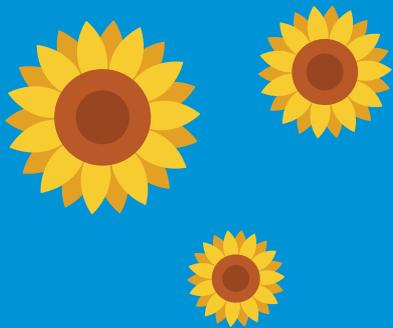




BEECH BROOK ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Rising to the Challenge



From the Chairman of the Board

Charles B. Zellmer

This fall marks the end of my two-year term as chairman of the Board of Directors, and it has been a tumultuous time indeed in Beech Brook's history. COVID-19 was not the only challenge we confronted. As many of you are aware, our plans to sell our Pepper Pike property, proceeds from which would fund vital services for children and families and strengthen our organization, were unsuccessful. Although disappointing, we remain ready to re-engage with the community and with city officials to plan the next steps, and we feel confident that we will ultimately achieve our goal.

I am so proud, but not surprised, that Beech Brook was named one of Ohio's Top Workplaces for the past two years. I learned early on that Tom Royer, his executive team and the entire staff are a well-oiled machine, and the best thing I could do was stand aside and be certain to answer Tom's calls. He and his team have created an industry-leading culture that has allowed Beech Brook not only to weather the pandemic, but to excel.

Beech Brook will face more challenges, both short and long term, but I can assure you that we also have a talented Board with fresh ideas and perspectives mixed with institutional longevity and knowledge. We have a talented and dedicated staff and leadership team whose response to the challenges they face every day is remarkable, and I thank them for the great job they do.

I thank the Board for its constant support, and I thank Tom Royer who has taught me so much about Beech Brook and about the families we serve. He is an eternal optimist who believes we can do anything we set our minds to, and that attitude has inspired the entire organization.

And on behalf of the Board, I thank you — our donors and funders — for your faithful support for the vulnerable children and families of our community. It has been a true honor to be the Chairman of Beech Brook's Board of Directors, and I hope that I have done my part in helping Beech Brook grow stronger and ready to move forward through its next 169 years.



**From the
President/CEO
Thomas P. Royer**



In January of 1852, the ladies of the Martha Washington and Dorcas Societies, led by social reformer Rebecca Rouse, met at the Old Stone Church to lay the groundwork for an orphanage, following a cholera epidemic that had left many children homeless and destitute. Beech Brook opened its doors as the Cleveland Orphan Asylum, marking the beginning of a long tradition of rising to the challenge of the times to bring hope and healing for our community's children and families.

Now, 169 years later, Beech Brook has again risen to the challenge of our time, the COVID-19 pandemic. Demonstrating the same resilience, vision and the courage to change course when needed, we have not just survived the pandemic. We are thriving.

This has been a group effort. From the Board making difficult budget and policy decisions, to the staff who transitioned into a fully remote workforce in just seven days, to the people who support our services, and to those staff who took personal risks and went above and beyond to make sure that our children and families had food and the technology they needed to attend school, everyone rose to the challenge.

While medical workers must treat, to the best of their ability, those afflicted with serious symptoms of COVID-19, Beech Brook has faced the task of picking up the pieces of a much broader pandemic: isolation. Low social connection makes people more vulnerable to anxiety, depression, antisocial behavior, and a higher risk of suicide. Lack of social connection is a greater detriment to health than obesity, smoking and high blood pressure.

Much of the work we have done this year is to make sure that the children and families we serve stay connected. People who feel more connected to others have higher self-esteem and greater empathy for others, and they are more trusting and cooperative.

And this year, despite the pandemic and the obstacles it has created, Beech Brook delivered on our promise to help children and families thrive.

There will be more challenges ahead, no doubt. There always are. But I can confidently say that the founders of Beech Brook would be proud of today's heroes and how Beech Brook has risen to the challenge once again.



“Storms make trees take deeper roots.”

~ Dolly Parton ~

At Beech Brook, we have deep roots ... roots that have grown deeper with every challenge met, every obstacle overcome for 169 years.

Like everyone else, our world was turned upside down overnight by the pandemic. We were called on once more to rise to the challenge and stay strong for our community’s most vulnerable children and families.

With the strength and resilience born of those deep roots, an unwavering commitment to our mission, and the support of a caring community and faithful supporters like you who believe in Beech Brook, we weathered this storm.

Many of us easily made the transition to remote work. But our direct service staff faced the transformational task of connecting virtually with children and families isolated at home, far too often with limited resources — including technology.

But they rose to the challenge, finding their motivation in the courage and resilience of the children and families they served.

Results that matter

Despite the seismic shift from face-to-face interactions to telehealth, phones and finally meeting in driveways, porches and parks, they continued to achieve high outcomes. Many volunteered to return to in-person meetings even when the risk remained high.

