

Creating Opportunities that Transform Lives



BRIGHTON CENTER

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
2024-2025

Creating Opportunities

At Brighton Center, we believe in the power of opportunity. We believe that every person who walks through our doors should have the opportunity to build the lives they have always dreamed of for themselves and their families.

This past year has presented unique challenges for many of our neighbors and friends. Support from the community has not only sustained our work but has also inspired us to adapt, innovate, and move forward during these difficult times. Because of this profound belief in our mission, we have turned obstacles into opportunities and challenges into progress.

It is incredible to believe that in March 2026, we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary, marking six decades of service, leadership, and impact. As we reflect on the accomplishments highlighted in this report, we look forward to the future filled with great hope, optimism, and purpose. We remain resolved to fulfill our why, believing deeply in the potential of people and that everyone deserves to have the best quality of life possible.

Throughout the coming year, we will honor Brighton Center’s legacy with special events, stories from our past, and a renewed commitment to the individuals and families we serve in our community.

At Brighton Center, we don’t wait for opportunities; we create them. Your partnership allows us to keep driving change that will transform lives for decades to come.

Thank you for your belief in and support of our mission!



Wonda Winkler
President & CEO



Eric Johnson
Board Chair

LAST YEAR
26,602
INDIVIDUALS
WERE SERVED

INDIVIDUALS WERE
SERVED THROUGH
45 PROGRAMS

that Transform Lives





MISSION

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



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 COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Creating Connection

Brighton Center responds to community needs through a comprehensive continuum of support. We partner with hardworking, resilient families striving for economic stability to help them achieve measurable improvements in their lives. Our 2Gen, whole family approach bundles services, empowering parents and children to access education, employment, and resources that lead to increased family income and self-sufficiency. We address complex challenges through 45 programs, providing long-term, holistic support that enables families to achieve financial stability, improve child outcomes, and foster stronger communities. Our impact is evident in families achieving self-identified goals and progressing toward greater well-being.

Our programs support the following impact areas:

-  WELL-BEING
-  CHILDREN AND YOUTH
-  WORKFORCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING
-  HOUSING STABILITY
-  FINANCIAL WELLNESS

We address housing needs by preventing displacement, promoting stability, and supporting families’ long-term success. We promote educational continuity, resource resilience, health, and lifelong learning. We strive to create safe spaces, foster social capital, and enhance our community through volunteer engagement. Our strategy supports youth and adults in education and training, and prepares families for homeownership.

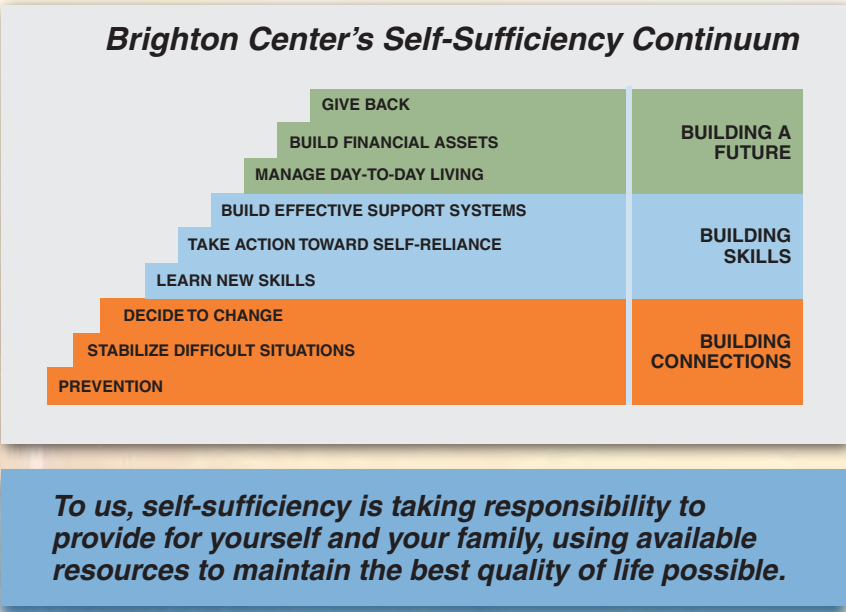
We partner with families to offer financial coaching, early childhood education, youth programs, and career pathways that promote financial wellness and leadership development. Parents are empowered as their child’s first teacher. Youth programs support school success and foster leadership development. Post-secondary options connect people to in-demand careers. Career services provide training, job placement, and advancement opportunities, preparing caregivers for employment and enhancing their financial literacy. Together, these efforts empower families and create lasting, multi-generational impact.



