

We are  
**Abigail  
& Thomas**  
WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN



**Providence  
House**  
Every child is your child.™

EVERY CHILD IS YOUR CHILD

SUMMER 2013

## Providence House is making our family safer and stronger

My mom is coming to visit me and my little sister today. She is coming after she goes to school. She says her school is different than my school because it's called college and it's for grown-ups. She likes it a lot. She smiles a lot now and doesn't seem so sad. She tells us that she is sad that we can't live with her right now, but we will soon, and this time it won't be in a shelter, it will be in a real house with our very own beds and toys, kind-of like what it is like here. We have lots of people who are like moms here. They fix us our breakfast, play with us, teach us lessons, and take us to fun places. I am glad that my sister and I can live here together, it makes it not as scary to be away from my mom.

helped mom enroll in college again, and she is interviewing for a position at a local retail store next week. Her optimism has

greatly improved since placing her children, and her doctor has prescribed medication to help with her depression; she is looking forward to starting over and making a better life for their family in the future. Mom visits between classes, and her case management sessions are focused on finding suitable housing once her employment begins.

**Meet Every Child**  
at Providence House - 20 children who are being cared for in our crisis nursery - and make your gift to help prevent child abuse and neglect at [provhouse.org/everychild](http://provhouse.org/everychild). Check back in June to learn how we helped these children and their families become safer and stronger... and remain together.

*\*Abigail and Thomas are at Providence House because the shelter they had been staying at became unsafe. A volunteer at the shelter recommended mom look in to placing her children at Providence House, explaining that she had volunteered here years ago and the kids would be safe and cared for while the staff helped her get back on her feet. During her counseling sessions early on, mom explained that she had dropped out of college and lost her job, and was now struggling with severe depression that left her unable to get out of bed some days. However, she said that knowing Abigail and Thomas are safe and happy has helped her feel better. The staff team at Providence House has recently*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Meet Abigail & Thomas..... | 1 |
| Spring Wrap Up.....        | 2 |
| Note From Natalie.....     | 3 |
| Meet Isabelle.....         | 4 |
| Elisabeth's House.....     | 5 |
| Save the Dates.....        | 6 |

AND MORE!

# THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNERS AND EVENT SPONSORS OF THE

## 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PROVIDENCE HOUSE LUNCHEON FOR EVERY CHILD



**ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNERS:** American Greetings, Bauer Advising, Clear Channel Cleveland, Cleveland Browns, Community West Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Gilbane, Grant Thornton, KeyBank, Linear Creative, Ohio Savings Bank, PNC, Securitas, Sherwin Williams, The Albert M. Higley Co., United

**LUNCHEON SPONSORS:** Al Wilhelmy Flowers, AT&T, Brennan Industries, Cleveland Clinic, Forest City, Jones Day, Medical Mutual, RPM International, Inc., The Plain Dealer, Tower City Center, University Hospitals MacDonald Women's Hospital and UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

Couldn't make it to the Luncheon this year? Visit our photo and video gallery at [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org) to see what you missed! Take the virtual tour, hear from our Program Team about the services we offer, and meet Every Child living at Providence House.

## SPRING EVENT WRAP-UP

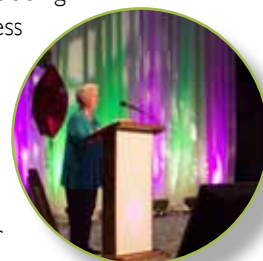
April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and a busy one for Providence House! We launched a new awareness campaign, hosted two of our signature annual events, participated in an international festival, and received a very special gift from one of Cleveland's newest Tribe members!



*Leo's House playground*

**Providence House teamed up with the 37th Cleveland International Film Festival as a Community Partner** for the film "Kauwboy," a story about a young boy named Jojo with a difficult home life marked by a volatile father and an absent mother. Jojo finds solace in an abandoned baby jackdaw, and through the special friendship he builds with the bird, the wall between he and his father is brought down.

