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Check out our website,  
[brightoncenter.com](http://brightoncenter.com) for more  
success stories, news, and  
information about upcoming events.



“The view from here  
looks bright and full  
of possibilities...”

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# ANNUAL HOLIDAY DRIVE PROVIDES A VIEW OF HOLIDAY CHEER FOR ALL



## HOLIDAY DRIVE BY THE NUMBERS



**808**

individuals received  
Thanksgiving  
meals provided by  
Crossroads Church



**3,159**

individuals received  
food, clothing, and gifts



**\$144,426**

is the total value of all  
food and toys donated



**350+**

individuals and groups  
volunteered their time

Brighton Center's annual Holiday Drive is a long-standing tradition that provides families participating in our programs the opportunity to receive food, clothing, and gifts during the holiday season.

The Holiday Drive provides much-needed budget and stress relief for hard-working families on their journey to achieving self-sufficiency. This is a critical step in making sure the individuals and families within our programs are not overstressing their budgets, but instead are focusing on achieving their goals.

If you have ever stopped by the Center between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you may have experienced the organized chaos and absolute joy this time of year brings for our staff, customers, and volunteers. It is truly a community effort and we are extremely grateful for every single donor, business, and community organization who supports this program, either through volunteering or providing donations to our families. We could not do it without your support!



## AGENCY DATABASE PROVIDES HIGH-LEVEL VIEW OF BUNDLING SERVICES



Brighton Center recently reached a significant milestone with the launch of a new agency-wide Salesforce database that will show connections

between individuals and families, along with how they interact with our 41 programs and services.

For over a year, we have worked on designing a system to capture information about the families we serve that will give us a more holistic view of our customers'

journeys to self-sufficiency and the services they access along the way. This tool will allow us to see and analyze our data in ways we never have before to more effectively wrap services around our customers.

It will also strengthen our continuous quality improvement processes, and will shift data from capturing mostly program specific outcomes to better understanding the combination of programs that move a family to economic stability and independence based on their situation.

We are excited for the new opportunities this database will provide us to utilize data in improving programming and better serving our community.

An anonymous national foundation provided significant financial support toward the database design and launch. We are grateful for their investment to help us strengthen our work, and ultimately improve the lives of families we serve.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our website for tickets or more information about all of our upcoming events.

### ROARING '20s GALA Saturday, May 16, 2020



Cincinnati Airport  
Marriott  
6:00 pm - 11:30 pm

Enjoy a themed gourmet dinner, live and silent auction, live band with dance instruction, and a celebration of our impact.

### LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE Saturday, May 9, 2020



No matter where you live in the U.S., you can leave nonperishable food items in a bag by the mailbox for your local food pantry. Brighton Center receives donations from Southgate, Dayton, Bellevue, and Fort Thomas.

# A VIEW OF HOMEOWNERSHIP THROUGH NEW FINANCIAL PROGRAM

The dream of owning a home just got a little easier for families to achieve with a new and free program aimed at helping people achieve homeownership by participating in a Homebuyers Club.

This Club will give those interested in owning a home the chance to learn about the purchasing process through a three part series. Topics will include:

- Budgeting for homeownership
- Home purchase process
- Pre-approval process
- Mortgage lending concepts
- Real estate contracts
- Home Inspections
- Insurance options

"Brighton Center has provided asset building and homeownership services for many years as part of our mission to help people reach self-sufficiency. This new way of providing homeownership education will give people a comprehensive understanding of the process in a supportive peer setting," said Stephanie Stiene, Financial Wellness & Volunteer Engagement Director at Brighton Center.

"I wanted to buy my own home, and I knew joining the Club would make me eligible for down payment assistance and favorable loans," said participant Bill. "I learned so much, such as how to apply for a loan, what credit score is needed to get a loan, what a realtor does, what a title company does,



and how they all can help me along with how a home inspection protects buyers, and so much more."