The results: clients receiving mental health services showed statistically significant decreases in problem severity and statistically significant increases in healthy functioning.

- On average, parents and youths reported being extremely satisfied with the services they received.
- 99% said treatment goals had been addressed, exceeding agency benchmarks.

For those taking part in phone or virtual classes provided through our Family Center, outcomes substantially exceeded the 90% benchmark for satisfaction.

- 98% were happy or very happy with services, and 99% were happy with the staff member who worked with them.
- 99% agreed that the program taught them ways to discipline and manage children without spanking,
- 100% felt the parenting program gave them ways to keep their family safe and secure and planned to change their parenting styles.
- Participants in Anger and Stress Management, Parenting, Fathers Groups and Healthy Relationship classes showed a statistically significant improvement in parenting skills; decrease in aggressive feelings and behaviors; awareness of community supports and resources; improvement in parenting philosophy and understanding of child abuse and neglect.





**“We do not have to become heroes overnight.
Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up,
seeing it is not as dreadful as it appeared,
discovering we have the strength to stare it down.”**

~ Eleanor Roosevelt ~

Denise Green

Case Manager Therapist, Early Childhood Services

I have one family that stands out. A paternal grandmother reached out to Beech Brook at the height of the pandemic. She had taken custody of her 5-year-old granddaughter — a grandchild she never knew she had — after the child had experienced multiple traumatic events due to her mother’s alcoholism.

Despite having had no previous relationship with this child, the grandmother has become a strong advocate for her, well versed in her diagnosis and involved in the treatment process. She never misses an appointment, actively participating, asking questions, following through with suggestions, and meeting with the Guardian Ad Litem. She has always stressed to the courts that she wants her grandchild to return to her mother but only when it can be safe.

As the child began to work through her trauma and became comfortable with me and her grandmother, she was able to speak up for herself. She told the court that she wanted to stay with her grandmother because she felt safe. Wise beyond her five years, she told her grandmother, “You can be my mommy until my mommy makes good choices.”

I still work with this child every week, and I’ll be helping to make sure she is placed in the right type of school for her when she begins kindergarten this fall.



Noel Weber

Case Manager Therapist, Foster Care

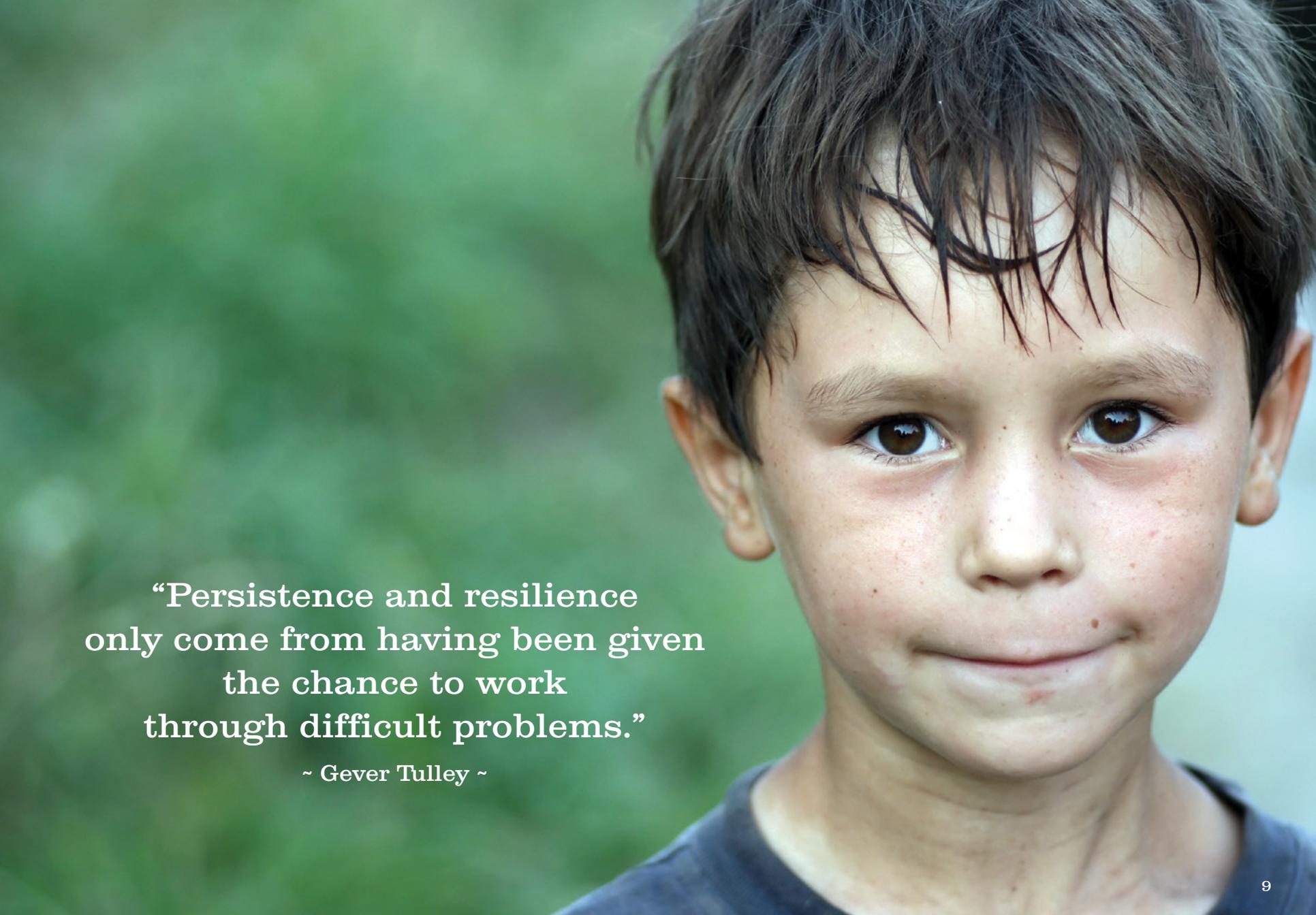
It's always wonderful when you see a client make so much progress despite the many struggles they've had to face. The pandemic brought about major positive change in a 6-year-old boy I've been working with in our foster care program. He'd been expelled from several preschools because he would be disruptive, defiant and aggressive with his peers and his teachers. He wasn't learning because he was being sent home so often.

