

Because Every Child deserves  
a Hero.



Providence  
House

Every child is your child.™

ProvidenceHouse

# HOUSE NEWS

Summer 2019

# Family Fun Day!

FUN AT OUR HOUSE!

## DID YOU JOIN US FOR OUR 3rd Annual Family Fun Day?

We had games, crafts, a visit from the fire department and princesses, a dunk tank, and of course, lots of fun!



Do you have photos from Family Fun Day?

Share them with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @provhousecle!

## It's Time to Go Back to School!

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR

Can you help us get the kids at Providence House registered for school, enroll, and stock up on school supplies?

We're looking for these back to school items:

- Elmer's glue sticks
- Plain white or light blue collared shirts
- Pencil boxes
- Black, khaki, or navy blue pants
- Book bags
- Backpacks

Want to make a monetary donation towards enrollment or supplies instead?

Visit [www.provhouse.org/school](http://www.provhouse.org/school)



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# Natalie's Note

NATALIE LEEK-NELSON,  
CEO & PRESIDENT



The foster care system is facing a crisis. And we have a solution.

More children than ever are entering foster care across the nation, and the foster care

system is struggling to find homes for them. Many children are sent to live outside of their communities and even their states for foster care, dramatically decreasing the chance for reunification with their parents.

Beyond the emotional and psychological trauma for a child removed from their parent, mothers who lose custody have higher rates of mental illness, substance abuse, and death by suicide. And nearly 70% of children aging out of foster care end up back in the public system - homeless, incarcerated, addicted, etc. This affects our nation's workforce, economy, safety, and sustainability for generations.

We will spend \$4 for each of these young adults for every \$1 we spent on them in foster care – which is a lot.

The annual cost of foster care has risen 40% over the past five years. These costs will continue to grow if we do not shift our focus on programs that prevent child maltreatment and help parents retain custody of their children.

Child welfare is facing a realization that we need to find alternatives to foster care focused on family preservation rather

than separation. Congress recently passed the Family First Preservation Services Act, calling for programs that are focused on family preservation instead of foster care. Locally, Providence House is now partnering with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to care for children in emergency custody while family is found to care for them, and also with the Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMHS) to care for children whose parents are receiving inpatient treatment.

It used to be believed that parents struggling with mental health, addiction, poverty, or homelessness were bad parents, making bad choices and couldn't safely raise their children. But parenting poor doesn't mean poor parenting. These are parents who are under-resourced, underemployed, and undereducated. By supporting them through crisis toward stability while their children are safe in our care, Providence House is successfully keeping 98% of our families together!

We are proud to be on the forefront of this major shift in child welfare and its focus on family preservation. For nearly 40 years, Providence House has been an alternative to foster care – a place that keeps kids and families safe and together.

And we've done it with you. Your love for our children and your belief that every child deserves to grow up with their mommy and/or daddy has changed the lives of over 8,000 children who have lived at Providence House. As always, we continue to need your support, your gifts, and your hearts.

“Parenting poor doesn't mean poor parenting.”

## Get to Know Us!

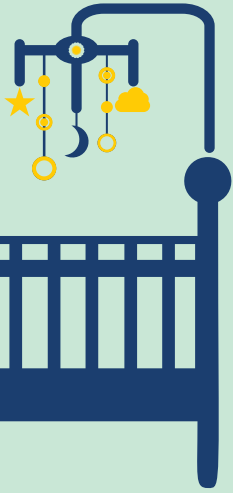
Want your group to learn more about what we do and how we're serving children and families in Cleveland? **Speaking engagements do just that!**

We love to meet new people and new organizations. Our team will travel out to your location to engage your organization in a discussion that lets them learn more about how we're keeping kids safe and families together.

To request a speaker, visit [www.provhouse.org/engage](http://www.provhouse.org/engage).

# By the Numbers

FISCAL YEAR END STATS



Last year,  
**303**  
CHILDREN  
from  
**162**  
FAMILIES  
from  
**31**  
ZIP CODES  
stayed at  
Providence House



We provided  
**5350**  
DAYS OF  
CARE

**38%**  
OF FAMILIES  
WERE HOMELESS  
or had unsafe housing



**94%**  
OF FAMILIES  
WERE LIVING AT  
OR BELOW  
the federal poverty line

**418**  
CHILDREN  
WERE WAITLISTED  
or unserved

**99%**  
OF  
CAREGIVERS  
AGREED  
that their child's daily  
care and medical needs  
were met  
during their stay



**89%**  
OF FAMILIES  
WERE FULLY  
ENGAGED  
in the services that  
were provided

**98%**  
OF CHILDREN  
WERE REUNITED  
with their parent or guardian



## Meeting the Need

EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

Recognizing the extraordinary need to support the increasing number of children coming into the care of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Providence House has begun a program to reserve four beds at all times for short-term emergency child care services while the country finds appropriate foster care or family placement for children.

Providence House will provide immediate protection and nurturing care in a trauma informed, home-like environment for children who are removed from their home and awaiting foster placement.

For more information on our partnership with DCFS, contact Taylor Smith at 216-651-5982.



# Giving Hope

TO THE PHUTURE

Did you hear the news? We're launching our Giving Hope for the PHuture campaign to open a 20-bed Crisis Nursery and Family Resiliency Center in the Buckeye-Shaker Neighborhood allowing us to protect more children, support more families, and strengthen even more communities.

**Want to learn more?**  
Visit [www.provhouse.org/givinghope](http://www.provhouse.org/givinghope)



# Enriching Every Child

ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

The children who stay with us are at a crucial period of educational and developmental growth that will affect their future learning, creative thinking, and problem solving. For many of these children, trauma, developmental delays, lack of school readiness, and other barriers will compromise that development.

At Providence House, our Educational Enrichment program includes activities, field trips, and weekly art, yoga, dance, and music classes that encourage social-emotional resilience, socialization skills, and developmental achievement through sensory-based activities.

You can support our educational enrichment program at [www.provhouse.org/enrich](http://www.provhouse.org/enrich)





2050 West 32nd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

p. 216.651.5982 • provhouse.org

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**Are our records correct?**

If you're receiving extra copies of the newsletter or notice a misspelling or error with our database, please let us know!  
Email all updates to Kaylee Quanbeck at [kaylee@provhouse.org](mailto:kaylee@provhouse.org)

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Looking Ahead | Visit [provhouse.org/events](http://provhouse.org/events) for more information!



**pARTy with PHriends**  
OCTOBER 4, 2019

**Deck the House**  
DECEMBER 10, 2019

Proud to be a partner of:

