“The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams”

- Eleanor Roosevelt
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.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS

DREAMS OF: GRADUATION

- 23 Completed all phases of Brighton Recovery Center for Women
- 30 Trainees completed a skill division and/or received their GED at Brighton Center’s Center for Employment Training
- 9 Children graduated from Bright Days Child Development Center
- 19 Children graduated from Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
- 30 Families graduated from Every Child Succeeds
- 7 Youth involved in Community & Youth Services graduated high school or completed their GED
- 5 Residents of Northern Kentucky Scholar House gained a certification and/or an associates degree and 5 children in Early Scholars Child Development Center graduated Preschool

DREAMS OF: A NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITY

In Fall 2017, Brighton Center’s Center for Employment Training [CET] will expand skill training to include Health Technology Administration (HTA) to meet local workforce demand in Medical Billing and Coding.

WHY THIS SKILL? Brighton Center’s Center for Employment Training [CET] uses current Labor Market Information and works in partnership with employers through our Industrial Advisory Board and our skill specific Technical Advisory Committees to select our training pathways/sectors. We also align with the in-demand industry sectors identified by the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (NKY WIB) and Kentucky Workforce Investment Board.

CAREER PATHWAY OUTLOOK: Health Technology Administration was the skill program of choice because there is a 50% projected demand increase in Medical Billing, Coding, Records, and Medical Secretary jobs in Northern Kentucky by 2025. The average entry wage is $13.44 - $18.95. The curriculum will focus on training in areas such as customer service, data entry, electronic medical records, medical terminology, diagnosis codes, and procedure codes. CET was one of two organizations in the country chosen to pilot the Health Technology Administration curriculum created by Accenture, a national IT consulting firm, in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (national office). The curriculum has been vetted by employers throughout the country as well as St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

CET’s career pathways in the Healthcare and Business & Information Technologies sectors fills a unique gap in the post-secondary skill training landscape for our Northern Kentucky region. The target population is adult individuals who are unemployed or under-employed, and 17 year olds who have less than 15 secondary credit hours making it very unlikely that they will be able to graduate by the time they turn 18. Many have not experienced success in the traditional schooling environment, and are in need of skill training access and employment opportunities which have historically been “off limits” to them.

The uniqueness of the CET model allows our trainees to “dual” enroll in GED instruction and skill training at the same time. This allows them to eliminate an educational barrier that would have excluded them from skill training that meets the workforce demands of our region and state.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

| Sector: Healthcare |
| Career Pathway: Health Technology Administration |
| Certification: Ability to sit for the Health Unit Coordinator or Certified Professional Coder Credential |
| Wage Potential: $13.44 - $18.95/hour |
| Path to Completion: 1,000 clock hours (34 weeks) |
WINE OVER WATER
Saturday, August 26, 2017
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.

Tickets are $35 in advance or $40 at door available at: www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Friday, September 15, 2017
741 Central Ave Newport, KY
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
A celebration of our community with FREE food, games, & fun for the whole family.

SAVE THE DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRIGHTON RECOVERY CENTER SEEKING TO EXPAND SERVICES AT NEW LOCATION IN CAMPBELL COUNTY

The Heroin/Opioid epidemic is devastating Northern Kentucky families. Recent statistics show significant increases in overdose deaths, emergency rooms visits, and law enforcement encounters. As a community, we must respond with effective strategies to save lives. The tremendous need for additional treatment opportunities has prompted Brighton Center to pursue the expansion of our Brighton Recovery Center for Women at a site in Campbell County. The site, on Skyline Drive, was home to a residential treatment program for adolescent boys for 54 years before closing in 2012 and has many of the elements we would need to provide housing and supportive recovery services. We are currently in the initial planning stages for this project.

Since opening in 2008, Brighton Recovery Center has focused on peer-driven recovery, intensive case management, and a holistic continuum of care. The women in this program are accountable to each other and program requirements, including remaining drug-free.

Brighton Recovery Center has maintained some of the most impactful statewide outcomes among the graduates of the program including a significant reduction in the use of illicit substances, a significant decrease in criminal justice involvement, increase in employment, and attainment of stable housing.

“With the need for recovery services still being great in the Northern Kentucky area, we believe this expansion will help relieve existing waiting lists and save lives. We are hopeful that this potential expansion will allow more individuals to receive the necessary treatment for the disease of addiction and become successful members of this community,” said Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center President & CEO.

