


**the
VOICE**
SUMMER 2021

love multiplied

Multiply Love Through Our
SUMMER APPEAL



SUMMER 2021



Reclaiming “Positive”

Over the course of the year-plus pandemic, DCCH has dealt with an enormous amount of stress and uncertainty, just like the rest of the community.

Given the very challenging battle of trying to keep the coronavirus at bay and our campus safe and healthy, many of our children and staff were subjected to numerous rounds of unpleasant COVID testing.

Because of this, the word “positive,” ironically came to take on a negative connotation. A positive COVID result meant someone among us had contracted the virus, and we had to feverishly work to minimize the chances of it spreading. Who would have thought “positive” would turn “negative?”

The good news is our amazing staff, resilient kids, dedicated volunteers, and numerous generous folks in the community all rose to the occasion, and we have survived! As I write this, it appears we may finally be coming out of the crazy COVID tunnel. Summer is knocking at our door, and it looks like we may be able to get back to some semblance of normal activity. Thank God!



So, I say it's time to officially reclaim “POSITIVE” and restore that word to its original meaning. After so much focus on challenges, uncertainty, and anxiety, we are long overdue to focus on POSITIVITY. That is exactly what this issue of our newsletter aims to do. We will shine the spotlight on just a few of the many good people and activities here at DCCH. I hope you will find the stories as uplifting as I do. As always, I am grateful for your prayers and support. We have the absolute best supporters...and I am absolutely positive about that!

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Wilson
Executive Director

LEARN MORE ONLINE



Stay Connected to Us!

There is always something good happening at DCCH! Whether it's a fun event, the latest adoption, or a child's success story, you can stay connected to it all. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn; sign up for our “Good News” e-blast and The Voice Newsletter; or watch a video on our YouTube page.

Want to help raise funds for our Programs? Register for the Kroger Community Rewards and you'll be contributing every time you shop!

Want more details? Email Info@DCCHCenter, and we'll get back to you ASAP.

Our Executive Staff/Directors

Robert J. Wilson
Executive Director

Tim Lucas
Director of Finance/Operations

Amy Pelicano
Development and Marketing Director

John Ross
Director of Programs

Ron Bertsch
Director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption

Emily Burch
Director of Residential Treatment

Eric Varner
Recreation Supervisor

Bri Farmer
Training Director

Jim Bruegge
Food Service Director

Dan Townsend
Facilities Manager

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



Accredited by

Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children

- Northern Kentucky's first agency to be so accredited
- Eight consecutive accreditations since 1990
- Accreditation valid until 2022





To hear more of the Galbraith's story, check out the video on our YouTube channel. The link can be found at the top of every page on our website. Don't forget to subscribe and share!

Spotlight On: **The Galbraith Family** (aka: Caleb and Jackson's family)

You might have heard their name before. They have been a featured story on several news stations and local publications for the past year. Why? We're glad you asked!

Trish and Gary Galbraith and their three biological children opened their doors and gave many foster children a home over the past six years. Fifteen children, to be exact. But the story doesn't end there.

Recently, Executive Director Bob Wilson sat down with the Galbraiths to ask them about their experiences.

Bob: Please share with us the story of how Caleb and Jackson came to be part of your family.

Trish: Caleb came to our house in February 2018 from DCCH's Residential Treatment program. After he was in our home for about a month, we received a call from DCCH to tell us about Jackson. When we mentioned this to Caleb, he got very excited because, little did we know, Caleb and Jackson were residents in the same apartment at DCCH. They had become good friends during their time there. In May 2018, Jackson came to live with us.

In May 2020, we adopted Caleb and his was the first adoption via Zoom in the state of Kentucky. It made a lot of headlines, and the story even found its way to the Governor's desk. During one of Governor Beshear's addresses, he congratulated us and Caleb on the adoption.

Then in November 2020, we were able to adopt Jackson and his was **the 150th adoption for DCCH**. Again, this made headlines and we did many interviews with news stations and journalists.

We were very blessed to foster many kids before Caleb and Jackson, and they all have a special place in our hearts. But when these two came into our lives, they were the missing pieces that our family needed.

Bob: Caleb and Jackson, tell us a little about your journeys.

Caleb: I had bounced around a couple of foster homes before I came to DCCH. I had some things to learn and work on about my emotions. After I had been here for about eight months, the staff came to me and asked me what I thought about getting a foster family. And I was like, "YEAH!" Two or three months later the staff said, "We found you a family!"