OUR WHY

Building Self-Sufficiency

We believe in each person’s potential to achieve their best quality of life. We equip families to reach self-sufficiency by partnering with them, understanding their goals, and supporting their efforts to achieve them. Self-sufficiency is a continual journey shaped by each family’s circumstances and goals. Our views on self-sufficiency inform our work, community outreach, and the strategies we employ to help people develop skills, establish connections, and secure a stable future.

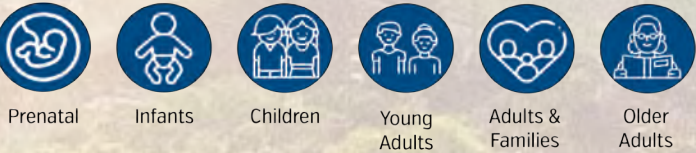


HOW WE DO IT

2Gen Whole Family Approach

Our secret to success with families is not only the services we provide, but also how we deliver them. We understand that everything is interconnected. A child's success depends on the success of their parent or caregiver. The parents' success relies on support from their family, friends, and community. That's why we focus on the dreams of the entire family. To do this, we bring our values to life, partner with families, and build on their strengths. We recognize that individuals are best equipped to understand their situation and make decisions that impact their lives.

This partnership must be based on mutual trust and respect, as families make their decisions to change and strive for a better future or an improved quality of life. We must be focused on the success of the family, our customer, who drives the conversation and sets fluid, ever-evolving goals. As a result, we offer programs to support individuals across the lifespan.



From Opportunities to Impact: Celebrating a Year of Milestones



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT INITIATED

The Community Assessment fuels a formal strategic planning process conducted every four years, since 1968. The assessment amplifies family voices to shape program development and drive lasting impact.



RECEIPT OF TORCH AWARD FOR ETHICS

Brighton Center is the proud recipient of the Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics. This award honors businesses with a commitment to integrity, community, and ethical excellence.



SUPPORTING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

Melissa Hall Sommer, Chief Impact Officer, participated in a panel discussion at the EducateNKY Start Strong Summit. She discussed the importance of early learning and partnering with families and how it impacts success in school and life.



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING SUPPORTER CREDENTIAL

Nearly 100 providers and community members came together to share strategies that strengthen Northern Kentucky's support networks. Participants learned how to recognize opportunities to support and respond to challenges in ways that build connection instead of isolation.



LEADING REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGIES

The Northern Kentucky Housing Strategies Home for All report was released in January 2025. This landmark report includes 50 strategies to advance income-aligned housing. The report was a result of two years of collaboration among 90 community partners.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

June Miller, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, presented at the Foster America conference in Seattle, Washington. She was a participant in a yearlong national cohort of finance administrators studying how to support strong families through innovative funding.



AWARDED OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT

Brighton Center was awarded an Opioid Abatement Grant from Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission. This multi-year grant will provide workforce training and wraparound support for individuals in recovery.



BRIDGE TO HEALTHCARE CAREERS

Brighton Center launched the Bridge to Healthcare Careers program. Bridges is a short-term cohort program that works to provide exposure, basic skills, and career exploration to those interested in the healthcare field.

MJ's Journey

I came to Brighton Recovery Center in January 2025. I have been in recovery two other times previously and I'm very familiar and acclimated with the big book and alcoholics anonymous. When I came to Brighton I had no intention of making any lifestyle changes, my intention was to follow the rules, advance through the components, and graduate to satisfy the debt that I had to pay to the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

I've always known about Brighton and intentionally never enrolled in the program any of the times I tried to get sober, I knew that if and when I ever ended up on Brighton's front porch that it would be life-changing and I definitely wasn't ready to change my life. I had a lot of trauma and grief untreated, and I had no intention of dredging all of that up and dealing with it. But this program is built for exactly those things. There's a magical process that happens here when nobody's looking and paying attention, least of all the resident. This program and the women here have given me a purpose, something that I have never had before. This program allowed me to actually believe that I was worth all of the work that they were asking me to put into my life.

The two components of this program that really shaped me to be the leader that I am today are the accountabilities process and the trudging process. I now have access to lifelong resources through Brighton Center, such as financial coaching and employment services, and have been Kentucky and Ohio certified to be a peer support. I am currently a Peer Mentor Supervisor to other women who are going through the stages of recovery at Brighton Center, helping others to transform their lives the way they helped me.

I'm not sure if I will stay sober and be successful for the rest of my life (I can only do that 24 hours at a time), but if I have the willingness and I'm open-minded enough this program has set me up for success beyond my wildest dreams. I have lifelong bonds with my sisters and my mentors and for the first time in my life I feel complete and purposeful and I feel like I'm being of maximum service to the recovery community. As somebody who has suffered from this disease for over 35 years, this program is perfect. If recovery were easy everybody would do it. I'm grateful for the staff, for my sisters, for the resources, and for the opportunity to forever be connected to Brighton Recovery Center.