On April 16th nearly 700 guests joined us for the **32nd Annual Providence House Luncheon For Every Child** to celebrate our recent achievements and learn about new partnerships and projects that will allow us to care for even more children in our community, including Elisabeth's House – The Prentiss Wellness Nursery (featured on page 4). We also honored this year's Every Child Awardees: The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation, BabySwede, Blanche and Dudley Katz, and St. Charles Junior High Youth Ministry – thank you all for your commitment to helping children in crisis!



*Founder Sr. Hope Greener*

**At the Cleveland Indians Home Opener on April 8th Providence House was awarded a \$75,000 gift by Nick and JoAnna Swisher** through their Swish's Wishes Foundation. We were thrilled to be a part of the Opening Day ceremonies and cannot begin to express our sincere thanks to the Swisher Family! **Thanks for joining us at our Luncheon, too!**



*Swish's Wishes check presentation*

**The 6th Annual City2City 5K Run/ Walk For Every Child** brought nearly 200 runners and walkers out on a soggy Sunday morning in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 28th. The 5K began at Tower City and led participants across the river and through Ohio City before turning around at Providence House and heading back to Tower City. Special thanks to: Dave's Supermarkets for providing bagels, The Ritz-Carlton Cleveland for providing water and fruit, the Junior League of Cleveland for their volunteer support, and everyone who walked or ran for every child!

## PROVIDENCE HOUSE Board of Trustees

### FOUNDER:

Sr. Hope Greener, CSJ

### CEO & PRESIDENT:

Natalie A. Leek-Nelson

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Gareth D. Vaughan, Chairman  
Duane F. Bishop, Jr., Vice Chairman  
Karen R. Dolan, Secretary  
Daniel S. Zittnan, Treasurer  
Brian J. Kelly, Counsel

### TRUSTEES:

Matt Barkett  
Joseph W. Bauer  
Carl E. Black  
Jane M. Cronin  
James L. Davis  
W. Scott Emerick  
Timothy K. Flanagan  
Kenny Goodwin  
Steven E. Gratto  
Moses R. Jhirad  
Julie Kelsheimer  
Karen E. Kirsh  
Christina L. Kmetko  
Thomas M. Laird  
Mary L. Legerski  
Scott A. McKinley  
Kathleen K. Miller  
Paul M. O'Connor\*  
Jeffery K. Patterson  
Michael D. Policarpo II  
Robert J. Roe  
Gregory D. Rush  
Michael D. Stovsky  
Felton Thomas  
Donna M. Winfield

### LEGACY

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Edward J. Bell\*  
William M. Denihan\*  
Terrance K. Donley  
Evelyn Croft Faulkner  
Sally Gries  
Lolita McDavid, M.D.  
Rena Olshansky  
Jeffrey K. Orloff\*  
Dominic V. Perry\*  
Russell Trusso, M.D.  
Chas Withers

### HONORARY

#### LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Suzanne Christ  
William Christ, Sr.  
Nancy Conway, CSJ  
John Doherty\*  
Robert Dorfmeier†  
Stanley Kerka  
Sandy Kish Jordan  
Greg Klein\*  
Bettie Perry  
Charles E. Taylor, PhD\*

\* Past President † Deceased

# A Note From Natalie: Another Year of Growth for Providence House

Dear PHriends,

At our annual luncheon on April 16th, we once again celebrated our recent accomplishments and looked forward to exciting new opportunities for our future. With nearly 700 in attendance,



we were humbled by the generosity and enthusiasm the community has for our mission of protecting at risk children, empowering families in crisis, and building safer communities for every child.

The luncheon marked the two-year anniversary of announcing our Protect the Promise campaign to expand our campus to serve

more children and families, while addressing new state building regulations that threatened to close our existing facility.

It's hard to believe, but less than two years later and more than \$2 million raised, we opened our new Leo's House Crisis Nursery Expansion in January 2013. Our children have moved in and love their new house! We gave everyone at the luncheon a virtual tour of the expanded nursery and invite you to do the same by visiting our website [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org) – and clicking the virtual tour video on our home page.

While we are thrilled with our new space, and we know that it is a critical tool in our work, we are always ambitious in investigating whether we can prove that our method has an enduring impact for the families and children we serve. To do this, we partnered with researchers from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences to perform the first study of its kind in the United States.

