

Serving more families on the autism spectrum

The Children's Home of Cincinnati has added another therapist to its autism services staff.

"Adding Megan to our already talented staff increases the amount of families we can serve who are affected by the autism spectrum," said Amanda Tipkemper, autism services manager of The Children's Home. "This added capacity came at just the right time as we continue to increase the number of students we enroll in our academic and transition programs."

Children on the autism spectrum experience social, communication, sensory, learning and developmental differences, but they may also experience emotional and mental health difficulties as well. Unfortunately, many mental health services accessed by children with autism do not take their unique developmental profiles into account, making successful treatment difficult. The Children's Home of Cincinnati's Autism Services Program is changing this by offering behavioral health counseling that uses strategies, mechanisms and supports that correspond with the culture and learning styles of persons on the spectrum.

"Our program here has the academics you'd find at any school, but that's where the similarities end," said John Banchy, president and CEO of The Children's Home. "We also provide our kids in-house therapists and counselors, job readiness training, and the most talented and caring staff in the entire tri-state area."

Tipkemper said the autism services program will continue to serve middle and high school students as well as transitioning young adults who have graduated high school, but are receiving additional specific services geared toward life skills that can help students lead independent, healthy, and dignified lives.

"We are teaching our kids how to live while offering counseling and other support services all under the same roof," she said.

More information about the unique autism services program found at The Children's Home is available at www.tchcincy.org.

