

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER BRIGHTON CENTER | SPRING 2021

Moving Forward With NODE



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

MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE



It has truly been a year unlike any other. Despite all of the challenges that have arisen, and through the times of uncertainty, one common theme has prevailed; HOPE! We have seen this community come together many times over the last five decades, but I am genuinely humbled by the resilience of our customers, the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, our donors' continuous generosity, and how nonprofits and businesses have joined together in support of our region.

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought to the forefront the issues of food insecurity and access to food. Wages and area median incomes were not keeping pace with the cost of living causing families to work multiple jobs to make ends meet, and due to the Pandemic, those issues became even more evident. COVID has exacerbated the issue around affordable housing in our region. The people impacted the most are low

to moderate-income families. Their lives changed in an instant, and many did not have the financial resources to be able to sustain the economic shock. Guided by our mission and core values, we embraced our role as a convener and connector - a place where people knew they could turn to for critical services.

We still have so much to do and accomplish, and we know the road ahead is long, but one thing I know for certain - we can achieve unbelievable things together. We will continue to move forward with integrity, courage, strength, compassion, empathy, and a commitment to accountability, excellence, and innovation. We will also continue to play a key role in convening regional stakeholders to create strong systems that ensure a thriving Northern Kentucky economy and are inclusive of the voices of our families.

Hope has been a guiding light at Brighton Center for 55 years, and now more than ever, we are moving forward together with hope! You help make this possible!

- Wonda Winkler, President & CEO

GET TO KNOW WONDA WINKLER, NEW TO HER ROLE AS PRESIDENT & CEO

What was your first impression of Brighton Center?

I first started with Brighton Center in September 1993 doing direct services, and I quickly learned that this was a place where I could bring new ideas forward to help our families, and they were embraced. I saw that mission mattered, and lives were being transformed...I was all in!

What's the best part of working at Brighton Center?

At Brighton Center, we are blessed...with the best staff, Board, volunteers, donors, stakeholders, partners...and most importantly our customers. That's why we are here...to make a meaningful difference and impact in the lives of our families and improve their quality of life. I know at the end of the day, I get to leave the world a better place.

What is one impactful memory or moment that stands out to you?

I have so many amazing memories over the last 28 years I've been here...I always enjoy hearing success stories of our families. One in particular involved a customer who was one of the first graduates of our Center for Employment Training. She got an opportunity to speak with a reporter and share her story, and she said that one of the things she was looking forward to most about her new job was that she was going to be able to take a name off the giving tree at Christmas and help someone else, since she had been helped the year before. Giving back is a part of the self-sufficiency journey for our families, and it was so amazing to see her not only excited about her new career, but also to share kindness with others.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

The best advice I was given is to follow through on the promises that you make - so it's the advice I share with others today. I believe doing this results in credibility, and builds trust and respect with others. This is so important to building relationships, which is foundational to our work.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I love spending time with my family. I know the most important role I have is being a mother - it's been so fun watching my daughter grow up into an amazing young woman, and being there for all the things she enjoys like playing lacrosse.

What's a work-related accomplishment you are really proud of?

I'm most proud when I see others grow and learn...especially when staff are promoted from within. Being able to lead an organization in a community I love is so special to me, and then to see our staff realize their full potential, because we have an organizational culture that fosters leadership, is something I'm really proud of. I know the growth of our staff also ensures that our families and communities thrive.

If you could travel to anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?

My happy place is at the ocean, so I'd go to the beach...the bluer the water, the better. My favorite part is listening to the waves crashing and feeling the breeze blowing, it's so calming. When I look out to the ocean, it always makes me realize that the world is so much bigger than me, and puts things into perspective.

AGENCY NEWS & HAPPENINGS

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

Food Security, Housing Stability, Education, Child Care, & Employment



Over the past year, the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to the forefront just how fragile and interconnected our economic systems are. Challenges such as food security, housing stability, access to employment opportunities, training, and education along with affordable quality child care were suddenly issues that we all were navigating in some way. Because of your support, Brighton Center was able to remain a beacon of hope for the community as we pivoted to continue providing services, no matter what it took, to help families through this unprecedented time.