Participants must attend all three sessions in order to receive a certificate of completion which is often required for grant or down payment assistance opportunities.

The next Homebuyers Club will take place on Wednesdays in April on the 8, 15, and 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at our Family Center in Newport.

Contact: Pam Willis [859] 491-8303 ext. 2323  
pwillis@brightoncenter.com

# A VIEW OF EXCEPTIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*Brighton Center's continuum of support begins at the very start of life with a focus on making sure children are set up for a lifetime of success and learning.*

*Bright Days Child Development Center, a nationally accredited and STAR rated learning center supports growing children as they develop skills they need to meet and exceed milestones.*

*Children benefit from an award-winning curriculum, music and enrichment activities, learning through play, small group sizes, and friendly, caring teachers.*

*Parents benefit from knowing their children are immersed in a quality, affordable learning environment provided with the support of experienced staff.*



"Bright Days is the most caring child care program I've ever encountered. There isn't anything big or small that they wouldn't do to help in any kind of way. Bright Days is a true blessing to us. When my grandchildren first came to live with me they didn't have a lot of social skills with other children and now they are the complete opposite. Our grandchildren went from being shy to outgoing little ones.

As a family we have overcome so many obstacles on our way. I went from being a grandparent to a parent all over again. Brighton Center has helped us keep all four children together in the same location. At Bright Days, we are all treated like one big family and that is exactly the support we needed.

I have watched my grandchildren blossom here and they all four love it."  
- SHELLY

*Bright Days Child Development Center is located at 706 Park Ave in Newport, Kentucky  
For more information about the program and enrollment please contact  
Kim Frodge, Coordinator at [859] 491-8303 ext. 2023 or kfrodge@brightoncenter.com*

## HUNGER WALK/5K Monday, May 25, 2020

Downtown Cincinnati  
9:00 am

Walk, run, skip, or stroll around the Ohio River and help END HUNGER. 100% of the funds Team Brighton Center raises goes directly to the Family Center's Choice Food Pantry.



## SHARE WHAT YOU CAN Tuesday, June 23, 2020

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

A night of summer fun with live music by the Naked Karate Girls, local food, and beer trucks. Enjoy this free concert and bring non-perishable food items to stock Brighton Center's Choice Food Pantry to help local families.



## WINE OVER WATER Saturday, September 12, 2020

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



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



## A VIEW OF STABILITY AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

Shawn was working, but struggling to find housing he could afford. He spent some time couch-surfing and ended up staying at the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. At the Emergency Shelter, staff informed Shawn of available resources, including how to apply for housing through the Housing Authority of Covington and programs at Brighton Center that might help. Shawn moved into his apartment in City Heights and shortly after learned we opened an office right in the neighborhood.

Shawn had a goal – to get a car. To achieve that goal, Shawn knew he needed a better paying job and some guidance in money management. Initially looking to sign up for our Two Cents About Finance workshop, Shawn came to our City Futures office, but soon learned there was even more we could help with. “I tend to stay to myself and don’t ask for help,” Shawn said, “I thought, these are some good people and I think they’ll be able to help me.”

Shawn was ready to get to work and learned that through City Futures his rent would stay the same despite changes in his earned income, allowing him to keep more of his earnings and encourage saving money. After signing up for the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard program, Shawn met with our City Futures Career Developer to discuss employment opportunities, his experience, and interests.

Shawn expressed interest in Career Bridge, which is a partnership program between United Way, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, Brighton Center and local employers that provides a career pathway from entry-level, low-wage jobs to

Advanced Manufacturing. Shawn started working for Chick-fil-A in March 2019 and has been a model employee ever since.

This journey hasn’t always been easy. It takes Shawn about 10 minutes to get to work by bus. However, he works second shift and the bus line that runs to City Heights stops running before he’s done with work. When Shawn gets off work he takes a different bus to get a little bit closer to home, then walks 40 minutes up the hill.

