

transformations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF CINCINNATI

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Santa's Helpers

Companies, groups and individuals go the extra mile for kids



Santa learned what all the children wanted for the holidays in December.

Thanks to many local companies, organizations, and caring individuals, hundreds of underprivileged children received a special gift this season. Without their help, many children may not have received a holiday gift at all. We are enormously grateful to all who donated their time and resources to brighten the holidays for children, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Banana Republic Stores (Kenwood)
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Cricket Communications
- Edy's Ice Cream/Dryers, Inc.
- Fifth Third Bank
- General Mills
- MedPlus, Inc.
- Michael & Company Salon
- Remke/bigg's
- Toyota Financial Services
- UC Health Alliance

Special thanks to Kadi Anderson and her group of holiday "elves" for their help.

Don't be Late for this Very Important Date!

Lower School students present spring play, "Alice in Wonderland"

You're invited as special guests on March 24 at 9:00 AM when students in our Lower School present their spring production of "Alice in Wonderland". Students have been hard at work rehearsing their lines, building sets, and fine-tuning the details for the production. The only thing left to do is gather an appreciative audience!

The Children's Home Lower School is the only therapeutic school in Hamilton County with a theater arts program. The program provides a creative outlet for students and helps raise their self-esteem. We hope you'll attend this special event and support the hard work of our students. To RSVP, please contact Adam Behm at abehm@thechildrenshomecinti.org.

Virtual Walk was a Real Success!

New, on-line initiative nets big results for the kids

In November and December 2010, we began a new online fundraising initiative called “10,000 Steps: A Virtual Walk for Real Kids”. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 in online donations from staff, friends, family members, and others.

Staff, Young Professionals Board members, and others created personal web pages and asked their friends to help support the agency by making a donation towards each individual's personal goal. The virtual event was the first of its kind for The Children's Home and so far we've raised \$7,685! These funds help us to provide important services such as counseling, special education, and early childhood programs to children who need them the most.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and exciting venture. We plan to do more initiatives like this in the future and would love for you to be part of our success! If you would like to contribute to 10,000 Steps, please contact Adam Behm at abehm@thechildrenshomecinti.org



It's Almost Camp Time!

Now accepting early registrations for Camp-I-Can

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp! We are now accepting registrations for Camp-I-Can, our enriching summer day camp for children ages 5-12 years. Campers enjoy arts and crafts, swimming, health and wellness activities, and so much more!

For more information, please contact Claire Underhill at 513.272.2800 or cunderhill@thechildrenshomecinti.org.



Camp runs May 31 through August 4, and offers pre/post-camp hours at no extra cost. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and field trips are included as well. Child Care Vouchers are accepted as payment. Thanks to the support of our friends, many children who would otherwise spend the summer alone are able to instead enjoy Camp-I-Can!



Got Lobster?

Save the date for the hottest party of the summer!

Save the date now for Saturday, August 27 and plan to join us for the 8th Annual Rockin' Lobster Party! Our planning committee is hammering out the details to make this the best event yet. This much we already know: you'll enjoy a mouth-watering, buffet dinner featuring whole Maine lobster and filet mignon, a tent-rockin' live auction and silent auction, open bar, and fantastic live music so you can dance the night away!

There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available, and we're happy to design a package that's just right for you. Respond now to Adam Behm (abehm@thechildrenshomecinti.org) to have your name included in upcoming promotional materials for this event. We look forward to seeing you in August!



A Life Transformed: Michael's Story

“Michael”, age 12, was referred to The Children's Home's Lower School when he was unable to succeed in his district school due to severe issues with anger and anxiety. Michael's father had been murdered, and Michael blamed himself for having once wished that his father would die. His mother drifted in and out of his life, and he had little stability or structure. At the Lower School, he has made great progress dealing with his father's death and his mother's absence, and no longer blames himself for what has happened. He has become very independent, even making his own arrangements to audition for the School for Creative and Performing Arts. He continues to improve and proudly refers to himself as a “success story”.

The Children's Home Earns Prestigious Certification

One of only 16 in the North America to be certified by Teaching Family Association

Staff at The Children's Home have spent the last five years completing a rigorous process to implement the Teaching Family Model. The new treatment model will help children with behavioral difficulties to better manage their lives and succeed in their home, school, and community environments.

The model uses a positive approach to change problematic behavior by building children's self-esteem through praise, modeling of correct behaviors, and role playing. Instead of simply telling children to stop their negative behaviors, the model helps children explore why they use those behaviors and helps them devise and practice more appropriate ones. As children progress and internalize

these new behaviors, they earn more responsibility and independence. When disruptive behaviors are improved, the lives of vulnerable children are changed dramatically and their entire community is positively impacted as they become more productive and self-sufficient. To extend the impact to the larger community, we plan to offer training in the Teaching Family Model to families, other organizations, schools, and camps. For more information, contact Alyssa Terrell at aterrell@thechildrenshomecinti.org.

We're in the Green

Business Courier names us as a Green Business Award Finalist

The Children's Home has been selected as one of the Business Courier's 2011 Green Business Awards Finalists! The agency was nominated for their efforts in the area of "Green Design", specifically for the construction of the Wainscott building.

COA Gives Seal of Approval

The Children's Home has been reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), an independent, international accreditor of behavioral health care and human service organizations. This attests our commitment to delivering the highest quality services to children and their families.

The reaccreditation process included a detailed review of our administrative operations and service delivery practices. Our reaccreditation assures that services are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence based, and outcomes-oriented. It also confirms that our services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce, and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Grant Awards Allow for Important Program Expansions

Federal and local dollars to reach more children with bigger impact

The Consortium for Resilient Young Children (with The Children's Home as its fiscal agent) has been awarded a two-year, \$325,000 grant from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund (SIF). The grant will be used to expand kindergarten readiness programming to young, at-risk children.

SIF is a unique partnership between the federal Corporation for National and Community Service and 14 local funders to identify and support innovative and effective solutions for children and young adults in Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport. After a competitive proposal process, the Consortium was one of only nine local organizations to receive part of \$1.7 million in funding.

CRYC consists of the following partners:

- 4C...for Children
- Centerpoint Health
- Central Clinic
- Children, Inc.
- Cincinnati Early Learning Center
- Cincinnati Public Schools
- NorthKey Community Care
- The Children's Home of Cincinnati

Another program, Securing Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) received \$55,000 from the Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, PNC Bank, Trustee to extend kindergarten readiness programming to Carson Elementary in Price Hill. Through a partnership with Santa Maria Community Services, young children in this neighborhood can now receive home visitations and other services to better prepare them and their families for successful transition into kindergarten.

On behalf of the children whose lives will be changed, thank you to our community partners for making this progress possible!



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Agency Partner

Brain Power

Stimulate your young child's brain development

Did you know that by the age of three, a child's brain is two and a half times more active than an adults? There are simple things you can do to help stimulate brain development during this crucial time for young children. From the voice of a child, here are some things to know about how to help young brains grow:

Ask me "Why?" and "When?" and "How?" – These questions help me develop thinking skills.

Talk to me and play with me! – This helps me learn about the world.

Give me a routine each day – this helps me understand my experiences and know what to expect from the world.

Talk to me about how I feel – this helps me (and my brain) learn how to make sense of the world and what is going on inside of me.

Children's brains will adapt and change as children grow, and they feel best when caring grown-ups are there to help and support them along the way. For more about what children want adults to know about growing up, call 272-2800 and ask about our Parent Cards, or visit www.thechildrenshomecinti.org/parentsresources.aspx.

