



**BRIGHTON CENTER**  
A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

# A SPIRIT OF RESILIENCE

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2018

## Resilience is not about bouncing back, it's about moving forward.

Just as a sunflower always changes direction to face the sun, our customers' resiliency and drive shine through every day as they navigate their journey on the road to self-sufficiency.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WINE OVER WATER

Saturday, August 25, 2018

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 \$40 in advance or \$50 at door available at:  
[www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater](http://www.brightoncenter.com/wineoverwater)

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Friday, September 14, 2018

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



### 80s Throwback Party

Saturday, February 2, 2019



### Mardi Gras for Homeless Children

Tuesday, March 5, 2019



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS

## HIPPY RECEIVES \$100,000 FAMILY LITERACY GRANT AWARD

In April, Brighton Center was honored to receive a \$100,000 Family Literacy grant provided by Scripps Howard Foundation, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Duke Energy Foundation, and WCPO 9 On Your Side. This grant will support our Home Visitation for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program which is a kindergarten readiness program designed to help parents in becoming their children's first and most important teacher for creating a foundation to lifelong learning and family literacy.

"We know we can't have strong learners without strong families and strong families without strong communities, so we truly appreciate this investment in our families and the community," said Wonda Winkler, Executive Vice President of Brighton Center as she accepted the award at the Scripps Howard Foundation Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 19.

HIPPY is an evidence-based, best practice

program that partners with parents as they prepare their preschool children to be school ready. Home Visitors help parents combine learning and play throughout the structured 30-week HIPPY curriculum for three and four year olds and a 15 week curriculum for five year olds. Parents are presented a set of carefully developed books and materials designed to strengthen children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional, and physical development.

The \$100,000 award will allow the program to serve an additional 40 children and hire two new staff members.

OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS:



**90%**

of children enrolled for a program year demonstrated progress in social/emotional development.

## 2018-2019 NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Sophia Depenbrock**  
NKY Scholar House  
Resident



**Dan Gronneck**  
Retired, US Bank



**Dave Koeninger**  
Retired, Millennium  
Physician Group



**Michael R. Lakin**  
HORAN



**Yolanda Saucedo**  
BB&T



**Ingrid Washington**  
Gateway Community and  
Technical College



**Joyce Duve**  
Brighton Properties Board  
Newport Commons  
Resident



**Julie Schoepf**  
Brighton Properties Board  
Dinsmore



## RESILIENCE SHINES THROUGH AT RECENT GRADUATIONS



“When I first arrived at the Center for Employment Training I was a nervous wreck and unsure of myself. I honestly had no idea what I was doing and was not even sure I could complete the program. Always remember

that we all have stuff in our lives that have held us back from achieving our goals and dreams. Do not let those things stop you. I promise that even though things may seem dark and bleak at times, that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. With support I have become the Medical Assistant I am today.”

### - JULIE, CET GRADUATE

*Julie is currently a Medical Assistant at UC Health in the Neurology department. She also recently took and passed her Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) certification.*

- 37** families graduated from Every Child Succeeds
- 39** children graduated kindergarten ready from Home Visitation for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
- 15** children graduated kindergarten ready from either Bright Days Child Development Center or Early Scholars Child Development Center
- 9** youth involved in Community & Youth Services programming graduated with their GED or High School Diploma
- 7** residents of Northern Kentucky Scholar House gained a certification or completed an Associate or Bachelor’s Degree
- 81** trainees completed a skill division and/or received their GED at Brighton Center’s Center for Employment Training (CET) during the fall or spring
- 32** women completed all phases of Brighton Recovery Center for Women over the last year

## BRIGHTON RECOVERY CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

It’s been a decade since Brighton Recovery Center (BRC) first opened its doors to help women battling addiction have a second chance at life. May marked the official 10 year anniversary and in June, a formal celebration highlighted the Center’s impact on the 2,064 women who have walked through the doors for a new beginning.

Guest speakers included Edwin King, Executive Director of Kentucky Housing Corporation and Gary Moore, Boone County Judge Executive. Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center President & CEO; Jeremy Hayden, Brighton Center Board of Directors Chair; and Anita Prater, Brighton Recovery Center Director also spoke. BRC Alumni Devita Riggs (pictured to the right) also gave an inspiring glimpse into her resilient journey beating addiction and building the self-sufficient life she always dreamed of having.