“What occurs here in this program is invaluable and the magic that happens here is unique. I’ve had opportunities to serve and help others that really is just an investment back into my own recovery and quality of life. I feel important, necessary, and heard in this community.”



WELL-BEING

STRONG FAMILIES *Rooted in Prevention*

Brighton Center's focus on Well-Being is rooted in our mission and our core value that everyone has inherent worth and dignity. Well-Being is one way to describe an individual's overall quality of life, that includes their physical, emotional, social, and economical needs in a holistic way. Programs that provide access to basic needs paired with long-term, holistic support help individuals and families maintain stability and have the best quality of life possible. A range of factors can affect family Well-Being, and addressing them with supportive services is vital to cultivating vibrant communities.

We are also committed to advancing awareness of prevention strategies that keep families together and thriving. This work requires investment in making system-level changes and shifting resources from provider-facing entities with a more family-facing approach so the resources are readily available when needed. We strive for opportunities and outcomes for everyone. We place focus on creating and enhancing networks and partnerships with existing community-based initiatives while aligning public resources to provide a full prevention continuum that helps keep families together and as a result, reduces involvement with child welfare.

4,805

individuals received food, diapers, personal care items, or other basic necessities

276

women were served at Brighton Recovery Center for Women

92

community partners attended Community Well-Being trainings to explore best practices of community support



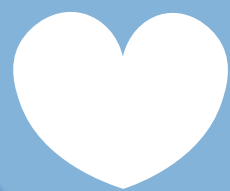
2,629 individuals and families received food and gifts during the holidays



91% of women who enter Brighton Recovery Center complete initial programming, and advance to long-term recovery residential services



80% of families engaged in community building social activities reported increased connections to other families



FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support services meet basic needs through Emergency Assistance including food, personal care items, diapers, clothing, and rental or utility assistance.

Club Care provides targeted home based support for seniors and disabled adults.



WELL-BEING SUPPORT

Thrifting on Eastern offers high-quality, gently used household items and clothing at affordable prices.

Holiday Drive provides food and gifts to children and families during the holiday season.

Community Garden in Newport, KY provides shared community gardening space.



SENIOR SUPPORT

Senior Support services provide support to older adults at Brighton Properties' Saratoga Place, Two Rivers Apartments, and Austinburg Apartments to connect them with services that will allow them to age in place.



BRIGHTON RECOVERY CENTER FOR WOMEN

A 100-bed, peer-driven, 12 month program using the "Recovery Dynamics" curriculum to help women overcome chronic substance use disorder and build a sober, productive life. Residents are connected with wraparound services, both on and offsite.



BUILDING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING PROJECT

The project creates preventative well-being strategies, improves systems communication, and provides direct resources to families. This work is rooted in concepts of co-design and partnership between the community and systems designed to support them.

THRIVING CHILDREN
Building Learning Foundations

Quality early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong success, and every child deserves access to high-quality learning experiences that keep them on track from birth through kindergarten and beyond. Through our child development centers and home visitation programs, we help children reach key developmental milestones while empowering parents to be their child’s first and best teacher.

As children grow, our youth programs continue this support by fostering positive youth development, leadership, and skill-building, ensuring young people have safe outlets, strong, support systems, and meaningful opportunities to develop the confidence and competencies they need to thrive into adulthood.

Investing in youth programming, beginning at birth, helps build strong connections between parent and child which sets the educational foundation that will support their success as they learn and grow.



260

children and parents were served through Bright Days and Early Scholars Child Development Centers

695

children and their parents were served through Every Child Succeeds and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

1,134

total nights spent at Homeward Bound Shelter

98% of children attending our child development centers for one year were assessed as age-appropriate in cognitive and language skills

95% of children were measured as kindergarten ready based on the state readiness tool

95% of Opportunity House young adults made measurable progress toward a degree or certificate



HOMEWARD BOUND SHELTER

Homeward Bound is the only 24-hour emergency shelter for youth in the region, offering services for runaway, homeless, and dependent youth ages 11-17. Outreach programs, **Safe Place** and **Street Outreach**, ensure runaway and homeless youth are connected to support.



PARENTING SERVICES

Every Child Succeeds and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters are home visitation programs that build parent-child bonding and family self-sufficiency with hands-on activities, guided curriculum, and a strengths-based approach.



HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE

Bright Days and Early Scholars Child Development Centers provide individualized, play-based instruction to prepare children for school success. Both centers, each nationally accredited and 3-STAR rated, offer safe, high-quality environments.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Youth Leadership Development is an after-school program for middle school youth ages 11-15 that builds leadership skills through community service and uses Wyman’s Teen Outreach Program to support social and emotional well-being.



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

Opportunity House supports 18-24 year olds who are enrolled in post-secondary education, managed by Brighton Properties, on Northern Kentucky University’s campus. Residents pay no more than 30% of their monthly income for housing, and are provided with wraparound supports.

