



# MOVING UPSTREAM

**BEECH BROOK ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018



## **A Message** from **Brandon R. Miller** Beech Brook Chairman of the Board

Over the past 10 years, philanthropic organizations have faced many obstacles including a reduction in funding from a multitude of sources, increased programmatic costs and societal issues that continue to expand, evolve and become increasingly complex to navigate.

I have been a member of the Board of Directors since 2010, and I have seen Beech Brook overcome many of these obstacles. The resiliency of Beech Brook is the result of an organization that has been able to listen, look and feel the needs of our community and adapt to its complex issues.

Helping vulnerable children and families thrive is a team effort. It takes all of us — Beech Brook's staff, executive leadership, board, community and the many donors, funders and collaborators who work with us — to achieve this mission and vision.

Only by continuing to work together can we create a better future for our community's children and families. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank all of you for your strong and ongoing commitment to Beech Brook. We are so grateful for your support!



## **A Message from Thomas P. Royer**

Beech Brook President/CEO

Imagine you're standing on the edge of a river. Suddenly a flailing child comes hurtling by. Without thinking, you dive in, grab the child and swim to shore. But before you can recover, another child comes by. You dive in and rescue her as well.

Then another child comes into sight. . . and another. . . and another. You call for help, and people take turns fishing out child after child. How long will it take before some wise person heads upstream to find out why so many children are falling in the river in the first place?

When we deal only with the aftermath of traumatic events and toxic environments, we are suffering from the results of downstream thinking. We are treating the effects but not the cause of the suffering that too many children and families are enduring. We are not keeping our children from drowning.

With this in mind, we are reshaping the way we approach and do our work at Beech Brook. We will be working every day to identify those who are experiencing unhealthy social determinants of health, to reduce school violence, to keep families together, and as our mission guides us, to "help children and families thrive." We are focused not only on treating but on preventing the devastating toll of today's epidemic — abuse, trauma, daily exposure to violence, the toxic stress of living in poverty — and its lifelong impact on our children, our families and the future of our community.

**WE ARE MOVING UPSTREAM.**



# MOVING UPSTREAM





Far too many children in Cleveland are being swept downstream on raging currents of abuse, neglect and other traumas in a community where more than half live in poverty. We may not be able to save them all, but through prevention and early intervention, we're pulling hundreds closer to safety every day and preventing many others from going over the edge.

With your help, we're giving parents the support and tools they need to keep their children on safe ground. We're sending out lifelines along the way to pull more children out of the water as early as possible to avert greater trauma. We're providing the vital and healing treatment both parents and children need to break the vicious cycle of abuse and neglect.

Our jobs won't be done until no child is swept downstream. Our mission won't be accomplished until every child in our community has the chance to grow up to be a healthy parent and a productive citizen.

We know we can't navigate that river alone but then, we've never had to. Since 1852, Beech Brook has had the support of a caring community behind us as we've evolved to meet the needs of children and families in every chapter of those 166 years. We ask you to join hands with us again along the shore as we work to make our community a safer place for today's children and tomorrow's families.

A photograph of a forest stream. The water is clear and flows over large, moss-covered rocks. The surrounding forest is dense with tall, thin trees and vibrant green foliage. The scene is peaceful and natural.

# THE HIGH PRICE OF HEADING DOWNSTREAM

# “When they took those kids, they took my heart.”

Shirley’s ride downstream started early and picked up speed as she hurtled down the rapids of multiple childhood traumas. Raped at knifepoint at age 11. Living in constant fear of a violent and alcoholic stepfather who, among other horrors, beat her mother, terrorized the children, killed their pet and gave them alcohol to make them sleep.

“I never had a childhood,” she says now. What childhood she did have ended abruptly with a plunge into motherhood at 13. Her mother told her that was it. This was her life now. No more of the sports that she loved. Finishing school was not in the cards. Shirley felt trapped in a world of poverty where her future was already carved in stone.

Over the next few years, Shirley moved from one toxic situation to another. By the time she was 23, she’d had six kids. She’s the first to admit that she wasn’t a good parent, not by a long shot.

Hopeless and overwhelmed, she used alcohol to cope. “I turned to the bottle,” she says. “I didn’t want to feel anything, and when I woke up the next day and everything was the same, I turned to the bottle again.” Between the alcohol abuse and some bad parenting decisions, she lost custody of all six kids to the foster care system while she went to prison.

“When they took those kids, they took my heart,” she says.

Two years in prison gave Shirley time to get sober and to do a lot of thinking about how she’d gotten to that point — and how to do better.

Life hit rock bottom again when Shirley’s mom, with whom she’d most recently been living, died. Now homeless, Shirley was desperate, but she knew she needed to change her life and get it right this time. Her older kids were grown but the trauma of their tumultuous childhood had already sent some of them downstream. One son has been in and out of jail. Another daughter became a teen mom and seemed destined to repeat the same cycle with the next generation. And now Shirley had two younger daughters to raise. She knew that this was her last chance to become the parent and role model she could have been.



