



SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER



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hope —————
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Wine Over Water - Oct. 30

Welcome New Board Members



Check out our website,
brightoncenter.com for more
success stories, news, and
information about upcoming events.

HOPE COMES FULL CIRCLE



One of the most rewarding aspects of working at Brighton Center is seeing how someone's journey comes full circle. Watching as individuals and families overcome barriers, set goals, and achieve their dreams is truly a humbling experience. As we partner with individuals and families on their journey to self-sufficiency, we celebrate all the wins along the way and offer support and guidance when the road gets bumpy. For many, the last 18 months have been some of the most challenging times they have faced, but even in the uncertainty, we get to witness as their stories come full circle and dreams are realized. Hope is a powerful driving force, and we hear time and time again from our customers that the most important factor in their journey is never losing hope. We are proud of our community of support which includes our staff who lead our comprehensive array of 47 services; our customers who provide support and inspiration to each other; and our volunteers, donors, and the community who have stood alongside us for 55 years as we provide the hope that helps people achieve their dreams.

Wonda Wilcox

Governor Beshear Presents \$1 Million Award for Opportunity House on NKU's Campus



Governor Andy Beshear visited the future location of Opportunity House on Northern Kentucky University's campus to present a Community Development Block Grant check for \$1,000,000. This project is a collaborative effort between the City of Highland Heights, Northern Kentucky University, Brighton Center, and Brighton Properties. Funding from this grant along with private support will ensure the renovation of the facility.

Opportunity House will provide affordable housing and supportive services for young adults ages 18-24 while they work and attend post-secondary education in pursuit of a degree or certification. Opportunity House will provide the support and pathway to labor market success for those who traditionally have experienced many barriers to complete education beyond high school. This program will ensure young adults have a bright future and the best quality of life possible. The project entails developing 15 efficiency apartments and a one-bedroom apartment with individual bathrooms and kitchenettes. In addition, there will be a large group room, classroom, full kitchen, and small meeting rooms.

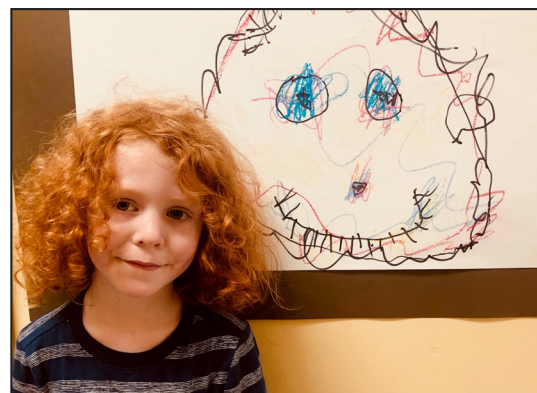
We are so grateful for the transformational impact that this funding will provide in the lives of the young adults that will be served through Opportunity House. Access to stable housing, quality post-secondary education, and comprehensive supports will lead to financial independence and long-term success.



A JOURNEY IN NATIONAL BEST PRACTICE

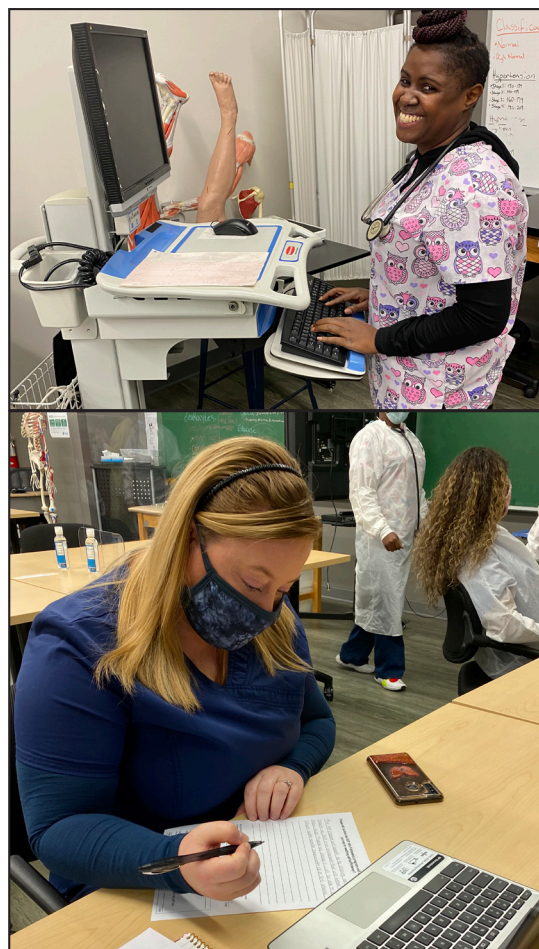
Advancing 2-Generation Outcomes

Brighton Center is extremely honored to have been one of five sites in the country selected to participate in “Next Steps for Rigorous Research on Two-Generation Approaches” (NS2G) through the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation [OPRE], within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families [ACF]. In 2019, recognizing the promise of two-generation programs that serve parents and children in the same family, ACF contracted with Mathematica to carry out NS2G to build knowledge about two-generation programs that intentionally combine economic security services for parents with accessible, high-quality early care and education that hold promise for improving family well-being. In 2020, Brighton Center was selected by Mathematica to expand the evidence for two-generation practices. Over the course of this project, Mathematica will evaluate and provide technical assistance to Northern Kentucky Scholar House, and we will be able to engage in a learning community with other two-generation programs throughout the country.



Northern Kentucky Scholar house is part of a comprehensive statewide, two-generation self-sufficiency program for single-parent families. The program strives to support single parents enrolled in post-secondary education. By providing access to affordable housing, quality child care, and support services, Northern Kentucky Scholar House eliminates many of the barriers single parents face in reaching their academic and financial dreams.

Advancing Best Practices in Bundling Our Services



For over 10 years, Brighton Center's Center for Employment Training has been partnering with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to advance the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) approach in our region. FOC's bundle the services of employment coaching, financial coaching, and access to work supports in a seamless approach. In 2018, Brighton Center was one of only 40 sites in the nation to participate in a national pilot to deepen the work of FOC through Bridges to Career Opportunities. The results of this journey clearly show that people achieve greater success with financial stability and independence when key services are intentionally combined simultaneously to address the challenges they encounter on the journey to achieving self-sufficiency. The stories on the next two pages, exemplify how the FOC model truly works as a best practice in supporting families.

Five Year Data



757
participants



549
participants completed
a Bridges to Career
Opportunity education/
training program



\$21,073
average wage gain of
Center For Employment
Training graduates

HOPE IS LIFE CHANGING



DeMeko's Story: Brighton Center really “brightened” the way for me. I had an idea of what I wanted in life and where I wanted to be, and Brighton Center laid down the stepping stones to make it all happen.

I had a good life growing up. I lived in a two-parent household and both of my parents had great careers. I was raised in a decent neighborhood with lots of friends, but my young adult life felt purposeless. I always had a good job, but nothing that I wanted to do forever.

After the call center I had been working at laid everyone off, I found myself at the Kentucky Career Center where I came across a brochure about Brighton Center’s Center for Employment Training [CET]. I called to learn more, set up an appointment, and started that very next Monday in the Medical Assisting training program.

While attending CET, I participated in financial coaching, and received assistance with resume writing and job search success. While I was focused on my education, my son attended Bright Days Child Development Center. Halfway through my externship in Dermatology, I was offered my dream job! I completed my Medical Assisting training in November of 2016.

In March of 2020, I continued working with my Financial Coach with a new goal of becoming a homeowner. Over the course of 16 months, I improved my credit score by 114 points and joined the Assets for Independence savings match program. As part of the match program, I was required to save \$1,000 which would then be matched \$4,000, for a total of \$5,000 to use toward the purchase of a new home. As part of the steps to buying a new home, I also joined the Home Buyer’s Club and earned a Homeownership Education Certificate for first-time home buyers. I finally reached my goal of becoming a homeowner!

I learned that I have to have a purpose and everything I do in life needs a true meaning. I learned how much I like to help people whether it’s my work as a Medical Assistant or out in the world passing along the knowledge I have received. My purpose in life is to help in any way that I can.

I recently had the neat opportunity to utilize my skills as a Medical Assistant to give back at Brighton Recovery Center for Women during a rotation as part of my role at St. Elizabeth Physicians.

I am a mother of four, a fiancé, a homeowner, and a business owner. I can give my children everything they want and need. In the future, I hope to further my education as an RN, become a real estate agent, and invest in more property.



We first introduced you to Saira and her family in the fall of 2020, and we are so excited to update you on her story as she has recently graduated from our Center for Employment Training, and gained a full-time job!

Saira's Story: In April 2020, my husband and I both lost the full-time jobs we had been at for over five years due to the pandemic. As a family of five, with three sons ages 21, 16, and 13, we

quickly used our emergency savings and were behind on bills and rent payments. We were living off my husband’s weekly unemployment checks because mine never processed correctly. We barely covered our basic needs. As I was looking for resources for my family, I filled out an online form and received a call from a staff member regarding available programs.

