on less than \$300 a month. I knew it would all be worth it though as long as I could tough it out. I enjoyed school. I wanted to be in the medical field my whole life. Everything we did was interesting and fun, it just came natural to me.

At the end of the program, I needed to complete an externship as the final step to graduate the program. I was blessed to find an opening at Doctors Urgent Care in Erlanger, KY. I did all of my hours there. They had no open positions at the time but the manager told me another location did, and she would put in a good word. I finished the MA program and I was able to secure a position as a Medical Assistant at Doctors Urgent Care in Colerain, OH. I graduated in May, 2010. At Doctors Urgent Care I was able to obtain my GXMO (general x-ray machine operator) license. I stayed there for about a year and a half until I heard of openings at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I knew there would be competition for open positions, but I took my chances and applied online. I received a phone call back asking to set up an interview and ended up interviewing quite a few times with different departments.

I eventually landed a position in DDBP [Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics]. I have been there since October 2011, gaining experiences and accepting new responsibilities. I was the first MA to sit on the Ambulatory Education Council, where a selective group of RN's, management, and myself make decisions and suggestions for



the hospital as a whole. I was one of the first groups of MA's to come into Children's and since then MA's are being utilized more and more in ambulatory care. I have obtained my RMA since I have been here and just recently along with three other co-workers, one of which graduated from CET with me, received an award known as the Imagination and Courage Award. This award is for an individual or team that develops innovative ideas, encourages risk taking, and learns from successes and failures. We were recognized for the nearly impossible blood draws performed on our patient population (autism and psychiatric). We have developed the reputation as the go to place for kids that are having a very difficult time with blood draws throughout the hospital.

Sharing my story with you leads me to the main point. Almost seven years ago I was making minimum wage getting government assistance and just getting by. But with the help of Brighton Center and the CET program, I am now able to have a career. I have benefits for my two sons and myself. I no longer receive state assistance. I own my own car and just recently bought my first home. As a single mother Brighton Center/CET truly changed my life. I was able to use the tools they gave me to get where I am now. I hope everyone understands that no matter who you are or where you come from this is possible. I remember coming into Children's and people would ask what school I graduated from, and when I would say CET everyone was clueless. Most MA's went to Brown Mackie or Cincinnati State. I did not feel intimidated because my RMA was just as relevant as anyone else's. I was and still am very proud to say where I graduated from. I made many friends there, some that are now my best friends. I had two of the best teachers, Lee-Ann Duffy and Jonika Green. Special thanks to them! And again thank you to the Brighton Center/CET for giving me the opportunity. I hope I made you just as proud. Continue changing lives. You all rock!

THE LONG ROAD TO STARTING A BLOSSOMING FUTURE

IN HER OWN WORDS: From the time I walked into Brighton Recovery Center in February 2009 to today the changes in myself and my life are incredible. Brighton Recovery Center gave me the tools that would help me stay sober and continue on this journey called life. I am very grateful I was able to go through the program when I did for I don't know that I would still be sober today or alive if I had not.

My sobriety date is June 1, 2009. Over the last six years I have gained so much. It hasn't always been easy however, at the end of every situation and every day no matter what I have to go through or face it's worth it. Without my sobriety I wouldn't have anything. I have been able to become a good granddaughter, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, and employee. I have been able to keep the same job for over five years which may not seem like a lot to you however, for someone like me that is amazing. I am able to be a productive member of society again by working every day, voting, and paying taxes. All of this is possible because I got sober and have remained sober since.

I stay connected to my sobriety foundation, I have a sponsor, I work with others, go to meetings, and all of these are the things that help me stay on this path. My family trusts me again! I am able to stay the night with them without worrying if they think I am going to steal something. I get to go on family vacations again. I get invited to family events.

BRIGHTON RECOVERY CENTER IMPACT



500

Women have completed the Brighton Recovery Center program between 2011 - 2015.



135

Women become peer mentors between 2011 - 2015.



