



FALL 2022



WALK WITH US

Fall's Journey of Hopeful Change



FALL 2022



## Seeing the Forest For The Trees

**Fall has always been a particularly reflective time of year for me.**

There's something about the changing colors and temperatures of the season that gives me pause to think through how things are going, not only personally for me, but for DCCH.

Lately, I have been reflecting on just how emotionally difficult and demanding it can be for our clients and the staff who provide care to them. Many of those whom we serve across our programs have endured tremendous trauma and hurt in their lives. Sometimes it can be a long healing process for both client and caregiver which may sometimes make it challenging to see success and progress for all involved. This can create a "can't see the forest for the trees" kind of situation.



Yet, if we are mindful and patient, the positive impact that DCCH has for the people we serve becomes evident. Lives are being mended in all corners of our organization. That is the focus of this edition of our newsletter. We take the time to shine the spotlight on the successes and positive outcomes that occur at DCCH. We also highlight a few of the many folks who drive that change. I invite you to join me in my autumn reflection by reading about the amazing work being done here at DCCH.

As always, I want to thank our incredibly hard-working staff for the compassionate care they provide day in and out. I am also grateful to all of you who continue to faithfully support the mission of DCCH.

We are indeed blessed!

Sincerely,

*Bob Wilson*

**Bob Wilson**

Executive Director

LEARN MORE ONLINE



## Our Executive Staff

**Robert J. Wilson**  
Executive Director

**Gay Trame**  
Finance Director

**Amy Pelicano**  
Development & Marketing Director

**John Ross**  
Programs Director

**Emily Burch**  
Residential Treatment Director

**Doug Harlow**  
TBS Director

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

**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 through 2022



## A Quick Way You Can Change Lives - Kroger Gift and Gas Cards!

Our Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Care, Independent Living, and Targeted Case Management teams need Kroger and gas gift cards. They're used to get our children and families to doctor appointments, recreational activities, therapy appointments and family visits and to buy groceries for our young adults in Independent Living and our families who often experience food insecurity. If you want to do something important, and quick, this is a simple way you can change lives today.

**Gift cards can be mailed to DCCH or you can donate today at [www.dcccenter.org](http://www.dcccenter.org).**





love  
support  
healing  
hope

# THE BIG PICTURE

When you think about our mission and the critical work we do with survivors of childhood trauma, your mind likely goes to the unthinkable things that have happened in many of these young human lives.

**We'd like you to take a step back and see the big picture with us.**

At DCCH, we see heroes every day. Heroes in the children who are working so hard to heal, staff and teachers who help them grow and learn, mentors who spend precious time with these children, and YOU, our community. You wrap your arms around our DCCH family with support and prayer every day.

We know what works – we practice these solutions day in and day out. Trauma informed care is an important element to the mental health, well-being and healing of the individuals and families in our care. It is important in all our programs: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Care, Independent Living, Outpatient Therapy, Targeted Case Management, and School-based Therapy. These programs function as wrap-around mental health services.

We provide assistance for families who need help, young adults aging out of the foster care system, children removed from their homes for their safety, and individuals who need therapy and guidance. When you just see each individual challenge, it can feel overwhelming. But when you see the big picture, you see it includes a full circle of love, support, healing, and hope.



This fall, we thank you for the time, talent, and treasure you share with DCCH. We hope that you will continue to keep our mission in your prayers and hearts. You are an important part of the solutions we bring to the many children and families who are part of the larger DCCH family.

**Thank you!**



# CLOSEUPS



## Meet Serenity

Serenity spent all of her childhood in and out of foster care. When she turned 18, she found herself still in need of more help. When a child “ages out” of the foster care system, services provided from the government cease, leaving some young adults helpless to find a way forward.

There is a solution. DCCH started our Independent Living Program in 2017. We help young adults who have been in foster care and have been recommitted to state care once they turned 18. They may join this program before their 19th birthday.

DCCH helps them locate an apartment close to work and school. We also furnish their apartment with items they will keep when they leave the program at age 21. In addition, our team partners with the young adults to teach them important independent living skills they may have missed earlier in life. Every adult works with a case manager and therapist to help guide them along their journey. We help to remove barriers and teach successful independent living.

