Planting Seeds of Hope
FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Philip M. Dawson

Our 163rd year has been a busy one at every level of Beech Brook, including the Board of Directors. We began the year with the launch of a new three-year Strategic Plan designed to position Beech Brook for success going forward, however those years might play out in terms of funding and oversight directives from our friends at the various levels of government.

The Board of Directors is continuously challenged on many levels. I am proud to say we have very dedicated board people, some who have served for many years, who spend considerable time and effort to meet the various challenges in finance, programs and services, fundraising and events, strategic planning, and the continuing changes by many different rule makers. This board requires a high level of commitment and involvement, as have past boards, and has performed admirably.

As challenged as this board is, it could not begin to do its job without the superb staff that operates Beech Brook 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. I am continuously impressed by the high quality and dedication demonstrated daily in ensuring the Beech Brook mission is faithfully carried out. These are tough jobs. It takes special people to do what they do, and Beech Brook is full of special people.

To our friends who help Beech Brook financially, a huge thank you. The difference you make to more than 20,000 young people and their families every year is heartfelt. You are the ones who make it possible for this board and staff to do our jobs. On behalf of all of us, I’d like to extend my appreciation to each of you for your continued belief in and support of Beech Brook.
To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

This summer at Beech Brook, we watched the children experience — many for the first time — the wonder of planting a garden and seeing it blossom. The conditions weren’t always optimal, and the children learned that sometimes it takes hard work to make a garden flourish under difficult circumstances. But they continued to nurture their seedlings, and they were rewarded with a bountiful harvest.

I couldn’t help but think of the parallel between the garden and our work at Beech Brook. For 163 years, Beech Brook has planted seeds of hope in the lives of children and families living in the harshest conditions and provided the care they’ve needed to grow and flourish.

This year our deep roots in the community continued to spread, reaching more than 20,000 children and families through these services and many more:

• expanded education and support so parents can nurture their children, no matter how poor the soil of their childhoods
• continued growth in our school-based mental health services to help more than 3,000 students blossom into stable and successful adults
• the supportive environment of strong foster homes and residential treatment for children who need those healing services
• the strengthening of our integrated care services to provide both physical and behavioral health care for children and families.

As always, your support for Beech Brook has helped plant the seeds of hope for our community’s most vulnerable children and families and given them a reason to believe in tomorrow. We are truly grateful.
Keeping an Eye on the Future, Foster Child Earns Full Scholarship to Cleveland State

“He knows what gifts he has. I told him, ‘You have the ability to power yourself up and use your energy for good!’”

Like so many of the young people Beech Brook works with, Austin is a survivor. Growing up in a home shattered by abuse from a drug-addicted father, he — along with his brother and sister — suffered endless physical and emotional trauma during their childhood.

Perhaps more traumatic than his own abuse was watching his terminally ill mother suffer at the hands of his father, including being violently pushed down the stairs.

At age 12, Austin and his siblings were placed in foster care; their mother was placed in hospice care. Wearing surgical masks, the children were allowed to visit their mother during her final days.

Beech Brook Art Therapist Rick Rule-Hoffman, who was working with Austin’s younger brother, accompanied the children to the funeral, as they had very little in the way of support from other adults. This show of kindness made a lasting impression on Austin.

Angry and hurting, Austin acted out as he tried to process his grief — fighting, aggressive behavior and damaging property. Austin was referred to Rule-Hoffman for therapy, with whom he felt a kind of “family connection.”

“Austin is very independent,” Rule-Hoffman said. “He had to be to survive. He’s also very bright — you can see he has a lot of potential.” Through therapy, Austin became less oppositional, made better choices, and really focused on his future.

LaTasha Watts, Beech Brook’s Independent Living coordinator, agrees. “Austin is a great kid — sweet, well-spoken and very smart.” In her class, Austin learned the necessary skills to transition from foster care to living on his own. “He paid attention to every single thing,” Watts said. “He was a role model for the other kids.”

With support from Beech Brook staff and his teachers, Austin applied for and was one of only 10 students to receive the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship to Cleveland State University. The four-year scholarship covers tuition, fees and living expenses.

This past summer, Austin transitioned from his foster home directly to CSU, where he began his studies and a brand new life on his own.
Alone in the darkness, the sound of gunshots still ringing in her ears, 2-year-old Taylor was even more terrified by the ensuing lights and sirens. Shaking and crying, she wandered the streets of his Cleveland neighborhood, right in the aftermath of a drive-by shooting. Her mother, Tia — oblivious.

Taylor and her siblings soon were taken into county custody. Tia was referred to parenting classes at Beech Brook, where staff learned she had a long history of abuse by men, often witnessed by her children. Overwhelmed and disconnected, however, Tia simply went through the motions of attending class to get them back.

A few months later, Tia was directed to Beech Brook a second time — by a Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority police officer who discovered her toddler alone in the street, again. This time she was referred to multiple community-based programs, including Police Assisted Referral, which partners with Beech Brook to provide services to families in low-income housing who have experienced domestic violence. She also enrolled in anger management and parenting classes, and received physical health care for the first time in years through the Beech Brook/Care Alliance Family Health Center — an integrated care partnership.