## AT LAST, A SAFE SHORE

That's when Shirley found the first safe haven of her life through Beech Brook's Supportive Housing/Family Stability Program where the staff helped her find an apartment and understand everything she needed to do to maintain a stable home for her youngest children. Beech Brook staff helped her understand her bills and how to access the resources and services she needed. They went with her to school appointments to enroll her children and talk about their needs. They linked one daughter up with Beech Brook's School-Based Mental Health Program and art therapy.

"I can talk to them about anything," Shirley says. "They never judge us. They just help us."

"I'm 46 years old but I'm still learning. I don't want my 9- and 12-year-old daughters to go through what I did. I'm going to fight for them. I want them to graduate from high school and go to college." Shirley feels ashamed that she's often not able to help her kids with their homework because of her lack of education. "I feel less of a mother because I can't help them, but I don't want them to know that I don't know how because I had to quit school at 14."





## LIFE UPSTREAM

When you meet Shirley today, the first thing you notice is her warm smile and engaging personality. But not that long ago, she was withdrawn and too shy to participate in anything outside her apartment. With the encouragement of Beech Brook’s staff, she began to get involved with other residents and volunteered to help with activities. She joined a Beech Brook art therapy group where she is exploring her own vision and goals for the future for the first time in her life.

She’s been working part-time and is hoping for a full-time job. And she’s still fighting for her older children, determined to keep them from repeating the mistakes she made.

“One of my daughters is going to the Drop-In Center for help with her parenting. If I could have gone there, I know my life would have been different. I tell everybody I know to go to Beech Brook,” she says.

After a lifetime of just barely staying afloat, Shirley’s finally reached a safe shore and solid ground...but with a trail of pain and heartbreak in her wake.

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# WHAT IF?

Shirley's story is real, and there are far too many more like her in our community. Beech Brook has helped Shirley turn her life around. But what if that rescue had begun upstream?

- What if Shirley's parents had taken Parenting and Anger Management classes and provided a safe and nurturing home?
- What if Shirley had learned from a Comprehensive Sex Education class how to protect herself from teen pregnancy so that she could graduate from high school?
- What if, as a new parent, Shirley had participated in a S.T.E.P.S. group to learn how much power she had to influence her child's brain development — no matter how limited her own education had been?
- What if her older children had been identified for school-based services or outpatient counseling?
- What if she'd had the resources and support she needed to keep her children from going into foster care?
- What if a mentor had been there to lend a guiding hand to keep her children on a safer path?



## MOVING UPSTREAM MATTERS...TO ALL OF US

Moving upstream matters, and not just for those caught by the destructive and raging rapids of their ride downstream.

It matters to all of us.

**Prevention matters.** Stopping the abuse, neglect and childhood trauma matters. We all pay the price when children suffer and fail to reach their full potential.

**Education matters.** Helping parents understand the vital role they can play in supporting their baby's brain development and ability to succeed in school makes a critical difference.

**Early intervention matters.** Turning children's lives around at any point as they hurtle downstream matters in the costs to our society of violence, homelessness, incarceration and lack of education and job skills – and the earlier the better.

**Treatment matters.** Breaking the cycle of abuse and healing the scars of complex trauma give children and parents strength to fight against the destructive downstream currents of their pasts.

**You matter.** With your support, we've kept more than 15,000 children and families moving upstream this year. Thank you for believing in Beech Brook's mission and for extending your hand in hope for our community's future.

# Here's how your investment in Beech Brook helped more than 15,000 children and families **MOVE UPSTREAM!**

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED BY PROGRAM: **15,269**

*July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018*

### PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION AND EDUCATION

Comprehensive Sex Education .....	3,500
Early Childhood Services .....	318
• In-Home Mental Health Services/Child Care Consultation	
Family Drop-In Center Programs	
• Anger Management .....	344
• Family Drop-In .....	367
• Family Stability/Homeless Prevention.....	130
• Family-Focused Outings/Workshops .....	305
• Fathers Groups.....	76
• Health and Wellness Community Activities .....	445
• Health and Wellness Coaching .....	103
• Healthy Relationships.....	53
• Behavioral Health .....	181
• Moms and Mentors/Teen Moms .....	38
• PAR (Police Assisted Referrals).....	445
• Parenting Classes.....	163
• Parenting Workshops .....	198
• Saturday Parenting Workshops.....	263
• S.T.E.P.S. (Security, Touch, Eyes, Play and Sound)	
Parents .....	252
Children .....	301
• VOCA (Victims of Crime Assistance) .....	280
• Supportive Visitation (Families) .....	82
• Community Wraparound at Patrick Henry School....	304
• Towards Employment Parenting Program .....	35
Seminars for Divorcing Parents.....	1,827