This past summer, three years into her Independent Living experience, Serenity turned 21 and moved fully into adulthood. During her time with us, Serenity learned how to drive, bought her own car, and learned important things about herself and her life views. She is now able to maintain housing and employment and truly advocate for herself. *“The past three years have been challenging, with plenty of highs and lows, but I am now better off than I ever could have imagined. I’m so thankful to my case manager and everyone who helped me.”*

You can help too! Consider becoming a mentor to a young adult. You can provide much needed support and guidance. Some mentors teach skills, donate new or gently used furniture, or help prepare meals. **To learn more about mentoring, call (859) 331-2040 or email [info@dcchcenter.org](mailto:info@dcchcenter.org).**

## Meet Cam

Cam says he doesn't remember much about his life before coming to DCCH. He thinks he was about 10 years old. But he can tell you a lot about his life from the age of 12. That's the year he went to live with his foster parents.

Now 15, Cam is not only still with Jasey and Cody Acrey, he also shares their last name. The Wayne County couple adopted Cam on November 23, 2021. *"Our lives have changed a whole lot for the better since the day we got Cam,"* said proud dad, Cody. *"He's truly a blessing. Sometimes we have disagreements, but at the end of the day we all love each other, and I can't imagine life without him."*

Jasey said making the decision to foster and ultimately adopt Cam filled a void in the couple's lives. *"Both of us had pretty rough childhoods so we always knew that we wanted to help other kids that might have been in situations like we were when we were younger,"* she said. *"There have been times in our lives when we didn't have adults to look up to, to guide us."*

All agreed the process isn't always easy. *"These kids have been through a lot, they're in the system for a reason. You have to have a bit more patience,"* said Jasey.



Cam was the Acrey's first foster child and Cam's first placement. The chemistry clicked and the couple says Cam has given their lives purpose. They're now fostering two more boys, ages 11 and nine, while also helping to care for Jasey's young brother who is six. With four boys to care for, they describe life as "definitely not boring."

Cam, who just started his sophomore year in high school, says of his forever family, *"I love it. I have friends and family that surround me, that love me, and I love them too. I pretty much get everything that I want and need."*

In addition to school, Cam is working at McDonalds and learning to drive. Like all parents, Jasey and Cody are a little nervous as Cam blossoms and becomes his own person. *"I just need to get him through three more years of high school,"* says Jasey. *"That first year was tough."*

Cam laughs and says his favorite subject is lunch. But he's also thinking about the future. He's not sure what he wants to do but is considering trade school. For now, he's just enjoying waking up every day in a home with a loving family and doing his best to get his homework done and to school on time. We are truly blessed to know Cam and his family!

## Testimonies of Life Changing Therapy and Care

We'd like to share some comments from children who currently live with us and receive the life-changing therapy and care our staff provide daily.

*"I am happy because I feel safe here."*

*"Before I came here, I would get really mad and yell all the time. I don't do that anymore and that's good."*

*"I learned how to be safe here."*

*"It used to be really hard to control my emotions, but I can do that now!"*

*"This is where I finally learned unconditional love."*

And from a child who successfully moved on from our program: *"I'm doing really good because I learned how to ask for help and that it's okay to ask for help. I learned that from my teachers and my staff who always helped me and made time for me."*



# SPOTLIGHTS

## Targeted Case Management



### Keeping Families Together

DCCH Targeted Case Manager Rebecca (Becca) Hair, knows that making a difference in the life of one child can have a ripple effect for generations. In fact, she takes it very personally. *"The reason I went into social work is because my mom went through foster care. My mom didn't know her mom, so I didn't know my grandma,"* she said. *"I've always had a passion to help individuals who don't have that extra family support."*

**DCCH's Targeted Case Management (TCM) Services** provides that extra support for children, adolescents, and adults, providing wraparound service that can decrease the chances for out-of-home placement for children.

TCM is open to Northern Kentucky residents who are Medicaid recipients that have a qualifying diagnosis including a severe mental illness or emotional instability. Referrals are made by a variety of organizations, including schools. Once the client completes an in-take packet, Becca makes the process simple and personal.