Despite my experience with Medical Billing and Coding, I was never certified, so hearing about a debt-free option through Center for Employment Training [CET] felt like the perfect opportunity to advance my career, but I had other worries. I was hesitant to start a training program while trying to manage my

HOPE IS POWERFUL



2020 was an incredibly trying year for so many, from unemployment to housing needs, hardships were seen throughout our community. The loss of a job, plus a pandemic, brings uncertainty. Where will the next paycheck come from? How can unemployment be filed? What about debts that need to be paid off, how will those be affected? For Josh, these were just some of the many questions that arose when he lost his job in spring 2020.

Josh's Story: Like many 16-24 year olds in our community, I graduated from high school, but was not successful in post-secondary pursuits and was bouncing around from one service industry job to another, never really able to make ends meet or have financial independence. When the pandemic hit, I became unemployed and needed to find work to support myself. Finding a sustainable

wage, much less a job, proved to be difficult. I was experiencing what so many others experienced when COVID hit. I knew that I wanted to do something more with my life, to not just live paycheck to paycheck, I wanted to find something I loved to do each and every day, that gave me a sense of purpose.

In an effort to find a job and discover a career path, I found the Trades to Success program and became part of the first cohort in October 2020. Based on my aptitude test and seeing the work in action through the program, I decided to pursue an HVAC apprenticeship.

I landed an apprenticeship with Arlinghaus Heating & Air in Erlanger as an HVAC technician. Now nearly 5 months into my apprenticeship, I wholeheartedly believe I have found a career and a role that not only makes me feel successful in my work life, but in my personal life too.

I'm very proud of myself. I'm growing so much as a person and a HVAC technician that I'm constantly out of my comfort zone. Which in turn, is transforming me into someone I can say I'm proud to be. The information I've learned and retained, the relationships I've built, and the real-world applications I get to use my skills in, I'm just really thankful for everything. Never would I have thought I'd be at such a high point in my life. I could not be more grateful for this change in my life.

Trades to Success is a 3-week program created to help customers find a trade career they love. The program will explore trade and apprenticeship careers, job training opportunities, and post-secondary education opportunities. With support and guidance from Brighton Center's team, customers can start their future by attending the program.

family on such a limited budget, but Brighton Center staff were incredible and able to help. Staff at the Kentucky Career Center helped me navigate getting my unemployment benefits processed, and we finally started receiving my benefits in August. During this time, I received Emergency Assistance to help us get back on track with rent payments to avoid eviction and our utility bills to avoid shut-offs. We also received help paying our Internet bill so that my three boys could continue schooling from home.

All of this made it possible for me to start the Health Technology Administration training program at CET. My husband also found full-time employment, and we are stable enough to

start thinking about the future. We have continued working with a Brighton Center Financial Coach in hopes of one-day becoming homeowners. Brighton Center makes me feel valued. I am so glad to be here, it keeps me motivated to continue working toward achieving my dreams. My family and I have so much opportunity here. In April of 2021, just one year after accessing services, I graduated from the Health Technology Administration program and started working at Seven Hill's Women's Health Centers.

Never give up. Never forget that there is someone here that will help you!

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE INCREDIBLE!

TWO GENERATIONS OF GIVING BACK



For Gwen and her daughter, Murphy, volunteering at Brighton Center is a long-standing family tradition. Gwen first started volunteering at Bright Days Child Development Center in 1996 after donating clothing and learning about all the services Brighton Center provides. She volunteered in the infant and toddler rooms during parent workshops and Murphy, who was just about three years old at the time, came along!

Throughout school, Murphy would often complete her required service hours at Brighton Center.

Now, both Murphy and Gwen continue to volunteer. Gwen volunteers in the Food Pantry and at Thrifting on Eastern regularly. Murphy has volunteered in several capacities over the last five years including as a member of Center for Employment Training's Technical Advisory Board, as a member of Brighton Center's Junior Board, Development Committee, and the Wine Over Water Committee.

"It's been really neat growing up and learning the value of giving back and helping others. We learned to appreciate what we had, and why you need to help others to have that equality. It's been neat to be a volunteer and help plan and shape the future. It's so rewarding to see a customer go from living paycheck by paycheck to being able to support their family." - Murphy

"It fills your heart to know that you can be just a small part of helping someone gain the life they dream of." - Gwen

email volunteer@brightoncenter.com or
visit brightoncenter.com/volunteer for
more information

Volunteers have always played an important role in working along-side staff to help provide critical services to the community. Over the last 18 months, volunteers have stepped up in big ways to ensure we can continue providing transformational services. If you are an individual, group, business, or other organization interested in giving back, we have many opportunities for you to get involved. We encourage you to check out our website and join us for an upcoming information session to learn how you can get involved at www.brightoncenter.com.