Aaliyah's Journey

I came to Brighton Center because I was a student at Northern Kentucky University, my family lived out of state, and housing was getting too expensive. I needed stable and affordable housing close to school in order to focus on financial stability and education. Opportunity House gave me that stability and allowed me to continue my degree while staying close to my campus community.

One major obstacle I was able to overcome with help from Brighton Center was transportation. Through their programs, I received driving lessons and earned my driver’s license, which gave me more independence and made daily life much easier. I also earned my CPR certification, which is a useful skill and something I am glad I had the opportunity to learn, especially as I work toward a healthcare-related field. The healthy cooking classes introduced me to new recipes and helpful habits that I genuinely enjoy and want to keep incorporating into my life. These supports made it easier for me to take important steps and build skills that matter in everyday life.

Brighton Center also provides mental health resources and connects residents with community experiences. One experience that stood out to me was a collaborative HERizon Roadshow event where successful women in different fields shared real stories about their career lessons learned and meaningful things in between. Hearing their experiences and connecting with people there was empowering, motivating, and gave me more confidence in my future goals.

Living close to campus has made commuting simple and helped me stay connected to school and work. Another thing I am proud of is learning how to be a responsible renter, which is something I will carry with me beyond college. Brighton Center is unique because it offers more than housing. It supports people through different stages of growth from daily life to education to building professional confidence.

I plan to continue my education and earn a master’s degree. My goal is to build an impactful career in the medical or scientific field where I can contribute to something meaningful help people and take part in work that improves lives and communities.

“If someone does not know about Brighton Center, I would tell them it is a place that helps you move forward and take real steps toward your goals. They offer opportunities, resources, and a community that supports your growth while you work hard for your future.”

Bridgette's Journey

I used to be the kind of person who lights up a room, funny, outgoing, and always ready to lend a hand. But not long ago, life started to feel like a constant uphill battle where everything was a struggle. Stability and self-sufficiency seemed out of reach, until a coworker recommended I check out Brighton Center. From that moment on, everything transformed.

I enrolled in the Health Technology Administration program at Center for Employment Training and connected with the Admissions Specialist, who helped me take the first steps. Through programs like Thrifting on Eastern, Well Suited, and Project LIFT, I not only gained knowledge but also the confidence to use it. My resourcefulness, shaped by my own experiences, became my superpower. I discovered a passion for helping others overcome the same obstacles I once faced. I realized that I was meant to help others. When I found myself supporting my fellow trainees, celebrating their growth and cheering them on as they complete their programs.

What impresses me most about Brighton Center is the wide range of services available. But it's the people, the staff and fellow trainees, who've made the biggest impact. One memory stands out, when the staff and I came together as a support system for another trainee. It was life-changing and challenging in a way that brings growth. It opened my eyes to a future where I could be a part of a team that helps people to achieve their dreams.

My message to those who haven't yet discovered Brighton Center is not to be too prideful or scared to ask for help securing a future for your family; this was a hand up for my family not a handout. The same day I enrolled at Center for Employment Training, I drove to my job at a local restaurant and resigned because I knew Brighton Center was leading me to the future I deserved. Brighton Center gave me the strength to leave that job and take a chance on myself. I found my light at Brighton Center and now I get to be a lighthouse for others.

"Today, I am not just surviving, I am thriving. I have built meaningful relationships, experienced personal growth, and hopefully become a beacon of hope for others."



WORKFORCE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

BUILDING SKILLS

Making Sustainable Connections

Brighton Center's workforce, education, and training programming connects job seekers to high-quality jobs and employers to talented candidates to create a strong regional workforce for our community.

Education and training opportunities allow individuals to build skills and access resources that lead to employment with a livable wage, benefits, and opportunities for advancement.

We are committed to creating sustainable workforce employment pipelines through partnership with regional industry leaders. This is made possible due to our system-level focus. We invest in creating and enhancing networks and partnerships regionally, statewide, and nationally.

8,101

individuals received employment and career services at Kentucky Career Center

116

individuals received career training through Center for Employment Training

57

individuals at Northern Kentucky Scholar House made progress toward a degree or certificate



\$26,621 is the average wage gain of a Center for Employment Training graduate



83% of individuals served in intensive services at Kentucky Career Center earned job relevant licenses, certifications, or credentials



84% of individuals engaged in employment services maintained employment for six months



PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

Trades to Success is a four week cohort that explores in-demand trade and apprenticeship careers including construction, logistics, transportation, and advanced manufacturing.

Bridge to Healthcare is a four week cohort providing exposure, basic skills, and career exploration for healthcare careers.



CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

CET provides hands-on, certificate based training in Medical Assisting, Health Technology Administration, and Human Resources/ Payroll.

