



**BRIGHTON CENTER**  
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

**SPOTLIGHT** | SUMMER 2015



# CREATING CONNECTIONS

To A Brighter Future



## 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. With each issue of the Spotlight, we will share Brighton Center's mission in action with stories of lives transformed and hope restored.



## CONNECTING GRADUATES TO SUCCESS

**22** - Residents of Brighton Recovery Center for Women completed the program

**7** - Bright Days Child Development Center children graduated kindergarten ready

**22** - Center for Employment Training graduated job ready

**33** - Every Child Succeeds Families graduated

**24** - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY) families graduated

**4** - Homeward Bound teens completed High School or GED

**3** - Members of Teen Coalition graduated from Newport High School



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SPRING 2015 GRADS!

# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS ON THE HORIZON

## CONNECTING PARENTS TO EXPANDED SERVICES



Brighton Center's dedication to Early Childhood Education is expanding! Both our Every Child Succeeds and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY) programs have expanded to serve more parents and their young children. Our Every Child Succeeds program has expanded from serving only first time parents to also include parents with more than one child up to the age of 12 weeks. Every Child Succeeds is designed to optimize child development and promote a variety of positive outcomes through home visits to families. HIPPIY has expanded services into Grant & Kenton counties allowing an additional 20 families to benefit from this kindergarten preparatory program which is designed to strengthen the parent's role as their child's first teacher. Home visits occur weekly with parents of children ages three to four years old and bi-weekly for children age five.

## NORTHERN KENTUCKY SCHOLAR HOUSE NEARING COMPLETION

After three years of research, planning, and collaboration with Neighborhood Foundations, Northern Kentucky Scholar House is set to welcome the first set of residents and their children mid August. Construction started in August of 2014 on the 48 two and three bedroom apartments and the Early Scholars Child Development Center. This innovative initiative will develop post-secondary educational opportunities for low-income single parents and their children, leading to educational success, employment, and self-sufficiency. The multi-generational approach Northern Kentucky Scholar House takes will allow parents to pursue higher education while ensuring children are on track for success in life and school through the on-site Early Scholars Child Development Center. Openings are still available for interested parents.

### Who is Eligible?

- Individuals at least 18 years of age
- A single parent with primary custody of their child/children
- A full-time student or have been admitted for full-time enrollment in an approved post-secondary institution (NKU, Gateway Community & Technical College, Cincinnati State)
- Agree to attend life skills workshops and monthly meeting with a case manager
- Children under the age of 5 must be enrolled in the Early Scholars Child Development Center
- Must be eligible for Section 8 subsidized housing
- Must be highly motivated

### Benefits for Residents

- Academic Tutoring
- Financial Literacy
- Employment Assistance
- Access to Community Based Services



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WINE OVER WATER

Saturday, August 29, 2015

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

Sample assorted wines, beer, and food while enjoying a live band and breathtaking views from the bridge.



Tickets are \$30 in advance available at: [www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater](http://www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater)

## FEAST FOR YOUR HOME

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Best Furniture Gallery, Fort Thomas, KY  
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Cincinnati Airport Marriott



1966-2016

## FY 2015-2016 NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Angie Brown**  
The Best is Yet To Come Coaching



**Greta Hoffman**  
Attorney at Law, PLLC



**Ryan King**  
Enterprise Holdings Inc.



**Jill Scherff**  
Dinsmore



**Rork Williams**  
Hilliard Lyons



**Diana Wright**  
Community Volunteer  
Newport Resident



**Laura Sandmann**  
KeyBank  
Brighton Properties, Inc.  
Board of Directors



# CREATING CONNECTIONS TO HELP OTHERS ACHIEVE THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS

## MAKING A CONNECTION THAT CHANGED A LIFE

**IN HER OWN WORDS:** Before I came to Brighton Center's Center for Employment training (CET), I struggled with a lifelong belief that I wasn't really good enough. I had skills, but none that were sharply developed. I've always sort of been a jack of all trades with a fear of success.

I have never thought of myself as patient, but I guess hope is a form of patience and having hope can be a miracle. Hope that things would get better someday was all I had to dream by. I was working a temp job that I hated because it was far too physically strenuous for my body to handle, and a co-worker took the time to notice my pain and asked me why I didn't get an office job. I replied that I didn't have the skills, and she told me about CET. She said she regretted that she didn't finish the program and urged me to look into it. I would love to see her now and thank her for pointing out the path that would change my life. I would do all I could to convince her to return.