Our CWRU researchers collected and analyzed our data and compared it to foster care records, and delivered interesting and valuable information about our program's performance, including three main findings, which we believe show the value of the Providence House model.

First, families that participate in all of our recommended services are far less likely to enter the foster system – an outcome that is one of our major goals. Second, minority families are very successful at Providence House, demonstrating our cultural competency and ability to serve all members of our community. And third, we found

out that sometimes it takes more than one stay at Providence House to finish the job, but even families who come back can be just as successful.

We are always striving to improve our model and respond to new needs in the community, and that has led to our newest initiative: Elisabeth's House – The Prentiss Wellness Nursery. Over the past 18-24 months, we've seen a dramatic increase in calls from our hospital partners – not for parents in medical crisis – but for children with minor medical needs who cannot be safely discharged from the hospital due to family crisis. These medical professionals were most concerned with finding the intensive family intervention needed to help parents become safe and strong to ensure that their child's unique needs would be met long-term - this is what Providence House does best.

We gathered our partners to build a solution to help this new group of children in crisis. Our conclusion was that Providence House should take on another first – launching a Wellness Nursery this fall, made possible by a generous \$1 Million commitment from the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation. I encourage you to read the full Wellness Nursery article in this newsletter to learn more about this new program.

**“Families can  
be helped  
and the cycle  
of abuse and  
neglect can be  
stopped”**

Perhaps the most important goal of our luncheon is to raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention month. But we need to reach more than the guests at our events, so we

created a new public awareness campaign, which we call the Every Child Campaign. It is critical that we educate the community about what puts children in crisis and how we can help them. Child abuse and neglect is preventable. Families can be helped and the cycle of abuse and neglect can be stopped. But this can only happen if we make Every Child Our Child.

To better understand how dramatic the issue of child abuse and neglect is locally and nationally, visit our Every Child Campaign website at [provhouse.org/everychild](http://provhouse.org/everychild).

Our goal for the Every Child Campaign is for our community to understand that children and families come to us for help for many reasons, and the situations they face can be overcome with support, caring, and intervention. But we also want people to know that we need their help – we need you to support us in every way you can so that we can help every child in crisis that needs us.



# I am Isabelle

I AM YOUR CHILD

## I'm feeling better every day at Providence House.

I am staying here so the boo-boo on my head can get better. Me and my mommy didn't have a house anymore. We didn't have anywhere to sleep. She took me to the hospital because my head hurt and my words weren't working anymore. It was scary, but mommy stayed with me and the nurses and doctors were really nice to me. They even gave me popsicles when I started to feel better.

Now I am staying here at this house. There are other kids here, and I play with them sometimes. Sometimes I just like to lie in my bed under warm blankets, and I like it when mommy comes to visit me and reads me stories. She told me that when I am all better we are going to our new home. I asked her if I was allowed to bring some of my blankets and teddy bear, and she said yes.

*arm. Without health insurance and speaking little English, mom felt alone and feared for her daughter's life. Immediately after Isabelle's condition was explained by her mother to one of our bi-lingual staff members, we took her to the hospital for a medical exam. A life-threatening brain tumor was discovered and surgery was performed to remove it. We helped mom navigate the healthcare system, apply for appropriate benefits and communicate effectively with Isabelle's doctors. Now, while Isabelle rests and recovers at Providence House, we are working with mom to find employment and housing. Isabelle is expected to make a full recovery.*



*\*Isabelle came to stay at Providence House when her mother was evicted and they were left homeless with nowhere to go. However, mom's concern for Isabelle's safety went beyond shelter; the young girl has been progressively losing her ability to talk, walk, and use her left*

# Elisabeth's House – The Prentiss Wellness Nursery at Providence House

Over the past two years, the Providence House campus has undergone quite a transformation. We successfully completed our "Protect the Promise" campaign this winter, and the children moved into our newly renovated and expanded Leo's House Crisis Nursery in January. With features created from the imaginations of local children, two vibrant Kaboom! playgrounds were also installed last summer with the help of over 200 volunteers!