Shawn’s determination has kept him going. Some nights he has thought about quitting on his way home, but reminds himself that he has a good job and he needs the money. While his previous job was also in fast food, he is now making a much higher wage and working in a healthier, friendlier work environment. Shawn reminds himself of his goals – getting a car, a higher paying job, and spending more time on passions like writing.

Shawn has continued to work with a Financial Coach through City Futures, has opened a bank account, and is saving for a car. Shawn is taking advantage of an Individual Development Account which matches his savings up to \$2,000.

Before working with Brighton Center, Shawn says life was more difficult and he felt unorganized. With the support of City Futures, Career Bridge, and Financial Wellness, Shawn said “life has changed for the better and everything is back in order.” Despite his own initial reluctance to seek out help, he encourages others to learn what Brighton Center has to offer.



“There’s help out there – you just have to come in. They can help different people, all with different needs, and different situations.”

In December of 2019, at the City Futures end of the year celebration, Shawn was recognized for his hard work. “Getting the award made me feel good to know I’m doing well, and that the good I do is noticed by others.” Reflecting further on his involvement with Brighton Center, Shawn says “it’s never too late to start on your journey towards self-sufficiency.” What is this new reality like for Shawn? “It’s shocking, it’s different, but I know it’s what I deserve.” With stable housing, steady employment, a bank account, and savings, the future looks bright for Shawn.

*City Futures is a collaborative partnership between Brighton Center and the Housing Authority of Covington.*



## A NEW VIEW WITH A FRESH START

In late August, Brighton Center’s Street Outreach Team came in contact with three youth [all over the age of 18], who had been living outside on the grounds of Newport High School’s stadium, where they were sleeping on bleachers. Street Outreach began meeting with the youth daily at the library, assessing their needs, and providing food and hygiene supplies. With their parents deceased, and no family to rely on, the youth were given a tent to have shelter in the woods while they worked toward a more stable option.

Unfortunately, the tent, their only shelter, was vandalized one day while they were working and they no longer felt safe staying there. They found a person that would allow them to sleep in their tent in their backyard for \$50 a week. The youth visited Hosea House as often as possible to have a warm meal.

They were connected to Kentucky Career Center to learn about job training opportunities and obtain the necessary documents to seek employment. Street

# A VIEW OF A FUTURE FULL OF POSSIBILITIES FOR PARENT AND CHILD



**QUINN:** Having a community is really nice and it's really nice being able to admit that you don't have to do it alone, but I didn't always have that.

Despite having my son Leo very young as a teenager, I have always been very independent and take my responsibility as a parent seriously. After finishing high school and getting accepted into the University of Cincinnati, I moved to Northern Kentucky from LaGrange, Kentucky.

I didn't have a support system. I was on my own as a single parent and mostly stayed in my apartment and kept to myself with Leo. Then, I heard about Northern Kentucky Scholar House. At first, I thought it sounded too good to be true, but soon learned it was exactly what I was looking for.

When I first got the keys to my apartment and walked in, I just about cried. I had not realized how great the apartments were. What meant even more was the immediate sense of community I felt. Northern Kentucky Scholar House is not just another

apartment building; it's a community, especially for kids. Leo was very excited to be around other children. When we moved in, he was only three and a half.

The on-site child care made juggling school and parenting just a little easier. Early Scholars Child Development Center did a great job of preparing Leo for Kindergarten. He has done a lot of growing since we first moved in. He is a sensitive and strong-willed, compassionate child. He is doing great in school and is learning to write, read, and do math at just six years old.

One of the most beneficial aspects of living at Northern Kentucky Scholar House is the monthly workshops. The financial workshops in particular were very helpful. I have learned about student loans, financial concepts, financial resources, creating a budget, and credit building. I was able to take advantage of Financial Coaching through Brighton Center after attending the financial workshops. I also have enjoyed the cooking and nutrition classes.