When the pandemic hit and the child had to stay home with his foster family, something just seemed to click. Away from all the distractions and extra stress brought on by being at school, he was able to focus. Fortunately, his foster parents were patient and supportive in helping him with his online learning.

This summer, I helped enroll him in summer school, thinking that it would ease him back into being in the school environment. I'm proud to say that he wasn't sent home a single time during the entire summer! He passed pre-school and is now moving on to kindergarten where he will be in a regular classroom.

The pandemic kept kids away from their teachers and peers for over a year. But for this 6-year-old, it was a chance for him to focus on his education and gain confidence in himself as he learned that he can, in fact, handle what life throws at him.

And to top it off, his foster family bonded with him so much that they have started the adoption process.



“Persistence and resilience
only come from having been given
the chance to work
through difficult problems.”

~ Gever Tulley ~



“Courage doesn’t always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet voice
at the end of the day saying,
‘I will try again tomorrow.’”

~ Mary Anne Radmacher ~





Jean Homrighausen

Case Manager Therapist, Outpatient Services

There is a sister and brother with whom I work. Both have witnessed tragedy. Their biological dad has schizophrenia, and their grandmother struggles with bipolar disorder and dementia. The girl is dealing with anxiety, acute depression, self-worth and gender identity issues as well as learning difficulties. Despite their challenges, both are responsive and eager to talk. The boy told me, “You give me peace of mind.”

I asked the girl once if she had anything else to share with me after our session. She simply said, “I appreciate you.” My eyes filled with tears. This is so humbling and keeps me resilient and moving ahead despite the peril of the pandemic and isolation. It keeps me energized and overjoyed to be able to bring hope, healing, victory, joy and love to those sent to me for therapy.

Never giving up...





“Anything that’s human is mentionable,
and anything that is mentionable
can be more manageable.

When we can talk about our feelings,
they become less overwhelming,
less upsetting, and less scary.

The people we trust
with that important talk can
help us know that we are not alone.”

~ Fred Rogers ~



Pauline Congeni

Case Manager Therapist, School-Based Behavioral Health Services

I worked with a young teenager for three years, although I had known him since third grade. He struggled with anger issues and had trouble communicating his feelings in our sessions.

Gradually he began to share a little bit each time we met, and he was finally making progress. He was bringing his grades up and was proud of that accomplishment, as we all were for him.

There are a lot of gang-related shootings in our area. On this day last year, while on the way to the funeral of a friend who had been killed by gunfire, my client was shot in broad daylight. He died that day. He was just 15 years old.

The family was devastated.

I tried to be a support for his family, recommending grief counseling for his mother and talking with his sister about her loss. His mom is now working full time as a nurse's aide and says helping others is helping her get through her pain. His sister is finding some comfort by caring for her nieces and nephews.

I, too, miss this young boy's smile, his sense of humor, and the sparkle in his eyes. As a therapist, I have had to deal with this type of loss before, but this was the worst. I have strong faith, and I believe my faith got me through this.



Ron Robinson

Lead Case Manager/Therapist, Police-Assisted Referral (PAR) Program

I first met 19-year-old Henry after a domestic violence incident involving his mother resulted in a referral to the PAR program.

He looked nervous and lost when we met, but through observation and conversation, I found him to be a bright young man with many goals and a good head on his shoulders.

