



BRIGHTON CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2019

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

- FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



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UPCOMING EVENTS

WINE OVER WATER

Saturday, September 7, 2019

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

Sample assorted wines, beer, and food while enjoying live music and breathtaking views from the bridge. VIP experience also available.



Tickets are available at:
www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Friday, September 20, 2019

741 Central Ave, Newport, KY
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

A celebration of our community with FREE food, games, and fun for the whole family.



SAVE THE DATES



Junior Board Fundraiser Brighton Center Friendsgiving

Thursday, November 21, 2019
New Riff Distilling 6:00 - 8:00 pm

80s Throwback Party

Saturday, February 1, 2020



Mardi Gras for Homeless Children

Tuesday, February 25, 2020



AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS



SENIOR FACILITY RENOVATED

Saratoga Place Apartments, a 96 unit apartment community for seniors 55 and older just completed the first phase of a major renovation project. Saratoga was awarded tax credits through the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and an Affordable Housing Program grant through the Federal Home Loan Bank for a major renovation to be completed in two phases. Phase I was just completed and now 48 residents have renovated apartment units with new appliances, flooring, cabinets, and other amenities as well as upgraded common areas. The final phase will wrap up in late spring of 2020.

CENTER TABLE CATERING HAS NEW MENU



CENTER TABLE is not your typical catering company!

CENTER TABLE uses fresh, homemade, seasonal ingredients to create delicious food for all occasions from backyard barbeque's to business lunches and elegant celebrations. When you hire CENTER TABLE, you delight your guests with exceptional food and service while helping to transform lives. As part of Brighton Recovery Center for Women, located in Florence, KY, all proceeds from catering go directly back to helping women overcome addiction.

For more information or to book catering:

Call (859) 292-5492 or email centertable@brightoncenter.com
visit www.centertable.com

BRIGHTON HOSTS 2ND PEER LEARNING SITE VISIT

After Brighton Center hosted a very successful, first of its kind, national 2Gen Peer Learning site visit in October of 2018, we were asked to host a second site visit on August 1st and 2nd for local organizations. A total of 30 participants from 18 organizations attended the two-day convening to learn about Brighton Center's success and strategy in creating opportunities for whole families to reach self-sufficiency. Two-generation approaches focus on creating opportunities and addressing needs for both children and the adults in their lives together. The approach recognizes that



families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves. Our impactful strategy and practices have been lifted up nationally over the past few years. Brighton Center was proud to be selected by 2GenACT coordinated by Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group in collaboration with W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Anne E. Casey Foundation, and Ascend at the Aspen Institute to host these blended site visits.



CONGRATS GRADUATES

The end of spring and beginning of summer always marks an exciting time at Brighton Center as many of our programs celebrate the accomplishments of customers through graduation ceremonies.



31 families graduated from Every Child Succeeds

49 children graduated "kindergarten ready" from Home Visitation for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

13 children graduated kindergarten ready from either Bright Days Child Development Center or Early Scholars Child Development Center



8 youth involved in Community & Youth Services programming graduated with their GED or High School Diploma

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



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

39 women completed all phases of Brighton Recovery Center for Women over the last year



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

BRIGHTON CENTER



Christy Alwell
Pivot Realty Group



Ken Blackburn
P&G



Lisa Yeardon Casson
CommonSpirit Health



Marianne Schmidt Hurr
PNC Bank



Tom Stoll
Fifth Third Bank



Jamie Wagner
BB&T



Wanda Walker-Smith
African American Chamber

BRIGHTON PROPERTIES



Robert Arnold
The Law Office of Robert Arnold



Brooks Parker
Messer Construction Company

HOMEWARD BOUND TEEN USES VOICE FOR CHANGE

TESSA: Today I have somewhere safe to go at the end of the day. I have my own apartment and a steady job. I have goals, a sense of purpose, and direction now that I was lacking before. I have come a long way since I found myself without a safe place to live at only 16.