At the beginning of my journey here, I was determined to shine. I wanted a better life and I felt like this was my last chance since traditional college hadn't worked for me. My Associate Degree and awards from art school never seemed to get me anywhere. I wanted to be perfect, and I became discouraged and withdrawn with each mistake I made. However, I found the staff and my fellow students to be very supportive and forgiving. I started to learn that I didn't have to be perfect to do well; I just had to do my best. One of my greatest barriers has always been the fear of "saying the wrong thing", of "looking stupid," or offending someone unintentionally. I would obsess over a simple conversation for days, analyzing everything I said and how it might have been interpreted. However, as I observed my fellow students interact during Success Skills, I realized they weren't judging each other, and they weren't judging me.

I began to realize that I had gone through life with a negative attitude, and I started changing and growing. I began actively trying to build relationships with positive people, and I began working cooperatively as part of a group for the first time. I found that the parts of me which I had always tried to hide could in fact be shared in a tactful and appropriate way, and that allowed me to open up and be myself without fear. I learned to define myself and what success means to me in a new way. I no longer felt like a damsel in distress in need of rescuing. I began to feel like a strong individual and a partner to the good, supportive man who had become part of my life only a year before I began CET.

Brighton Center has impacted every facet of my life. My personal relationships have grown more positive as I have learned to accept and expect positivity from myself and others. Although I began rather self-absorbed, I have enjoyed seeing my fellow students grow into outgoing and positive friends. I get an amazing feeling of capability when I



can help someone work through and understand projects from the curriculum, and I have learned to accept help from others. The Conflict Management workshop really impressed upon me the wisdom to say, "It's not you versus me, it's us versus the problem"; a perspective which has become common in my household during disagreements.

I have always had hopes and dreams, but I never believed so many would become a reality. I have learned to accept good things for myself, and to embrace the challenges of success. Now, as I prepare to leave CET and begin a career with a reputable company, I am quickly realizing new hopes and dreams, and gleefully naming them goals. I want to start a college fund for my young daughter, and work towards getting her into a good school. I never want her to feel like she isn't good enough to achieve goals. I want to give back to my family and community, and continue building and growing with the wonderful man who has stood by me through my journey. Although I am afraid of the unknown challenges, I now have the courage and skills to face them one day at a time.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UTILIZED

- Every Child Succeeds
- Financial Opportunity Center - Work Supports, Employment Services, and Financial Education & Coaching
- Center For Employment Training



## CONNECTING MOTHER & SON

Sam found Brighton Center during a very trying time in her life. She had recently quit her job at a nursing home to care for her ill mother and discovered she was pregnant. In October of 2011 she enrolled in *Every Child Succeeds* while continuing to care for her mother. Her home visitor completed 14 sessions with Sam before she gave birth to her son Brody in March 2012. Those visits helped Sam prepare for motherhood and what to expect during labor, delivery, and the first few weeks home with Brody. Over the next three years, Sam, Brody, and their visitor continued to meet. Sam learned how to care for, interact with, and teach Brody as he met developmental milestones.

"Every Child Succeeds showed me how to be a better parent. They gave me ways to have one-on-one time with my son, ideas for little projects, and tools to help my son become the best little man he can."

Due to her family situation, Sam continued to stay home to care for Brody and her mother all while trying to make unemployment benefits stretch. When her unemployment ran out, Sam struggled to make ends meet, and her mother continued to have medical issues. With encouragement from her home visitor, Sam enrolled in Brighton Center's Center for

Employment Training (CET) initially in Medical Assisting and then switched to Business and Computer Technologies, as it was a better fit.

Sam's home visitor also connected her to vital parenting resources, the Clothing Closet, assistance from the Food Pantry, additional public benefits and help during the holidays through the Holiday Drive. In return, Sam has given back in any way she can by playing Santa Claus at the Every Child Succeeds Holiday Party, serving on the CET graduation committee, helping fellow classmates, and as a resource to other Every Child Succeeds mothers.

In the spring of 2015, Sam and Brody, now three years old, completed the Every Child Succeeds program and graduated. Brody finished on target in all critical developmental areas. Sam plans to enroll Brody into Brighton Center's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program to start in the fall where he will continue learning to stay on track for Kindergarten. Sam is also on track to finish at CET in the fall.

"There is not a staff member that I have encountered that hasn't helped me in one way or another no matter what the problem is."