CELEBRATING MOMENTS OF HOPE

In an effort to meet the workforce demands in our region and to fill a gap that existed in our services for men, Brighton Center recently launched a new program called Trades to Success. This program is a no-cost pre-apprenticeship program designed to help connect men to trade careers such as: Electrician, Line Worker, Construction, Transportation, Supply Chain & Logistics, and many more. Research shows that middle-skill jobs, like those in the trades that require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of our country's labor market. Between 2014-2024, nearly half of job openings will be middle-skill, and many jobs that require middle-skill credentials are well paying. With cost of living increasing at a higher rate than incomes, finding a longlasting career leading to financial independence is critically important for families.

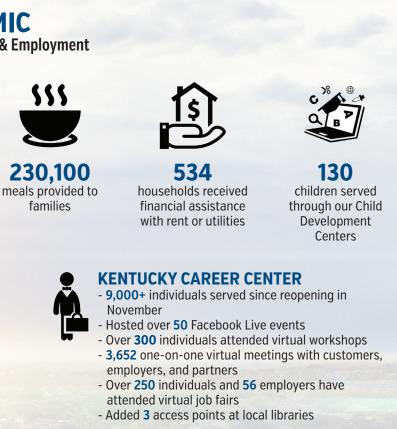
Northern Kentucky Scholar House Celebrates 5 Years of Impact!

Since opening in the Fall of 2015, Northern Kentucky Scholar House has become home to 134 single-parents pursuing a post-secondary degree or certification! Over the past five years, 43 Scholar House residents have obtained a post-secondary certification, license, Associate's Degree, or Bachelor's Degree! This incredible two-generation program helps parents pursue an education that will lead to a successful career path while also supporting their children in setting the foundation for life-long learning. Early Scholars Child Development Center is a 5 STAR Rated center on-site. Life skills workshops, case management, and support services are also offered on the journey toward achieving self-sufficiency.



2020 BBB Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics Winner

Brighton Center was thrilled to be recognized as a winner of the 2020 Cincinnati Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics for extraordinary business operations and ethics. The BBB Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics is a huge honor for the entire Brighton Center team. This award affirms the community's trust in us, which is built on accountability and transparency. Our core values guide our work each and every day, and this award affirms our commitment to them.



Trades to Success Launches Three Successful Cohorts To Meet Workforce Demand





DANIELLE Northern Kentucky Scholar House Alumni

I first became involved with Brighton Center through Northern Kentucky Scholar House while working toward my Associate's Degree at Gateway Community & Technical College.

My monthly meetings with my Case Manager, the various life skills workshops offered, and the rest of the ladies here helped inspire me and created a sense of community.

My biggest accomplishment is completing my Medical Assisting

Degree as a single mother of two boys. I now have a promising career as a Medical Assistant with St. Elizabeth General Surgery. I hope to start building my credit to eventually buy a house of our own. In the future, I would like to be an advocate for other single mothers. I would like to help them become aware of the programs and resources available, like Brighton Center provides, to help them reach their goals.

Early Scholars Child Development Center, which is on-site, helped my oldest, Osyris, who is 10, with the transition to virtual schooling because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He was able to attend during the day and had access to WiFi while receiving help with schoolwork while I was able to continue working and going to school. He was also able to interact with other children his age, which sparked a few new friendships. At Early Scholars, my little guy, Palace, age 3, grew to love his teachers and started learning sign language!

I am very proud of everything I have accomplished at Northern Kentucky Scholar House, and am thankful that I got the opportunity to be part of this program and the community it creates. I can't give enough thanks to the staff who truly care for all of us and want to see us succeed.

Northern Kentucky Scholar House provides support to single parents enrolled in postsecondary education. By providing access to affordable housing, quality on-site child care, and support services, Scholar House eliminates many issues single parents often face in reaching their academic and financial dreams. Quality, affordable child care is not only critical for a child's long-term educational success, but also for parents to find or maintain employment, or pursue educational and training opportunities.



Youth Leadership Development (YLD) is an after-school program for youth ages 11-15 to build leadership and social emotional skills, participate in college and career exploration, and conduct community service projects. Teen Coalition, for ages 15-18, encourages youth and teens to set long-term goals of continued education post high school, healthy lifestyles, and positive decision making. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, YLD and Teen Coalition have pivoted to continue to provide youth a safe place both virtually and in-person. These programs have helped youth navigate the changes in their daily lives, and provide additional support both with school work and with their families. Hear below from some of our youth about the impact YLD and Teen Coalition has had on them over this past year.



has been important to me during

-MELINA, Virtual Community Club

and still do fun things."