### COMMUNITY-BASED TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

ACT Team for Transitional Youth/Young Adults .....	75
Connect (Attachment-Based Parenting).....	34
Family Preservation .....	79
Intensive Home-Based Treatment .....	44
Outpatient Behavioral Health Services.....	353
REACH (Therapeutic Behavioral Services).....	917
SAFE (Case Coordination for Multisystem-Involved Youth) ..	48
School-Based Services	
• Chardon Schools	
Direct Services .....	333
Youth-led Prevention .....	76
• Orange Schools	
Direct Service.....	217
Therapeutic Groups.....	100
• School-Based Behavioral Health Services.....	2,276
• Twinsburg Schools	
Direct Services .....	291
Summer Program.....	48
Adult Prevention and Education Programs .....	157
STRIDE Mentoring Program .....	113

### FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Adoptions .....	5
Foster Care	
• Levels 1-3.....	47
• Level 4.....	46



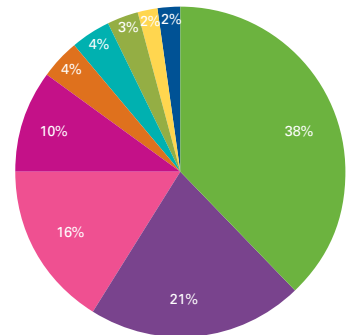
# REVENUE and EXPENSES

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Total Operating Revenue: \$12,991,741

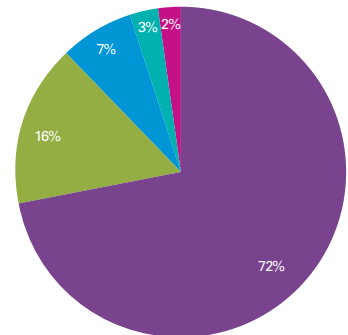
## OPERATING REVENUE

38%	School-Based Services
21%	Foster Care
16%	Charitable Income
10%	Family Health
4%	Early Childhood
4%	Act Team
3%	Outpatient Clinic
2%	Family Preservation
2%	Programs for At-Risk Youth/Families



## EXPENSES

72%	Salary-Related
16%	Service-Related
7%	Administrative
3%	Miscellaneous
2%	Facility-Related





## Thank you for your investment in children and families!

Every dollar you give to Beech Brook matters. Every gift will help Beech Brook move upstream to build a community where children and families thrive. Thank you for your generosity and your belief in Beech Brook’s mission.

### THE JEPHTHA HOMER WADE SOCIETY

The Jephtha Homer Wade Society honors our most significant supporters, each of whom has 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.

**BOLD** denotes new members.

The Abington Foundation  
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 The Treu-Mart Fund  
 United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland  
 United Way of Greater Cleveland  
 US Dept of Health and Human Services  
 Thomas H. White Foundation  
 Woodruff Foundation

\*Deceased

## CHILDREN'S HOPE 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 the endowment supports the ongoing provision of high quality services for children and families, innovation and program development, and research.

Glenna\* and Howard\* Bissell  
Thomas H. Brooks\*  
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Patricia and John G. Chapman, Sr.  
Cindy and Edward Crotty  
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Mabel E. Talbot\*  
The C. Carlisle & Margaret M. Tippit  
Charitable Trust, in honor of  
Kathryn M. Loomis\*  
Ellen Garretson Wade Memorial Fund  
\*Deceased

## THE SUZANNE BROOKHART HARRISON 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.

**BOLD** denotes new members.

Hope\* and Stanley\* Adelstein  
Mary and Richard Albrecht  
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Virginia and John Wilhelm, Jr.  
Lydia\* and Lewis\* Williams  
Lynn and Alan Wood  
Janet and Robert Yaroma  
Joan and William Ziegler  
Amelia\* and Roy\* Zook  
\*Deceased

## THE DEBRA REX FUND FOR POSITIVE PARENTING

The Debra Rex Fund for Positive Parenting was created in 2017 in honor of Debra's lifelong commitment to improving the lives of children and families and in recognition of her exceptional and dedicated service to Beech Brook from 1991 – 2017. The funds will be used to support Beech Brook's prevention and early intervention programs.

Anonymous	Cindy and Edward Crotty	Carol and Anthony Michel	Lynn and Mark Singer
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Mary and William Conway	Nancy Kortemeyer	Nancy and Thomas Royer	
Tracy and Dave Crandall	Lori Locke and Jack Stinedurf	Paula and Thomas Seger	

## THE SAMUEL CLEMENS SOCIETY

In 1869, Samuel Clemens was so moved by the work being done by the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum 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, foundations and organizations that generously support our work with gifts of \$1,000 or more each year. These annual gifts provide critical funds that enable Beech Brook to respond to the needs of our community's children and families.

### **Visionary Circle - \$10,000.00 +**

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Anonymous  
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### **Champion Circle - \$5,000.00 +**

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Paula and Thomas Seger  
Lynn and Mark Singer  
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Dan and Ellen Zelman Family Foundation

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## ANNUAL FUND DONORS

### \$500 – \$999

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