Women of Color in Tech is a 12 week upskill/ reskill program to launch careers in cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing, e-commerce, IT support, project management, and UX design.



LIFT UP

Lift Up is a collaborative regional project with St. Elizabeth Healthcare implementing a "no wrong door" model navigating individuals receiving substance use treatment into employment services.

Chemical Dependency Program supports women in recovery involved with the justice system to address barriers to employment.



KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER

Talent Development Services provides career coaching and workshops. Job seekers are connected to job training opportunities through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding.

Business Services helps connect qualified employees with employers.

Brighton Center serves as the **Operator** of the Kentucky Career Center.



NORTHERN KENTUCKY SCHOLAR HOUSE

NKY Scholar House, in Newport, KY, is a partnership between Brighton Center and Neighborhood Foundations, including 42 two-bedroom and 6 three-bedroom apartments and a high-quality child development center, **Early Scholars**, on campus. Residents pay no more than 30% of their monthly income, toward housing as they pursue post-secondary education.

HOUSING STABILITY

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Whole Family Stability

Stable housing is essential for families to build secure and hopeful futures. Brighton Center’s housing stability programs and efforts center on meeting families’ diverse housing needs and advocating for safe, stable housing for all in our region. The Northern Kentucky Housing Study, released in September 2023, describes how family size and available housing stock are not compatible. To address this community concern, we provide diverse housing options and wraparound support.

We offer services through a variety of programs designed to meet immediate needs and obtain income-aligned housing and prevent housing displacement, support individuals and caregivers pursuing post-secondary education, and assistance that helps families prepare for homeownership.

Brighton Center is also committed to supporting the ever changing needs of the community through systemic advocacy as we support our region’s most vulnerable populations and invest in the development of quality, income-aligned housing for young adults, seniors, families, and other special populations.



Larry's Journey

I lived in the same apartment for 22 years. I loved my home, and I think I was a model tenant. I only ever called maintenance for issues twice in all the years I lived there. Two years ago, I received notice from my property management company that a new lease would double my rent to \$1,400. At 72 years old and after working my whole life but now on a fixed income, I didn't have the ability to double my income. I tried to work with them to stay in my home, but they insisted I had 30 days to leave.

I packed up my possessions and stored them in a storage facility while I tried to find somewhere that could take me on my fixed income. The sofa was the last thing I loaded in so that it was right next to the door. I would find places in the area to spend my days, and in the evening when the staff at the storage facility left for the day, I would sleep on that sofa through the night.

When Brighton Center contacted me to tell me there was an opening at Two Rivers Apartments, I couldn't believe it. My own home again, that I could pay for with my own money. I could sleep on a bed again, and shower at home instead of in a sink at a gas station. It felt like getting my life back.

I never expected my new home to come with a community. Here at Two Rivers Apartments, I am surrounded by people who care about me. When I was working back to getting a home of my own, I was only hoping to survive. But now that I have found one, I am surrounded by people who want me to thrive. Brighton Center brings in groups who want to spend time with us and do activities with us. They make sure that we're not alone unless we want to be. The staff treat us like people and we're a part of their lives. They check in on us to make sure we have everything we need, and if we don't, they help us figure out how to get it.

783 children and parents were enrolled in the Stable Families program to prevent housing displacement and school interruptions

20 young adults resided at Opportunity House, and received case management and additional wraparound supports

19 individuals became homeowners



90% of families participating in housing stabilization programming obtained or maintained appropriate, safe, and stable housing



95% of individuals residing at Opportunity House made measurable progress toward their pursued degree or credential



194 families were able to retain income-aligned housing through foreclosure prevention services



HOUSING STABILIZATION

Rapid Rehousing helps individuals experiencing homelessness secure income-aligned housing.

Stable Families assists families with children in grades K-3 at imminent risk of homelessness, focusing on stabilizing housing and school.

Both programs are long-term offering 12+ months of wraparound support.



FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Foreclosure Prevention is provided to support homeowners in navigating the foreclosure process by intervening with lenders and attorneys, and applying for any available assistance to mitigate housing disruptions.



HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION AND COACHING

Homeownership Coaching is completed through one-on-one action planning sessions, defining homebuying steps, and financial commitment. Individuals are connected to industry experts along the way. Follow-up counseling helps new owners maintain their home.



INDEPENDENT LIVING

Independent Living provides comprehensive transitional living services to assist youth exiting state foster care programming. Services help youth achieve self-sufficiency by providing safe, secure housing combined with comprehensive, integrated services.



SPECIALIZED HOUSING

Specialized Housing is available in partnership with Brighton Properties. Housing for older adults and adults living with disabilities offer income-aligned, safe options so that individuals can continue living independently while having access to the support and resources they need.

“There is no substitute for a home of your own. I don’t know where I would be now without Brighton Center making sure that there are still places to live for everyone.”