Jackson: The best part about DCCH's residential treatment was getting to know the staff and other kids. That's how Caleb and I became friends.

Caleb: At first, we just started playing basketball together. I knew neither of us would be at DCCH long, so I didn't think it was anything special. But when I was living with them [Galbraith family] and they told me they got the call about Jackson, I said, "WOW!" When he got to our home, we picked up right where we left off, and I have considered him a brother ever since.



love multiplied

When I was a kid, I had a good life. I had a mother and father who loved me fiercely and four loony siblings – three of whom are adopted! I had many opportunities in life and nearly no obstacles. In my almost four years at DCCH, I've often reflected on how good I had it compared to the children who come to our Residential Treatment program. What's the difference? Where did things go so right for me and wrong for them?

I've come to believe there's a balance that is struck in our lives that has a lot to do with what we experience. God willing, we all start out about the same. Let's say we're a "net zero" at birth. **I had love, multiplied in my young life that gave me the ability to thrive and have positive outcomes throughout my life.** Many of the children at DCCH have had multiple obstacles in their short lives. They've experienced things I can't begin to imagine that have landed them in a negative space. But things are on the upswing for any child coming to our program.

What I see every day with the children in our care are the many ways love is being multiplied for them, bringing them back to a net positive going forward. They know they're safe. They are getting specialized education. They know our staff care for them and want them to succeed. They know they're wanted and loved. And I see them lifted up every single day. That is love multiplied – and it impacts them for the rest of their lives.

The services we are able to provide for these children have a multiplicity effect, allowing them to thrive, not just survive. As you might guess, there is a cost to providing these services. It goes beyond what we receive from United Way, the Diocese of Covington, government funding, and other reimbursement for services.

The greatest need for funding lies with our Residential Treatment program. We are reimbursed on a per diem basis for each child in our care on any given day; however that does not cover the actual costs to provide services.

What does that look like? **The Residential Treatment Program is currently underfunded by \$1.8 million.** Our recent audit of the program shows that the gap in funding continues to grow. And here's where you can make a difference!

We are blessed by the funding, volunteerism, and love our community expresses. Each donation, small or large, helps us "fill the gap." This year, we need your help more than ever, as the cost to provide life-changing services continues to rise, while government funding lies stagnant.

We look at each gift received as a sign of love – for our mission, and for the fragile children in our care. Imagine the impact your love multiplied, will have on these survivors of child abuse and neglect. Will you please consider making an aspirational gift? You can also **join our Heroes' Circle by becoming a monthly donor.** And please consider multiplying your impact further by including DCCH in your estate plans to ensure we are able to continue our mission into the future.

Thank you for your prayers and the many ways you share your love for DCCH!

Amy Pelicano, *Development & Marketing Director*



Help us fill the Gap.

We are blessed by the funding, volunteerism, and love our community expresses. Each donation, small or large, helps us “fill the gap.” This year, we need your help more than ever, as the cost to provide life-changing services continues to rise, while government funding lies stagnant. Below are some other ways we utilize to multiply love for the children we serve.

Endow KY Tax Credit

A positive for us, a tax credit for you!

There's this terrific way to make an endowment gift to DCCH and get a big tax credit in the process, but you should act now!

The Endow KY Tax Credit is a tax credit calculated based upon an endowment gift to a permanent endowment fund of a qualified community foundation. The credit is equal to 20% of the value of the endowment gift, not to exceed \$10,000 per taxpayer. The endow tax credit can be carried forward up to five years on your income tax return. DCCH has permanent endowment funds at both Horizon Community Funds and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The deadline to apply for this tax credit is June 30. For information about how you can participate, contact Amy Pelicano at APelicano@DCCHCenter.org.

Grants

Grants are a big part of our fundraising and represent important partnerships with our community. We're so grateful for the support of the following grant funders and their recent commitments to caring for survivors of child abuse.

Aldi Smart Kids Grant
Butler Foundation
Crosset Family Fund
Dr. George E. and Delores A. Rennaker Charitable Foundation
Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation
Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation
Homan Foundation
NKY Chamber Women's Initiative
Thomas J. Emery Trust
R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc.
Sutphin Family Foundation
US Greentech Community Impact Fund
W.H. Albers Foundation

Thank
You!

Swing into Spring!