"I am proud to be part of YLD because of the community service we do. YLD COVID, because I was able to stay busy

- RICKEY, Newport YLD Learning Lab



ASHLEY Rapid Rehousing Customer

4

SEAN Brighton Center Rapid Rehousing Specialist

REALIANT PROPERTIES

Valine | Office Manager at Realiant Properties

After being displaced from her home in late 2020, Ashley, a single mother of six, struggled to find housing. Eventually, she and her children found themselves in a shelter. Although it was overwhelming to be in a shelter with her children, it provided her the opportunity to connect with the Coordinated Entry process and Brighton Center's Rapid Rehousing program. Hope began to stir within Ashley as she realized the potential that this program could provide to her and her family. However, Ashley discovered very quickly the difficulties of finding a home suitable for her family during the Pandemic.

Over the years, Brighton Center has built relationships with landlords in our guest to find stable housing for our customers, but even with these

connections it proved difficult to find a place where Ashley could see her family thriving.

When Ashley found potential places, barriers kept coming up that prevented the opportunities from being fulfilled. Despite being discouraged and disappointed, Ashley never gave up on looking for a place for her and her family to call their own.

Just when it seemed like all options were exhausted, there was Realiant Properties! From our first contact with Valine, the Office Manager, it was clear that she was going to do everything possible for Ashley and her family to find stable housing. Valine was compassionate and extremely helpful. She kept us informed about available openings

and she was willing to work within the requirements of our Rapid Rehousing program.

Valine remained committed and dedicated, and showed persistence throughout the process, and Ashley secured a new home for her family. When we find exceptional partners who care as deeply as we do about our families, magical things can happen.

"Rapid Rehousing staff are the best and are wonderful people. They helped me along the struggled road I was on. This program is everything and more, they truly saved me and my children's lives," said Ashley.

With the right support and Ashley's dedication to her goals, she is well on her way to self-sufficiency!



Access to affordable housing is foundational to our work in stabilizing and supporting children, young adults, and families. It is a critical step in helping individuals improve the quality of their lives while achieving their goals of providing for themselves and their family.

Our region has faced an affordable housing crisis for many years, which has increased since the onset of the Pandemic. Our Rapid Rehousing and Street Outreach teams work with young adults and individuals experiencing homelessness to connect them with permanent, affordable housing and additional supports.

As we continue to see a need for access to affordable housing in our region, we are looking to partner with landlords to help us meet this critical need. If you are a landlord looking to make an impact in your community, please contact our Rapid Rehousing team.



"YLD has been important to me, especially over the past year, because it is fun and staff have helped me with my school work and other things too."



"Teen Coalition gives me something positive to do. I don't sit around bored and am able to do community service, which is helping prepare me for the future. My favorite project was creating care kits for others. It felt good knowing other youth would receive them."

- DAKOTA, Teen Coalition

You can help connect customers to affordable housing

Interested in learning more? **Contact: Rapid Rehousing** (859) 491-8303 ext. 2318 or tneri@brightoncenter.com

Sean, Golden, & Rodney



KENITHA Center for Employment Training Graduate Northern Kentucky Scholar House Resident **Financial Coaching & Education Participant**

I am a conqueror and I don't give up.

I first learned about Brighton Center when I moved from Cincinnati to Newport and was applying for benefits. I saw a flyer for Center for Employment Training (CET) and realized they offered the



ERICA CENTER TABLE, Catering with a Purpose Food Service Specialist **Brighton Recovery Center for Women Alumni**

training I needed to gain a certification in Health Technology Administration, which is a field I had some previous experience working in.

Throughout my entire life, I had always dedicated my time to helping other people - friends, family, and especially my four kids. I wanted them to succeed, but had never taken the time to focus on my goals. My previous certification had expired before I was able to use it and I knew CET was my opportunity to focus on a career.