77%

of Women who completed the program between 2011 - 2015 reported no relapse 6 months after completion.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTOR DELLISA EDWARDS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



"I am still unable to find the appropriate words to properly express my surprise and my immense feeling of joy. I was and still am truly humbled, honored, and deeply grateful to have the great honor of being selected as a recipient of the 2016 Northern Kentucky NAACP Vision and Unity Award.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love" and in following his footsteps I live, work and breath trying to be an inspiration in an effort to move all people forward and giving them opportunities to achieve their hopes and dreams."

The award is given to an individual who provides outstanding service and support to the Northern Kentucky Community.

GENERATIONS OF IMPACT

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REACH ALL AGE GROUPS

A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR IMPACT TO DATE THIS FISCAL YEAR (June - December)



100%

of children enrolled at Bright Days Child Development Center for at least 6 months have demonstrated growth in multiple domain areas.



51

youth have received emergency shelter care through our Homeward Bound Shelter for homeless, runaway, and in-crisis teens.



54

individuals have saved their home from foreclosure through working with our Financial Services Department.



126

seniors are aging in place because of connections to services such as senior support.

A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP: Q102

Q102 & KATIE WALTERS MAKE A HUGE IMPACT

Back in 2006, we created the Q102 and Fox 19 Backpack Challenge which directly benefited Brighton Center's school-age children. Then, over the course of the past decade, our relationship expanded and we became more involved with Brighton through other programs.

I am very impressed that Brighton Center offers comprehensive care and help for area families and individuals. They work with people from beginning to end and offer every available tool for personal success. Brighton is very hands-on with the people that they serve. You're a person when you turn to Brighton for help....not just a number.



Brighton Center has such an incredible reputation, amazing staff, and makes such an impact in the community. Every event that I work for Q102 with Brighton Center, I am fortunate to personally meet the people benefiting from the event. For instance, the Brighton Recovery Center for Women help set up the 80s Throwback Party. Highland Country Club donates a delicious luncheon to the ladies and we all get to hang out, talk stories, and discuss life before setup. That luncheon is one of my favorite events of the year. I absolutely love meeting the ladies and spending my afternoon with them. Their success is the motivation behind my party. Also, the Q102 Jeff & Jenn Christmas Show benefits Brighton Center each December. Q102 donates tickets to the kids from Homeward Bound, and Q102 staff is able to meet the kids at the show. Just like the Backpack Challenge days when the Brighton children were on-site at the event, nothing is more impactful than meeting the people you are helping.

I really feel like community awareness of Brighton has drastically changed even since my involvement. When I became involved with Brighton Center over 10 years ago, I really think people thought Brighton Center was only a clothes and food pantry. Now, people are aware that Brighton is a full service non-profit organization. Brighton Center has really made it's footprint on the community.

Q102 loves that whatever we raise for Brighton Center (i.e. money, school supplies, can goods, etc...) immediately benefits our community. Brighton Center's direct impact is the driving force behind our involvement.

Give....any way you can. Time, money, helping, or listening- we are one community and we're all in it together.

- Katie Walters,



SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL PROVIDES VITAL SERVICES WITH THE HELP OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



Brighton Center's Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is a national program that is funded by Louisville Metro Government and the Federal Administration on Community Living. SMP staff and volunteers help beneficiaries to understand Medicare and provide training on how to prevent, detect, and report healthcare fraud. SMP volunteers are retired professionals who are highly trained on Medicare issues. Sharon Miskell is an SMP volunteer who lives in Corinth, KY

and covers Boone, Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, and Pendleton counties, often driving a hundred miles round trip to visit a senior center or talk to a club or group about Medicare. Sharon has impacted hundreds of older adults and caregivers in these rural counties over the past six years. Sharon notes "The SMP program has helped me gain the knowledge and skills to educate seniors in fraud detection and prevention and understand their Medicare which enables them to make wise choices about their healthcare. Senior Medicare Patrol also screens seniors for eligibility in benefit programs that help with the costs of health care expenses. These programs can have a significant impact on seniors' quality of life, often allowing them to not have to choose between buying groceries or prescription drugs, or paying the utility bill. To have personally witnessed these events is both uplifting and energizing for me as a volunteer."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JACK KLEIER: A SUPPORTER FROM THE BEGINNING