Congrats Grads (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)



21

children graduated kindergarten ready from Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)



12

children graduated from Bright Days and Early Scholars Child Development Centers



2

youth involved in Community & Youth Services programming graduated from high school or college



14

residents of Northern Kentucky Scholar House gained a certification or completed an Associate or Bachelor's Degree



44

trainees completed a skill division and/or received their GED at Brighton Center's Center for Employment Training (CET) during the fall or spring



18

women completed all phases of Brighton Recovery Center for Women



52

Kentucky Career Center customers obtained job relevant credential, vocational training, Associate or Bachelor's Degree



AGENCY NEWS & HAPPENINGS

Celebrating the Grand Opening of Thrifting on Eastern



We celebrated the grand opening of our new thrift store, Thrifting on Eastern, located at 2014 Eastern Avenue in Covington, KY. Thrifting on Eastern is a community thrift store offering high-quality, gently used household items and clothing at affordable prices. Brighton Center is deeply grateful to St. Elizabeth Healthcare for this incredible gift. At the onset of the pandemic, we had to close our Clothing Closet thrift store in Newport so that we could pivot to meet the increased hunger relief needs of our families. All proceeds from sales go directly back to support Brighton Center's Family Support programs. The store is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donations are accepted during those times as well! We encourage you to stop by and shop or donate.



DONATIONS WE ACCEPT

- kitchenwares
 - small appliances
 - toys
 - home decor
 - electronics
 - small furniture
 - fashion accessories
- in-season new and gently used clothing *(preferably on hangers)*

Youth Giving Back



Our Youth Leadership Development program participated in Camp Give, a program through Magnified Giving over the summer. Camp Give is a service-learning camp where youth learn about local non-profits, along with volunteering their time, talent, and treasures. In total, the youth awarded \$5,112.32 in grant money to Angel's Food Pantry, Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Frankie's Furry Friends, and Henry Hosea House. How Inspiring to see the next generation of philanthropists in action!

WINE OVER WATER

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 30, 2021

PURPLE PEOPLE BRIDGE | NEWPORT, KY

WINE • BEER • SPIRITS •
SCRUMPTIOUS FOOD • LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT • BREATHTAKING
VIEWS • FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE

VIP ADMISSION 5:00 p.m.
GENERAL ADMISSION 5:30 p.m.

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
BRIGHTONCENTER.COM/WINEOVERWATER

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



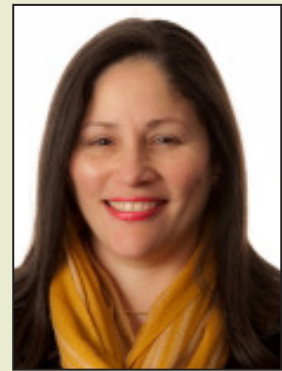
Damon Allen
Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati



Mark Exterkamp
First Financial Bank



Eric Johnson
Grant Thornton LLP



Leyla Pena
Cincinnati Public Schools



Laura Pleiman
Boone County Fiscal Court



Alicia Townsend
U.S. Bank



Aaron Anderson
GBBN Architects



Jill Johnson
Retired, United Way of Greater Cincinnati

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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President & CEO: Wonda Winkler
Vice President: Melissa Hall Sommer
Vice President: Talia Frye
Chief Financial & Administrative Officer: June Miller
Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator: Jennifer Hansert
Development Director: Lauren Copeland
Facilities & Community Development Director: Tony Herms
Human Resources Director: Mary Decker

Youth Services

Director: Kate Arthur
13 E. 20th Street
Covington, KY 41014
Phone: (859) 581-1111

Early Childhood Education

Director: Dellisa Ford-Edwards
Bright Days Child Development Center
7th & Park Ave.
Newport, KY 41071
Northern Kentucky Scholar House
450 W. 6th Street
Newport, KY 41071

Family Center

Director: Jenny Wiley
799 Ann Street
Newport, KY 41071

Kentucky Career Center

Operator: Correy Eimer
Director: Eric Owsley
1324 Madison Avenue
Covington, KY 41011

Workforce Development

Director: Ellen Bates
Center for Employment Training
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140
Newport, KY 41071

Recovery Services

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



BBB Cincinnati 2020 Winner

Brighton Center is an equal opportunity employer and service provider offering advancement to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, or disability.

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Find us on social

