We must continue to raise our voices, to raise awareness... to raise hope.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

PHILIP M. DAWSON

The 164th year in the existence of Beech Brook has seen many changes, many challenges and a great many successes. The Beech Brook Board and staff are busy every day executing the mission of serving Northeast Ohio’s most vulnerable children. Even with the residential changes made this past spring, Beech Brook will have brought compassionate and impactful mental health services to more than 14,000 children and families this year...something we are very proud of.

There are more changes ahead for the health care environment in which Beech Brook exists. As a board, we must navigate these changes while preserving our ability to continue our mission to as many children and their families as possible and for many, many, many years to come.

We know that the stakes are incredibly high. And so must be our efforts, our expectations, our commitment, and our results. All of us must rise to the ever-bigger challenges facing us. We must continue to raise our voices, to raise awareness, to raise funds, and to raise hope. This is the only way to help the children and families we serve rise above their current condition.

To those of you who have supported Beech Brook with financial help or time, we thank you. You are our life blood. To my fellow board members and to the staff, I personally thank you. You are the heart of this organization. I thank you all for believing in Beech Brook.
Over my 25 years at Beech Brook, it’s been my privilege to help lead this organization through times of great change and tremendous growth. There have been enormous challenges as well...increasingly stringent regulations which dictate the way in which we do our work; shrinking funding streams and sources; economic downturns; and the increasingly serious needs of the children and families in our community. We have risen to those challenges while continuing to provide the excellent treatment services for which we’re known and expanding our strong presence in the community.

This year we arrived at a crossroads, however, as we weighed the already confusing and complicated tangle of funding in this field against the unknown impact of the coming changes in Medicaid, managed care and behavioral health care reimbursements. We believed the time was right to reposition Beech Brook for the future, and after great deliberation, we made the difficult decision to close our residential programs and put the full power of our resources to work for the community-based programs which strengthen and support families and children.

This is not the first time since 1852 that Beech Brook has responded to the changing needs of the times! But every transition — from orphanage to residential treatment, to community-based services, and now to the expansion of our prevention and early intervention programs — has been made with an unwavering commitment to our mission.

We are excited about moving into this next chapter in Beech Brook’s story, grateful for your support, and looking forward to your partnership as we rise to the challenges of the future!
We rise by lifting others.

Robert Ingersoll
In the business of helping society’s most vulnerable children, the stakes are high. The future of today’s children, tomorrow’s families and the health of our community hangs in the balance. Our mission calls us to rise to the growing challenges facing children and families today so that they, too, can rise upward with hope.

Every day throughout our city’s neighborhoods, in schools, homes and offices, on laptops and desktops, into the evenings and weekends, our staff is rising to this challenge.

Each brings a different toolbox to the job as they tend wounded souls, rebuild self-esteem, repair shattered families, build bridges to the future and unlock the doors to hope.

Through ups and downs, major setbacks and small victories, they keep the faith and stay the course, knowing that, individually and collectively, they are making a difference and delivering on our mission.
Twelve-year-old Jordan was headed down a dark path when he was referred to the STRIDE mentoring program by his Beech Brook school-based therapist. His father was worried that Jordan was on the precipice, falling in with the wrong crowd and starting to engage in risky behaviors. Jordan’s mentor began working with the boy on self-esteem and leadership skills and on helping him make connections to more positive people — just in time. As his dad had feared, Jordan’s former peer group is now involved in the Juvenile Justice system but his son is back on track. He’s doing well in school and at home, and he’s already looking to the future, planning to play on the school basketball team and prepare for college.

It takes patience and creativity to work with very young children who have emotional and behavioral problems. Often they’ve been victims of child abuse or exposed to domestic violence and other trauma...experiences they have no words to describe. That’s why our Early Childhood partnership with child care providers, parents and foster parents is so crucial.

“You can’t do sit-down talk therapy with these really little kids. A lot of it is working with the adults so that the kids can be ready for preschool or kindergarten,” says Lisa Bohlander, early childhood therapist. “One child, now 4, came into foster care at age 2, already the victim of multiple fractures. He needed to learn that there are people in his life who will keep him safe,” she says. “We work on routines, how to talk to him about his behaviors, what to do when he remembers things from his past, and how to offer the reassurance that he will be safe.”

For Lisa, the most rewarding part of the job is when a child gets off to a good start in kindergarten. That’s the real evidence that their team of parents and professionals has been successful. And the next best thing: the smiles and hugs from the children and heartfelt thanks from parents.
“If you make me lunch,” he said, “will you put it in a brown paper bag? Because when I see kids come to school with their lunch in a paper bag, that means someone cares about them.”