I started the Health Technology Administration skill division in October of 2019. Everything was going well and then, COVID happened. I was suddenly not only a student and single mom to four kids, but also became their teacher when they shifted to virtual schooling. At the time, I was about 70% done with my training and it was so frustrating to be so close to finishing and have everything suddenly change.

I tried my best to continue with remote learning, but it was nearly impossible with four kids at home full-time. It was stressful, and I had a lot of long days and nights juggling everything, but I was determined to fight through it and set a good example for my children.

No matter what, I knew I could turn to the staff at CET. Whether it was words of encouragement, or assistance with food, basic needs, and keeping a roof over our heads, they were always willing to help with available resources. I truly felt like part of a family. In January 2021, in front of my four kids, instructors, and fellow CET trainees, I walked in a cap and gown for the first time in my life and received my Health Technology Administration completion certificate. I can't even begin to tell you how proud that moment made me feel and how special it was to share with my kids, with whom I am constantly stressing the importance of a good education.

CET's debt-free education is so incredibly important for people like me who have previous student loan debt. It allowed me to focus on the training, work toward a career path, and save money instead of taking on more debt.

I now work at Ethos Laboratory and love my job. I process COVID-19 and toxicology test results. Having a stable income is a breath of fresh air and a huge stress relief. Every two weeks I know I have a paycheck coming that allows me to provide for my kids, put food on the table, and pay bills without stressing.

I am currently working with Brighton Center's Financial Wellness department. I am attending financial education and homeownership classes, while working to improve my credit, so that I can achieve my dream of owning a home someday soon. It is an incredible feeling to support my family without needing assistance, to know that we are no longer living in poverty, and have a bright future ahead.

I first walked into Brighton Recovery Center for Women (BRC) on March 29, 2019, and my life has done a complete change for the better since that day. Today, I am a good mom, a good daughter, I'm a sponsor, I'm a good coworker, and I'm an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. On March 1, I celebrated two years of sobriety! I love myself today and I'm confident in myself, the work I do, and the person I am. My family and friends can depend on me. I'm honest, I'm dependable, and I am so overly grateful for how amazing my life is today and the good person I have become because of BRC.

To go from being a resident at BRC working to overcome addiction, to completing BRC and then being hired as the Food Service Specialist at CENTER TABLE, Catering with a Purpose, in March of 2020 is the most heartwarming and accomplished feeling I have ever felt in my life! I feel like now no matter what if I put my mind and hard work into it, I can accomplish any goal in my life that I work for. I am extremely grateful to work for the house that made me the better person I am today.

If I could tell the "me" who walked into BRC for the first time, it would be, stop crying. Just be willing and hardworking, and this place will teach you how to be the happiest you have ever been, give you the greatest life yet, and you are going to love yourself soon enough. Trust God and Alcoholics Anonymous. Cherish all the moments with your BRC sisters and just have fun.

The first time I worked in the BRC kitchen I was watching my kitchen Peer Mentors prepare a CENTER TABLE event and just watching them make the food look so pretty and neat from scratch inspired me to learn. I joined the catering team and began to learn so many yummy things to cook and make.

The most important thing I want people to know about CENTER TABLE is when you order our food not only are you ordering a very delicious meal or treat, but your changing lives and boosting the selfconfidence in the women here at BRC. It's an incredible opportunity for women working through their recovery to learn responsibility and culinary skills that they can use to obtain employment.

The thing I love most about running CENTER TABLE is watching the women on the catering team as their self-esteem and self-confidence grows because of the things they have learned to create and cook, and the joy it brings them when at the end of the day they know they made that delicious, beautiful dish for other people to enjoy!

CENTER TABLE has provided me a way to give back to the house that saved me and that's an amazing feeling. We do recover and I just want you all to know how grateful I am for God and BRC for saving my life and giving me the best life ever!





Health Technology Administration

- Open enrollment
- Career placement
- Supportive services
- Accredited institution
- Hands-on training
- Complete in less than a year
- Debt-free



Medica

Assisting

CET recently expanded the Medical Assisting training program to offer an evening & weekend schedule. This will accommodate members of our community who find it challenging to attend training during the day, but are interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field.