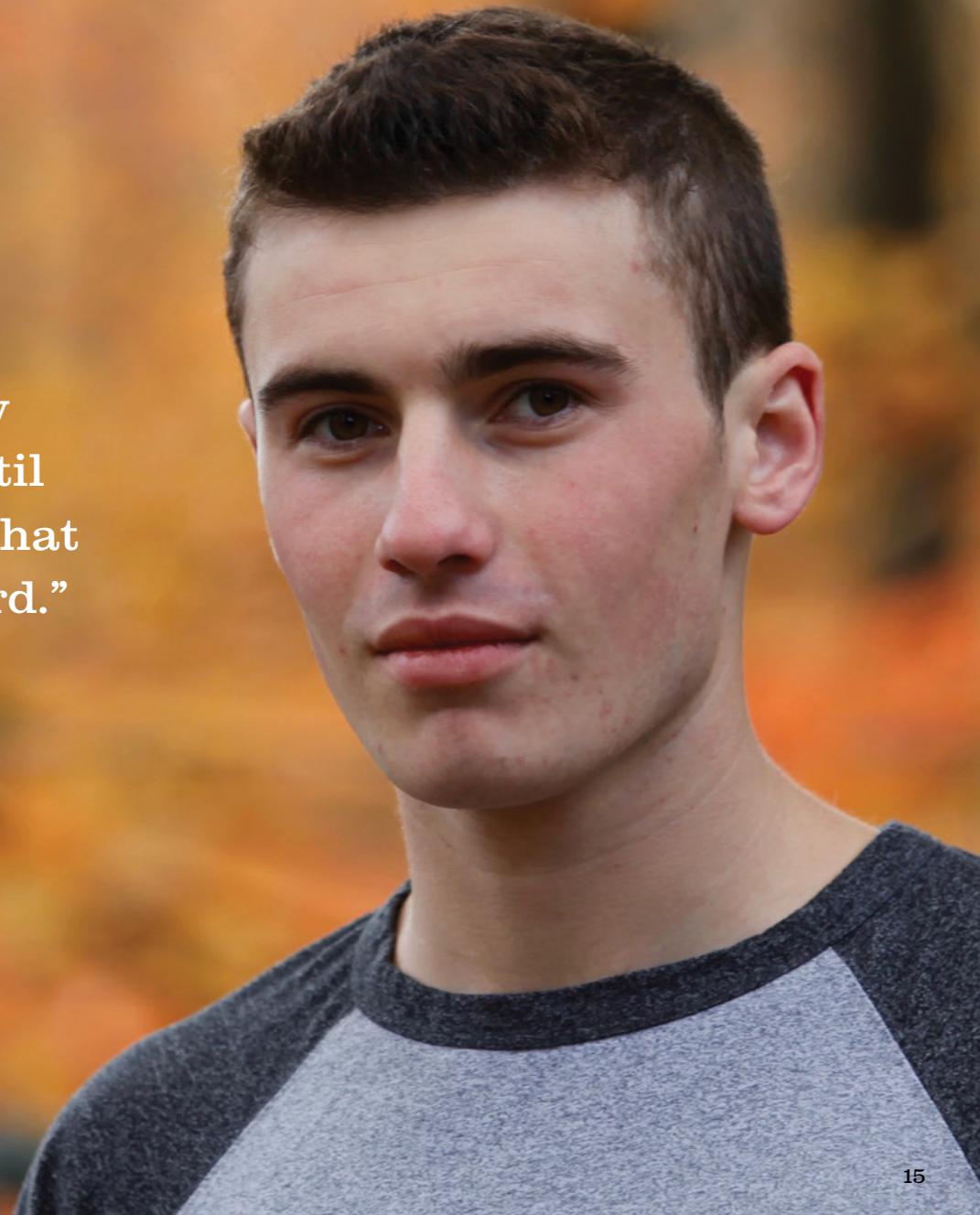
Both of Henry's parents were diagnosed with mental health issues, a situation that had impacted his childhood and adolescence. Adding to that trauma, he experienced the hurt of abandonment when his mother left home after the reported domestic violence situation. This abrupt transition into solitude, just as he was embarking into adulthood, coincided with an even more isolating challenge: the pandemic. Henry had no stable source of income, no form of identification, and no means of transportation.

Through PAR, we connected Henry to resources such as financial guidance, employment opportunities and mentoring. We provided items for day-to-day needs, including bus fare, a cell phone and household necessities. More importantly, we were able to help rekindle a sense of hope and slowly foster the seeds of self-sufficiency to restore his determination to succeed.

Henry is now proudly supporting himself with the tools we helped him develop. He's formed positive connections and relationships, is improving his mental health and wellness, and is coping well with life's challenges. Henry has progressively shifted from contact with PAR daily, to every other day, to once a month. We believe he will do well, as his road to restoration is undeniably at hand.