Laura Schroff
For foster parents like Bill Jackson who, along with his late wife JoEva, welcomed more boys into their home than he can count over the past 30 years, the real reward comes when those kids return as adults, bringing their own children and keeping in touch by phone calls and visits.

“I was touched recently by a foster child’s genuine appreciation and gratefulness when I took her shopping for a few items that she needed in respite care while her foster mom was in the hospital,” says Elizabeth Breitenbach, foster care case manager. “We didn’t go to any name brand stores but she was so happy that I took the time to make sure she had everything that she needed. She said thank you on many different occasions. It’s the little things that make a difference in our children’s lives, and I was very humbled by her gratitude.”

“Sometimes it’s the small things that make a difference, not just to a client but to the staff as well. For a child living in foster care, a little special attention and kindness can go a long way.

For foster parents like Bill Jackson who, along with his late wife JoEva, welcomed more boys into their home than he can count over the past 30 years, the real reward comes when those kids return as adults, bringing their own children and keeping in touch by phone calls and visits.

“That’s where the fulfillment of being a foster parent comes in...when you see the finished product and they go out into the world,” Bill reflects. “That’s when it really kicks in. They’re just nice, good human beings. That’s a heck of a feeling. That’s the reward for being a foster parent because they’re like yours. They are yours.”
Other staff recall the bittersweet moment when they say farewell to a child and parent, knowing that they’ve given them the tools they need to take the next step.

“I had been working with a boy who was diagnosed with ADHD and who had difficulty identifying and communicating his feelings,” says school-based therapist Cheryl Vannoy. “As I was closing the case, the boy’s mother asked how he felt about not meeting with me any longer. He made a heart shape with his hands and then separated them to show that his heart was broken. I knew then how much he appreciated the work I had done with him and that I would be missed.”

Another school-based therapist Hannah Harms shared, “I had a set of teenage twins with a trauma background who were in county custody because of their mother’s drug use. After a few months, they were able to be reunified with their mother. It was very special being at the reunification meeting. There was a whiteboard, and everyone listed all of the strengths of the mother, themselves and the family as a unit. It was very powerful and inspiring.”

Hannah recalls another child who’d been struggling with changes at home and had difficulty expressing her emotions. Through therapeutic art and drawing, she was able to work through some of her feelings and improve in her schoolwork as well. “At her 5th grade graduation ceremony, she gave a speech which included how meeting with me had helped her get through the school year despite the challenges she faced,” Hannah said. “It was a very special moment for me which brought me hope.”
While Beech Brook is well known for our school-based mental health services, our team of Comprehensive Sex Education teachers is also busy equipping students throughout Greater Cleveland with the knowledge they need to make good decisions and protect themselves from harm.

“Our Comprehensive Sex Education program has been proven to help the students understand that they have rights regarding their own bodies and choices. We teach them about their physical and emotional development,” says teacher Toby Macknin. “The program helps them to learn how to be safe sexually and physically and how to be aware of situations around them. Both boys and girls learn they have the right to protect themselves and not have someone talk them into acts that they are not comfortable participating in. I am inspired with the statistics we gather and with the comments the students express about how much they’ve learned.”

Teacher Karen Pruitt sees that all the time in her classes. “So many kids just don’t have the facts. They believe the myths, but when they do get the facts, it really opens their eyes. We stress that this is very serious and they have to treat sexual activity very seriously.”

“Another young boy came to me privately and revealed that he was gay, but he was really worried because he wanted to have children someday,” says Stephana Caviness. “We talked about the possibilities that he could still be a father and other options like adoption. I was happy that he felt comfortable enough to come and discuss that with me.”
Seeing their students gain confidence and succeed in school is the motivation for Beech Brook’s therapeutic tutors who work in the Bedford schools.

“Every year since 2011, our tutors have helped struggling readers with emotional challenges become more confident and fluent readers – which is essential for success in school and life. And every year, we have exceeded our goal that at least 50 percent of students will improve their reading achievement on a standardized test by at least one full grade level, and with many of these students doubling, tripling and even quadrupling their expected reading growth,” says Carolyn Steiner, program supervisor.

“Three of our students obtained a proficient reading score on the end-of-the-year reading test and another received a Merit Award for his grades. These were fabulous results for students who typically perform well below grade level in their test scores and grades.”

Another tutor recalls her satisfaction when one student, who was reading well below grade level, advanced to reading at grade level. “He loves reading now, and his mother reports that he always has a book in his hand at home.”
What defines us is how far we rise after falling.
It can be hard to raise hope in a homeless shelter, working with parents who have young children. Understandably, many parents feel like they’ve hit the bottom, and the way up seems insurmountable. But Kelly Armstrong, LIFT program coordinator, finds many moments of inspiration.