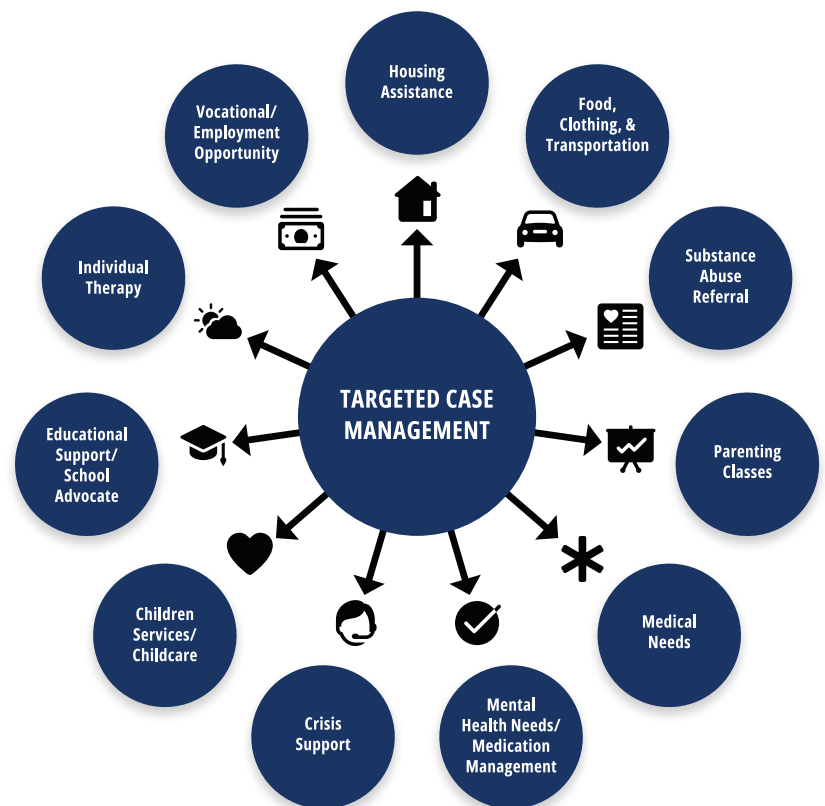
*"I meet with clients to determine strengths, create an individual case plan, and begin to connect them with community resources to help meet their needs,"* she said. *"I meet with my clients at least four times a month, twice face to face, and twice on the phone. We go over their progress, barriers, discuss what we can do to help achieve their goals, and then continue to reassess and measure as we go along."*

Becca serves as their advocate and resource connector for a variety of needs including housing assistance, food, clothes, transportation, job opportunities, educational support, parenting classes, physical and mental health needs, substance abuse, and crisis support. *"Meeting the client where they are is the first rule of social work,"* said Becca. *"I try to identify and grow a client's strengths. People need that extra support and patience. It helps them build confidence on their own and motivates them differently than other people have maybe motivated them in the past."*

Becca's seeing clients make progress toward achieving their goals. She celebrates every step forward in the process. She says the goal is for clients to be part of TCM for six months to a year but adds, *"I work with them for as long as they need me."*

Most of Becca's current clients are homeless, living in cars or hotels. While working to find permanent housing, their most basic needs are things like transportation, food, and clothes. *"We need a good supply of gas, food, and other gift cards to help them meet their daily needs quickly,"* Becca says. *"DCCH's flea market has been a good source for clothes and furniture."*

Opening the door to TCM provides support for the child, the family, and the next generation. *"I'm that kid. I don't know my grandma, her health, how she passed. It impacts me as a family. If I can be the case manager for these kiddos, a stable person in their life, hopefully it will make a difference one day. They didn't ask for the situation that they're in, but we can have a positive impact on where they are going."*



## Therapeutic Foster Care & Adoption Team

### TFC Matters

Foster care is a beautiful story of families stepping up to help other families. Sometimes, it's not possible, but when families are reunited, it's a proud and transformative moment. We are always very happy when a child is returned to his or her parents. Foster parents help transition a child from one safe home to another. When the plan is for reunification, our case managers and foster families work to make that successful. We're thankful for our foster parents who work with children and their biological families to ensure a smooth transition. Recently, we celebrated two sets of siblings and one other child who reunited with their biological family, after nearly two years in our foster care program. The foster families and TFC case managers are honored to be part of the journey that brings families back together.

### Foster/Adoptive Parent Training



One child at a time, we are ALWAYS looking for loving foster and respite families to care for the nearly 10,000 children who are currently in out-of-home care. Foster/Adoptive Parent Training is provided at DCCH. We prepare and teach families how to become foster/adoptive parents. The training series is once a week for ten weeks. We offer this training throughout the year. Respite providers must complete four classes. If you're not ready to consider fostering but want to help change the life of a child, consider becoming a mentor for a child in our Residential Treatment program. It's a two-to-four-hour commitment per week for the duration of the child's stay with us. We provide training and start you with on-campus visits before moving to outside activities. **If you or someone you know may be interested in changing the life of a child in need, please contact us at (859) 331-2040 or [info@dcchcenter.org](mailto:info@dcchcenter.org).**

# THE BEST!



Thank you!

## We Have the **Best Board!**

Have you ever experienced the joy of volunteering? Giving back just plain feels good. And we have some awesome volunteers who really care about our mission. Our Board of Directors has served DCCH well since the beginning days of our organization. They keep us focused on our mission, help us work through challenges, assist in fundraising, and are a great sounding board for our leadership team. As we've just started a new fiscal year, we say goodbye to those leaving the board and welcome new members and officers.

We're thankful to our outgoing board chair, Chuck McHale, and treasurer, Lisa Knochelmann. Their dedication to our mission has had a tremendous positive impact for so many of Kentucky's most vulnerable children. We know they will not be far away and remain important members of the DCCH family. We also welcome new board member Molly Barth. Molly has been involved with DCCH for many years and we look forward to having her with us.

We are excited to welcome our new officers: President Holly Mazzocca, Vice-President Jerry Deatherage, Secretary Mary Finke, and Treasurer Kathy Wise. We look forward to continuing together on our journey to care for families, individuals, young adults, and children who need our support.

To get to know our Board members, we'll be doing a "getting to know you" series over the coming year. Our new Board President, Holly Mazzocca, lives in Fort Thomas with her husband, Louis, and their three children (pictured). Holly is President, Wealth Advisor, and Principal at Bartlett Wealth Management.

Here's what Holly says about DCCH: *"DCCH has been a proven rock in our community serving our most vulnerable children. The organization has demonstrated an ability to transform itself over time to care for children in the way they need it most. The residential program helps children heal from traumatic abuse, preparing them to return to family or find loving foster families. Our therapeutic foster care program ensures families have the training they need to support children who are in a healing process. The recent evolution of the program offerings to including outpatient behavioral therapy, targeted case management, and independent living support expands our ability to help those children and families who are struggling. Hearing the stories of success and witnessing the commitment of the staff and supporters of the organization warms my heart and makes me want to work even harder to bring change for children who need it most."*

Holly is a true servant leader. She concentrates her service to the community around her passions, focusing on initiatives that support children and education, building strong communities, and investing in female advancement. We are blessed to have her leading our amazing board this year.



**The Mazzocca Family**



## We Have the **Best Mentors!**

Pat Barth always knew he wanted to do something for someone else by being a positive influence in their life. In 2019, he joined DCCH as a volunteer mentor. Working one on one with a child in our Residential Treatment Program has allowed him to share life experiences and help that child build a healthy, trusting relationship with an adult.

Interacting directly with the children is his favorite thing. He says, *"this has made me become more aware of others and that challenging behaviors are typically the result of prior negative influences."* He has learned that showing up as scheduled to laugh, learn, and have fun when they are together helps that mentee build trust and move forward on his path toward healing.

Pat has enjoyed watching movies, go-carting, picnics, making pottery, and teaching his mentee how to play pickle ball. He has even learned a bit about himself through mentoring. *"I've become more patient and that is so important in working with our children,"* says Pat. He says he and his wife, Carol, have always felt a need to give back to the community and to do more for others. Together, they have mentored three boys from DCCH and are ready to be matched with another mentee.



**Pat and Carol Barth**

They are also members of the HALO League at DCCH, which plans and hosts fun activities for all of our residential kids. Pat is always advocating for the kids and DCCH, spreading the word and hoping to find more mentors. Anytime he is with the kids, he is smiling, having fun, and you can tell he truly enjoys volunteering with DCCH. You, too, can become a mentor! It is one of the most rewarding and important volunteer roles you can have.

**To learn more, please call (859) 331-2040 or email [info@dcchcenter.org](mailto:info@dcchcenter.org).**

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## We Have the Best **Local Community Foundations!**

**DCCH is so grateful for the support of local community foundations!**

Their commitment and partnership allow us to provide the highest quality care to survivors of child abuse in our community.