Women at Brighton Recovery Center are connected to an array of additional Brighton Center programs and services to build and maintain life skills. Workforce Development services offered include assistance with personal branding, resume writing, job searching, and interviewing skills. Financial Services provides the women with financial education such as money management skills, budgeting, credit building, and credit repair along with providing one-on-one financial sessions. The women are also connected with classes on topics such as maintaining healthy relationships, parenting skills, relapse prevention, nutrition, and coping mechanisms to

POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CLIENTS FROM THE BRIGHTON CENTER FOR WOMEN

Recovery Kentucky was created to help Kentuckians recover from substance abuse, which often leads to chronic homelessness. There are 17 Recovery Kentucky centers across the Commonwealth providing housing and recovery services for up to 2,100 persons simultaneously. This fact sheet describes outcomes for 40 women who participated in the Brighton Center for Women recovery program between July 2014 and June 2015.

Who We Serve At Brighton Recovery Center For Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>are 18-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>have children under the age of 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>have a GED/High School Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>have some college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>have held previous employment</td>
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80s Throwback Party
Saturday, February 3, 2018

Mardi Gras for Homeless Children
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
“You never actually want to admit that you need help, and that was the hardest part to get past.”

Erin, a grandmother of two, found Brighton Center during a time in need. Erin always struggled with her eye sight, but could use corrective lenses to help her perform daily functions. Near the end of 2016, her vision took a turn for the worst. She was considered legally blind, which eventually led to the loss of her job.

Erin was on the course of filing for disability, but the expenses didn’t stop. After her water was shut off, she was sustaining her life by showering at the YMCA and eating with friends and family, but the debt kept racking up. That’s when she realized she needed to do something.

“I basically went paralyzed after I saw all the bills that I had to pay because I didn’t know where to start. I was so stressed about money that I couldn’t think clearly, but I called Brighton Center and they told me ‘well maybe you can start here’ and they helped guide the way.”

Visiting Brighton Center during Family Center walk-in hours, Erin was guided in the right direction. She was introduced to multiple programs to help not only pay her bills, but to reach self-sufficiency. With a mortgage payment plan, foreclosure prevention services, phone bill budgeting, and even being able to work with the water company to turn it back on, Erin was able to get her life back. She was introduced to the foodbank located in the Family Center as well so she could save more money for payments.

Erin has found hope through Brighton Center. “Being able to pay those basic bills and keeping everything from getting shut off again is a huge stress reliever. I have gained control of my life.”

“One thing about working with Brighton Center is they are all so friendly and do not judge. Having an organization like this in our community is a blessing. You always think these types of services aren’t for you, but they are for everyone.”

Erin is currently working on budgeting classes to better manage her money and wants to start giving back to help others to reach self-sufficiency.
DREAMS COME TRUE WITH A LITTLE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

The Jean Brown Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 after the passing of Jean Brown, who was an Emergency Assistance Advocate at Brighton Center from 1985 until her death in 1995. She had a wonderful talent for reaching our young people and helping them see a future for themselves. This scholarship honors her memory by offering encouragement to youth through a scholarship for post-secondary education.

RICK

My earliest memories of Brighton Center came when I was a small child. Growing up, money was continuously an issue because I lived in a low-income household. This was especially a concern for my parents when it came to the holidays. Paying the bills was always the major focal point and things like presents had to come second. The annual toy drive was my earliest memory of how Brighton Center had impacted my life. The toy drive allowed me and my siblings to pick out toys to open on Christmas morning. My parents did their best to give us everything we wanted around Christmas time but with four children and bills, it became difficult. The excitement I would get before and after the toy drive is indescribable to say the least.

Life before Brighton Center was hard at points and filled with unanswered questions. As a low-income family utilizing government assisted programs like food stamps, you realize they don’t last the entire month. My family would run out of money for food with a week or more left in a month. At this point we would turn to Brighton Center for assistance. I would help my mother carry the food home and be grateful that it’s one less thing we would have to stress about that month.

There were many obstacles I had to overcome growing up. The constant moving, the many different schools I had to go to, being homeless, and then spending a year in foster care. Struggling with my home life affected my participation in school. There was a point where the stress of home life coupled with high school made it difficult for me to even want to go to school. This caused my GPA to decline almost below college acceptance levels. One thing I knew though is that I wanted to go to college. I knew I had to step my game up after taking summer school my sophomore year. I started taking honors classes my junior year, raised my GPA and by my senior year I was accepted into NKU, where I was gifted the Jean Brown Scholarship.

One thing I am most proud of is the opportunity to be given this scholarship, and represent them at NKU. I do feel that I am an extension of Brighton Center because of all the help they have given me throughout my early childhood and even to this day. I’m most proud to say that I am involved with Brighton Center because of the lives, just like mine, that this place has drastically changed for the better.