Kelly recalls one family at the Zelma George Shelter. “It was during the holiday season that Alicia and her three children found living at the homeless shelter to be the most challenging. All her efforts to find housing and work had been unsuccessful. Defeated and depressed, feeling like a failure, Alicia struggled just to keep going. But she agreed to come to the Self-Care group for parents that I run at the shelter. She was very quiet; in fact, most of the other parents were also pretty somber. But eventually she shared what was weighing on her heart with the others, many of whom shared similar feelings. As I acknowledged the difficulty she and the others were experiencing, I was able to point out that she had made the best decision to come to the shelter to keep her children safe, cared for and loved, which is what the holiday season was really all about. The parents all began to encourage one another and lift each other up, which made all the difference. Alicia and her children, as well as the other families, ended up having a really nice holiday. She found a house and great job shortly after this, transforming the course of her family’s life. She was so thankful for all the support she received through Beech Brook.”
When a marriage is ending, it can be a time of great trauma for both parents and children, but Beech Brook’s Divorce Education Seminars can help by teaching parents how to understand their children’s feelings during this time and work together to minimize the negative impact on their lives. Every Saturday, in different parts of the city, our presenters can be found helping families through this tough transition. Many see this as just one more requirement during an already stressful time, but often they leave feeling grateful.

“At first I didn’t want to come. It was just another hoop to jump through, but it was really worthwhile,” said one parent. Another said, “I wish we would have come before we got married. It really helped with parenting in general and communications with our children. I would have liked to stay longer!”

Facilitator Carol Redding shares this story of hope reborn at one of her Divorce Seminars. “I had one participant whom I ran into at a store. He came up and thanked me for the seminar saying that he and his wife took what they learned to heart and decided to stay together and not divorce. He reported that they are communicating and using the skills they learned at the seminar. He recognized that they have a long way to go but they are now willing to put their family first.”
Within the core of each of us is the child we once were. This child constitutes the foundation of what we have become, who we are, and what we will be.

Rhawn Joseph
The first time parents turn up at the Family Drop-In Center, where many of Beech Brook’s prevention and early intervention programs are located, it’s often not because they want to be there. Chances are they’ve been referred by Children’s Services or the court system, and they may be angry, defensive or suspicious. But it doesn’t take long for them to be drawn into the welcoming, supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere they encounter there. It’s a life-transforming experience for many.

Debra Brown, manager of supportive parenting, says her hope rises when she sees the many people who come back and share that, because of Beech Brook, they’re turning their lives around. “Parents see this as a safe haven, a place to come for resources, job listings…a place where they know people will listen and care about them.”

“Sometimes you don’t see it right away,” says Aleatha Powell, health and wellness coordinator, “but then they come back and tell us what’s happening in their lives — they got their kids back, they got a job, a house, or they graduated or got a certification of some kind. They really feel connected here. For a lot of them, we’re the only support system they have. One father, who came from a family where violence was the norm, was referred here for Anger Management. Afterwards he said, ‘I’ve never felt like part of something before. Can I take every class you have?’ Since then, he’s even brought a friend to class, and we’ve helped link him to medical care.”

Another man who had just completed Anger Management classes left this message for the staff: “I greatly appreciate the services. I thank Beech Brook. I probably would be in jail or prison or would have done great harm to others or to myself. I know where to come when I need help.”
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED BY PROGRAM: 14,089
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Campus-Based Treatment (closed as of June 2016)
Group Home..........................................................6
Day Treatment.......................................................71
Intensive Treatment Unit ....................................41
Partial Hospitalization ..........................................91
Residential Treatment ...........................................55

Community-Based Treatment and Support
ACT .................................................................87

Early Childhood
• Child Care Consultation..............................240
• In-Home Consultation...............................255
• Intervention ..............................................122
• Mental Health Treatment .........................89

Defending Childhood ........................................5

Family Preservation ...........................................246

Lorain County (closed as of June 2016)
• Intensive Home-Based Treatment ..........107
• Outpatient Therapy.................................145
• Youth Crisis ..............................................89

Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Services.............17

Outpatient Mental Health Services .................946

SAFE Community Services and Support ..........153

STRIDE Mentoring Services ................................190

Comprehensive Sex Education .........................980

Family Drop-In Center Programs
Anger Management ..................................359
Basic Parenting Classes .............................185

Community Wraparound
• Students .............................................110
• Parents ..............................................118

Drop-In Services ..........................................435
Famicos ..........................................................88
Father Groups .............................................98
Healthy Relationships ....................................58

Health and Wellness Activities
• Adults ...............................................441
• Children ............................................331

