Creating a personal legacy of hope

We say it often, but never often enough. Thank you. We are so grateful for the generous support we receive through gifts to our annual fund, attendance or sponsorship at special events, memorial and tribute gifts.

But we seldom talk about our appreciation for the special people who make up our Children’s Hope Society. These are the donors who show their belief in Beech Brook by leaving planned gifts through their estates. 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.

Sometimes these donors make their wishes known to us in advance; at other times, we’re surprised and touched by an unexpected bequest.

In the past year, we’ve had several examples of individuals who did just that. One of those donors, Margaret Patch, had quietly contributed to Beech Brook through the annual fund for many years. Yet when she passed away, she left $100,000 – one of our largest bequests in recent history – to support the agency’s mentoring program.

Still another unexpected and generous gift came recently from the estate of Margaret Bray Hoven, daughter of the late Pierce Bray, who was a longtime Beech Brook director and life director. We are so grateful that Margaret and her husband Chuck continued to follow in the footsteps of Pierce and Maud Bray through years of consistent support and now through this special bequest from Margaret.

We are grateful to these current active Children’s Hope Society members who have let us know that Beech Brook will be remembered in their estate plans.

Eileen M. Burkhart
Cindy and Edward Crotty
Kathryn and Robert Falls
Carol S. Markey
Eleanor Gregory
Kathy and Jim Pender

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This edition of Beech Leaves is focusing on the many individuals, organizations, and corporations that contribute to Beech Brook each year. On behalf of the Board, the staff and the more than 15,000 children, teens and families we serve, I thank you for all you do. We are so grateful for your loyalty, commitment and steadfast support. We could simply not provide the programs and services we do without your financial support. We see each and every one of our donors as essential partners in our efforts to help children, families and, ultimately, our community thrive!

The direct recipients of Beech Brook’s services are not the only people who benefit from your contributions. Your friends, family and communities do, too. Those 15,000 people whom we serve are touching hundreds of thousands of lives themselves each year! When all families have the chance to overcome adversity, we are all surrounded by stronger families. When we enhance family health and stability for everyone, we all get to enjoy living in better communities. When all children experience healthy social and emotional development, teachers are able to spend their time teaching all children, and academic and career success is more likely for everyone. When we do these things, everyone is more likely to be successful, and everyone has a better opportunity to form healthy relationships which promote healthy communities. In the end, we all benefit.

Because of your investment in our community, Beech Brook is able to employ highly trained and skilled individuals who provide human services that help all people reach their full potential. Because of you, we are able to provide professional support for families to help them build a solid social and emotional foundation for their children, and collaborate with teachers, doctors and other providers so we can help each other help others. We are able to provide services and supports in our schools and in our community to make sure that all children, teens and families have the resources they need to successfully navigate life, and we provide expert skill, knowledge and resources for parents, foster parents and others so our community can raise great kids.

When you invest in Beech Brook, you are really investing in the well-being of all people in our community. Everyone benefits when we ensure that everyone has the ability to realize their full potential and in return can contribute to our collective well-being.

Greater Cleveland is a better place because of you.

Creating a personal legacy of hope

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Will you consider becoming a member of The Children’s Hope Society?

The simplest and most common types of planned gifts are bequests or will commitments. Through a bequest, Beech Brook would be named in a person’s will as the beneficiary of a specific amount of money or percentage of an estate. Bequests can be made for the general purposes of the organization or for a specific purpose or program.

If you are interested in more information about the Children’s Hope Society and how to make a planned gift to Beech Brook, please contact Jack Stinedurf, Senior Director of Development at 216.831.2255 ext. 2286 or jstinedurf@beechbrook.org.
In 1869, Samuel Clemens, best known to the world as Mark Twain, came to Cleveland to give a lecture on behalf of the Cleveland Orphan Asylum (now Beech Brook) at the invitation of his good friend and orphanage benefactor Emily Severance. On January 22, the 19th anniversary of the institution’s founding, Clemens’ appearance drew in a full house. He closed the lecture with an impassioned appeal to his audience to support the organization as generously as they could, and he donated all the proceeds from the evening to care for the children. As we come to the close of our 166th year, we’re sure he would be happy to know that our generous community continues that tradition of support.

The Samuel Clemens Society was created to recognize the individuals, foundations and organizations who, like Clemens, support Beech Brook’s work by giving at a leadership level — $1,000 and above. We are so grateful for the generosity shown by these members and for their investment in the future of children and families.

Guests at this year’s reception in November enjoyed hearing “Messages of Hope” from our staff about the children and families we help through their support.
It was a good idea to run or walk at a brisk pace for this year’s 5K Run/1 Mile walk on October 21, but the cold weather didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of this year’s participants! We appreciate all the hardy souls who braved a 30-degree morning to support the event.

Thank you so much to the sponsors of our 8th 5k Run/1 Mile Walk. We’re so grateful for your commitment!

PLATINUM
Calf, Halter & Griswold LLP

GOLD
Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon
Fairport Asset Management
Kathy and Jim Pender
Edda and Terry Owen
PRADCO
The Seifert Family

SILVER
Iris and Victor DeMarco
The Forhan Family Foundation

BRONZE
Change for Charity
George and Arlette Coulter
Glenmede
Medical Mutual
Jennifer and Brandon Miller
Debra Rex and George George
Jack Stinedurf and Lori Locke
Holiday gifts make wishes come true for Beech Brook children

The holidays are a time of giving, and we are so lucky to be surrounded by people of such great generosity!

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals who have already donated toys, gift cards, winter hats and gloves, and more to the children and families served by Beech Brook!

We are so grateful for your help in bringing cheer to children in need this holiday season!

Amazon, Twinsburg Sorting Center
Chagrin Chiropractic and Wellness Center
Cleveland Firefighters Union Local 93
Deloitte Services
Gabby Fisher
Ohio State Waterproofing
Santa’s Smiling Elves – Jordan Kinford
Sedlak Management Consultants
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
Tarkett

The future of hope

At Beech Brook, we wouldn’t have a history of hope without our donors who keep that legacy alive. We were so touched by the generosity of our youngest donor this holiday season who truly personifies the future of hope. Gabby Fisher told her parents that she didn’t want her friends to bring her presents to her birthday party this year. Instead, she asked them to bring socks, gloves and hats for children whose families can’t afford them. Thank you so much to Gabby and to her parents, Angela and Eugene Fisher, for cultivating a spirit of caring in their daughter!
Beech Brook is a contract agency of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

Beech Brook’s Mission
Helping children and families thrive by promoting healthy child development, strengthening the ability to overcome adversity, and enhancing family health and stability.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

Beech Ball

Mark your calendars now for Friday, May 10, and join us as we celebrate 25 years of partying at the Beech Ball!

If you enjoyed the event at TENK West Bank in the Flats, you’ll be glad to know we’re making a return trip, by popular demand.

We are delighted to announce that Cindy and Ed Crotty have agreed to be our honorary chairs for the 2019 Beech Ball, supported by our awesome veteran co-chairs Tracy and Dave Crandall, Jennifer Pinkerton, and Jane and Gary Small. It’s a great team that we know will bring great results!

As you may know, a huge part of the financial success of the Beech Ball each year comes through our Corporate Sponsorships, so if you are willing to lend a hand or you know someone whose company or foundation may be interested, please let us know.

We’re always looking for great auction items and packages as well to make it a fun and profitable evening. Keep us in mind!

Contact the Development Department at 216.831.2255 if you’d like more information on becoming a sponsor or table host or if you have any interest in helping with the planning. We’d love to have you!