To learn more contact: [859] 491-8303 ext. 2201 or admissions@brightoncenter.com



CENTER TABLE, Catering with a Purpose is a social enterprise catering company that uses fresh, house-grown, seasonal ingredients to create delicious food for all occasions from backyard barbeques to business lunches and elegant celebrations. Profits from CENTER TABLE support recovery efforts and culinary arts training programs for women with addiction. When you hire CENTER TABLE, you delight your guests with exceptional food and service while helping transform lives.

CENTER TABLE's catering and culinary training program provides residents in Phases I and II of Brighton Recovery Center with educational training and life skills to gain work in the food service industry after completion.

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PARTNERSHIPS CREATE HOPE

VOLUNTEERS CREATE HOPE



DATA SCIENTISTS | FIFTH THIRD BANK

Since December 2018, a team of Data Scientists from Fifth Third have volunteered over 350 hours to assist in the creation, implementation, and back-end analytics of the rollout of our agency-wide database. This collaboration is such a gift for us to be able to utilize analytics to understand who we are serving, validate our wholefamily, integrated service delivery approach that helps move families out of poverty. and better understand the combination of programs and services that move families forward to economic self-sufficiency (above 200% of federal poverty level and beyond). We are so grateful to this Fifth Third team for using their expertise in this innovative way.

Volunteers give important support to our agency by providing:

- critical supports to families who are experiencing food insecurity.
- experiences to youth to build leadership and reach their fullest potential.
- necessary supports in our Early Childhood Education programs to help children reach developmental milestones.
- free tax preparation that puts refunds back into the hands of hardworking families.
- assistance with resumes and conducting mock interviews to individuals seeking employment
- vital supports to women on their path to recovery.
- administrative support, serving on event committees, or advisory boards.

CREATING A TALENT PIPELINE WITH ST. ELIZABETH PHYSICIANS

The St. Elizabeth Physicians Medical Assistant Fellowship is designed to provide Medical Assistant trainees with debt-free training through Brighton Center's Center for Employment Training, and a career pathway into a high-demand field. A Medical Assisting certificate provides individuals a pathway to economic prosperity that one can build on, rise through the ranks at a great organization, or further their education. The Medical Assisting Fellowship is an innovative way to not only support Brighton Center as an organization, but also the hardworking individuals we serve who will benefit from the stability of an in-demand career after their training is complete. This also supports St. Elizabeth Physicians by creating a high-quality talent pipeline, which ultimately benefits our entire community. Thank you St. Elizabeth Physicians for partnering with us in such a meaningful way.





Cindy

lerri

LEGACY CAMPAIGN | THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

Carl A. Adkins



progress to \$5 million goal

In July 2020, Brighton Center launched our Legacy Campaign to raise 1.5 million for our Board Designated Fund, which has now been renamed the Tammy Weidinger Opportunity Fund in honor of Tammy, our past President & CEO, who retired January 31, 2021. This Fund sustains our long-term financial strength and helps us plan for the future. We are delighted to report that we are at 94% of our goal of \$5 million! Thank you to the generous donors who have made a pledge, financial, or planned gift to the Fund to date. To learn more, please contact development@brightoncenter.com.

James & Christy Alwell American Mortgage Service Co. Anonymous Friends of Brighton C Robert & Wendy Arnold lake Bartel Marc Baskind & Deborah Combs Best Furniture Gallery, Inc. Kenneth & Shea Blackburn Stephanie Bogenschutz Brenda Hoskins Trust Lawrence Brennan & Karen Enzwe Robert & Helen Brewster Lisa & Richard Boehne Iodianne & Aaron Broomall Bonita & Wesley Brown Jacob & Danae Brown Mary Brown William Case & Lisa Casetta Lisa Yeardon Casson & Steven Cas Philip & Sheila Cohen Chris Connolly Donald Cowan & Marion Clark Lauren Copeland & Nathan Price Brian & Carrie Crecco Edna Daniels **Rita & Tim Daniels** David N. & Ann Early Foundation Sophia Depenbrock Donald R. Frey & Company, Inc. Jonathan & Tara Eaton Oakley & Eva Farris First Financial Bank

2020 HOLIDAY DRIVE



COVID-19 may have changed a lot, but our long-standing tradition of providing holiday assistance to families in our programs continued. We appreciate all the donors, volunteers, and businesses who continued to support this special program that brings joy to so many.

