



Providence
House

house news

WINTER 2023



Celebrating the Holidays with Our Children and Families

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for children and families in crisis, so we do whatever we can at Providence House to bring our wonderful families some joy this time of year. Here's a glimpse at how we celebrate!

Sharing Special Time Together

As a single parent of an infant, Sabrina needed a safe, enriching environment for her daughter, Lindsey, as she received inpatient treatment for a mental health crisis last year. Sabrina found Providence House and chose to have Lindsey stay with us so she could focus on her treatment.

During her time in our Crisis Nursery, Lindsey participated in fun holiday activities with our Childcare Providers and engaging on-site children's programs like music classes provided by Beck Center for the Arts. She met Santa during his annual visit to the House and reached exciting milestones during her stay, such as sitting up with less support and lifting her body on all fours in preparation for crawling!

While Lindsey's mom, Sabrina, was in treatment, she engaged in case management and parent education services with our Social Workers, who connected her with additional mental health resources and workforce development programming.

We made sure Lindsay and Sabrina could celebrate Christmas together and spend some time in our private family rooms at Providence House. We provided gifts, gift cards for food, and bus passes so they could have a special holiday.

Shortly after Christmas, Lindsey was reunited with her mom, who was able to increase stability for their future by working with Providence House!

Festive Family Fun

This year, Sabrina and Lindsey will join other Providence House families for our Family Holiday Party to enjoy a delicious meal, do some festive crafts, and visit Santa!

While the kids are having fun, their parents and guardians will have a chance to "shop" for gifts for them, provided by Providence House and our donors! Our parents and guardians will also take home a gift card to purchase something for themselves this holiday season!

The More, the Merrier

Our East Campus expansion will allow us to support an additional 250 children and 400+ families in crisis each year - helping address the increased need for our services and giving us an opportunity to make the season brighter for many more!

Your generosity enables us to provide these important experiences for over 600 children and their families on our West and East campuses each year - and your continued and increased support are essential as we expand our campuses and our reach!

We have information about the many ways you can help support our children and families during the holiday season and beyond at provhouse.org/holiday.

holidays

Explore Our New East Campus



Providence House is extremely excited to share that our new East Campus Crisis Nursery is ready for visitors, and we would love for you to come see it in person!

We celebrated the completion of our new home in Buckeye-Shaker with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community open house in October alongside local leaders and generous supporters who helped make it possible! Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne and Cleveland City Council President Blaine Griffin shared the importance of our expansion as a trusted resource for children and families in crisis and called on the community to support our services.

Our new Crisis Nursery is named Hope's House in honor of our founder, Sister Hope Greener, CSJ, and will allow us to serve up to 20 babies and children at a time, which means an additional 250 children each year will be cared for at Providence House! Together, our East and West Campus Crisis Nurseries will care for nearly 600 infants and children on an annual basis.

While we are thrilled to have Hope's House nearly ready to welcome babies and children, we won't be able to open its

doors right away. Providence House, like so many nonprofits in our community, is struggling in the current economy to maintain funding levels to meet the demand for our services. As a nonprofit that is 80% privately funded, we are often at the mercy of economic, environmental, and even international issues that impact our supporters' ability to give.

To ensure we can launch and sustain full operations of our West Campus, we are currently pausing recruitment and staffing for our East Campus Crisis Nursery. However, we are committed to opening Hope's House and providing care for children and families on the east side. We will begin ramping up operations in phases as soon as our funding levels recover. Please help by offering your gift today!

Come and see what your support can offer by contacting us to schedule a tour! You can reach out to **Amy Mills at amym@provhouse.org or 216.651.5982 ext. 230.**

Success Story: Aya

We recently cared for an autistic little girl named Aya, who is non-verbal and was very scared when she first came to our Crisis Nursery. Imagine being a small child in a new situation among strangers. She immediately ran into a bedroom, jumped in a crib, covered her face with a blanket, and didn't want any of our Childcare Providers to come near her.