“We don’t even know
how strong we are until
we are forced to bring that
hidden strength forward.”

~ Isabel Allende ~





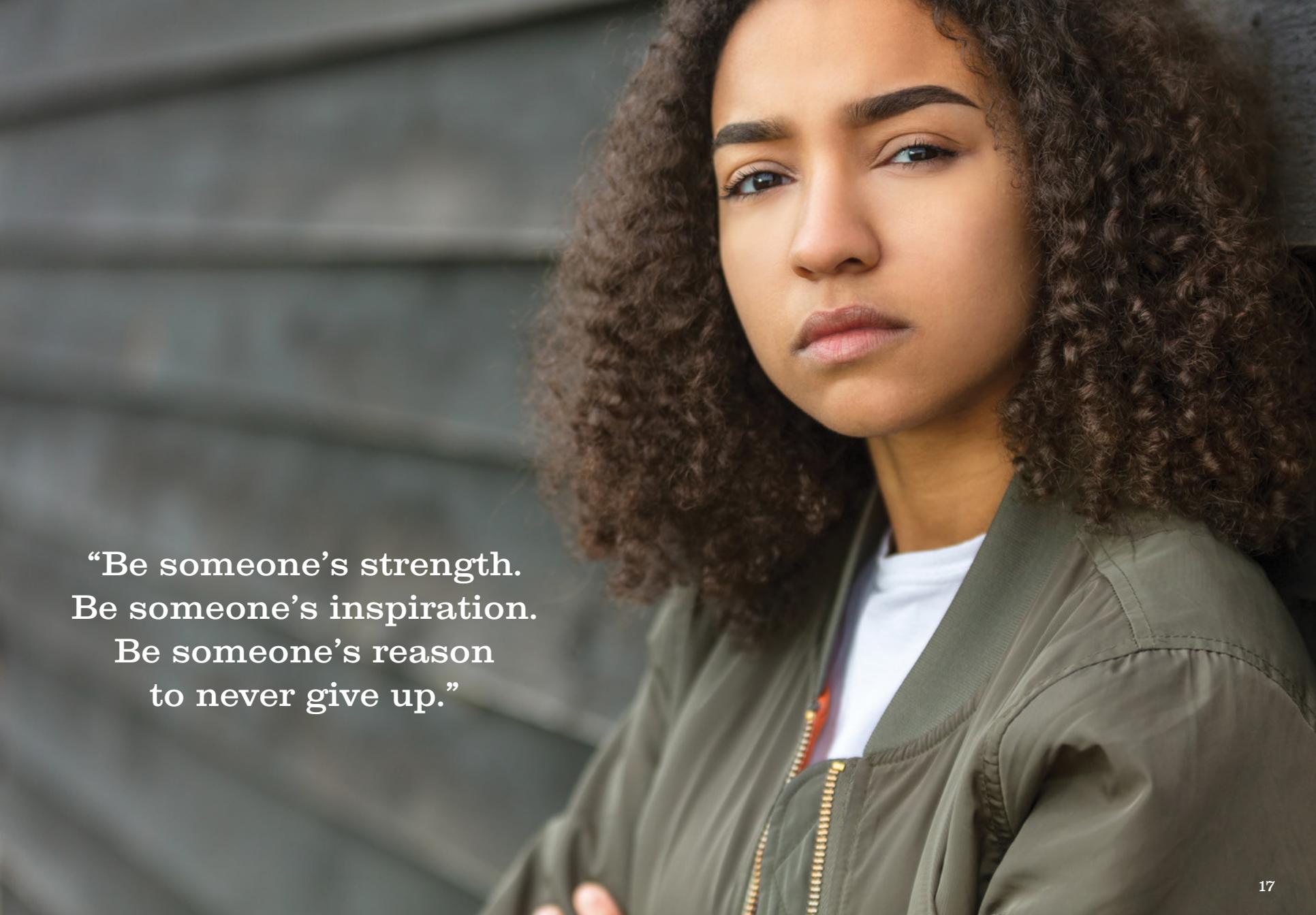
LaTanya Perdue
Case Manager Therapist, Family Preservation

During the pandemic, things have been very rough for all of us. We have all had to endure the stress of changing our lives around to a life that no one was accustomed to. Resiliency, however, still peeked through the blinds of these trying times.

For many of our families, it was hard to feel hope and to see the positives out of such an invasive situation in all our lives. One of our primary duties as the helpers was to provide support, encouragement and validation when everything seemed to be going downhill.

One family struggled to adjust to the changes at first. The client, 14, was frequently running away from home, not doing her homework and not listening to her mother. I started with phone therapy and, once we were able, began meeting face-to-face outside. We used interventions that helped them build on their strengths and increase positive interactions. The mom was receptive to hearing about her daughter's struggles, and they worked through barriers they had not realized were affecting their relationship so much.