Andrew Jergens Foundation  
"Anonymous" Foundation  
Ar-Hale Family Foundation  
Charles and Ruth Seligman Family Foundation  
Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation  
Elsa Heisel Suel Foundation  
Friedlander Family Fund  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation-Summertime Kids  
Mayerson Foundation-Student Philanthropy Project  
Starbucks Foundation  
St. Timothy Parish  
R.C. Durr Foundation  
Wyler Family Foundation

*Grants received between April 1, 2022 and August 15, 2022*



# SUPPORT

## Payton's Lemonade Stand

We are so thankful that Payton's Lemonade Stand recently chose DCCH as a grant recipient for this year's event. Payton's Lemonade Stand raises funds to provide care and support to children who are facing medical, personal, or economic hardships. They aim to empower the next generation of philanthropists by harnessing the power of kids serving kids. All proceeds are donated to children facing hardships in the Greater Cincinnati area and beyond.

This summer, DCCH foster family Hanna and Donnie McGuire and their seven birth and foster children, along with TFC Director Ron Bertsch, served lemonade during Saturday flea and farm markets at the DCCH barn. The grant funds received will go toward refurbishing our visiting rooms for the children in DCCH foster care and residential programs. The rooms are used frequently by our children for visits with their family, case managers, or mentors. Thanks to Payton for having the vision of lemonade stands across the country, which raise funds for children like ours!



## Shop To Support

2 GREAT  
WAYS TO  
SHOP TO  
SUPPORT  
THE KIDS  
AT DCCH



amazon smile

Sign in or Create an account at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Attach your Plus card to your account.

**SIGN IN**

Kroger

Sign in or Create an account at [Kroger.com](https://Kroger.com). Attach your Plus card to your account.

**CHOOSE** YOUR CHARITY



Select your charity by searching for **DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOME**.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOME



In the Community menu at the bottom of the page, select Kroger Community Rewards. In the box labeled Organization, enter **DCCH/HALE #TA964**.

**TA964**

**SHOP!**

Go shopping as you normally do. A percentage of your purchases gets donated to DCCH Center!

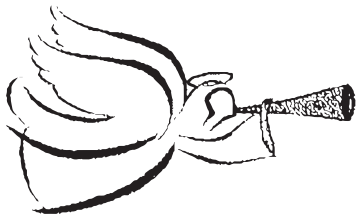


Amazon and Kroger mail checks to DCCH at the end of each month or quarter.



You shop AND change lives at the same time!





THE HALO LEAGUE  
Helping All the Little Ones

## The HALO League

HALO is a group of individuals who plan monthly outings for the children at DCCH.

During the summer of 2022, HALO sponsored an end of school cookout with games, a visit to DEFY trampoline park, an outing to World of Golf, and supplied make your own pizzas for the apartments.

New members and new ideas are always welcome. HALO meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the DCCH board room. **Please reach out to us at [www.dcchcenter.org](http://www.dcchcenter.org) if you are interested in joining this energetic group.** You can also help HALO finance these fun events for the children by shopping – **link your Kroger card to “DCCH HALO” and connect your Amazon account at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).**

Hope to see you at our next event!

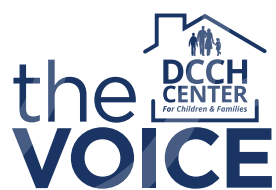
Save the Date for **Trunk or Treat!** October 25 with a rain date of October 27!



## What's behind the Big Blue Barn? **The DCCH Flea Market!**

More than 20 amazing volunteers manage the DCCH Flea Market, which includes housewares, clothing, toys, games, shoes, books, movies, collectibles, electronics, artwork and much more. If you're looking for something unique, check the Flea Market first! The best part of shopping there is knowing that 100% of the proceeds go directly to support children living in our Residential Treatment program. And many of the donated items are used to furnish the apartments for our young adults in the Independent Living program. If you are cleaning out closets, downsizing your home, or just have some items you are no longer using, consider donating them to our Flea Market. We do not accept mattresses or upholstered furniture. **The Flea Market is open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:30am until noon.** Stop by to donate, shop or inquire about volunteering.





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## JOIN US

If you would like to give hope  
to a child in need, join our team!

[LINKTR.EE/DCCHCENTER](https://linktr.ee/dcchcenter)

[DCCHCenter.org](https://DCCHCenter.org)