That's when Miss Kiki sprang into action to make Aya feel as comfortable and welcome as possible. Her Supervisor says Miss Kiki is incredible at figuring out effective ways to communicate with children who struggle during the transition process. Soon, Aya was in the bathtub and then cozy in her

new pajamas, and over time, Miss Kiki was able to figure out how to get Aya to take a nap and what she liked to eat.

Aya made wonderful progress while staying with us, starting to say simple words like "Hi" and greeting all of our Childcare Providers with hugs and kisses.

During her stay, Aya loved watching the movie *Moana* and dancing to the songs, so Miss Kiki ordered her a Moana costume and a Moana cake for her upcoming birthday. Because at Providence House, every moment and every milestone is worthy of celebration.

Join us for the best holiday party in town!

Deck THE House

Benefit Auction for Children and Families
PRESENTED BY THE CLEVELAND BROWNS

Tuesday, December 5, 5:30-9:30 PM
City View Lounge at Cleveland Browns Stadium



Help Providence House give the gift of loving care to children and families in crisis this upcoming year during a festive evening of holiday cheer!

- **Celebrate the season** with our Honorary Event Chairs, Cleveland Browns Player Jack Conklin and his wife, Caitlyn!
- **Browse and bid** on our specially curated collection of exciting silent and live auction packages
- **Deck your own house** with one of our beautiful, professionally decorated trees
- **Enjoy the excitement** as a Cleveland Browns player is honored with the Ed Block Courage Award

Questions? Please contact us at Info@provhouse.org or 216.651.5982



You can purchase tickets online at provhouse.org/deckthehouse

Special Thanks to Our Annual Corporate Partners



Our Impact in 2022-2023

We could not fulfill our mission of keeping kids safe and families together without your generous support, and the positive impact that you create for our children and families.

We want to celebrate and share some highlights from the last year that you helped to make possible!



We served **1,077** children and families! Of these, we served **203** children in our Family Preservation Crisis Nursery



98% of families who had a child stay with us successfully reunited after engaging with our services



We served families from **37** zip codes across Northeast Ohio

family satisfaction



100% of families say their children were provided a safe, home-like environment



99% of families report having a positive experience with Providence House



98% of families say their child's daily care and medical needs were met

top reasons our families reached out

58% were seeking short-term respite care for mental health needs or sobriety maintenance

31% had a caregiver who lacked resources to meet basic needs

17% had a family member with a medical crisis

17% were homeless or had unsafe housing

8% were victims of or witnesses to violence

Unfortunately, nearly **400 children** were on our waiting list or went completely unserved due to a lack of resources and space at our West Campus, which is why our East Campus expansion is critical.

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A NOTE FROM *Natalie*



As 2023 comes to a close, we all are beginning to reflect upon joys celebrated, challenges overcome, and opportunities hoped for in 2024.

For Providence House, the same is true: our joys of keeping children safe and helping families stay together, our sorrows over friends and donors who have passed on, and the hopes and dreams of what 2024 will bring to support our children and families in new and expanded ways.

2023 was a year of highs and lows for so many of us, and for me, it calls to mind the opening line of the Dicken's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." A year of radical opposites taking place at the same time.

- We have adapted to our new reality with strength and resiliency, yet have begun to see how intensely effected our families and community are by the last four years of uncertainty.
- We "cut the ribbon" on our new East Campus Crisis Nursery only to pause admitting children due to funding and Childcare Staff shortages.
- We are deeply concerned with daily headlines about natural, economic, and international crises while finding joy in providing security to our community by "acting local."

And at the heart of it all remain our children. I cannot know all of our supporters' work, personal or family demands, affiliations, or beliefs... but I do know we all care about the safety of our community's children. They are the most deserving, and as we so often see at Providence House, the most hopeful.

So, as you reflect on your joys, challenges, and opportunities, please remember theirs. You can help us make our children's joys more joyful, their challenges less difficult, and their opportunities filled with possibility.

This holiday season I wish you an abundance of happiness, success and growth, and hope you will pass these gifts along to the babies and children at Providence House with your generous support.

Love and joy to you this season and into 2024!

Natalie A. Leek, President & CEO