MEGAN

Life was pretty scary after my dad was injured at work and we had no income. We were always trying to budget with the savings we had but it only got us so far. When we found Brighton Center, my family was really struggling financially. Brighton Center helped us get food on the table, get presents during the holidays, and get clothing on our backs.

After we found Brighton Center, we knew that we would never go hungry or go without. Brighton Center was able to give us the tools and strength to get back on our feet. They are a lifeline for so many people, especially my family. My mom even had the opportunity to receive an education so that she could chase her dreams and get a career she loves. Brighton Center has helped us rebuild our lives.

Brighton Center has enriched my life in more ways than one. I always struggled with the thought of college. During these hard times, Brighton Center awarded me with The Jean Brown Memorial Scholarship which I have used to pay for both textbooks and tuition in college. It is such an honor to represent an amazing organization through this scholarship.

Brighton Center has been such an amazing helping hand for my family and they always have done so without judgment or hesitation. My life went from being scary and unsure to brighter and more definite. With Brighton Center, I almost feel that my family was given a second chance at life and that we had someone that believed in us. I am proud to represent Brighton Center with this scholarship and I will make them proud.

Scholarship recipients must have been involved with a Brighton Center program, go to school full time, and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. The scholarship award is $1,000 per year to each student until they obtain their degree. We’re very thoughtful and careful with these funds – through interviews and requiring students to provide proof of their grades and schedules, we verify their progress. For 20 years now, we’ve provided the support and encouragement many youth need to continue their education through generous donations to the scholarship fund. We currently have six students receiving this scholarship, completing their freshman, sophomore, and junior years at NKU, Morehead State, and College of Wooster.

Since 1996, 52 students have received over $65,000 in scholarship funds through the Jean Brown Memorial Scholarship.
DREAMS OF: A STRATEGY FOR ALL

Brighton Center employees believe strongly in the community’s ability to set its own agenda and to work with us as partners to achieve results. We believe families know their situations best and are capable of making decisions that impact their lives. This philosophy, which is reflective of our core values and mission of the agency, guides us in our interpretation of community assessment data. In 2016, a full community assessment was completed that included interviewing 667 individuals (mostly people who have received services) from Campbell, Kenton, and Boone Counties; 78 employees; 39 volunteers; and 47 key community stakeholders.

From analyzing the results, came a set of critical issues that will be the focus of Brighton Center’s work for the next four years. A common thread was apparent as we pulled together all the trends: individuals understand how critical good employment and education is to their success and that of their children. Job attainment, education, better finances, response to heroin and other drugs, and support for youth were all prioritized as essential in strengthening families and communities.

1) Ensure youth (school age to 24) have the supports and services necessary to reach their full potential and are positioned to achieve success in life.

2) The education, employment, and financial education needs for our families are met resulting in a career that allows families to achieve their financial goals.

3) Our response to the Heroin Epidemic is clearly communicated and aligned with the community, and active steps are taken to ensure that the needs of our families are addressed.

4) The organization fully integrates services internally and within the community.

NKY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION: A COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

AS TOLD BY THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION: On Fat Tuesday, February 13th, 2018 the 27th Anniversary of the Mardi Gras for Homeless Children will once again Laissez les bon temps rouler; Let the good times roll!

Since 1992, the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association along with three homeless children agencies throughout greater Cincinnati, have been working together to fight homelessness of mothers and children in our region. Despite our ongoing efforts, homelessness of the innocent still remains at large in our community. With your support, the Mardi Gras for Homeless Children event has raised over the $1.5 million mark of total proceeds since its inception.

The Mardi Gras for Homeless Children was created by the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association in 1992 in response to the deaths of three local homeless children in an abandoned garage fire, and a subsequent article that reported there were 7,000 homeless children in the Greater Cincinnati area. It was determined that there was a serious need to educate our community, increase awareness about homelessness, and to raise funds to address this issue. The Mardi Gras theme was selected as the symbolization of the Mardi Gras colors as purple is for justice, green for faith and gold for power. With that in mind, we have asked that supporters share their gold as proceeds from the event benefit Homeless Children Agencies including Bethany House Services in Cincinnati, Brighton Center’s Homeward Bound in Covington, and Welcome House of Northern Kentucky in Covington.

Gordon Snyder, Event Chairman since its inception, says, “What a way to have a wonderful evening while supporting a very worthwhile cause. In its 27th year, this is one of the longest running continuous fundraisers in Greater Cincinnati that has always supported one cause, Homelessness for women and children. It has always been the participating restaurant’s way to give back to our community and to support these agencies.