Realizing she needed to make significant changes in her life to reunite with her children, Tia took advantage of all the support she was offered, including counseling for depression, and help with basic life skills, employment, goal-setting, healthy relationships and making good choices.

“We are all very invested in Tia’s well-being, and she trusts us,” Community Health Worker Aleatha Powell said. “Now, she’s actually referring people to Beech Brook!”

Today, Tia is on a great road toward reunification with her children.

“She’s like a new person today,” Powell said. Her mood is better, and she’s more focused, more driven, more responsible. I look at her and think, ‘You’ve grown up.’ You’re somebody’s mother.”

“Our lives are like reality TV shows. If we want something different to happen for our children, we have to change the channel so they can see something better.”
Frilly skirts swirling, two little girls dance around the living room as their mother, Megan, talks with therapist Jean Homrighausen.

It’s a happy scene Megan couldn’t have imagined when she was growing up. Years of abuse and molestation robbed Megan of her childhood innocence.

Now the mother of eight, ranging from 3 to 18, Megan didn’t understand the impact of her untreated trauma on her children and her ability to be a good parent.

“We were lost,” she said. “I didn’t even realize how much chaos we were in.” But she knew from school reports that at least two of her sons were badly in need of help for behavior problems.

Homrighausen, “Miss H” to her clients, began working with two of the boys through the Outpatient Program, although Megan made it clear she wanted no part of therapy.

But as she saw how counseling was helping her sons, she began to accept that she needed help, too, and she finally opened up. “When Miss H. told me she was so sorry for the pain I endured, it went straight to my heart. I’ve never had anybody who cared about my well-being. No one ever showed me love. I had a lot of anger and hatred in my heart.”

Sharing her story allowed the healing to begin. “A lot of doors open up once your mental state gets clear. You begin to think better.”

Since she started therapy, Megan has become actively involved in the schools and has applied the skills she’s learned in therapy to become a better parent to all her children. She’s also achieved two major goals: She’s moved her family to a safer neighborhood and completed her coursework for a nursing assistant license.

“I’m still not doing everything right, but I’m trying. These kids are my whole life. I’m going to make Miss H. proud, and I’m going to make myself proud. At the end of the day, we’re going to look good as a family, and we’re going to be successful.”

“Facing the Past to Build a Better Future

“If we weren’t going to counseling, I don’t know what would have happened. We’re still not where we want to be but I see that we’re going to be all right. The wounds will heal in time.”
“Perhaps the most important moment in therapy was when Maya and Ali openly and honestly discussed ways to break the family cycle of substance abuse and domestic violence so their children would have hope for a better life.”

Maya, 15, and Ali, 11, were often late to school — if they showed up at all. And when they did go, they were constantly disciplined for fighting and other disruptive behavior.

It was no wonder. Their home life was traumatized by domestic violence, drug-addicted parents and a barrage of dangerous individuals wandering in and out. Maya and Ali were often kicked out of the house, left to fend for themselves. Consumed by fear and anger, the sisters did the best they could to keep safe and survive. One day, Ali and her mother got into a car accident, and her mother fled — leaving Ali alone at the scene.

The final straw, however, was when their mother violently attacked Maya at home; soon after, the girls went to live with their grandparents. Even though they were finally safe, the girls suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as oppositional defiant disorder. This led to major challenges at home as the family strained to maintain positive boundaries, consistency and healthy relationships.

Maya and Ali were referred to trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy with one of Beech Brook’s school-based therapists. There, they worked on processing their traumatic experiences and developing resiliency skills. Eventually, the girls became desensitized and less reactive — emotionally and physically — to previous trauma triggers, such as people raising their voices at them.

Over time, the family learned the importance of discussing the trauma to heal. The girls were able to put their experiences of abuse into words in a “trauma narrative,” which they shared with their grandparents. With the help of stress management techniques, Maya and Ali became more comfortable expressing themselves and communicating with their family, thus opening the door to healing.

Several sessions of hard work by the whole family proved to be just what they needed. Both girls’ moods became more positive; they developed much better, respectful relationships with their grandparents; their grades and behavior at school improved; and, for the first time in their lives, they had positive ambitions for their futures!
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED: **20,688**

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Beech Brook/Care Alliance Family Health Center

Anger Management ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 345
Parenting Classes ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 168
Recovering Parents ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 50
Moms and Mentors ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 22
Drop In ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 418
Family Focused Workshops ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 397
Mental Health Services ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 143
Health and Wellness Coaching ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 192
Comprehensive Sex Education ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 7,134
Seminars for Divorcing Parents ~~~~~~~~~~~~ 2,281
PAR (*Police Assisted Referrals*) ~~~~~~~~~~~ 107
Homeless Prevention (*Famicos*) ~~~~~~~~~~~ 395
Community Wraparound (*Patrick Henry*) ~~~~ 347
Therapeutic Tutoring ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 40
Orange Schools ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 555
Beachwood Schools ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 20
Chardon Schools ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 344
REACH (*Releasing Excellent Alternative Community Help*) ~1,055
School-Based Mental Health Services ~~~~~~ 2,690
Defending Childhood ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 12

