



Providence House

Every child is your child.™

EVERY CHILD IS YOUR CHILD

WINTER 2013

Jackson,
 Hey Bubby, it's Mommy. I hope you are having fun with your friends at Providence House. Do you still have my kiss in your pocket? I still have yours. I hold on to it all day. I'm so glad you and Jenna came to see me. I promise we will see each other again very soon.

Are you eating good? I hope so. Remember you have to eat all your veggies if you want to be big and strong like Grandpa.

Mommy is so proud of you Jackson. You are such a good boy and you are an amazing big brother. I love you so much. You and Jenna are my everything. I miss you baby boy and I think about you all day and night. I promise I will see you soon. I'm sending you hugs and kisses with this letter, please give some to Jenna for me.

I love you Jackson Paul.
 Be good, eat your veggies.
 XOXOXOXOXO
 Love Always,
 Mommy



Thank you for voting Providence House a **Tier I Agency in this year's Good News Giving** competition, hosted by the Northeast Ohio Media Group. Look for The Plain Dealer story on one of our families this fall, and check for ads and announcements in the spring around our Luncheon and Child Abuse Prevention Month!

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AND MORE!

*Only the names have been changed in this story

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A Note From Natalie:

Dear PHriends,

What do the holidays look like at your house? If they are anything like mine, they are busy and chaotic, filled with gifts, hugs, cozy fires, cinnamon rolls, homemade cookies and pies, and huge



family meals. And most important: quality time with my children, who continue to help me see the magic of the holidays through their eyes. Many of my most treasured memories and time honored traditions are those that I've had since childhood; just as my sons' will be.

Now imagine your home at the holidays without your family, without your children or grandchildren, empty, alone. It's a devastating image, but it's a reality for the parents that make the life-changing decision to trust Providence House with the care of their children.

On the front page of this issue, you read a real letter from a mom whose children aren't with her because they are staying at Providence House. Many

people wonder why parents don't live at Providence House with their children and why they would willingly be separated from them. Most parents who bring their children to Providence House are in serious crisis situations that make them unable to safely care for their little ones. Our parents are often receiving inpatient treatment or services themselves, or are unable to find shelter that is safe enough or will permit small children. While our parents and children may not be living together for the short time their children stay at Providence House, notes like the letter we shared with you, and so many others that we receive like it, prove that our parents are always thinking of their children, missing them, loving them... and striving to get better and provide a safe, loving home so their children can return to them.

This mom made a decision that many parents can't imagine having to make: to ask Providence House to care for the most cherished treasure in her life - her children - while she works hard to get the support, counseling and resources

she needs to bring her children home safely. When our community thinks of Providence House, they think of babies and children. Caring for babies and children is what we have done for over thirty years and is the core of our mission. But during this holiday season, I ask you to also think of the parents that are making the heart-breaking decision to bring their children to Providence House so that we can help them break the cycles of poverty, violence, homelessness, or addiction that are preventing them from being the safe, stable parents that they want to be.

By taking the first step to come to Providence House, our parents are courageously seeking help for themselves and their family and giving their children a selfless gift.

Our parents are letting their children see that they love them so much, that they are letting us love them for a little while so mommy can get better and make a safe home for them.

During this holiday season, please remember not just the babies and children at Providence House, but the families that are working hard to become the best parents

they can be. Honor the difficult choice, the hard work, and the gift that our parents are giving to their children by offering your special holiday gift to us. Each and every gift,

big or small, goods or gift certificates, prayers or thanks, will be treasured and shared; giving every child and family at Providence House the gift of hope and the promise of building a healthy, safe, and happy family.



**Blessings and abundance to you and yours,
from your Providence House PHamily.**

Deck the House

It's not too late to get tickets for the best holiday event in Cleveland! Join Providence House, Honorary Chairs Annie and Joe Thomas (#73, Cleveland Browns Offensive Lineman) and Celebrity Auctioneers Jimmy Malone (WMJL 105.7) and Andrea Vecchio for our 18th Annual Deck the House Benefit Auction, presented by the Cleveland Browns.

Don't miss your chance to get an autograph and picture with Pro Bowl Lineman Joe Thomas and the 2013 Ed Block Courage Award winner announced that night!

This year's auction features trips to the Caribbean, autographed items by the biggest stars, and a chance to cheer on the Tribe from the Owner's Loge – and hundreds of other amazing packages featuring trips, tickets, toys, treasures, and time-of-your-life experiences.

Date: Tuesday, December 10th

Time: 5:30-9:30pm

Location: FirstEnergy Stadium (*Home of the Cleveland Browns*),
CityView Lounge

Tickets: Ticket-PLUS – \$125/ea. (\$70 tax deductible)

Includes express check-out, two complimentary drink tickets, special guest gift and all features of general ticket

General – \$50/ea. (\$10 tax-deductible)

Includes Live and Silent Auction, holiday themed buffet and dessert, live entertainment and cash bar

TO REGISTER: Visit provhouse.org or call 216-651-5982 ext. 225

'TIS THE SEASON

Don't miss the best holiday event in Cleveland!