Faith's Journey

I discovered Financial Wellness services through the United Way of Greater Cincinnati while visiting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site located at the Center for Employment Training to have my taxes prepared at no cost to me. These volunteers are so helpful with taxes, their biggest goal was to get me the refund I deserved. They answered any questions I had about taxes and made the process so easy. I learned that the taxes are just one part of Brighton Center's financial services, and I have now been working with Brighton Center for the past year and a half.

After receiving free tax preparation, I acknowledged how overwhelmed I felt by my credit card debt, which was negatively impacting my credit score. Talking to other people about money is usually a scary thing; too many times, people make you feel bad about how much you make or the choices you made along the way. But the people at Brighton Center didn't want to judge me; they just wanted me to be able to understand what I had and what I needed to do. They wanted me to have the tools to make my own best judgments about my finances.

I was able to meet with a HUD Certified Financial Coach at Brighton Center, where we arranged bi-weekly meetings to help me create a budget and a plan to successfully pay off most of my smaller credit cards in full. However, I also had several larger credit cards with high interest rates. The Financial Coach connected me with one of our community banking partners to secure approval for a Home Equity Line of Credit, which reduced my interest rates from over 30% to 7.75%. As a result, I am now able to make payments exceeding the minimum required and am progressing towards eliminating my credit card debt. My credit score has now reached nearly 800, enabling me to have better opportunities for my future, particularly as I look to retirement.

“Reflecting back on my journey with Brighton Center, they were there from day one, ready to help. They are supportive and care about the person and their ability to succeed.”



FINANCIAL WELLNESS

STABILIZING RESOURCES

Preparing for the Future

Brighton Center's Financial Wellness programs and services underpin our continuum of services. We are a Financial Opportunity Center dedicated to helping families stabilize their finances and build assets through financial education, access to family and work supports and job skills. Evidence has shown that by accessing these services together, participants are more likely to find and retain jobs, grow their net incomes, and improve their credit scores.

We work with regional partners, state programs, housing organizations, and financial institutions to ensure families have access to the resources they need.

Our financial service offerings are provided in three levels:

Budget Creation and Management

Financial Education and Knowledge

Building and Perserving Assets and Homeownership

316

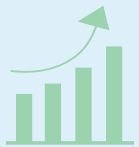
individuals participated in Financial Education Workshops

686

individuals received Free Tax Preparation

100%

of Financial Coaches at Brighton Center are HUD Certified



96% of individuals increased their knowledge of financial concepts



\$203,820 total earned income tax credits received by individuals after having their taxes filed with Free Tax Preparation



\$821,284 total income tax returns received by individuals after having their taxes filed with Free Tax Preparation



FREE TAX PREPARATION

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance provides free tax preparation and promotes the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). During the tax filing season, IRS-trained volunteers assist households with submitting simple tax returns electronically.



FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Financial Education is provided through free workshops covering money management skills, credit building techniques, emergency savings best practices, methods of saving, and how to build assets for the future.



HUD CERTIFIED FINANCIAL COACHING

Financial Coaching is provided through one-on-one sessions, where individuals develop a budget, apply money management techniques related to their financial goals, improve their credit score, and establish checking and savings accounts with a trained Financial Coach.



CREDIT CONNECTIONS

Credit Connections support individuals to build credit and assets, based on available credit building products. This occurs through partnerships built with banking and financial institutions. One option is Credit Smart loans; a small loan offering incentive to complete loan requirements.



INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Individual Development Accounts provide opportunities for individuals to increase assets with a 1:1 match of funds toward approved spending, such as: homeownership, post-secondary education, rehab of an owner occupied home, and/or vehicle purchase.

VOLUNTEERS CREATE CAPACITY
Serving with Compassion & Commitment

Volunteers are a foundational support to Brighton Center’s mission and are essential partners to helping families achieve their hopes and dreams. By working together with staff throughout the organization, volunteers of all ages and group sizes assist with daily operations, working with customers, and providing additional support utilizing specialized skills.

Each hour a volunteer spends at Brighton Center equates to a \$24.83 donation.

Our dedicated volunteers are integrated into the victories the families we serve accomplish is due to their compassion and commitment.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT



131 volunteers donated 24+ hours of their time during the course of the year



235 AmeriCorps Seniors donated a total of 17,207 hours of their time across 14 volunteer stations throughout Northern Kentucky



2,523 total volunteer experiences provided additional capacity to programs, staff, and customers



The **25,851** total volunteer hours donated is equivalent to 12 full-time staff members

A HISTORY BUILT ON VOLUNTEERS
Honoring the Legacy of the Guild

Brighton Center’s Guild was formed in 1971 when Bob Brewster, Brighton Center’s first Executive Director, sent a letter out to all of the churches in the community asking for volunteers to help support Brighton Center’s mission.