After only a few months, my client made a complete turnaround due to the family's willingness to adapt and work with each other. She was doing her schoolwork consistently, telling her mother of her whereabouts, and being more respectful to her family. It turned out that the time they spent together during the pandemic ended up being a positive thing for their relationship, leading them to get to know each other better and accepting each other's points of view.

A young woman with voluminous, curly brown hair is the central focus of the image. She is wearing a dark green bomber jacket over a white t-shirt. Her expression is serious and contemplative as she looks slightly off-camera to the left. The background is a dark, textured wall with horizontal lines, possibly a brick wall or a similar material. The lighting is soft, highlighting her features and the texture of her hair.

“Be someone’s strength.
Be someone’s inspiration.
Be someone’s reason
to never give up.”

**“Do the best you can until you know better.
Then when you know, do better.”**

~ Maya Angelou ~

Christal Martin

Family Life Educator, S.T.E.P.S. Program

During the pandemic, our S.T.E.P.S. team had to be creative in finding ways to reach parents of babies and young children.

One of our staff members was in a parking lot at Walmart when she noticed a family she thought would benefit from our program. She had one of our S.T.E.P.S. “brain bags” in the car, and, right on the spot, she started to show them simple ways to help stimulate their child’s brain. After that, she was able to get their contact information so we could enroll them in a class.

At the beginning, we did only virtual classes and individual phone sessions where we could go through each step (Security, Touch, Eyes, Play and Sound), one per week. As things have re-opened, we’ve been back in person at several sites.

It’s important to let parents know that they’re not doing anything wrong. I just want to pour into them what’s been poured into me.

And it’s amazing. You never know what part you might play in someone’s life. Sometimes just an encouraging word might make all the difference.

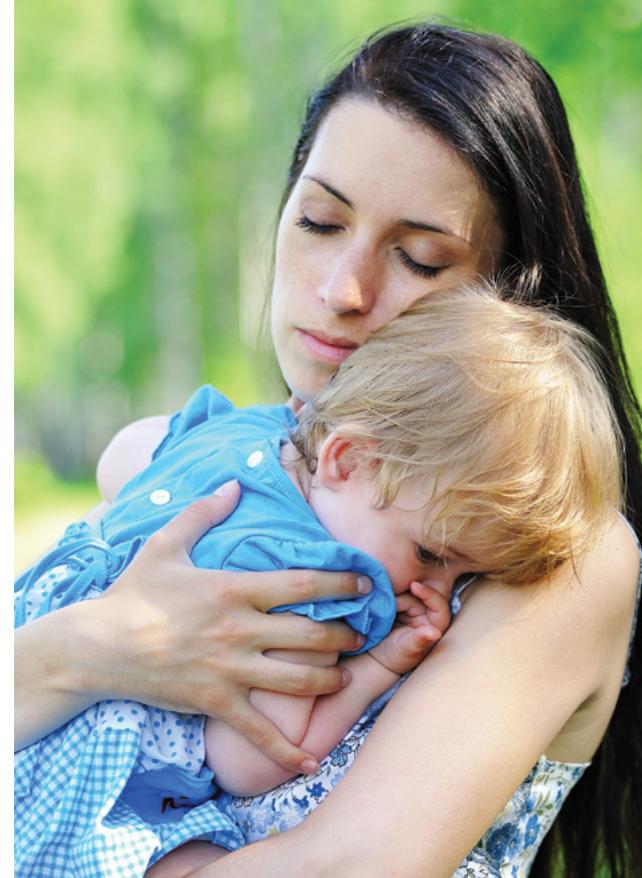


“Keep hope alive.”

Vanessa Jordan

Case Manager Therapist, Early Childhood

My favorite quote is “keep hope alive.” Many times I talk to mothers who feel they are at the end of their ropes. Through their tears and pain, I work to encourage them to push through their struggles, reminding them that things will get better. Because if the parent gives up, a positive future for the child could be at risk.



**“My life was saved
by attending
Beech Brook
parenting
programs.”**



“I took a class at Beech Brook
four or five years ago.

At that time, Mr. Carter said,
‘If you have the right father in your life,
things would be a lot different.’
It has stayed with me until this day.
I am looking forward to returning
to Beech Brook for more classes
and for becoming that ‘right father.’”