## CREATING CONNECTIONS THAT CHANGE LIVES



"Brighton Center has been a tremendous source of support and encouragement for my family and I. They have provided

food, clothing, financial assistance, and education/ training. They are also the best cheerleaders for me, and I am extremely grateful for all their efforts."  
-Tasha



"Brighton Center has impacted my life by providing great support through the Workforce Development

department which is helping me get a head start on my career; they have given me success skills that will help me professionally and personally. Brighton Center is opening doors for me that I never thought I could alone, thank you Brighton Center." -Kirstin

Do you have a special memory or story of your time with Brighton Center? We would love to hear from you as we approach our 50th Anniversary next year in 2016. As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration we will be sharing our 50 year history through 50 stories. We would love to hear yours! Please contact Deana Sowders at [dsowders@brightoncenter.com](mailto:dsowders@brightoncenter.com) or 859-491-8303 ext. 2410.



# GET CONNECTED



## SIMPLE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteer your time and impact the lives of others as an individual or group at times that fit your schedule.

Take a tour or learn more about any of our 39 programs and services.

Join our Young Professional Group, the Brighton Emerging Leaders (BELS) .

Leave behind a legacy gift by remembering Brighton Center in your Will through a bequest.

Connect someone in need with services through our Service Link Hotline at 859-491-8303 ext. 2300.

Make a donation and set up a monthly recurring gift on our website to make an impact each month and help others connect to vital services.

Like our Facebook page, follow our Twitter account, and get LinkedIn with us on Social Media.

Attend one of our fundraisers or host your own unique donation drive.

Volunteer for one of our special events such as the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration.

## CONNECTING SKILLS TO THE NEED

### TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY GIVES BACK IN BIG WAYS

Turner Construction Company first got involved with Brighton Center back in 2008 as part of our Paint the Town Blue community partnership initiative. Turner project executive Tim Allison connected Brighton Center to other Turner Construction employees through his involvement on the Board of Directors.

Tim was recruited by one of Brighton Center's original organizers (who also happened to be his mother-in-law), but Tim stayed involved because of the mission, "Brighton Center focuses on offering people a hand up, not a hand out. They are all about helping people get back on their feet however they can, and helping them become self-sufficient. That is a mission I can definitely get behind."

Since 2008, Tim has led Turner's involvement with several projects, including work performed at individual homes, Homeward Bound, and the Recovery Center for Women. "We will continue to stay involved with Brighton Center as long as they'll have us," says Tim. "It's the right thing to do."

*Over the last five years, Turner Construction and its employees have dedicated countless hours and support to Brighton Center. Projects include repairing a ramp at Bright Days Child Development Center, building a storage room with shelves at Homeward Bound Shelter, assisting a Brighton Center family with costly home renovations as part of their Paint the Town Blue initiative, throwing a Holiday Party for youth, assisting with landscaping around buildings, and always providing a helping hand whenever possible. We are truly grateful for Turner Construction's partnership.*



## CONNECTING CUSTOMERS TO THE BEST SERVICES IN NKY



Bright Days Child Development Center and CENTER TABLE, Catering With A Purpose, were both nominated as Best of NKY finalists through Northern Kentucky Magazine. Thousands of readers nominated businesses and organizations in over 60 categories including Best Catering and Preschool for the recognition as one of the best.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### ALAN & DIANNE THOMAS: LEAVING A LEGACY FOR OTHERS

*Alan and Dianne Thomas are exemplary advocates for Brighton Center. Alan is a Board member and recently named Chair of the Development Committee where he generously shares his extensive knowledge of fundraising and donor cultivation best practices. Dianne volunteers at the food pantry weekly and has served on the Gala Committee for several years. Last year, when Brighton Center began discussing the importance of Planned Giving, Alan and Dianne were there once again to lead by example by making their own legacy bequest to ensure vital services are provided to those who need them.*



Three years ago, shortly after both of us retired and having shown an interest in becoming involved with Brighton Center, we were invited to an "introduction to Brighton Center" luncheon at the Center for Employment Training facility. We were so impressed by the enthusiasm of the staff and their grasp of the issues that we decided Brighton would be a perfect fit for us. To have a community of support in our own "backyard" committed to creating opportunities for individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency through family support services, education, employment, and leadership as Brighton's mission states makes us really proud to be a part of it.

Since that first luncheon we have become entirely "immersed" in the culture of Brighton Center. I had the opportunity as a Board member to visit a number of program areas including Early Childhood Education, Brighton Recovery Center, Youth Leadership Development, Homeward Bound, and the Family Center. Recently I was given a tour of the Newport Community Gardens and visited the brand new Northern Kentucky Scholar House. So much good work going on!