I ended up at Brighton Center's Homeward Bound Shelter after my living situation with a relative became emotionally abusive and was a ticking time bomb to turning violent. Prior to that, I was also removed from my mother's care due to unsafe conditions.

The first night at Homeward Bound was a bit rough. I didn't know any of the kids and it was easy to feel very alone, but after the first week I thought I could see myself staying there because it was a very different environment from where I came from. I finally felt safe. It was only supposed to be a temporary living situation, but the alternative of going to live with yet another set of relatives did not seem like a bright future.

I finally found a sense of stability at Homeward Bound and decided to stay long-term with the goal of entering the Independent Living Program by 18. I worked hard to catch up on school and recover class credits after attending four different high schools over the course of four years. Every step of the way, Brighton Center staff was there to help.

Being at Homeward Bound helped me to realize that I do have a voice, that what I say matters, and that I add something to the world. In 2017, Homeward Bound staff approached me about working with the First Lady Glenna Bevin as a voice for kids in foster care. I was invited to join the First Lady's Youth Leadership Council which was a group of children petitioning for change in the foster care system.

As part of the Leadership Council, I worked with other youth, spoke with state representatives, attended luncheons, and participated in brain storming sessions to help those making decisions about the foster care system



understand it better and the effects of those decisions on kids like me. I specifically lobbied for a bill that allowed for children to be placed with a neighbor or friends after being removed from the care of a family member. This adds an extra layer of protection and options for kids before they enter the foster care system. It was a really cool feeling to see it get passed.

I ended up graduating high school on time despite attending a different school every year. I entered the Independent Living Program through Homeward Bound at 18 and they have become a surrogate family for me.

With guidance from staff at Brighton Center, I have learned how to stand on my own and benefited from so many amazing programs offered. I have utilized financial education workshops, case management services, career services, and internship opportunities, along with building life skills.

A defining moment for me so far has been getting my own apartment. A lot of people are excited to get their own apartment, but I was really proud because I never thought I would

get that far. Coming from the head space of not wanting to be alive to that moment was a really big deal. I was constantly told by family members that I wasn't going to make it, but there I was getting the keys to my own apartment and beating the odds.

Being at Brighton Center changed my life for the better. I know that if I am ever knocked off course I can turn to Brighton Center for guidance. For as long as it is still standing it will continue to do that for other people as well.



Tessa shared her story in front of 900 advocates and lawmakers in Frankfort as part of the 13th annual Children's Advocacy Day Rally

on Feb. 9, 2017. One week later, House Bill 180 passed unanimously. The bill allows children to be placed with neighbors or friends after being removed from a family members' care. This opens the door for youth to live with "fictive kin" which are people who are not related, but have an emotionally significant relationship with the child.

TWO GENERATIONS FIND HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION



CAROLINE: In December 2018, my son and I were homeless. With all of our belongings in a backpack, we jumped couch to couch just to stay out of the cold.

I never questioned my ability to be a mom. I knew I could do it, but situations like finding work without steady child care or getting the right education when you can't find the time, make it hard to get by. At the time, we were the only family each other had.

That Christmas, a family friend reconnected with us to give my son Roman presents and saw our situation. They took us in and my whole life turned around. With a steady roof over our heads, I had time to focus on my future.

It was two years since I graduated high school

and I knew I needed to get back into school not only for myself, but for Roman. I heard of Center for Employment Training (CET) through a friend who had just graduated in the Medical Assisting program so I decided it was now or never.

After attending a CET Information Session, it was extremely easy to get enrolled and I started classes in February to get my certification in Medical Assisting. The self-paced, hands-on classes helped me stay motivated and on track. I soon built a family with the staff and students and they are the ones to inspire me and keep me pushing.

