



EVERY CHILD IS YOUR CHILD

SUMMER 2015

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO CARE

Spotlight on: Ebony Brown

What is your role at Providence House, and how long have you worked there?

I'm a Childcare Supervisor now, but I started out as a Childcare Provider. I've been working at Providence House for almost one year. Typically, I work 6:45am-7pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

How did you first learn about Providence House?

Well, I'm a foster parent, and I have worked with children and families who have been referred to Providence House (but not necessarily used our services). That's how I originally learned about the organization, many years ago.

Can you tell me more about your experience as a foster parent?

I'm a therapeutic foster parent, so the kids placed with me are usually having a really tough time... they're youth with mental, emotional, or behavioral health needs. I've been a foster parent for 14 years – it's something I always knew I wanted to do, so I began the process as soon as I turned 21. I foster children newborn through 18 years old. I have two adopted boys, and now I want to adopt a little girl!

Has this experience impacted how you do your job?

Yes, the experience of working with hard to place and trauma-impacted kids has really made me more patient and understanding, which is reflected every day on the job at Providence House.

What's your favorite part of the job?

The kids. I really love working with the kids, and I feel like I can identify with them because of my own experience living at Metzenbaum Children's Center when I was young. I can remember being scared and confused, away from family... so I can connect with and nurture the kids that stay with us and it's from a really understanding and personal place.

What is a typical day like for you at Providence House?

My usual routine includes getting the kids up, dressed and fed, making sure they're entertained and safe throughout the day, and just generally making sure their basic and emotional needs are met.

You have a full plate with your job as a Supervisor at Providence House and being a therapeutic foster parent! What do you do to unwind and relax?

I'm a poet and singer, and Tuesday nights I like to perform at open-mic night at B Side in Coventry. I'm also trying to take more trips for some extra "me" time, which has been nice!



Ebony Brown: Speaking at 2015 Luncheon For Every Child

Stay tuned for more "Meet the People Who Care" stories featuring our staff, volunteers, and Providence House supporters

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A Note From Natalie:

Dear PHriends,

Every year, the Providence House staff team and volunteers spend months planning events and programming for the month of April to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. We think we've heard it all – but there's always something that takes us by surprise. This year that surprise came in the form of Mike Trivisonno and the Triv Show team on WTAM 1100.



After Triv interviewed me on his afternoon radio show, he and fellow WTAM broadcaster, Bill Wills, put out a call to action for his listeners: fill a truck full of items from our wish list for the babies and children at Providence House. And wow, did the listeners respond!

Just a few days later, a semi-trailer with donations from WTAM's listeners all over Northeast Ohio pulled up to Providence House. We were overwhelmed by the incredible and generous response. Many thanks to Triv, Bill and the WTAM team for coordinating a tremendous donation drive so quickly to support Providence House.

Inspiring stories like this happen year round at Providence House. Generous volunteers, staff, board members, companies, church groups, schools, and neighbors step up to meet the needs of the families we serve. Each and every one has a story to tell of why they feel connected to Providence House. Those stories, in turn, inspire us to do more, work harder, and think bigger about the issues facing our families and children.

At our annual luncheon, several of our supporters stood up to share their stories of why they are committed to Providence House. Those were just a few of the thousands of stories that we know are out there. As we head into our 35th anniversary year, we are asking you to share your story with us. What inspires you to volunteer, to donate, to support, or to use our services? Please share your story with us!

Over the next year, we hope to collect as many of your stories as possible to inspire others to join you in supporting Providence House and changing the lives of children in crisis.

You can share your story on the enclosed envelope and mail it in, or go to provhouse.org to submit an online "story" form.



What inspires you to volunteer, to donate, to support, or to use our services?



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Keep an eye on your inbox over the next month to share your thoughts and feedback about how we are communicating with you. Your feedback will help us make important improvements to our website, social media presence, marketing materials, and other ways we communicate with the community.

This simple survey will be delivered to our email list, so if you are not on our list, please be sure to sign-up on our website provhouse.org.

Providence House
34TH ANNUAL
 LUNCHEON FOR *Every Child*

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!

SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNERS AND
 OUR 2015 LUNCHEON EVENT SPONSORS.

ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNERS:



LUNCHEON SPONSORS:



Couldn't make it to the Luncheon this year? Visit our photo and video gallery at provhouse.org to see what you missed! Take a tour of *Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Wellness Nursery* and check out photos from the event.

SPRING EVENT WRAP-UP

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and a busy one for Providence House! We hosted our "Every Child Awareness Campaign" banners in Tower City, held our signature annual Luncheon for Every Child (which raised record-breaking net proceeds of over \$95,000!), and cut the ribbon on Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Wellness Nursery at Providence House.

- On April 17th we hosted the official **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Wellness Nursery**, a new crisis nursery for children at risk of abuse or neglect - who also have medical conditions that no longer require in-patient hospital care - whose families are currently unable to meet medical needs due to crisis. Our ceremony speakers included: Natalie Leek-Nelson (Providence House President & CEO), Sr. Hope Greener (Providence House Founder), Duane Bishop, Jr. (Providence House Board Chairman, Executive VP, COO, Forest City Enterprises), Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish, Senator Kenny Yuko, Representative Nan Baker, Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman (Ward 3), Cindy Flynn (EVP, New York Community Bank/Ohio Savings Bank), and Pastor Allen Harris (Franklin Circle Church). Thank you to all who attended and celebrated with us!

- On April 24th nearly 700 guests joined us for the **34th Annual Providence House Luncheon For Every Child** to celebrate our recent achievements, take a virtual tour through Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Wellness Nursery, and hear stories from the people – donors, partners, volunteers, and friends – who make Providence House so special. We also honored this year's Every Child Awardees: PNC Bank & PNC Grow Up Great, Cleveland Police Second District, Second District Community Relations Committee, and the Cleveland Police Foundation, and Senator Tom Patton – thank you all for your commitment to helping children in crisis!





Providence House

Every child is your child.

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provhouse.org

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JOIN US FOR OUR 2015 EVENTS...

- ▶ **September 11, 2015**
3rd Annual pARTy with PHriends
Join our PHriends Group at 78th Street Studios in the Gordon Square Arts District for the 3rd annual wine and beer tasting event, featuring original art by the children at Providence House. Tickets will go on sale in July – be sure to get yours early, before they sell out!
- ▶ **October 5, 2015**
Golf Outing and Clambake
Grab your friends and golf as a foursome, or join us just for the clambake dinner! Our inaugural Golf Outing and Clambake will be held at Westwood Country Club in Rocky River. More details regarding sponsorship opportunities and tickets coming in June – visit provhouse.org to learn more.
- ▶ **October 24, 2015**
Annual Cleveland Police Second District "Baby Shower"
Come out to support Cleveland Police and Providence House at their annual fundraiser for our babies and children.
- ▶ **October 30, 2015**
Charles Bowlus Charities Fundraiser
Join us for a Halloween-themed 3rd party fundraiser to benefit Providence House at Music Box Supper Club in the Flats. Enjoy live music, raffles, good food and great company! Tickets go on sale June 1st and will be sold through Providence House.
- ▶ **December 8, 2015**
20th Annual "Deck the House" Live & Silent Auction
FirstEnergy Stadium (home of the Cleveland Browns), City View Lounge – 5:30pm-9:30pm