



■ YOUR VOICE: JIM AND DARLA WAINSCOTT

The Children's Home, at a crossroads, needs your help

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

For nearly 145 years, The Children's Home has served as Cincinnati's soul, as described in the quote above by former South African president Nelson Mandela. No longer just a residential center, The Children's Home provides special-education programs and mental health treatment to children facing significant social, behavioral and learning challenges.

Many of these children have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Some come

from families with substance abuse, mental illness, learning difficulties or other issues. For the majority of these children, life is further complicated by poverty, lack of education and any number of other dire circumstances.

Without The Children's Home, many are destined to experience a continuing cycle of social and behavioral problems, isolation from their peers, interrupted education, troubled relationships and a desperately uncertain future. With The Children's Home, they have a chance at a more productive and fulfilling life. Yet, The Children's

Home is at a crossroad.

It's time for the facilities to catch up with the compassionate services provided to nearly 7,000 children each year. Its facilities are stretched well beyond capacity and efficient operation.

Buildings are severely outdated and no longer conducive to the intensive programs and services needed by the children it serves. Since 1998, the organization has experienced an extraordinary growth in demand for services, which continues to climb at an astonishing rate.

The Building on a Legacy of Excellence campaign will

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raise \$5 million in support of a \$10 million Master Plan to expand, upgrade and consolidate campus facilities on Madison Road. With this first-ever fundraising campaign, former residential spaces will be replaced with more appropriate facilities to meet the growing demand

for services.

To date, corporate, foundation and other pledges of \$3.46 million have been secured. The Kresge Foundation will award an additional \$300,000 through a challenge grant, provided that our \$5 million goal is met by May 2010. The promise of this gift makes reaching our goal more crucial than ever, and we are relying on the compassion of companies and individuals in the Cincinnati area to help us succeed.

We couldn't accomplish this much alone, and neither can The Children's Home. Since 1864, it has cared for

the most vulnerable children in our community. Now, it's time for the people of Greater Cincinnati to return the favor by contributing to the Building on a Legacy of Excellence campaign. We owe it to the future of our children and our shared community to help secure this legacy for generations to come.

Jim Wainscott is chairman, president and CEO of AK Steel. Darla Wainscott is a member of the board of directors of The Children's Home, and they are co-chairs of the Building on a Legacy of Excellence campaign.

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