Visit provhouse.org to register today!

Save the Date:

Don't miss our **2014 Spring Luncheon For Every Child on Friday, April 4th**. This year's event will feature **Greg Fitzsimmons**, nationally known stand-up comedian, Emmy Award winning writer, host on both radio and TV, and child abuse survivor. Check provhouse.org for ticket information in the New Year.

FALL EVENT WRAP-UP:

• Providence House and five partnering human service agencies hosted the **2nd Annual Back to School Fair** on August 9th in Ohio City's Novak Park, outside of the Cleveland Public Library Carnegie West Branch. The Fair provided over 1,200 children with backpacks and school supplies. Thank you to: West Side Catholic Center, Ohio City Inc., St. Paul's Church, Franklin Circle Church, and Carnegie West CPL for your partnership; Dave's Supermarkets for donating food; and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group for donating beverages.

• The 1st Annual **pARTy with PHriends** at Hedge Gallery in 78th Street Studios was a huge success, raising over \$6,000 for Providence House! Hosted by our PHriends Young Professionals Group, the beer and wine tasting event also showcased art by the children at Providence House. If you missed it this year (tickets sold out early!), be sure to join us for the 2nd Annual pARTy in 2014.

• For the 8th year, the **2nd District Police Department and The Friends of 2nd District** held a **"Baby Shower"** to collect items from our Wish List. This year's Shower was held at the site of our new Wellness Nursery. Thank you to the residents and officers – current and retired - who participated, 2nd District Commander Keith Sulzer, and BJs Wholesale for your continued support of Providence House!

• Thank you to **Danielle and former Cleveland Brown Nick Sorensen** for once again helping us host a Halloween Trick or Treat and Pizza Party to remember! The rainy weather didn't stop our princesses, astronauts, and superheroes from roaming the hallways of Providence House collecting tasty treats to celebrate this spooky holiday!



Find us on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter or
go to provhouse.org to see pictures of our fall events

Make Your Holiday Gift Matter

Holiday Gifts to Get
Mom - gift card

Tom's Company - fruit basket

Grandpa - gift card

Make a gift in their name
to Providence House!



Share the true spirit of the holiday season

by sending a holiday card to your employees, clients, friends, and family with the message that you have

made a gift in their name to protect a

child in crisis at Providence House – can you imagine a better present for the holidays?

Simply send your holiday mailing list and a minimum contribution of \$10 per individual to:

Providence House
2050 West 32nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

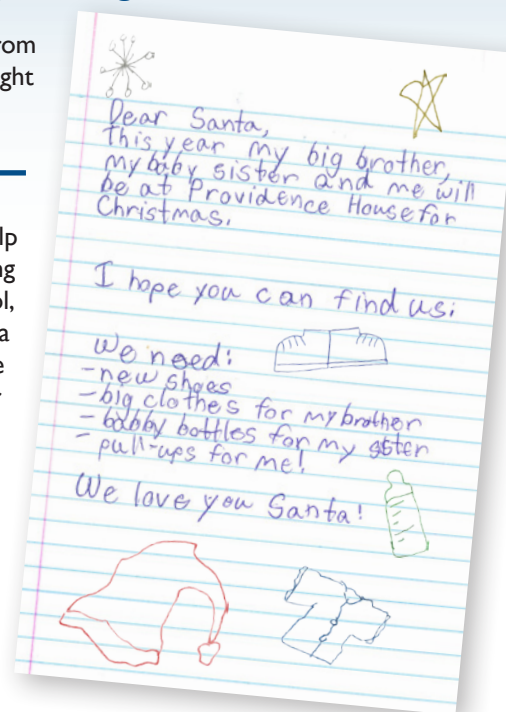
Or make your gift online at provhouse.org and upload your mailing list with the click of a button!

Your list will be kept completely confidential and will not be solicited by Providence House at any time.

YOU can be Santa to a child in crisis...
Host a Holiday Giving Tree!

Letters to Santa from Providence House might surprise you...

This holiday season, help a child in crisis by having your company, school, or church host a Holiday Giving Tree for items from our Wish List. Go to provhouse.org and download a complete PH Holiday Giving Tree Kit with ornament templates, wish list information, and fundraising tips for your Giving Tree.



PROVIDENCE HOUSE HOLIDAY WISH LIST



Please consider donating items from our Holiday Wish List this season to help our children throughout the coming year.



CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

- Baby Bottles With Slow-Flow Or Medium-Flow Nipples
- Boy's and Girl's Pull-ups, sizes 2T/3T and 4T/5T
- Underwear/Undershirts, sizes 4-8
- Children's Shoes: school shoes and winter boots – toddler size through size 12; youth sizes 13 – 5
- Children's Suitcases
- Children's Deodorant (without aluminum)
- Children's Clothing, size newborn through 12

FORMULA GIFT CARDS

- Similac Advanced Target, Walmart, Giant Eagle,
- Isomil with Iron Dave's Supermarket, Office Depot,
- Similac Alimentum Staples, gas cards
- Similac Sensitive

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Medium-sized latex gloves
- Paper towels
- All White Twin Sheet Sets & Fitted Crib Sheets
- Pillows and Pillow Cases (white)
- White towels

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS CONT'D

- Fitted, Water-Proof Mattress Pads for Cribs and Twin Beds
- Store Bought Twin-size Blankets (neutral solid colors)
- Coffee & Coffee Maker
- Adult Cutlery
- Toddler Utensils (NUBY brand)

GROCERIES

- Pedialyte & Pediasure
- Canned Soup (Chicken Noodle, Tomato, Vegetable)
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots)
- Canned Fruits (Peaches, Pears, Pineapple, Fruit Cocktail & Mandarin Oranges)
- Applesauce
- Canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's
- Cold Cereal (Cheerios, Kix, Rice Krispies, Chex)
- Snacks (Pretzels, Granola bars, Graham Crackers...)

MONETARY DONATIONS

Please make checks payable to Providence House or visit provhouse.org to make a gift online

*View full list at provhouse.org



SPOTLIGHT ON A Caring Community

Special thanks and big holiday hugs to our donors, corporate partners, volunteers, foundations, and PHriends! Your generous support has made so many wonderful things happen for our children and our community in 2013. You are all truly a blessing to every child at Providence House.

We are honored to partner with the following companies as they hold fast to their commitment to support the babies and children at Providence House:



For questions or information about becoming an Annual Providence House Partner, please contact Emily Perry at 216-651-5982 x226 or emilyp@provhouse.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Providence House was named **“Agency of the Year”** by the National Association of Social Worker’s Ohio Chapter!

Have you heard of the ACE Study?

Always watching out for children and families in our community, Providence House has continued to enhance its services and rise to the challenges that trauma, violence, poverty, and economic distress have created in the homes of many young children in greater Cleveland.

We also continuously monitor current research and best practices to help our children and families succeed. Researchers estimate that 1 in 7 children in the US experience some form of child maltreatment in their lifetimes. The ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study found that the long-term outcomes of trauma caused by neglect and abuse have life-long cognitive, developmental, and social/emotional consequences. New research is also linking chronic conditions such as coronary disease, diabetes, obesity, and certain cancers to the effects of child abuse and neglect.

The importance of preventing abuse and neglect through our work at Providence House is clearer than ever. While a child’s memory of maltreatment may fade, their brains and their bodies remember it for the rest of their lives. And it’s not just our children. Our parents have also grown up with significant trauma which has impacted them throughout their lives and often is at the core of the reasons that they come to Providence House for help.

Through our trauma screening tools, we are finding a growing number of our parents and children have experienced significant trauma and violence prior to receiving our services. Of those screened for trauma:

- 56% experienced domestic violence
- 20% were sexually assaulted
- 19% experienced community or criminal violence
- 5% were victims of child abuse

We know that the most effective way to mitigate the effects of trauma is through healthy relationships and active early intervention/prevention programs like Providence House; which can change the course of a child’s life, improve parent behavior, and build healthier communities. Parents like Jackson and Jenna’s mom, who wrote the note featured on the cover of this newsletter, love their children and are courageous enough to end the cycles of abuse, addiction, and dependence that have swirled around them for generations.

Through your support, Providence House is the partner, the family, the neighbor, the loving caregiver that many of our parents and children do not have. We’re making progress every day toward ending the “cycle of abuse.” We know it can happen and that it can last. Thank you for having faith in our families, love for our children, and continuing to make Every Child at Providence House Your Child.



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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

VOLUNTEERS GET IT DONE...IN A DAY!

Looking for a service project for your group or workplace? Want a volunteer project that you can get "Done in a Day?" Consider getting it done at Providence House! Call 216-225-5721 for more information.

1st Lutheran Strongsville Boy Scout Troop 226
Andrews Osborne Academy
BVU: The Center for Nonprofit Excellence
City Year
Cleveland Association of School Psychologists
Cleveland Clinic - Children's Hospital
Cleveland Clinic - Head and Neck Institute
Cleveland Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS)
Cleveland Indians
Cliffs Natural Resources
Colors of Cleveland Pride
CSU Fraternity
CWRU First-year Students
Davita Dialysis
Fairport Asset Management
Gesu Church

Gladiators and Monsters players and staff
Grant Thornton
Hillcrest Sunrise Rotary Club
Hiram College Alumni Group
Hyland Software
Junior League of Cleveland
KeyBank
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Sherwin Williams
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Young Neighbors in Action