While attending CET, I missed a week of school because I did not have steady child care. It was hard to focus on my studies when I did not know where my son was going to be the next day. One of my instructors got my son enrolled in Early Scholars Child Development Center through Brighton Center. I was so relieved to finally receive affordable, quality child care because that was one less thing I had to worry about while getting my education. When I fell asleep at night, I knew I had a consistent place to take Roman in the morning.

My son has been in multiple child care facilities, especially when I was in high school and Early Scholars is a wonderful facility. I don't have to worry about him not receiving the care he

needs or being neglected. My son has to get to daycare by 9:00 am so it motivates me to get up and get going. I have even been able to go to the gym before going to school and I've never been one to do that before.

Through Brighton Center, I also have access to Sweet Cheeks where I get diapers, pull ups and wipes for my son, and feminine hygiene products for myself. We also receive deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and other necessities so we can focus on paying bills.

Even though I am getting help to get to the next step in life, I feel more independent than I have ever been. I am making decisions to better my life and it's a great feeling knowing I am doing this for myself and my son.

Seven months after being homeless, I have found a family within Brighton Center and a family in real life. My whole life did a 360° turn and I can honestly say this is the easiest life has ever been. The hardest part was just battling myself to start.

To enroll at any time at Center For Employment Training, call 859-491-8303 ext. 2201

To learn more about our Child Development Centers, call 859-491-8303 ext. 2023

YOUNG MOM FINDS CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Being a single mother with one on the way is already a juggling act by itself but, Marissa Winkle was able to manage all of that, on top of working and going to school.

It all began after walking into Kentucky Career Center back in September 2018. She was interested in learning more about other job opportunities, while going to school full-time. After spending years working in food service and warehouses, she wanted something challenging and in her field of study.

She was immediately connected with Brighton Center's Youth Talent Development team where she learned about paid internships and college funding. After starting all the paperwork in January 2019, she was finally approved for funding and started

her internship with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce making \$13.25 an hour. She also took advantage of other available resources through Brighton Center including resume assistance and financial education workshops.

In less than five months of working at her internship, Marissa was offered employment and in May 2019 she accepted a position at the Chamber of Commerce.

"Working at the Chamber of Commerce has opened so many doors of opportunity for me. I've met several CEO's of large companies, with one saying to give them a call when I graduate college, so I can work in their HR department," Marissa said.



I have grown so much since first coming to the Kentucky Career Center. I've become confident in myself and my skill set. I've also learned the key requirements to professionalism and networking. My kids have always been my biggest reminders to achieve my goals, and I am excited for my future!"

YOUTH SHELTER GETS MAKEOVER

CINCINNATI BELL EMPLOYEES GIVE HOMEWARD BOUND SHELTER FOR YOUTH A MUCH NEEDED RENOVATION



Brighton Center's Homeward Bound Shelter recently received a huge renovation and beautification thanks to employees at Cincinnati Bell.

This project will ensure that all runaway and homeless youth have a warm and inviting environment to call home while they receive support in transitioning to the next step in their life. Homeward Bound provides the teens with dorm-style living to create the atmosphere of a home.

A total of 129 volunteers spent 1,032 hours painting all rooms within the 9,122 square foot building. Improvements included patching plaster, painting and replacing or repairing trim, adding new tile in a bathroom, replacing flooring in visitor and intake rooms, and adding new light fixtures, which gave the over 100-year-old building a cheerful refresh.

"I was introduced to Kate Arthur, Community & Youth Services Director at Brighton Center, by a mutual acquaintance and as we continued speaking, I saw her excitement for Homeward Bound's mission," says Chris Neises, Cincinnati Bell's Vice President of Contact Center Operations.

Donations of bedding and curtains from members of the community completed the project.

"It hit me that I wanted to be a part of this mission and, as a resident of Northern Kentucky, I wanted to make a difference in my area. I asked Kate what we could do to help and she mentioned that anything would be appreciated, but building repair and beautification was at the top of the list. I knew our Cincinnati Bell team had the skills, and more importantly, the desire to give back. Volunteering is a major part of the culture at Cincinnati Bell."