Brighton Recovery Center for Women is a 100 bed facility located in Boone County that utilizes the recovery dynamics curriculum and is a peer-driven model of recovery, a program that helps women recover from chronic substance abuse and addiction, and move toward a life of sobriety and productivity. The focus is to help 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.

Independent research of the Center’s impact consistently shows drastic reductions in substance abuse, homelessness, and mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts.



# A MOM'S RESILIENCE IN BUILDING A BETTER LIFE

**ERIN:** I came home to Northern Kentucky from Bardstown, Kentucky after a relationship that didn't work out. I was 39 weeks pregnant, scared, and alone. I didn't really know how I was going to parent my daughter or even if I would have the support back home.

I moved in with my mom and had my first daughter, Luna, one week later. My mother was there, but I didn't know how things were going to work out long term. I had no one else I could depend on, until Brighton Center came into my life.

A few weeks after I had Luna, Every Child Succeeds through Brighton Center called wanting to share information about support I could utilize in the community, parenting help, and developmental information for Luna. I was excited for this opportunity so I signed up right away. My Home Visitor, Jamie, came to visit me for the first time and it instantly gave me a sigh of relief. The program taught me many things about development and what to expect as a parent. It prepared my daughter and I to lead a healthy successful life.

My Home Visitor also shared with me other resources I could utilize within Brighton Center. She introduced me to the Center for Employment Training (CET), which provides individuals with a debt free education. After hearing about this service, I quickly called for an orientation date and started in April 2013.

While enrolled at CET, they linked me with services through the Family Center and I received food from the food pantry. I also sat down with a Financial Coach who helped me with credit and budget counseling. I enrolled in an incentive match program where if I saved \$2,000, the program would match my savings to buy a car. I also enrolled Luna in Bright Days Child Development Center while I attended school. Bright Days was amazing because they had qualified teachers and the Center was only two blocks from my training program at CET. I



was able to complete my internship with Brighton Recovery Center and graduate with a Business and Computer Technology certificate from CET in May 2014.

We completed the Every Child Succeeds program when Luna turned three. Right before that, my Home Visitor told me about the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) program. She said this program would help me prepare Luna for kindergarten and I enrolled right when Luna turned three. My Home Visitor came weekly to share curriculum with me, gave me books, and shared needed resources. Luna is now in the 5-year-old curriculum and excelling. She is ready for kindergarten and I have the HIPPI and Every Child Succeeds programs to thank for that. I recently enrolled Luna in kindergarten, she has met her teacher, toured the school, and she is so excited to learn!

Through Brighton Center, I have also utilized the annual Holiday Drive. This helped ease my mind during the holidays knowing that my girls would receive a quality Christmas because of caring individuals in the community. I also was able to bring a holiday meal home to share with my family on Christmas.

I now have my three year old enrolled in HIPPI along with Luna. I recently put a deposit down on my own apartment and moved in April 1, 2018. Samantha, my HIPPI Home Visitor, referred me to Build A Dream, a program that builds beds for children. My girls were accepted and both received beautiful beds to sleep in at night.

I feel successful! I now have a full-time job at Citibank. I do not know what I would have done without Brighton Center. I feel empowered now that I have my own car and an amazing job. I am in full control of my life because of Brighton Center. I am truly blessed and can't thank the Center enough for this. Brighton Center is like my family!

## SUPPORTING CUSTOMER RESILIENCE

Everyday we are humbled by the resiliency our customers show as they overcome the barriers and challenges that have kept them from becoming self-sufficient. Our Family Centered approach to supporting customers is built on the foundation that they know their situations best and can make decisions for themselves and their families. We provide the support and guidance they need to achieve their hopes and dreams by working with the entire family.

Our programs for children focus on building the social emotional competencies that provide a strong foundation for resiliency. This includes building on skills, values, and personal strengths to create positive outcomes and experiences for youth.

Trauma Informed Care best practices are utilized to help both youth and adults navigate the impact of traumatic experiences while also moving forward to achieve their full potential.

In working with youth, individuals, and families, we focus on moving them from crisis to stability and ultimately self-sufficiency through establishing long-term relationships based on trust and helping families navigate the obstacles they are facing. Customers set achievable goals based on their individual wants/needs while staff empower them to utilize available resources and programs.

Our customers prove time and time again that no matter what life throws their way, they want to create a better life for themselves and their children.