**STRIDE** (*Skill Building, Teaching, Role Modeling, Independence, Development, Empowerment*) ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 240

**SAFE** (*Successful Alliance for Family Engagement*) ~~~ 192

Family Preservation ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 163
Early Childhood Mental Health Treatment ~~~~ 146
Mental Health Ages 0 – 3 ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 104
Child Care Consultation ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 251
Early Intervention ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 176
Lorain County Intensive Home-Based Treatment ~ 141
Lorain Therapy ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 314
Lorain Youth Crisis ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 163
Outpatient Mental Health Services ~~~~~~~~~~~ 1,276
ACT (*Assertive Community Treatment*) Team ~~~~~ 87
Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Services ~~~~~~~~~ 37
Foster Care, Levels 1 – 3 ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 97
Foster Care, Level 4 ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 58
Day Treatment ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 72
Residential Treatment ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 131
Partial Hospitalization ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 173
Intensive Treatment Unit ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 127
REVENUE AND EXPENSES*
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

**REVENUE**

- Residential Treatment: $3,961,799 (15%)
- Intensive Treatment: $1,600,956 (6%)
- Day Treatment: $1,449,341 (6%)
- School-Based Services: $7,083,239 (27%)
- Family Preservation: $239,347 (1%)
- Integrated Care: $297,507 (1%)
- Family Health: $451,912 (2%)
- Foster Care: $3,676,776 (14%)
- Charitable Income: $2,020,827 (8%)
- Outpatient Clinic: $2,367,958 (9%)
- Early Childhood: $432,891 (2%)
- ACT: $578,744 (2%)
- Programs for At-Risk Youth/Families: $1,740,574 (7%)

**Total Revenue: $25,901,869**

**EXPENSES**

- Salary Related: 75%
- Service Related: 15%
- Facility Related: 3%
- Administrative: 5%
- Miscellaneous: 2%

**Total Expenses: 100%**

*Financial results shown are unaudited.*
The Jeptha Homer Wade Society recognizes our most significant supporters, all of whom have contributed $100,000 or more in total to Beech Brook. The Wade Family’s commitment to Beech Brook is truly immeasurable in our history, beginning with the donation of the orphanage on St. Clair Avenue by the first Jeptha Wade, to the land and some of the buildings on our present campus by his grandson. Members of the Wade family served more than 130 years on the Board of Trustees and Board of Managers, and their legacy lives on through the ongoing gifts from family members today.

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Woodruff Foundation

*deceased
For more than 60 years, Suzanne Brookhart Harrison dedicated her time, energy and enthusiasm to Beech Brook. In the process, she earned a very special place in the history of this institution and in the hearts of everyone who knew her. Her devotion to children and to the work of Beech Brook inspired both an annual award in her name and a giving society for those who have made charitable gifts to Beech Brook for 25 years or more.

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THE CHILDREN’S HOPE SOCIETY

(Bold indicates new members to the Society)

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 Beech Brook’s 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

(• indicates Samuel Clemens Society membership for current year)

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 individuals and family foundations 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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In the late 1980s, Harry Holmes received a phone call from a friend, Art Treuhaft, asking for a favor. An organization Art supported needed some help, and he asked if Harry would be willing to give a few volunteer hours to the cause.

“Long story short, I worked on some of the financial issues, and next thing you know I’m on the board. And I’m still here,” Harry said with a laugh.

Nearly 30 years later, Harry continues to serve on the board and, along with his wife Sandy, remains a dedicated and generous supporter of Beech Brook’s mission.

“Both Sandy and I have been involved in children’s causes and supporting families in many aspects, voluntarily and financially, and we continue to feel that’s important for a strong community and for the future.”

Giving back to the community is a family tradition, said Sandy. They’ve passed that legacy on to their own children, and they’re proud to have three generations now involved at Beech Brook. Daughter Megan Fellinger is a member of the Friends of Beech Brook, raising funds and, along with her husband Rob and their two sons, participating in the Fleet Feet 5K to benefit the organization.

“There has been a lot of change, but the ideals of Beech Brook haven’t changed,” Harry reflected. “The organization has run into roadblocks but has always been able to figure out how to get around those and get back to the mission and continue providing quality services.”
The pavers shown throughout this report were hand-painted by the children in Beech Brook’s Summer Garden Club. The pavers form a pathway through Beech Brook’s therapeutic garden, “Hope Grows Here.” The garden was a gift to the children from Fostering Hope with support from Liberty Mutual Insurance, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and Hawken School. Many include words of inspiration and brightly colored images that showcase the children’s creativity and hope for their futures.
MISSION

To advance the well-being and self-sufficiency of children, youth and families by providing effective, innovative, physical and behavioral health, permanency, educational and related services, and by serving as a strong voice for children, youth and families.