DCCH's gala fundraiser, Swing Into Spring, was held virtually April 20-25. Friends of DCCH showed their support for DCCH's programs for survivors of child abuse by participating in this week-long event featuring a Silent Auction, the Care for Kids Raffle, Basket, Jewelry, and Lottery Raffles.

Swing Into Spring culminated with a Live Online Broadcast Event on Sunday April 25.

A big thanks to Big Dave from B105 who emceed the event which included a Live Auction, with special appearances by Sister Jean Marie Hoffman and Chris Carle, music from the Beechwood High School Show Choir, DCCH stories of hope, and a few words from our Executive Director, Bob Wilson and event chairperson, Bob Hoffer.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, Swing Into Spring was a huge success, raising **\$277,500 for the children in our care**. Congratulations to Angie and Rob Gerrein, winner of the \$10,000 Care for Kids Raffle Grand Prize! These two are no strangers to DCCH, having participated in Trunk-or-Treat and cooked and served spaghetti and meatballs to the Foster Care families on HALO's Foster Care night.

To view the program or hear "Lily's Story," check out the videos on our YouTube channel. The link can be found at the top of every page on our website. Don't forget to subscribe and share!





St. Elizabeth
HEALTHCARE



Aetna Better Health® of Kentucky



Bartlett
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Don & Betty
Gerrein



Mike & Kathleen
Hardig

The
Klare Family



A Big Thank You To Our Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor

St. Elizabeth Healthcare

Emerald Sponsor

DBL Law

Gold Sponsors:

Aetna Better Health of Kentucky

Art's Rental

Bartlett Wealth Management

Central Bank of Northern Kentucky

Don & Betty Gerrein

Hagedorn Appliances

Mike & Kathleen Hardig

Jeff & Barb Klare

Rawe Family Foundation

Schneller & Knochelmann Plumbing Heating & Air

Zimmer Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram Trucks

Silver Sponsors

Rawe Financial Group

Tapke, Tapke & Dammel Group –

Baird Wealth Management

Truist

Verst Logistics

Bronze Sponsors

Bilz Insurance

Fifth Third Bank

Henn Plumbing

Heritage Bank – Burlington

Izzy's

Niehaus Advertising Specialties

Quinn Electric

Republic Bank

Sisters of Notre Dame

Friends of DCCH:

Action Heating & Air, Inc.

Anneken, Huey, & Moser

Anonymous

The Berger Firm

Clark Schaefer Hackett

Distinct Construction

The Lawrence Firm

M & K Apartments

Messer Construction Company

Prosource

Scheller Bradford Group

Terry Monnie Title Company

Vonlehman, Inc.

It Takes A Village

(aka: advocates, teachers, mentors, all of us)

We all know the phrase, “it takes a village.” And in so many cases, that bears truth time and again. Have you ever thought about that idiom in relationship to preventing child abuse and neglect?

It’s been on our minds a lot lately. **The pandemic has altered our ability to help prevent child abuse and neglect.** We villagers, who normally might recognize signs of abuse, have been holed up in our homes – not out and about where we might notice something’s not right. We’re talking about all of us: family members, coaches, teachers, neighbors, mentors – people in the community who keep their eyes open.

Historically, child abuse has been seen as an issue where the causes and solutions lie with the child victim or the perpetrator. **But it’s far more than that, and we can all be part of the solution!** If we put our collective minds toward the health and wellbeing of our community’s children, we can make a difference. Children need to have positive and engaged people in their lives beyond their parents. It helps them grow and develop healthy relationships.



Keeping children safe and healthy is our shared community responsibility. The benefit of taking on this challenge is a future where today’s children grow up to be strong, healthy, contributing members of our communities.

Early childhood development can make or break a child. Did you know that 90% of human brain development happens in the first five years of life? A newborn baby is born with all of the brain cells they will have into adulthood, but it’s the connections that are made, or not made, in early childhood that make the brain work. At least one million new neural connections (synapses) are made every second, more than at any other time in life. And if a young child experiences severe trauma, abuse, and/or neglect, it can have a significant deleterious effect on their brain development.

At DCCH, we see these effects in action with the children who come to us having experienced significant trauma. We work to provide loving care and trauma-informed therapy to help them heal. **But we can also work on the front end, before children have had these experiences.** We can be part of the solution. We want to prepare our community for a prosperous future, and that begins with watching out for our youngest citizens so they get what they need today to become the adults who will strengthen our communities and build our economy.