# DEDICATION PAYS OFF WITH HOMEOWNERSHIP

**DANIELLE:** My husband and I always dreamed of owning our own home - a place where the kids can play soccer and T-ball in the backyard, run around with the dog, and create lasting memories. We just never knew where to begin. Our credit wasn't the greatest, we didn't have savings, and buying a home was a big step but Brighton Center's Financial Wellness program helped us the entire way. They gave us the resources to overcome these obstacles and we were able to make our dreams a reality. As of May 11, 2018, we are officially homeowners.

I was introduced to Brighton Center in 2014. I was pregnant with my first born Karmen and St. Elizabeth Healthcare introduced my husband and I to a program called Every Child Succeeds (ECS). ECS is an evidence-based home visitation program for first time moms and dads that helps promote positive parenting and healthy child development. Utilizing this program taught me how to keep my child stimulated, how to enforce learning through arts and crafts and various activities, and how to utilize the different parts of the brain through these activities. My children thrived through this program and taught me how to be one-on-one with my children.

Our ECS Home Visitor heard us talking one day about wanting to own a home. She discussed other services we could utilize through Brighton Center and explained the homeownership program through Financial Wellness. In 2016, we began our journey of becoming home owners.

The Financial Wellness staff linked my husband and I to the Bright Idea IDA Savings Match Program. If we collectively saved \$1,000 toward a down payment for a house, we would be matched with \$4,000. While in the IDA program, we attended the Making Cents of Homeownership workshop to get a certificate of completion. During the workshop, they equip you with worksheets and a book that explains the entire home buying process from start to finish. In the Financial Wellness program, we also worked on building our credit and establishing trade lines to make the process of buying a house easier and in the long run, save us money.

Through these programs and services, I learned that saving money isn't as hard as it seems and you don't have be stuck with bad credit. We were capable of overcoming these obstacles that at first made us feel



trapped; it just took a little initiative.

My family now has a backyard to run around in. We can watch our dreams unfold as the kids run around outside and just be kids. We have higher credit scores, a savings account, and a savings plan for the children in place. We can now say that we are financially stable and have a home to call our own!

If you do not know about Brighton Center, get to know them because they are so helpful and they get you to a stable point in life. You can feel secure for the rest of your life with the knowledge that they give you. Take advantage of the opportunities they provide because they can change your life. They changed ours.

## ELEMENTS OF RESILIENCY



Support System



Positive Role Models



Social Emotional Competence



Self-Confidence



Education & Skill Building

# BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers have always provided a vital link to helping Brighton Center build capacity and serve our customers in an efficient and timely manner. Recently, we embarked on a journey to re-envision the way volunteers can help the Center achieve our mission while also providing those who give their time and talents a meaningful way to contribute.

As an agency with 39 different programs, we are uniquely positioned to match volunteer interests and skills with areas across the Center that can greatly benefit from the increased capacity building.

Last year alone, our volunteers gave enough time to equal nine full-time positions.

Do you know how much your time is worth to Brighton Center? Every hour you volunteer is like a \$24.14 donation – that means, when you spend an hour mentoring a youth, working in our Choice Food Pantry, or reading a book to a child, you save the Center \$24.14. That's over \$190 for one day of volunteerism.

Whether you want to work directly with customers or behind the scenes, are a student or retired, or perhaps just want to make a difference in your community, we have an opportunity to fit your schedule.

To learn more visit: [https://www.brightoncenter.com/get\\_involved/volunteer](https://www.brightoncenter.com/get_involved/volunteer)

## BRIGHTON CENTER JUNIOR BOARD

YOUNG LEADERS INVESTED IN OUR MISSION



The strength and success of an organization is dependent on those who support it and Brighton Center is very lucky to have many amazing supporters, the newest of which is our Junior Board.

The Junior Board is a group of 20 young professionals who are dedicated advocates and ambassadors for the Center.

Since the Junior Board was first launched in January, the group has already made an impact. Led by co-chairs, Christy Alwell and Stephanie Bogenschutz, the Junior Board started things off by working together to decide on areas of focus for the year.

In March, the Junior Board participated in a Poverty Simulation, led by Covington Partners with Brighton Center's Board of Directors. The simulation included current customers enrolled in Brighton Center programs and gave both Boards a glimpse into some of the struggles and challenges our customers face on a daily basis. It was a very eye opening experience for everyone involved.

Members of the Junior Board had a fun evening at

our Diamonds and Denim Gala in April which raised over \$85,000 for Brighton Center.

The group participated in KY Gives Day and collectively raised \$1,030 in less than 12 hours on May 22 while also sharing the impact of Brighton Center with family and friends.

Over the summer, youth at Homeward Bound Shelter were treated to a fun outing at Dart Rush.

The group will also volunteer in the VIP area at Wine Over Water.

It is clear that in such a short time, the Junior Board has already made a lasting impact on Brighton Center and continues to set the foundation for great things to come. We are very excited by the passion and dedication of our Junior Board and look forward to the future. It is only through the kindness and commitment of others that we are able to impact so many lives each year on their journey to self-sufficiency.

*To learn more about the Junior Board please contact Beth Hodge at [bhodge@brightoncenter.com](mailto:bhodge@brightoncenter.com).*

## WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER A VITAL RELATIONSHIP



Building resiliency in our customers starts with taking the time to understand the challenges and obstacles they are facing along with their hopes and dreams for the future.

Shortly after residents moved into Northern Kentucky Scholar House on their journey to achieving educational goals and ultimately self-sufficiency, staff noticed a common thread

among the single parents. Many of the parents had experienced unhealthy relationships resulting in intimate partner violence. This is how an amazing partnership with Women's Crisis Center started.

Out of this need has grown a relationship that has benefited not only the parents, but also the children who call Northern Kentucky Scholar House home. For over two years, Women's Crisis Center has provided both intervention and prevention services to residents.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL GOODING

In 2013, I was introduced to Brighton Center through a neighbor. In the beginning, my dog and I would visit two or three times a week to receive free food in the lobby. A relationship developed and those two to three times a week quickly developed into our daily walk. After a while, the Family Center introduced me to a Resource Advocate to visit on a monthly basis. I signed up for USDA Commodities that assist with food as well as other necessities.

A few years passed and my Resource Advocate mentioned the Club Care program at Brighton Center and I decided to join. This program is designed to work with individuals who are either retired or receive long-term disability and provides an opportunity for participants to get connected to resources and supportive services to maintain independence and stable housing.

While in Club Care, I was connected to the senior work program at Community Action. I worked with other agencies and got placed with Brighton Center's Family Center in 2017. Through my work assignment at the Family Center, I had the opportunity to see another side of Brighton Center's operation and I am just as impressed.

Through volunteering, I have the opportunity to give back to my community and help others who may need a little extra help along their journey. I started volunteering once a week, which increased to three times a week and now I volunteer Monday through Friday. There is something new every day at Brighton Center. My duties include filling up the food pantry, bringing meat up for individuals, setting up the lobby, unpacking the food truck, and just about anything else that I can help with. If I don't show up I've got someone calling me wondering if I am okay because I am never late.



Toward the end of 2017, I grew unhappy with my living situation and in January 2018 things took a turn for the worst. I shared this with the staff at the Family Center and they recommended that I put an application in with Saratoga Place Apartments. Within two months, I moved out of my old apartment and into Saratoga Place and I have never been happier. I have a safe and reliable place to live. I don't know what I would have done if I didn't get into Saratoga Place Apartments.

Volunteering is fulfilling to say the least. It gives my life meaning and keeps me busy. Brighton Center has ultimately become my family and the employees are there for me no matter what. I first visited the Family Center to utilize the free food in the lobby and now I am the one who stocks the food in the lobby. My life has come full circle.

*Michael is truly an amazing asset to Brighton Center and an example of resiliency.*

Women's Crisis Center provides the Green Dot violence prevention strategy which is a nationally recognized strategy focused on preventing power-based personal violence - sexual violence, partner violence, child abuse, elder abuse, bullying, and stalking. Residents and staff are provided the opportunity to learn bystander intervention and practice the skills they learn.

Women's Crisis Center has also provided customized workshops for both parents and children which include topics such as surviving the holidays, healthy relationships, self-worth/care, bullet journaling, and mommy & me sessions aimed at building developmental assets which

serve as protective factors for children.

Intervention services have focused on helping our customers navigate the trauma of their experiences and build resilience through providing support to customers through any legal proceedings or medical needs along with support groups, counseling, and safety planning.