Being at Scholar House has taught me that I don't always have to be so strong. My last year of college was especially tough with several personal issues taking their toll along with a medical challenge. I wasn't sleeping well, to the point where staff noticed and pointed me in the direction of getting a sleep study done. With their encouragement I was diagnosed with Sleep Apnea and finally started getting sleep again.

I am most proud of the fact that I graduated college with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in just three years. I am looking forward to moving to Chicago and working toward going to Law School.

The staff at Scholar House and Brighton Center are willing to work as hard as you are. As long as you are willing to work hard they are willing to match that. I am much more confident in my ability to be on my own in the world, but I still know when to ask for help.

The view from here looks bright and full of possibilities for Leo and myself.

*Northern Kentucky Scholar House is a collaborative partnership between Brighton Center and Neighborhood Foundations.*

Outreach staff learned that one of the youth was very close to getting her high school diploma, but traditional school was not an option as this youth was working. She was connected to the Newport School of Innovation to finish her diploma through online schooling with classroom support.

Street Outreach referred the youth to Welcome House for their transitional living program. They began meeting with a Welcome House Case Manager about housing options. They needed to find a landlord that would rent to them, and Street Outreach made several contacts. Welcome House provided funding for a deposit and first month's rent. In an effort to be able to maintain their housing, the youth were required to maintain employment.

Street Outreach helped in any way possible to create a

successful transition to stable housing. This included helping with laundry, showering facilities, and rides to interviews or bus passes.

The three are now actively employed, reaching their educational goals, and have obtained a safe place to live through a collaboration with Welcome House. The youth are also still actively involved in aftercare services through Street Outreach to make sure they continue on the path toward stability, success, and achieving their goals.

*Brighton Center's Street Outreach Team is out in the community where youth are known to congregate. Staff work to build trusting relationships with at-risk youth in order to connect them to services. Once connected, staff use preventative methods, individualized assessment, service linkages, case planning, and follow-up to set youth on the path to stabilization.*



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

THE PLUG | A VIEW OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT ACROSS THE AGENCY

**ALISHA:** I first learned about Brighton Center when I was a student at Northern Kentucky University. There were so many opportunities to volunteer and I felt like I always saw Brighton Center's name as one of them. I did my research and discovered how Brighton Center helps so many different types of people. It looked like a loving and supporting community, and I wanted to be a part of that community.

The Plug has helped create clay bowls with the seniors at Saratoga Place, haikus with parents at Northern Kentucky Scholar House, graffiti name tags with the teens at Homeward Bound, rock painting with seniors at Two Rivers, and coffee mug affirmations with residents at City Heights.

"Be who you needed when you were younger" is the quote that came to mind when we first started working with Brighton Center. I relate so much to the children they serve that I feel like helping them has ultimately helped my inner child (the child that wanted to express herself, but couldn't always find a comfortable place to do so). By providing this service, I feel we are helping them build up the confidence to aspire to do great things. No, you may not become the most profitable artist. I believe with the skills one obtains through releasing fears, stepping outside of the box creatively, and trying something new, a person can create a new, self-affirming perspective that propels one into achieving and living, their most fabulous life. I've changed the quote to fit my belief now. I now recite, "Be who you need" because working within Brighton Center's community has shown me that at any age, at any stage, we will need someone to help us, and it's essential to have a community of support.

By far, my favorite experience has been working with the residents at City Heights through the City Futures program. At every event they are so eager and ready to create. Just imagine a crowd full of kiddos swarming the art supplies, parents setting up their spaces, all ready to dive into it all. It warms our hearts.

I hope to help those who suffer from lack of confidence, and gain the courage to be their best selves.

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*The PLUG is an outlet for creative energies. An art-based organization founded on lending a helping hand. The Plug travels to different communities within the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area rendering creative services that artistically allow individuals an opportunity to "plug" into themselves.*

To learn more about The Plug, contact Alisha at [plug-in@theplugnky.com](mailto:plug-in@theplugnky.com) or visit [theplugnky.com](http://theplugnky.com).