Health and Wellness Coaching ....................167

Integrated Care Behavioral Health .................241

Moms and Mentors/Teen Moms .....................25

Police Assisted Referrals .............................120

Recovering Parents .......................................86

S.T.E.P. S. Parent Education .........................40

Supportive Visitation .....................................38

Victims of Crime Services .............................87

Foster Care
Passages for Independent Living ...............8

Foster-to-Adoption Placements .....................3

Foster Care
• Levels 1 – 3 .........................................84
• Level 4 ...........................................45

C.A.L.M. Respite Care ..................................26

School-Based Services
Chardon Schools
• Direct Services .................................249
• Classroom Services .............................170
• Summer Programming .........................70
• Leadership Initiatives .........................50

Orange Schools
• Direct Services .................................231

REACH
• Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lucas ....1,028

School-Based Mental Health Services
• Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lucas ....2,505

Therapeutic Tutoring
• Bedford Schools ..................................24

Twinsburg Schools
• Direct Services .................................184
• Summer Programming .......................54

Seminars for Divorcing Parents ...................1,596
**FINANCIAL RESULTS**

**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

### REVENUE

- **15% Residential Treatment** $2,411,578
- **6% Intensive Treatment** $998,472
- **6% Day Treatment** $1,223,368
- **27% School-Based Services** $7,036,837
- **1% Family Preservation** $263,176
- **1% Integrated Care** $127,980
- **2% Family Health** $785,992
- **14% Foster Care** $3,056,875
- **8% Charitable Income** $2,369,184
- **9% Outpatient Clinic** $1,446,588
- **2% Early Childhood** $474,351
- **2% ACT** $504,066
- **7% Programs for At-Risk Youth/Families** $1,435,472

**100% TOTAL** $22,133,939

### EXPENSES

- **Salary Related** 48%
- **Service Related** 11%
- **Facility Related** 1%
- **Administrative** 4%
- **Miscellaneous** 2%
- **Discontinued Operations** 34%

**TOTAL 100%**

*Discontinued Operations*

On April 4, 2016, the agency announced plans to phase out its on-campus day and residential programs for children, including its group home and intensive treatment unit, by the end of June 2016. This represents a strategic shift in the agency’s operations. The agency plans to expand its focus on community-based prevention and early intervention programs designed to strengthen and support families and children, with a goal of keeping children safe and building strong families. By more fully focusing its resources on prevention and early intervention, Beech Brook hopes to help more children and families before their problems become severe enough to require children’s removal from their families.
THE JEPHTHA HOMER WADE SOCIETY

The Jeptha Homer Wade Society honors our most significant supporters, each of whom have contributed $100,000 or more in total to Beech Brook. The Wade Family played a unique and treasured role in our history over several generations, beginning with the donation of the orphanage on St. Clair Avenue in the 1870s to the land and several buildings on our present campus in the 1920s. Members of the Wade Family served more than 130 years on the Board of Directors, and their legacy lives on through ongoing gifts from family members today.

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THE SUZANNE B. HARRISON SOCIETY
(Bold indicates new members to the Society)

For more than 60 years, Suzanne Brookhart Harrison dedicated her time, energy and enthusiasm to Beech Brook, earning a special place in our history and in the hearts of everyone who knew her. Her unwavering commitment to children and to the work of Beech Brook inspired this giving society in her name, honoring loyal supporters who have made charitable gifts for 25 years or more.

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The Children’s Hope Society honors donors whose planned gifts demonstrate their commitment to the work and future of Beech Brook. These gifts, which are placed in Beech Brook’s Endowment Fund, allow supporters to create their own legacies of hope for children and families. The interest income from the endowment supports the ongoing provision of high quality services for children and families, innovation and program development, and research.

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LEADERSHIP GIVING AND SAMUEL CLEMENS SOCIETY

In 1869, Samuel Clemens was so moved by the work being done by the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum to care for neglected and abandoned children that he donated the entire proceeds of his January 22nd performance at Case Hall that year. He closed his lecture with an impassioned appeal to his Cleveland audience to likewise lend their generous support.

Today, Beech Brook’s Samuel Clemens Society recognizes donors who similarly support our work with their generous leadership gifts of $1,000 or more each year. These annual gifts provide critical funds that enable Beech Brook to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of vulnerable children and families.

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Marian Wright Edelman
As Beech Brook moves forward into the next chapter of our story, with prevention and early intervention services at the forefront, these and countless other moments lift our spirits and inspire us to rise. One child, one parent, one family, one day at a time, we know we’re making a difference.

With the dedication of our staff, the support of a caring community, and the leadership and guidance of our Board of Directors, Beech Brook will continue to deliver on our mission of 164 years and counting.

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