These vital and free services have empowered our customers to seek a better life for themselves and their children. This partnership is an excellent example of how Brighton Center collaborates with other community partners to best meet the needs of customers on their path to self-sufficiency.

# PREVIOUS EVENTS



## DIAMONDS & DENIM GALA Raised: \$85,000

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and supported our Diamonds & Denim Gala emceed by Bob Herzog of WKRC at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott. 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, Ohio National Financial Services, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Guests enjoyed a bourbon tasting by Colonel De & live music provided by The Leftovers. A new special addition this year was the once in a life time trips the American Fundraising Association (AmFund) provided which raised over \$11,000 for the Center.



## SHARE WHAT YOU CAN Collected: 629 Pounds of Food



Thank you to all who attended the fourth annual Share What You CAN event! Your generous donations allowed us to collect 629 pounds of food and additional monetary

donations that will help feed 50 families with three days worth 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 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.

**Brighton Center, Inc., Board Of Directors 2018-2019**

<b>Susan McDonald, Chair</b> St. Elizabeth Healthcare	<b>Sophia Depenbrock</b> NKY Scholar House Resident	<b>Ryan King</b> Medical Solutions	<b>Leyla Pena</b> Cincinnati Public Schools	<b>Alan C. Thomas</b> Retired, NKU/Fort Thomas Education Foundation
<b>Rachel Votruba, Vice Chair</b> Retired, Northern Kentucky University	<b>David R. Fleischer</b> Alpha + Beta Strategies, LLC	<b>Dave Koeninger</b> Retired, Millennium Physician group	<b>Laura Pleiman</b> Boone County Fiscal Court	<b>Brian Todd</b> Clark Schaefer Hackett
<b>Dan Groneck, Secretary</b> Retired, US Bank	<b>Jim Garner</b> Garner Insurance Agency, LLC	<b>Jay Krebs</b> The Procter and Gamble Company	<b>Jason V. Reed</b> Edmondson & Associates	<b>Katie Walters</b> Q102/WKRQ FM Radio
<b>Eric Johnson, Treasurer</b> Grant Thornton LLP	<b>Fred Haas III</b> National Band & Tag Company	<b>Michael Lakin</b> Horan	<b>Yolanda Saucedo</b> BB&T	<b>Jason Wessel</b> St. Elizabeth Healthcare
<b>Damon V. Allen</b> Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati	<b>Bob Hengge</b> Zwicker & Associates	<b>Heidi Murley, MD</b> St. Elizabeth Physicians	<b>Jill M. Scherff</b> Dinsmore & Shohl LLP	<b>Ingrid Washington</b> Gateway Community & Technical College
<b>Jodianne A. Broomall</b> Children's Hospital Medical Center	<b>Greta Hoffman-Walker</b> Attorney At Law, PLLC	<b>Shannon O'Connell Egan, Esq.</b> Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP	<b>Maida Session</b> Duke Energy	<b>J. Rork Williams</b> Hillard Lyons
	<b>Sarah E. Hughes</b> No. Central Area Health Ed. Ctr.	<b>Brooks A. Parker</b> Messer Construction Co.	<b>Julie Sparks</b> Ernst & Young	

**Brighton Properties, Inc., Board Of Directors 2018-2019**

<b>Damon V. Allen, Chair</b> Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati	<b>Laura Sandmann, Secretary</b> KeyBank Community Development Lending	<b>Tim Allison</b> Turner Construction Company	<b>Joyce Duve</b> Newport Resident	<b>Tom Stapleton</b> Eagle Realty Group
<b>Joe Schamer, Vice Chair</b> Seco Electric	<b>Alicia B. Townsend, Treasurer</b> U.S. Bank	<b>Aaron Anderson</b> GBBN Architects, Inc.	<b>Ken Muth</b> Duke Energy	<b>Caroline K. Weltzer</b> Viox & Viox, Inc.
		<b>Gary Barlow</b> Huff Real Estate	<b>Julie Schoepf</b> Dinsmore	

**Brighton Center Directory Of Services**

**Administrative Offices**

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: Becky Timberlake  
Director of Facilities & Community Development: Joe Rowe  
Grants & Quality Improvement Administrator: Jennifer Hansert  
Human Resources Director: Kerry Kleisinger

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**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: Mary Decker  
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: Angela Krebs  
Center for Employment Training  
601 Washington Avenue, Suite 140  
Newport, KY 41071



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