



**the VOICE**  
DCCH CENTER  
For Children & Families  
75 Orphanage Rd.  
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017-0007

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### Learn More Online!

In addition to all the great news we're sharing in this Fall issue, we have a lot more to share online! Visit **DCCHCenter.org** for more information, videos, updated news, events, annual reports and more.

### Come Visit DCCH Center!

We would love to take you on a tour of our facilities... and if you are so inclined, join us for lunch!

Contact us at **859/331-2040, ext. 8534.**

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DCCH CENTER  
For Children & Families

FALL 2016

**Children of Light**  
Walk as children of light—for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.  
Ephesians 5:8-10

## DCCH SUMMER APPEAL: Project 72°

### Project 72° is well underway!

**Project 72°** allows us to upgrade a 50-year old HVAC system, providing important physical comfort to children healing from trauma.

**It includes:**

- Reconfiguring the heating and air conditioning systems in each of the five children's apartments in our Residential Building to allow for improved temperature control throughout.
- Replacing current outdated system with new energy efficient HVAC Units in each of the five apartments. This will generate an estimated 5% energy savings annually.
- Refurbishing apartment windows, including weather sealing and safety latches.

Workers are currently replacing air conditioning units on the roof of our Residential Building, and soon the heating system in the children's apartments will undergo a much needed upgrade, 50 years in the making! We are so grateful for all the gifts we received through our Summer Appeal. Thank you to everyone who gave to **Project 72°**. You will keep our kids warm and comfortable this winter.

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FALL 2016



Dear **Friends,**

On my desk sits a small plaque, strategically placed to make sure I see it multiple times a day. It reads, “Thank you God for blessing me much more than I deserve”.

The plaque is nothing fancy, but its message truly speaks to me. Like most of you, I get busy with daily demands and distractions, and I tend to let my gratitude slip too far into the background. In my haste, I start to take for granted the many good things in my life. The plaque and its message provide a gentle reminder for me to remain grateful.



Mother Nature does a wonderful job reminding me as well. Autumn is rich with signs and symbols to help bring us back to a place of gratitude. The bountiful harvest, the cooler weather, the amazing displays of color and Thanks-giving looming on the horizon all make this time of year perfect to reflect upon our many blessings.

With that in mind, this issue of The Voice specifically focuses on gratitude. We have much to be thankful for at DCCH. First and foremost, we are grateful for the children and families we serve. It is a privilege to provide a safe, nurturing and healing experience for these individuals, many of whom suffered traumas that left little room for hope and gratitude. We are blessed to have the opportunity to change their lives. We are thankful for ALL our staff, whose care and dedication make DCCH one of the most respected treatment organizations in Kentucky. They endure many challenges on the job, but they do so with a clear desire to make a difference in our clients’ lives. Thanks to our many volunteers, without whom we could not carry on. Whether they are working directly with children or helping in other areas, volunteers are the backbone of DCCH. We thank the many donors and community partners who provide us the critical financial support needed to keep our doors open and our services flowing. God bless you all for your longstanding generosity.

Gratitude is in abundance at DCCH! I wish you a happy and healthy fall season. I ask for your continued prayers that our good work may continue. And I cordially invite all of you to visit our campus any time. You will see firsthand why we are so thankful. I will even show you my plaque, free of charge!

Sincerely,  
*Bob Wilson*  
Bob Wilson  
Executive Director

 **LEARN MORE ONLINE**



Learn more about all the good news at DCCH by visiting our new website [www.DCCHCenter.org](http://www.DCCHCenter.org).

Our Executive  
Staff/Directors

**Robert J. Wilson**  
Executive Director

**John Ross**  
Director of Clinical Development

**Ron Bertsch**  
Director, Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption

**Cheryl Ross**  
Director of Residential Treatment

**Tim Lucas**  
Director of Finance/Operations

**Paul Miller**  
Director of Donor Relations

**Joelle Seibert**  
Training Coordinator/EHR Specialist

**Michael Shannon**  
Recreation Director

**Jennifer Jimenez**  
Food Service Director

**Dan Townsend**  
Facilities Manager

**Sr. Jean Marie Hoffman, S.N.D.**  
Director Emerita



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- Northern Kentucky's first agency to be so accredited
- Seven consecutive accreditations since 1990
- Accreditation valid until 2018

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**MAILING NOTICE:** We strive to maintain the highest quality in our mailings to our constituencies. If there is an error on the attached label or you wish to be removed from our mailings, please notify the Development Office at 859/331-2040 ext. 8534, or email [pmiller@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:pmiller@DCCHCenter.org). We will immediately attend to your request and confirm that it has been done.