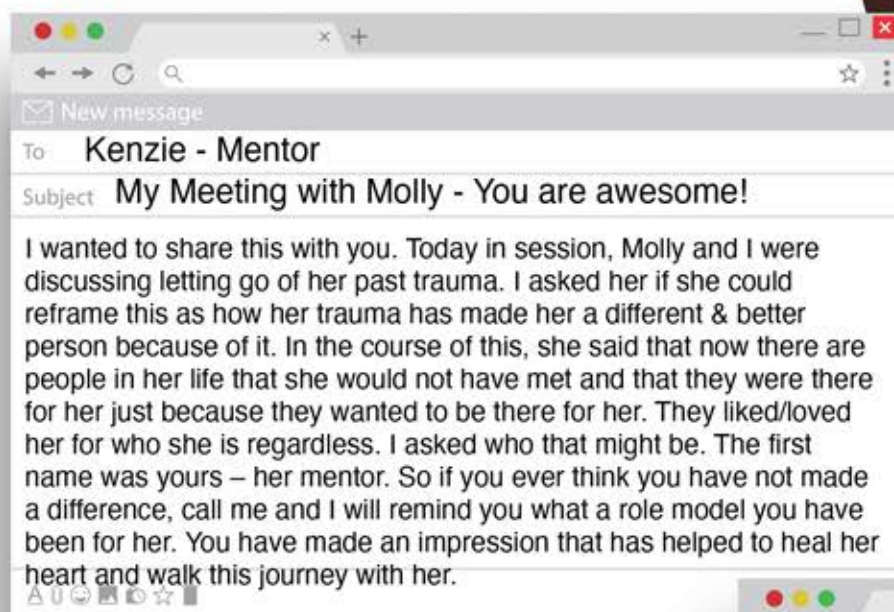
Will you help foster the health and wellbeing of the next generation? Get involved! Volunteer with a child, become a coach, advocate for children’s safety and rights, and most importantly, if you see something that gives you pause, say something. Report suspected abuse to the authorities – it’s not your job to substantiate abuse, just to report suspicions. If we come together as a village to address child abuse and neglect, we can **be** the village that eliminates the problem.

Reclaiming “Positive” for a child as an Advocate, Teacher, Mentor

Children who experience more positive interactions in their early years go on to be healthier and more successful in school and in life. Unfortunately, the opposite is true as well. Poverty, exposure to family violence and lack of access to quality early learning experiences can negatively impact a child’s early brain development, and subsequently, their long-term success.



For more information visit <http://bit.ly/understand-effects>.



You are Awesome Kenzie!

We asked some of the children in our Residential Treatment program how they're feeling since they've spent time healing and learning at DCCH. These are examples of **"love multiplied"** when children receive the trauma-informed care, intensive therapy, and specialized education they get at DCCH.

More "Love Multiplied"

"I feel like I'm a better kid because of my time here because I smile more and the staff care about me, but I'm also ready to see my family whenever I want to!"

"While I've been here, staff have helped me to better my behavior and I think I'll be able to use the things I have learned once I go home!"

"Staff make me feel supported and hold me accountable for my actions. I know they are gonna find me a home...that's just like them."

"Since being at DCCH I'm not so angry anymore. I have learned to be able to talk to people when I get mad rather than getting physical. I can't wait to go make some new friends and get ice cream."

"I have a treatment plan that's just for me and that's allowed me to get better so that I can be better when I leave. When I leave here, I'm gonna sell all my Pokémon cards and make lots of money."



Thank You To Our **DCCH Village**

(aka: friends, volunteers, horses)

Thank You Barb!

Barb Berkemeier is a special friend of DCCH, working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure every child at DCCH feels special and loved.



Halo President Barb Berkemeyer

Barb's commitment to DCCH and the children in our care is unmatched. She created and managed the super successful Cake Booth at many DCCH Summer Festivals, taking vacation from work to do it. Barb did all the shopping and helped cook the sauce for HALO Spaghetti Dinner fundraisers. She made treats for the kids and for every bake sale, Thanksgiving luncheon, Christmas Party, and Train-ride the HALO League hosted. DCCH Volunteer Amy Quinn Dye says, "Barb has always been a can-do person and always has a smile on her face. If she saw a need, she thought it through and found a way to get it done. She was always working behind the scenes to make it all happen." We will miss you, Barb! Thank you for your service...you changed lives!