I first became involved with Brighton Center by being invited to join the Board by a Board Member who was ending his term. I was put on the Program Committee and through that learned about all the operations of the agency. We did evaluations of the programs annually. The thing that brings the most pride to mind is the high standards that this agency has maintained through the years as it has served the needs of its clients. From its meager beginnings to its tremendous growth, it still keeps its sight set on the people it serves. I remember when the Board made a decision to include one of its customers on the Board in order to hear their needs rather than what the agency thought they needed.



The impact that most affected me was the year I volunteered for the Christmas toy event. The joy in the eyes of the kids to be able to get a Christmas present for their siblings was a sight to behold. As a result I saw bicycles that were for sale for a \$.25 that needed air in the tires, chains put back on and brakes made workable. For the next two or three years I worked under stairwells, in hallways, and crowded rooms to fix them as much as I could. As a result of that I asked my church for space to work on bikes year round. Thus began the bicycle ministry. We have reconditioned hundreds of bicycles and given them to Brighton Center to give to needy children.

Brighton Center has grown from a very small agency with one full-time employee to the largest social agency in Northern Kentucky. The services they offer have grown likewise. The quality has remained very high. It is these qualities that prompt me to continue my support and to encourage others to do likewise.

My message to the community is this, come spend some time as a volunteer, at the Toy Sale, food distribution, or in whatever way you feel comfortable. It will change you in ways you didn't think possible.

- Jack Kleier

ANNUAL MARDI GRAS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF HELPING YOUTH



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6

SPRING

2016

PREVIOUS EVENTS



FEAST FOR YOUR HOME

Raised: \$9,230

The 5th Annual Feast For Your Home event held at Best Furniture Gallery in Fort Thomas Kentucky was a huge success. Special thanks to all of the vendors who attended and to owners Craig and Carolynn Reis for their \$4,000 donation from the event.



FRIGHT NIGHT

Raised: \$1,152

A night of spooktacular fun on Halloween at the Fort Thomas Antique and Design Center with Spina Bifida Coalition of Cincinnati.

JEFF & JENN CHRISTMAS SHOW & COVINGTON CATHOLIC MEN'S CHIOR

Raised a combined: \$20,300

Thanks to a sold out crowd, the Q102 Jeff and Jenn Christmas Show raised \$11,800 for Brighton Center. A partnership with Q102 and the Covington Catholic Men's Chamber Choir raised an additional \$8,500 from the sales of the Choir's Christmas CD.



80s THROWBACK

Raised: \$5,300

A huge thank you to Katie Walters of Q102 for hosting the 80s Throwback Party to benefit the Brighton Recovery Center for Women at Highland County Club.





P.O. Box 325
Newport, KY 41072

SPOTLIGHT

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Brighton Center Directory Of Services

Administrative Offices

President & CEO: Tammy Weidinger
Executive Vice President: Wonda Winkler
Chief Financial Officer: June Miller
Human Resources Director: Lisa Grout
Director of Development: Becky Timberlake
Director of Facilities & Community Development: Jon Rowe
Senior Director Family Economic Success: Melissa Hall Sommer
Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator: Jennifer Hansert

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Community and Youth Services

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Early Childhood Education
Director: Dellisa Ford-Edwards
7th & Park Ave.
P.O. Box 325
Newport, KY 41072-0325
Phone: (859) 491-8303

Family Center
799 Ann Street
P.O. Box 325
Newport, KY 41072-0325
Phone: (859) 491-8303

Financial Services

Director: Stephanie Stiene
799 Ann Street
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Phone: (859) 491-8303

Northern Kentucky Scholar House
Director: Lauren Copeland
450 W. 6th Street
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Phone: (859) 491-8303

Workforce Development
Director: Talia Frye
Center for Employment Training
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140
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Brighton Recovery Center for Women

Director: Anita Prater
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