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# teen's ANARRATIVE

“And now I’ll live out the rest of my days happily,”  
BILBO BAGGINS

Some people go throughout their whole lives without realizing what others in their life did for them. Then there are those put into a situation so awful they come to realize that almost everything happens for a reason, and that those people did it for them. I belong with the second group of people.

My story really just starts before I was even alive. It starts with my mom or my birth mom in this case. She wasn’t like most of the other moms most people would normally think about. No, she was just a poor sixteen year old girl lost and on her own in this rough world we are all a part of. See, we all say that we know the evil of drugs and how awful they are, but in truth most of us could barely begin to understand. She faced this first hand and fell into their seemingly welcoming hands. But when I came into her life she stopped with all that. That’s where I come in. Normally, when I tell people about my life when I was younger, they don’t believe me. Why? Because they think I was too young to be able to remember stuff like that, but believe me, if you had stuff like that happen to you, you would remember, no matter what age. Like I said before, when I came along my mom stopped with drugs, but that didn’t last too long. She always tried to be a good mother and protect me. I see that now, but I didn’t always used to think that. I lived with her until I was four or five and when I turned four, the life we both knew fell to the ground. She had told herself she would stop with drugs, but you can’t stop. That’s a joke, a lie. People around us started to realize she was failing; no longer able to carry out her motherhood like she used to. Not only did she have me, but she now had three more kids to take care of. The social workers came and took us from my mom, and just as suddenly as it had begun, it just as quickly ended. Honestly, I never felt like this was a bad thing, (well at first I did). See, when you get put into foster care, it’s not all love and kisses. They put you with a family and if that family wants you, they keep you. But things never worked out like that. I was with a total of four different families and that was in a span of only two years which doesn’t seem like that much, but for a kid it lasts an eternity. I hated every moment of it and I never realized that until I put my story on paper. The families I stayed with either ended in divorce or it just did not work out. It felt like as soon as I moved in, it was out again. And it did last an eternity, until one day, on January 29, 2005 a day filled with chocolate cake and Spiderman, my birthday, the day I turned six. On that day I was spending time with one of my foster parents to be. That day I found out what true kindness was. In February of 2005 I moved in with them. I call them mom and dad, but most know them as Todd and Mary Jo. I love them, but it isn’t always love and kisses. When you adopt a kid there’s things you have to be prepared for and the most important is helping a child like me who went through this cope with it. My parents did exactly that. They helped me grow and encouraged me to do great things. They took all the confusion I had and helped set it straight. Now that I am older I have come to appreciate what they did and I love them for it.

I didn’t write this so that people would pity me, but in the hopes that they would see that not all lives are as easy as they seem. I still struggle with my past, but in a hope that they would see that helping a child like me means the world to them. My life is great. I went to St. Pius X and now to CCH and it was thanks to all the kindness I received. And like Bilbo says in Lord of the Rings, “And now I’ll live out the rest of my days happily,” so will I.



# SUPPORT

SPOTLIGHT

## 2016 Sponsors

DCCH wants to sincerely thank all of our 2016 Sponsors for helping us to positively change the lives of the children and families we serve.

Action Heating & Air, Inc.  
Advantage Tent Rental  
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Annonymous  
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield  
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Mr. Jon Prabell  
Mr. Stephen Wilson



## Grant Updates

While DCCH receives compensation from the State of Kentucky to care for the children in our Residential Treatment Program, government subsidies do NOT fully cover our operating costs. To meet this need, DCCH seeks out grants from local and national foundations. DCCH was recently the grateful recipient of significant funding from the following:

Cralle Foundation  
The Crosset Family Fund  
The Clyde Day Foundation  
The RC Durr Foundation  
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation  
The Marge and Charles Schott Foundation  
The Seligman Foundation  
The Spaulding Foundation  
The US Bank Foundation

## LiveWell Teams with DCCH's Farmer's Market

The Fort Mitchell chapter of **LiveWell** Northern Kentucky teamed up with the **DCCH Farmers Market** on Saturday, September 24th for a free Health and Wellness Fair. Over 200 people enjoyed activities like health screenings, cardio workouts, healthy food and gardening demonstrations, chair massages and free bike helmets for the kids. Visitors also browsed the fall harvest of produce and pumpkins at the Farmer's Market.