The Guild was formed to bring additional financial resources to the organization. They organized and hosted the Taster’s luncheon, the Lamplighter Ball, and eventually bought the old Joker Bar on Columbia Street to transform it to provide supports for families. They have inspired generations after them to volunteer and fundraise at events such as our Annual Gala.

“I love the Center so much that I will never give it up. Brighton Center shows you how to give to people, how to change their life, and how to do good wherever you are as long as you can. I am inspired to keep supporting Brighton Center because of their model of self-sufficiency. I’m most proud of Brighton Center’s impact on family, the love they have shared and shown, and the impact they have had on the community with all the services provided and in helping people become self-sufficient. This area never had that type of support before Brighton Center came along.” **Barb Manyet, Former Brighton Center Guild Member**



Thank you for being part of our Community of Support

Volunteers engage in a variety of activities from working behind the scenes to working directly with customers. Some volunteers enjoy utilizing their personal and professional expertise, while others are interested in trying something new. Here are some specific ways in which volunteers have provided capacity in the past year:

- Providing experiences for middle school and high school youth to build leadership skills
- Helping individuals prepare for the workforce by conducting mock interviews
- Facilitating free tax preparation to put refunds back into the hands of hardworking families
- Encouraging women on their path to recovery through relationship building and mentorship



- Supporting operations of Brighton Center’s Choice Food Pantry or Thrifting on Eastern to assist families experiencing the barriers of rising costs
- Sharing leadership of administrative support and serving on special event committees and advisory boards



ELIZABETH HERALD
COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT AWARD

Pivot Realty Group

The Community of Support Award is granted annually to a community partner who has made a significant impact on our mission. Pivot Realty Group is a long-term community partner and friend to our work. Pivot has hosted fundraising events, volunteered, including serving on our Board of Directors, and made meaningful introductions and connections to key stakeholders. Pivot Realty Group takes their corporate social responsibility seriously. They strive to help make a difference in the community while supporting Brighton Center’s mission. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing support and partnership. We would like to add a special thanks to Christy Alwell who has been a steadfast supporter of the Center’s mission and has stewarded our meaningful partnership with Pivot.



Creating Opportunities to Transform Lives



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

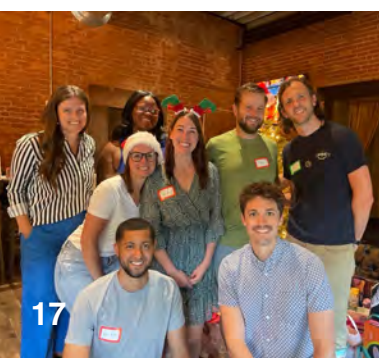
We have an opportunity for you!



BRIGHTON CENTER JUNIOR BOARD

The Next Generation of Leaders

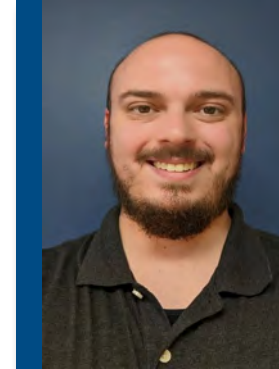
Brighton Center's Junior Board, is an incredible group of civic-minded young professionals who improve the community while making personal and career connections. Through fundraising and volunteer events, these young professionals are empowered to lead and grow. This diverse group of leaders has provided critical support to Brighton Center through innovative and unique fundraising events including FriendsGiving, their signature event, along with a variety of give back nights at local businesses. The Junior Board also volunteers their time across the agency and through the collection of wish list items such as food and holiday toys.



RECOGNIZING OUR TEAM

Celebrating Dedication and Innovation

Brighton Center's dedicated staff are passionate about our mission, embrace growth and leadership, change to best meet customer needs, and are engaged in the life of the community. We value community wide leadership and collaboration that result in stronger services and an improved quality of life for our region is one of Brighton Center's Core Values. Leadership to us means a collaborative staff who have a passion for the work, model the way, and inspire a shared vision that ultimately improves the quality of life for our customers and the community. Through innovation and community engagement, Brighton Center staff are wholeheartedly committed and invested to our mission as they use their voice and skills to grow as leaders and strengthen our impact both regionally and nationally.



Michele Arnold
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Jared Reinecke

The Michele Arnold Employee of the Year Award is given to an individual who has shown exemplary performance in their career at Brighton Center.



Tammy Weidinger
SUPER NOVA AWARD

Amy Knapke

The Tammy Weidinger Super Nova Award is awarded to an employee who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and risen through the ranks during their tenure.

BOILED FROGS

The Boiled Frog Award is a peer nominated award that is given to employees who rise to the occasion and have shown the unique ability to overcome extreme obstacles in the performance of their job.