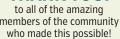




volunteers ensured families had a wonderful holidav







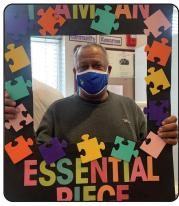
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! EACH OF YOU ARE AN ESSENTIAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE!

We are grateful for our volunteers who, each and every day, make it possible for us to provide the comprehensive array of 41 programs that families access on their journey to self-sufficiency. THANK YOU!

Together, we are moving forward with HOPE!

Contact: volunteer@brightoncenter.com brightoncenter.com/volunteer





Kenny



Margie

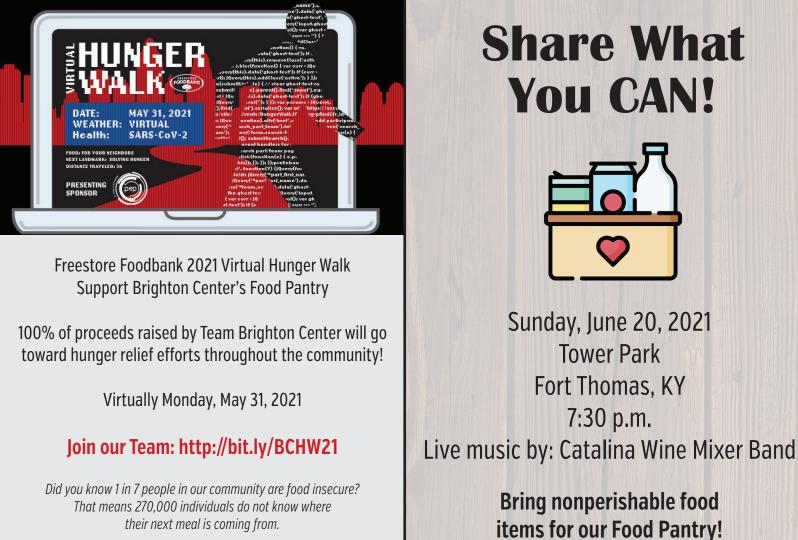
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Thank you to our wonderful Legacy Campaign Committee Members: Dan Groneck, Jeremy Hayden, Mike Lakin, Tim Rawe, Tom Stoll, & Rachel Votruba.

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their next meal is coming from.

WINE WATER



Brighton Cente

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, August 28 **Purple People Bridge**

Wine, Food, & **Amazing Views**



sponsorships still available

MORE WAYS YOU CAN HELP & GET INVOLVED



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Mardi Gras for Homeless Children 2021 Thank you to the following sponsors:

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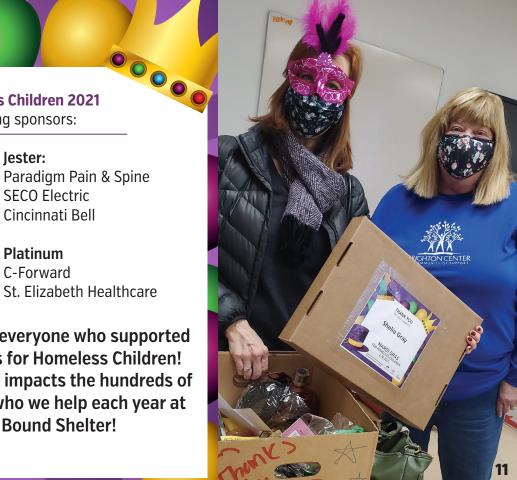
Queen: American Mortgage Service Co.

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Jester: Paradigm Pain & Spine SECO Electric Cincinnati Bell

Platinum **C-Forward**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the 2021 Mardi Gras for Homeless Children! Your support directly impacts the hundreds of youth and families who we help each year at **Homeward Bound Shelter!**





SPOTLIGHT SPRING 2021

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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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

Financial Wellness & Volunteer

Engagement **Director: Stephanie Stiene** 799 Ann Street Newport, KY 41071

Kentucky Career Center **Operator:** Correy Eimer Director: Eric Owsley 1324 Madison Avenue Covington, KY 41011

Ingrid Washington Gateway Community & Technical College

Jason Wessel St. Elizabeth Healthcare

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

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for Marketplace Ethics

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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