This fall, our campus will continue its transformation with the opening of Elisabeth's House – The Prentiss Wellness Nursery – across the street from the newly expanded Leo's House Crisis Nursery. Through a generous capital gift of \$1 million from The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation, which helped support our earlier expansion, we are now able to expand and renovate our other campus facility to support a new Wellness Nursery. Elisabeth's House will offer a unique model of care to help children with minor medical needs whose families are in crisis. The Wellness Nursery also helps ease the burden on local hospitals and insurers by offering support to address family crisis issues that affect parent's abilities to care

for their ill children or pose risk for medical neglect.

The first of its kind, Elisabeth's House - The Prentiss Wellness Nursery will offer intensive family support and crisis intervention services for children newborn through age 10 while also providing on-site medical staff that monitor and maintain the children's medical, developmental, and educational needs. The Wellness Nursery concept arose in response to increasing calls from local hospitals seeking a safe place for children with minor medical needs who were ready to discharge but could not be safely sent home to unstable housing or family crisis situations.

The Wellness Nursery service model was developed by a 39-member taskforce that teamed Providence House staff, board members, insurers, academics, and advocates, with healthcare professionals from University Hospital's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, The Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, and MetroHealth. The resulting model will allow hospitals to discharge children into the Wellness Nursery's care, while Providence House staff work intensively with their parents to

address issues that range from homelessness and domestic violence to substance abuse, mental health challenges, and more. The goal is to keep children healthy and safe while their families receive the support they need to become safe, nurturing caregivers who have the ability to care for their children's needs long-term.

With capital funding secured, a business plan in place, and a feasibility study completed, renovations are set to begin this month to meet our target opening date in late fall. Follow the project on our website at [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org) this summer and be sure to check our Winter newsletter for photos and progress updates! And, help us get off to a great start by making a start-up gift to Elisabeth's House on our website at [provhouse.org/elisabethshouse](http://provhouse.org/elisabethshouse).

For more information about Elisabeth's House or sponsorship opportunities, contact:  
**Natalie A. Leek-Nelson,**  
CEO and President  
Direct: 216-651-5982 ext. 224  
[Natalie@provhouse.org](mailto:Natalie@provhouse.org)

**A Special Thank You...** To our Wellness Nursery Task Force who have given their time, talent and expertise to develop the Wellness Nursery Pilot Program model for over a year. We couldn't have done it without you! **Thank you, thank you, thank you.**





## Providence House

Every child is your child.™

2050 West 32nd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

[provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit No. 1922

- ▶ **TO REFER A CHILD**  
Call 216.651.5982 x247
- ▶ **TO MAKE A GIFT**  
Call 216.651.5982 x225
- ▶ **FOR INFO ON EVENTS**  
Call 216.651.5982 x226
- ▶ **TO VOLUNTEER**  
Call 216.651.5982 x221
- ▶ **FOR INFORMATION ON THE PRENTISS WELLNESS NURSERY**  
Call 216.651.5982 x224

### WISH LIST CRITICAL NEEDS:

- Gift cards to Dave's Supermarkets, Giant Eagle, Target, Walmart, Office Max, Staples and gas stations are always helpful and provide the most flexibility to meet immediate needs
- Children's Suitcases
- Canned fruit (esp. pears) and vegetables (esp. carrots)
- Boys shorts, sizes 2T, 3T, 4T, and 5T
- Boys short-sleeved shirts, size 5T
- Boys and girls summer light-weight pajamas
- Shoes – boys sizes 12-12.5 and 13-13.5 and girls sizes 11-11.5 and 13-13.5
- Socks – boys and girls, sizes infant through children's shoe size 4
- Diaper wipes
- Baby wash

### Save These Dates...

#### August 9, 2013

##### Ohio City Back-Pack to School Fair

2nd annual back-to-school "fair" hosted by Providence House, West Side Catholic Center, Cleveland Public Library (Carnegie West Branch), Ohio City Inc., Franklin Circle Church and St. Paul's Church to provide backpacks and school supplies to families in need. Have school supplies to donate that could benefit those families? Contact a participating agency today!

#### December 10, 2013

##### 18th Annual "Deck the House"

##### Live & Silent Auction

FirstEnergy Stadium (home of the Cleveland Browns)  
AT&T City View Lounge – 5:30 - 9:30pm