Thanks to the LiveWell NKY Fort Mitchell Committee for putting on the Health Fair. Please visit the DCCH Farmers Market, open on Saturday's through October 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

OPEN SATURDAY  
9 AM-1 PM  
THROUGH OCTOBER

## HALO... Helping All The Little Ones

"This is the happiest birthday I have ever had!" proclaimed Samantha licking the leftover chocolate icing from her lips and waving a singing card in the air for all her friends to see. Sam turned eleven that day, but it was the first time in her life she received a party for her special day.

Sam's friends asked who got her the card and gift. She looked down at the signature and read, "The HALO League." Sam had never heard of the group called HALO. But when she read the name, all the other children began recounting their exciting experiences with HALO: holiday parties, game nights, field trips to the roller rink and movies, make-your-own-sundae bars, birthday gifts, and more. Sam listened to the other kids' stories. She was excited to meet them all at the next function. She wanted to give them all a big hug and say thank you for making her feel special and loved.

HALO stands for **Helping All the Little Ones**. The HALO group is dedicated to giving to children in their greatest time of need. Once a month, they provide fun activities, events, and outings for our kids in the residential treatment program. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 PM on DCCH's campus. If you would like more information on how you can get involved, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sahar Arsala.



# OUR TEAM

SPOTLIGHT

## 2016/2017 Board of Directors

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Diocese of Covington  
Northern Kentucky University  
Rawe Financial Group, LLC  
Kentucky State Representative  
Procter and Gamble  
REM Brands  
Gilligan Oil LLC



## Welcome New Board Members!

DCCH is pleased to welcome the following new members to their Board of Directors:

**Chuck McHale** is a member of St. Agnes parish and is the owner of McHale's Events and Catering. He has served previously on the board of directors for Children's Home of Northern Kentucky. He has been an active supporter of DCCH, particularly helping with venue and food arrangements for our fundraising and social events. Chuck currently serves on the DCCH Human Resources Committee.

**Dave Barth** is a parishioner at St. Catherine in Fort Thomas. He has a long history of practicing law at Cors & Bassett. Dave has previously served on parish council at St. Joseph's and likewise served on the Campbell Lodge Board of Directors. He has strong social ties in Campbell County where we are trying to increase awareness of our mission. Additionally, Dave offers his legal expertise and a strong passion for the importance of residential treatment for children. He currently serves on the DCCH Human Resources Committee.

**Lisa Knochelmann** is actively involved in her parish, St. Joseph's in Crescent Springs. She and her husband Kris own and operate Schneller Plumbing, Heating, and Air. Lisa has demonstrated a strong commitment to the mission of DCCH through volunteering over the last several years to help with our Swing into Spring fundraiser. She currently serves on the DCCH Development Committee.



## Welcome Joelle Seibert

Our New Training Coordinator/EHR Specialist

Joelle received her BA in Psychology from NKU and her Masters from Xavier in Human Resource Development. This program prepares students for training positions. She has worked as a Mental Health Specialist at Children's Hospital in both their Residential Treatment and Psychiatric hospital programs. She is currently working as an Education Manager. She recently got married in July so that last name will be changing soon. We are very excited to welcome her to the DCCH family. She will be enhancing our training program and educating the staff on our new electronic records and billing software system.

HELLO TO EVERYONE!

## Welcome Nikki Benson

Our New Guardian Angel Principal

"I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself to each of you. My name is Nikki Benson and I am the new principal at Guardian Angel. This is my 21st year in education. My first 13 years I was a teacher for the Kenton County school system, and my last 8 years I held the role of assistant principal at Beechwood Elementary. I have a wonderful family! My husband Andy and I have been married for 20 years and we have three teenagers, Lucas, Lexi and Cole. They attend Beechwood High School and are very involved with sports and other extra-curricular activities. I am excited about my new role at Guardian Angel and am confident we can work together to provide each child with the academic and emotional support they need."

## Congratulations Sarah Slusher

On Joining Our TFC/Adoption Team

Sarah joined DCCH in 2006. After ten years working directly with the children in the residential program and at Guardian Angel School, Sarah has become a part of the TFC/Adoption team, as a recruiter and marketing coordinator. She graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in education. Sarah can be reached at [SLusher@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:SLusher@DCCHCenter.org).