Dianne and I have also committed financial support to Brighton Center as active participants and sponsors of the special events, contributing our annual support as Sustaining members (monthly amount taken out of our checking account), and recently joining the "1966 Club" with a planned gift to help Brighton Center continue its wonderful mission. We encourage all of you to become involved in a meaningful way.

*- Alan & Dianne Thomas*

## ANN STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN FLOURISHES



**67**

Residents & Garden Mentors tend to the Garden Plots



**92**

Garden Plots growing fresh produce on Ann Street in Newport



**20+**

Varieties of fresh produce & herbs are growing



**7**

Local restaurants are purchasing surplus produce to help sustain the garden for the future

## PREVIOUS EVENTS



### BRIGHTON CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

**Raised: \$10,868**

The Brighton Classic Golf Outing, presented by American Mortgage Service Company, drew over 80 golfers on a beautiful spring day to Highland Country Club for a round of golf. Thank you to our Co-Chairs Jon & Tara Eaton and Alan & Dianne Thomas.



### BLUEGRASS BALL GALA

**Raised: \$39,000**

The Bluegrass Ball presented by BB&T (formerly The Bank of Kentucky) and St. Elizabeth Healthcare was an elegant night celebrating Brighton Center's Kentucky roots at Drees Pavilion on Saturday June, 6. Guests enjoyed live music, a gourmet dinner, and an exciting live & silent auction. Thank you to our Co-Chairs Francis Hoffman and Anita Morris.

Thank You Jay Kruz for Emceeding the Brighton Classic Golf Outing & Bluegrass Ball Gala.

### SHARE WHAT YOU CAN Helped 500 Families

The generous food donation from Crawford Insurance, Citizens Bank of Northern Kentucky, and the community of Ft. Thomas, received during the Share What You Can event, has allowed us to keep our food pantry shelves stocked during the summer months. Through the event, we collected over four barrels of food. This food helps us to meet the needs of the over 500 families we see each month during the summer. The summer is a critical time for our Food Pantry. With the children out of school, many families rely on our Food Pantry to supplement their family's food needs.

Thank You Katie Walters for Emceeding Share What You Can.



P.O. Box 325  
Newport, KY 41072

## SPOTLIGHT

### Brighton Center, Inc., Board Of Directors 2015-2016

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**Mark Exterkamp**  
BB&T

**David Fleischer**  
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**Kevin E. Gessner**  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
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**Robert L. Hengge**  
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**Mary Peterman**  
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Boone County Fiscal Court

**Jill M. Scherff**  
Dinsmore

**Tom Stoll**  
Fifth Third Bank

**Alan Thomas**  
Retired

**Brian Todd, CPA**  
Clark Schaefer Hackett

**Rachel Votruba**  
Retired,  
Northern Kentucky University

**Katie Walters**  
Q102/WKRQ FM Radio

**Molly Wesley-Chevalier**  
Newport Independent Schools

**Jason A. Wessel**  
St. Elizabeth Healthcare

**J. Rork Williams**  
Hillard Lyons

**Diana Wright**  
Community Volunteer

### Brighton Properties, Inc., Board Of Directors 2015-2016

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Federal Home Loan Bank of  
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**Tim Allison**  
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**Robert Arnold**  
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**Gary Barlow**  
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**Lloyd Cobble II**  
Eagle Realty Group, LLC

**Stephanie Rechtin**  
Community Volunteer

**Alicia Townsend**  
US Bank

**Laura Sandmann**  
KeyBank

### Brighton Center Directory Of Services

#### Administrative Offices

President & CEO: Tammy Weidinger  
Executive Vice President: Wonda Winkler  
Chief Financial Officer: June Miller  
Human Resources Director: Lisa Grout  
Director of Development: Becky Timberlake  
Director of Facilities & Community  
Development: Joe Rowe  
Senior Director Family Economic Success:  
Melissa Hall Sommer  
Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator:  
Jennifer Hansert

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

#### Brighton Recovery Center for Women

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  
7th & Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 325  
Newport, KY 41072-0325  
Phone: [859] 491-8303

#### Family Center

Director: Chris Mueller  
799 Ann Street  
P.O. Box 325  
Newport, KY 41072-0325  
Phone: [859] 491-8303

#### Financial Services

Director: Stephanie Stiene  
799 Ann Street  
P.O. Box 325  
Newport, KY 41072-0325  
Phone: [859] 491-8303

#### Northern Kentucky Scholar House

Director: Lauren Copeland  
450 W. 6th Street  
Newport, KY 41071  
Phone: [859] 491-8303

#### Workforce Development

Director: Talia Frye  
Center for Employment Training  
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140  
Newport, KY 41071  
Phone: [859] 491-8303



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