If you are interested in volunteering at Brighton Center, please contact Beth Hodge at [bhodge@brightoncenter.com](mailto:bhodge@brightoncenter.com) or (859) 491-8303 ext. 2331 or visit [brightoncenter.com/volunteer](http://brightoncenter.com/volunteer).





## JUNIOR BOARD'S FRIENDSGIVING

We are incredibly thankful for and proud of our Junior Board. On Thursday, November 21, the Junior Board hosted its inaugural FriendsGiving fundraising event at New Riff Distilling in Newport.

Through their shared commitment to our mission, as well as their collaborative leadership and creativity, these young professionals raised more than \$10,000 for our 41 programs.

The sold-out event was attended by a crowd of 200 who enjoyed Thanksgiving themed appetizers, live music by BackBeat, a Distillery Tour Experience, and trying their luck at a giant inflatable plinko game. As part



of the fundraiser, the Junior Board also held a unique single barrel bourbon sale and raffle which also sold out!

In January, 10 lucky raffle winners visited New Riff's bottling warehouse to taste and select an exclusive single barrel bourbon for bottling with Brighton Center's logo etched onto the side of the bottles.



## '80s THROWBACK PARTY

On Saturday, February 1, a record-breaking crowd attended the 7th Annual sold-out '80s Throwback Party at Highland Country Club! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported Brighton Recovery Center for Women and for making this year the best one yet by helping to raise \$22,000.

A very special thank you to Katie Walters of Q102 (WKQR) for her time and dedication in not only making this event successful, but also for her passion in creating and leading this event each year.

We would also like to thank Mark Collier of Fort Thomas Matters and all of the sponsors and volunteers for making this event possible to support women in recovery.

The Leftovers kicked off the night followed by the

one and only Tommy TuTone, and Mark McFadden blasted '80s favorites all night long for a crowd of over 400.

Over the last seven years, the '80s Throwback Party has raised over \$68,000 for Brighton Recovery Center for Women.

The 100-bed residential program is aimed at helping women recover from chronic substance abuse and addiction, and move toward a life of sobriety and productivity. The focus is to help the women change their behavior, skills, and attitudes related to their addictive lifestyles.

Brighton Recovery Center takes a long-term, holistic approach to recovery that is comprised of four distinct modules of progression and ultimately connected to an array of Brighton Center services.

## MARDI GRAS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

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- Neighborhood Foundations
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- Turner Construction
- Youth Leadership Development Staff

The 29th Annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children, presented by Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell and Royal Court Sponsor, Guthries, on Tuesday, February 25, supports Brighton Center's Homeward Bound Shelter for homeless, runaway, and in-crisis youth



ages 11-17. Thank you to our amazing sponsors for supporting the event and the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association for organizing such a spectacular fundraiser.

**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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#### Brighton Center Directory Of Services

##### Administrative Offices

741 Central Ave, Newport, KY 41071  
President & CEO: Tammy Weidinger  
Executive Vice President: Wonda Winkler  
Chief Financial Officer: June Miller  
Senior Director Family Economic Success: Melissa Hall Sommer  
Director of Development: Lauren Copeland  
Director of Facilities & Community Development: Tony Herms  
Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator: Jennifer Hansert  
Human Resources Director: Mary Decker  
Major Gifts Specialist: Becky Timberlake

P.O. Box 325  
Newport, KY 41072-0325  
Phone: [859] 491-8303  
Fax: [859] 491-8702  
[www.brightoncenter.com](http://www.brightoncenter.com)

##### Recovery Services

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

##### Community and 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

##### Financial Wellness & Volunteer Engagement

Director: Stephanie Stiene  
799 Ann Street  
Newport, KY 41071

##### Kentucky Career Center

Operator: Correy Eimer  
Director: Ellen Bates  
1324 Madison Avenue  
Covington, KY 41011

##### Workforce Development

Director: Talia Frye  
Center for Employment Training  
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140  
Newport, KY 41071



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