As everyone attending is also giving back to their community, your palate will be delighted with the vast array of food and drinks from over fifty local establishments. Swing along to the live Louisiana-Styled Rock ‘n Roll by Robin Lacy and DeZydeco, and join the Royal Court in a krewe bead throwing parade featuring Sheila Gray, Local 12 WKRC-TV Anchor as Queen, Scott Sloan, 700WLW Radio Personality as King and Giovani Bernard, Bengals Running Back as Grand Marshal. Peruse both the live and silent auctions and record your highest bid to take home your prize.

With that in mind, mark the date of FAT TUESDAY, February 13th, grab a handful of beads to bestow on all of your friends, both old and new. Enjoy a slice of king cake, keeping in mind that if you bite into a small plastic baby you might find yourself hosting next year’s party. Most of all, revel with the knowledge of how much we appreciate your support over the past 27 years.

“The Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association has shown such passion and commitment to the homeless population in the community and the time, product, marketing, and labor that is donated to this event is evidence of a great organization. Homeward Bound is honored to be a part of Mardi Gras. We use the funds for food and food operations at the shelter and are grateful to be a recipient of the event.”

- Kate Arthur, Community & Youth Services Director at Brighton Center

Since 1999, Mardi Gras for Homeless Children has raised almost $350,000 for our Homeward Bound Shelter which serves homeless, runaway, and in crisis youth ages 11-17.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN EMBs

Susan Embs found Brighton Center four years ago after she had retired from teaching for thirty years. Knowing she wanted to give back to the community, she began looking for opportunities to help in any way that she could. When a friend introduced her to RSVP, a program for retired individuals, giving back through Brighton Center was an easy decision.

“Brighton Center’s accomplishments over the past 51 years speak immensely about the hard work and dedication that is put in every day. I knew I wanted to be a part of this selfless community.”

Susan started her work in the Family Center. Volunteering one day a week, she began tending to the day to day projects; involved in data entry, bulletins, and everything in-between. Today, she helps with mortgage repayment programs and assisting individuals with the support they need financially.

“Say I am a part of Brighton Center. The rewarding memories and the friendships I have made will last a lifetime. I love knowing that I am actively helping and giving back. Donating money is one thing, but when I donate my time I feel like I am actually doing something for the community. I can see the results every day.”

Alongside the financial service programs, Susan helps tend to Brighton Center’s community garden and she even has her own bed to grow produce.

“We grow everything from basil and cilantro, to carrots and kale. With these community gardens, our goal is to get fresh produce to those who don’t have the easiest access and help residents reach self-sufficiency. We even have some restaurants that want our produce!”

Susan defines Brighton Center as her wonderful oasis in Newport. “Every day, I am so grateful to say I am a part of Brighton Center. The rewarding memories and the friendships I have made will last a lifetime. I love knowing that I am actively helping and giving back. Donating money is one thing, but when I donate my time I feel like I am actually doing something for the community. I can see the results every day.”

One message that Susan wants to give back to the community is that we can help. “Call us or come in, we will find some way to help you. Self-sufficiency is the goal and we will help in any way possible to make this happen.”

Susan thanks Brighton Center every day for making her feel important. She has enjoyed her past four years volunteering and looks forward to many more.

Since 2013, Susan has volunteered over 480 hours of her time.

2017-2018 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Garner
Garner Insurance Agency, LLC

Heidi Murley, MD
St. Elizabeth Physicians

Julie Sparks
Ernst & Young

Ken Muth
Duke Energy
Brighton Properties Board

PREVIOUS EVENTS

BOHEMIAN BASH GALA
Raised: $80,000

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and supported our Brighton’s Bohemian Bash Gala. This successful event would not have been possible without our committee led by Mari Hengelbrock and Dianne Thomas, emcee Dan Wells of Fox 19, our sponsors including presenting sponsors BB&T, Fred & Betty Jo Haas, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare, and everyone who had a part in making it a great event.

SHARE WHAT YOU CAN
Collected: 832 Pounds of Food

Thank you to all who attended the third annual Share What You CAN event! Your generous donations allowed us to collect 832 pounds of food! This incredible support from the community is critical during summer months to keep our food pantry stocked. Special thanks to Katie Walters from Q102 for emceeing, and to our event sponsors; United Bank, Crawford-Downing Insurance, and the City of Ft. Thomas. It was a wonderful night of perfect weather, great food and beverages, and of course the best party music around from the Naked Karate Girls!
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Talia Frye

Brighton Center Directory Of Services

Administrative Offices
President & CEO: Tammy Weidinger
Executive Vice President: Wonda Winkler
Chief Financial Officer: Jane Miller
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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Early Childhood Education
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Family Center
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Financial Services
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Northern Kentucky Scholar House
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Workforce Development
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