Services Provided by Program

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION – 1,061

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Early Childhood Mental Health Services – 157
- Technical Assistance – Child-Specific Consultation – 42
- General Consultation to CEOGC Child Care Centers – 384
 - 63 Centers
 - 96 Sessions

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- Anger Management – 208
- CARES Act Services – 90
- Family Drop-In – 102
- Family Stability Homeless Prevention – 157
- Family-Focused Outings/Workshops – 128
- Fathers Drop-In – 49
- Health Hub – 31
- Healthy Relationship/Violence Prevention – 27
- K-12 – 1,031
- Teen Parenting – 17
- Police-Assisted Referral Program – 284
- Parenting Classes – 157
- S.T.E.P.S. Parents – 211
- S.T.E.P.S. Children – 281
- Supportive Visitation – 47
- Community Wraparound at Patrick Henry School – 280

COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

- Connect (Attachment-Based Parenting) – 6
- Family Preservation – 34
- Intensive Home-Based Treatment – 27
- Nurturing Parenting – 137
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services – 189
- REACH – 593
- SAFE – 35
- STRIDE Mentoring – 3

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

- Chardon Local Schools – 399
- Orange City Schools – 255
- School-Based Behavioral Health Services – 1,416
- Twinsburg City Schools – 519

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

- Foster-to-Adoption – 5
- Bridges – 27
- Levels 1-3 Foster Children – 37
- Level 4 Foster Children – 34
- Respite – 2



8,462
Children and
Families Served





Thank you for your belief in Beech Brook.

As it has been throughout our history, you — our caring Beech Brook supporters — also played a vital part in sustaining Beech Brook’s legacy of service to the children and families of our community.

With your support, we will continue to rise to meet whatever challenges lie ahead. That’s our Beech Brook promise to you and to all the generations of caring people who have put their faith in Beech Brook since 1852.

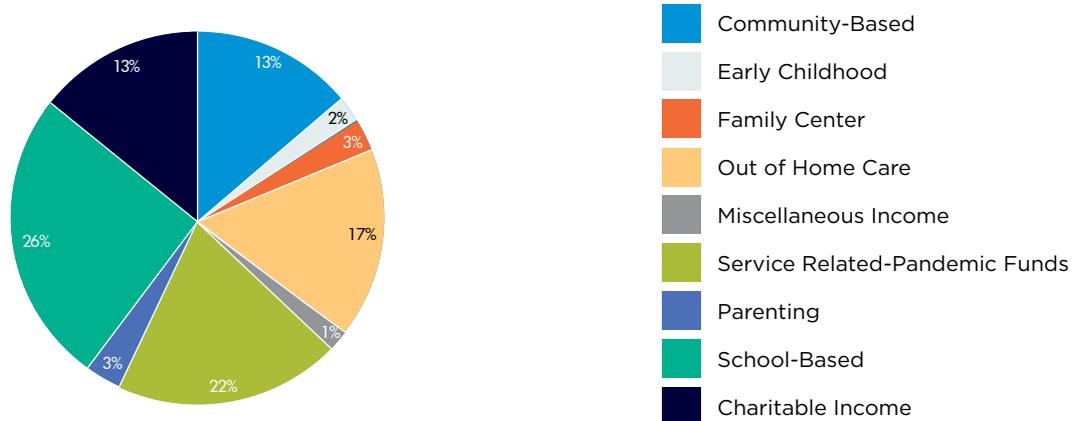
For a complete list of all our generous donors, please visit our website at www.beechbrook.org.

Revenue and Expenses

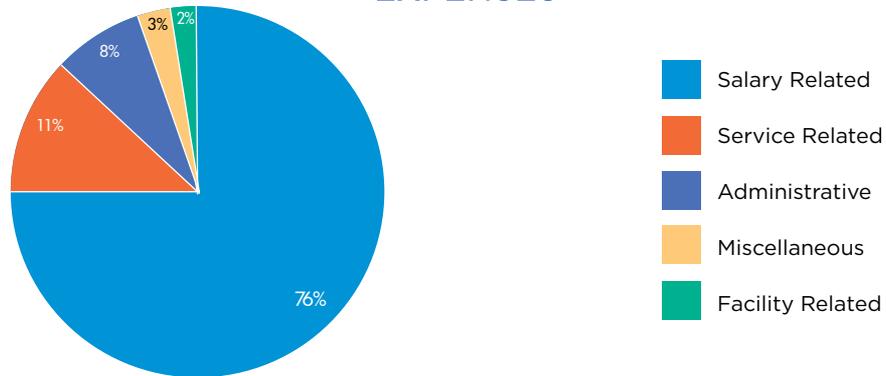
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

TOTAL Operating Revenue: \$13,352,272

OPERATING REVENUE



EXPENSES



Beech Brook Board of Directors

FY 20 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21)

Chair

Charles B. Zellmer

Vice Chair Administration

Victor J. DeMarco

Vice Chair Development

Jennifer N. Pinkerton

Vice Chair Finance/ Treasurer

Kathryn L. Kaesberg

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Gretchen Dupps
Brad W. Kostka
Rachel F. Lindberg
Amanda M. Miller
Brandon R. Miller
Jennifer A. Mills
Terry W. Owen
Robert P. Phillips-Plona
Thomas A. Seifert
Mark I. Singer
Gary M. Small
Alicia C. Trybus
Shawn T. Wright