"Halo wants to thank Barb for all the years she served as President of the Halo League. She has been President for so long, no one could remember the exact number of years (at least 8 years – probably a decade)." – Joan Buckley



Halo Happenings!

Our amazing HALO members have been busy this year! Did you know HALO stands for Helping All the Little Ones? Cool acronym for a cool group of volunteers.

The HALO League provides all kinds of fun activities with the children in our Residential Treatment program. It's been tough not being able to actually be there with the kiddos during COVID, but that didn't stop them from creating awesome activities and treats for the kids to have in their apartments. They provided the kids with a Luau-themed party and fun activities for Valentine's and St. Patrick's days and sent Cold Stone Creamery to DCCH for the kids and staff. And everyone loves the growing "Trunk or Treat" extravaganza celebrating Halloween. They had over 100 cars decked out with creative themes and decorations. Most recently HALO members held an end-of-school-year cookout where, for the first time in over a year, they were able to spend it with the kids in person. What a treat for both members and the kids!

HALO meets monthly, and they're looking for new members. If you're interested in joining this fun group, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Vicki Boerger at VBoerger@DCCHCenter.org.

Goodbye Sister Jan!!

We give thanks for Sister Jan Villalobos, SND, who recently returned to her original Sisters of Notre Dame province in Thousand Oaks, California after more than nine years of service and residence in the Covington, Kentucky province.



Sister Jan Marie Villalobos, S.N.D.

Sister Jan has been a dedicated friend, donating thousands of hours to DCCH. During her stay, she faithfully served in a variety of roles from Volunteer Coordinator to assistant in our Therapeutic Foster Care and Adoption program. Sister Jan provided loving child-care services for families when they came in for therapy, consultations, weekly treatment planning meetings, and monthly support group meetings. You almost always saw her in the playroom or visiting house, reading, playing, and truly enjoying the children she was with. Sister Jan was always in good spirits, and her desire to support and encourage others in ways large and small is one of the hallmarks of her tenure at DCCH.

She will be greatly missed by everyone here. We are grateful for her dedicated service and wish her well in the next chapter of her ministry. THANK YOU, SISTER JAN!

"Sr. Jan was always willing to speak up and never met a stranger – being able to introduce folks and share her passion and our ministry with whomever would listen.

– Ron Bertsch, Therapeutic Foster Care & Adoption Director.



Mary Beth Connelly

Spotlight: Mary Beth Connelly

Mary Beth Connelly has been a superstar at DCCH for many years. She has worked in our Outpatient Therapy program, helping with reception and administrative needs. Mary Beth has also been DCCH's liaison and dedicated volunteer for our Flea Market. Her efforts there have helped elevate the Flea Market to new levels of success. Although Mary Beth no longer holds her role in the Outpatient Therapy Center, she has continued to serve the Flea Market. Recent circumstances have resulted in her having to step away from her liaison role, but she will continue to volunteer at the Flea Market, as her schedule allows. We are truly grateful for Mary Beth for all she has done for DCCH as an employee and volunteer!

A Pandemic didn't stop our Equine Volunteers!

Have you heard? We have four horses that offer positive therapeutic benefits to the children at DCCH. Therapeutic riding can help individuals with a range of cognitive, physical, emotional, and/or social challenges. Some of those benefits include adaptability, distress tolerance, emotional awareness, independence, impulse control, self-esteem, and social relationships. These are skills and tools most of our children struggle to master.

We are fortunate to offer an Equine Program for the children in our residential program. And we are extremely blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers who care for our horses and keep the program running. While Jodi Keely and Meredith Moser spearhead the Equine Program, it's our nine dedicated volunteers who (twice-a-day and seven-days-a-week) water, feed, brush, and place blankets on the horses when the weather is too cold for them. They even muck the stalls and haul the manure away – now that's dedication!

On any given day, you can find our prized Equine Volunteers out walking, riding, and training the horses so they are ready for the kids' sessions twice a week. These folks make sure the horses are brought into the stalls during inclement weather and move the horses from one pasture to another for fresh grass. They take wonderful care of our horses and we can't thank them enough for their continued service and dedication.





75 Orphanage Road
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017-0007

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 4513

We're Hiring!

Are you looking to help change lives?

Bring your talents and skills to DCCH and join our talented team! We offer Optional Pension Plan, Tuition Reimbursement, Health Benefits, Free Hot Lunch, Comfortable Dress Code.

For information, visit: DCCHCenter.org/EMPLOYMENT