The final reveal took place Wednesday, July 10 with a brief ceremony at 1:00 p.m. followed by tours to see the transformation. Senior level representatives from Cincinnati Bell celebrated the occasion with their staff.

Homeward Bound Shelter is Northern Kentucky's only 24-hour emergency shelter location for teens ages 11-17. Located in Covington, KY, the shelter provides a safe environment and short-term services for runaway, homeless, abused, neglected, and dependent youth.

We are so incredibly grateful for the generosity of Cincinnati Bell and the employees who gave countless hours of hard work to make this project a reality.

"I feel like Homeward Bound is a home where I am safe. I feel less stressed and get a family feeling here with people who care about what happens to me." - HOMEWARD BOUND TEEN



CAMP GIVE LETS YOUTH GIVE BACK

YOUTH LEARN PHILANTHROPY THROUGH MAGNIFIED GIVING



In July, our Youth Leadership Development (YLD) program had the unique opportunity to participate in the very first of Magnified Giving's Camp Give philanthropy program in Northern Kentucky. Camp Give is a week-long day camp with the purpose of educating, inspiring, and engaging children in philanthropy.

Each day, youth learned and visited with a different local nonprofit, conducted online research, and participated in direct service activities with the goal of challenging them to decide how much money nonprofits would receive in grant money at the end of the week.

Youth visited and participated in service projects at Henry Hosea House, Care Closet, Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Dragon Fly, and Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission.

“Camp Give was the best thing this summer. I learned so much about philanthropy, different agencies in my community, and was able to volunteer. Being able to choose where the grant went was really cool too, because we are kids and got to have a say and help.” - YLD TEEN

The week-long camp was made possible free of charge through the generosity of Horizon Community Funds.

Each day, youth sat down for a board meeting to discuss what they learned and how they felt they made a difference that day.

The grant awards were sponsored by Horizon Funds of Northern Kentucky and Kroger Foundation.

At the end of the week-long camp, youth decided how they individually wanted to award money to each of the nonprofits who were then presented checks at an awards ceremony.

In total, the youth awarded \$3,000 split between the five organizations they spent the week learning about.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM AT BRIGHTON

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS:



673

Youth Volunteers



1596

Volunteer Hours Completed

PREVIOUS EVENTS



HAVANA NIGHTS GALA

Raised: \$80,000

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and supported our Havana Nights Gala emceed by Jay Kruz at Drees Pavilion. This successful event would not have been possible without our committee led by Dr. Michelle Story & Julie Crow. Special recognition to our presenting sponsors BB&T and St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Guests enjoyed live music and salsa lessons provided by Kandela Latin Band. In addition to raising \$80,000 for our mission, a special auction for our Family Center raised an additional \$13,950.



SHARE WHAT YOU CAN

Collected: 739 Pounds of Food



Thank you to all who attended the 5th annual Share What You CAN event! Your generous donations allowed us to collect 739 pounds of food and additional monetary

donations that will help feed 60 families with three meals each! This incredible support from the community is critical during summer months to keep our Choice Food Pantry stocked. Special thanks to Katie Walters from Q102 for emceeding and to our event sponsors City of Ft. Thomas, Crawford-Downing Insurance, and WesBanco. It was a wonderful night of community, great food, and of course the best party music around from the Naked Karate Girls!

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 Avenue
Newport, KY 41071

Tammy Weidinger, President & CEO
Wonda Winkler, Executive Vice President
June Miller, Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Hall Sommer, Senior Director of Family Economic Success
Becky Timberlake, Director of Development
Jennifer Hansert, Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator
Mary Decker, Human Resources Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 325
Newport, KY 41072-0325
Phone: [859] 491-8303
Fax: [859] 491-8702
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

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: Talia Frye
1324 Madison Avenue
Covington, KY 41011

Workforce Development

Director: Tom Haggard
Center for Employment Training
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140
Newport, KY 41071



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