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G. Walter Stuelpe

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Arthur W. Treuhaft

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Nancy Klein
Anthony R. Michel
Jane Q. Outcalt
Gretchen D. Smith

President/CEO

Thomas P. Royer

Emerging Leaders Board

President

Danielle Oddo

Treasurer

Sara Al-Nimer

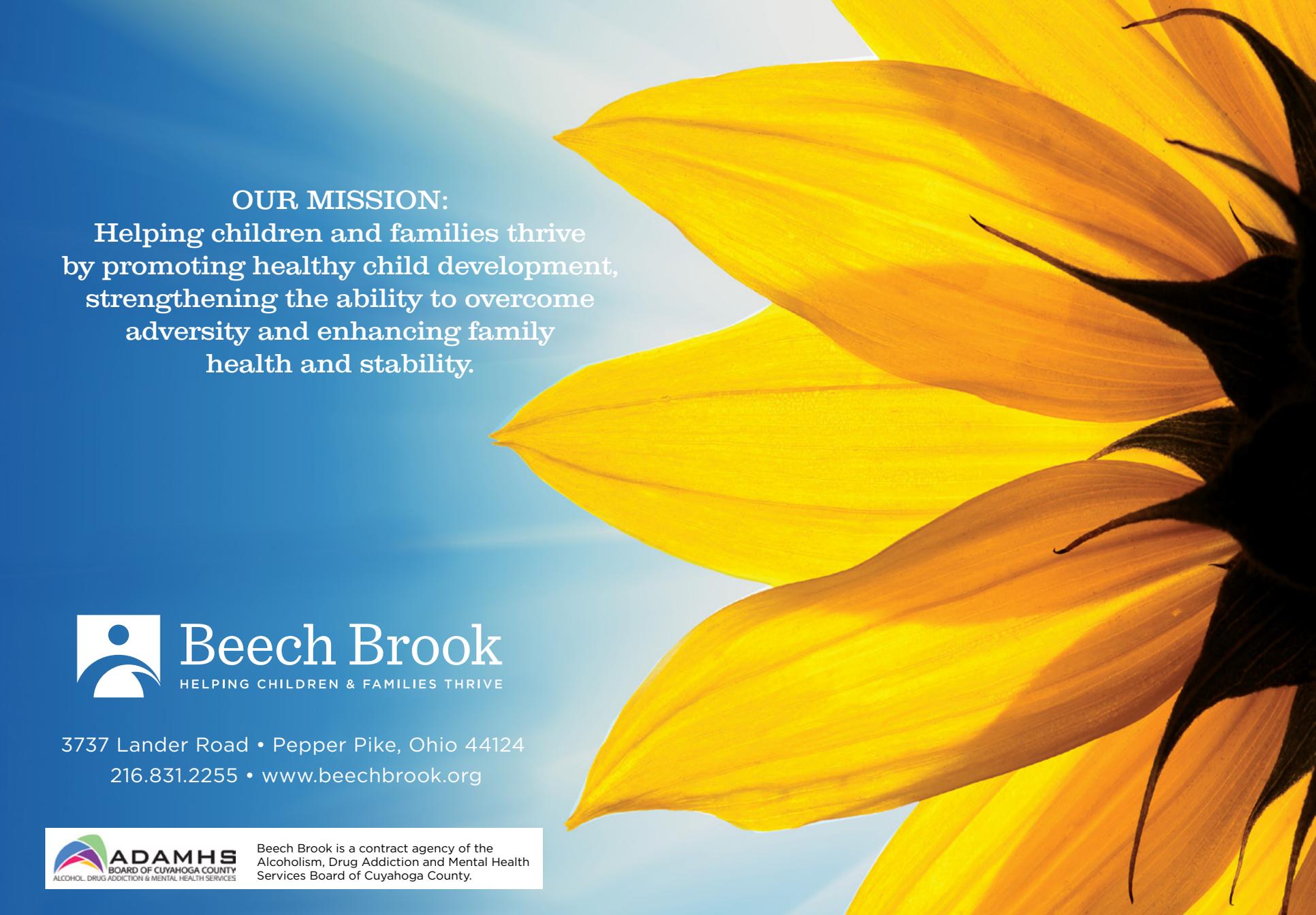
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Estefany Rodriguez

Members

Laura Bergant
Alexander Dorman
Michael Anne McCann
Mary Kate Moller
Alison Potash
Aseem Uppal



A large, vibrant sunflower with bright yellow petals and a dark brown center is positioned on the right side of the page, set against a clear blue sky background.

OUR MISSION:

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



Beech Brook

HELPING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THRIVE

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216.831.2255 • www.beechbrook.org



Beech Brook is a contract agency of the
Alcoholism, Drug Addiction and Mental Health
Services Board of Cuyahoga County.