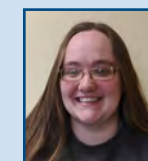
L to R: Erica Higgs, Tiffany Pleasant, Nicole Carter



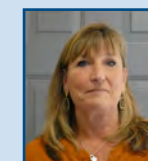
L to R: Danielle Montgomery, Brenda Long, Sandy Huber, Jasmine Hopkins
Not Pictured: Robin Arnold

DIRECTOR AWARDS

Awarded to employees who have shown exemplary performance within their department, selected by the Department Director.



Jennifer Sims



Sandy Huber



Katy Sullivan



Mandy Stephens



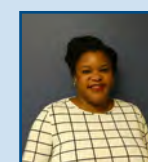
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Amy Wiley



Beth Hodge



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Brighton Center’s solid financial foundation is built upon our high ethical standards of not only delivering services that are equitable and impactful, but also managing our finances with transparency and the highest level of accountability to our community, funders, and Board of Directors. Our strong commitment ensures that we can continue to provide essential services to fulfill our mission.

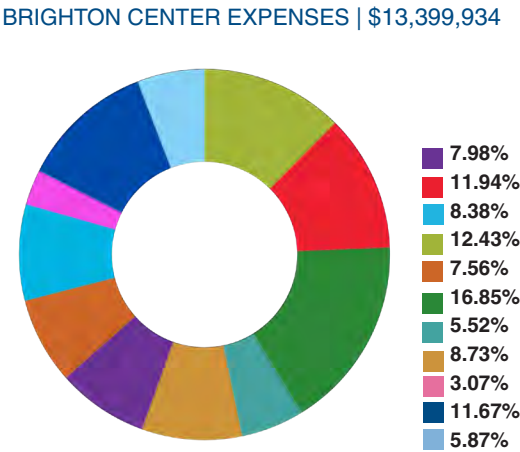
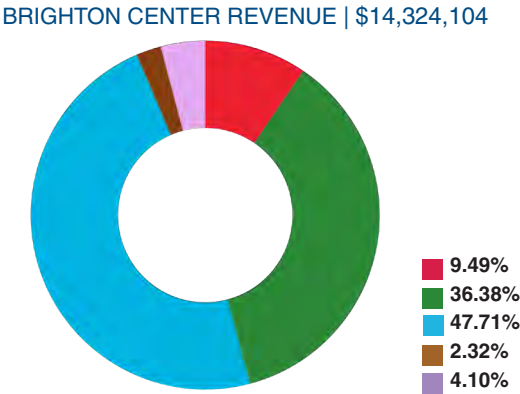
CONTRIBUTIONS, SUPPORT, AND REVENUE	
United Way Allocation	\$1,359,141
Contributions	\$2,938,768
Donated Goods	\$876,868
Special Events, Net of Related Expenses	\$95,160
Fees and Grants from Governmental Agencies	\$6,833,887
Fees and Grants by Unassociated Organizations	\$1,140,241
Program Service Fees	\$206,049
Revenues by Associated Organizations	\$159,528
Sales of Supplies and Services	\$47,778
Other Income	\$79,086
Investment Income	\$587,598

Total Contributions, Support, and Revenue \$14,324,104

EXPENSES - PROGRAM SERVICES	
Recovery Services	\$1,069,725
Family and Child Development	\$1,600,025
Youth Services	\$1,122,853
Community Resource Center	\$1,665,558
Workforce Development	\$1,012,473
Housing and Family Well-Being	\$2,257,384
Kentucky Career Center	\$740,364
Parenting Services	\$1,170,419

EXPENSES - SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Fundraising and Public Relations	\$411,298
Indirect Costs - Management and Other	\$1,563,187
Data Evaluation and Other	\$786,648
Total Expenses	\$13,399,934

Change in Net Assets	\$924,170
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$12,738,871
Net Assets, End of Year	\$13,663,041



*Our financial statements audited by Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd. meet the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

ACCOUNTABILITY & ACCREDITATION



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.



Brighton Center’s 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.



Bright Days Child Development Center is 3 STAR rated and accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders. Early Scholars Child Development Center is 3 STAR rated and accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders.



Homeward Bound Shelter and the Independent Living Program are CARF accredited, demonstrating that we are guided by internationally recognized service standards and best practices.

Brighton Center is monitored by multiple external funding sources.

Thank You to our Board of Directors who support our work.

Creating Opportunities that Transform Lives

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Sharing Resources for Change



DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Our impact is made possible by the generosity of community members who share their resources to support Brighton Center’s mission.

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Brighton Center is diligent in honoring our donors and ensuring the accuracy of our donor listing. If you have any questions regarding your giving history, or encounter discrepancy, please notify the Development Team.

development@brightoncenter.com

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July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Creating Opportunities
that Transform Lives

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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.

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