

SUMMER 2020



# Seasons of Transformation

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME



## OUR MISSION

*Creating lasting results that strengthen families and our community by guiding individuals – from infancy to independence – through comprehensive education, behavioral, and health services.*



## OUR VISION

*We are the leader in offering hope, help, and healing through a continuum of health and education services and partnerships.*





Dear Friends,

It's with great pleasure that I present to you this first new edition newsletter by The Children's Home. My intent is to share this publication with you on a reoccurring quarterly basis. In it, I'll show you some stories of our mission of hope, help and healing as well as progress on the issues we're tackling in the community so many of us call home.

We quickly recognized the threat posed by COVID-19. The Children's Home immediately implemented sanitation measures, modified work schedules, and advocated for the state to implement new telehealth guidelines to ensure our clients never suffered a lapse in care. Soon after, the topic of social injustice entered the national conversation and our agency interjected our viewpoint as well as our unyielding support for the black community, who predominantly represents the underserved children and families we support.

Since 1864, we've existed solely to support children and families of Greater Cincinnati who find themselves with nowhere else to turn for help. Throughout our 156-year history, we've changed that equation for the most vulnerable population in our city. Last year alone, we helped over 14,000 individuals in life-changing ways through our 30 programs, administered in 182 locations, throughout the region.

The need for the services we provide remains very real. Ninety percent of our kids have been impacted by what the mental health community calls ACEs – Adverse Childhood Experiences. The Children's Home treats kids who have been abandoned, neglected, physically and sexually abused, as well as other life-altering circumstances. The bulk of our kids live below the poverty line – some are 200% below and battle food insecurities daily. Our region is still in the midst of an opioid crisis. We're also seeing increased, alarming and deadly trends in teen vaping. Many educators, mental health professionals and fellow parents are justifiably alarmed about the rising epidemic of youth suicide in Ohio. Some of these life obstacles would be challenging for even the most seasoned adults to navigate.

Can you imagine how insurmountable these circumstances would appear to a child?

This is why The Children's Home exists.

Now we serve more people than ever, with more programs than ever, with more volunteers than ever, via our largest communications footprint ever...and we continue to grow. I encourage you to look at the enclosed growth chart that illustrates how far we've come in just a few years; but, we also know our work isn't done.

The work that remains is life-changing and life-saving. With your help, and the most talented staff of professionals and providers in the Tri-State, I know we can continue forward.

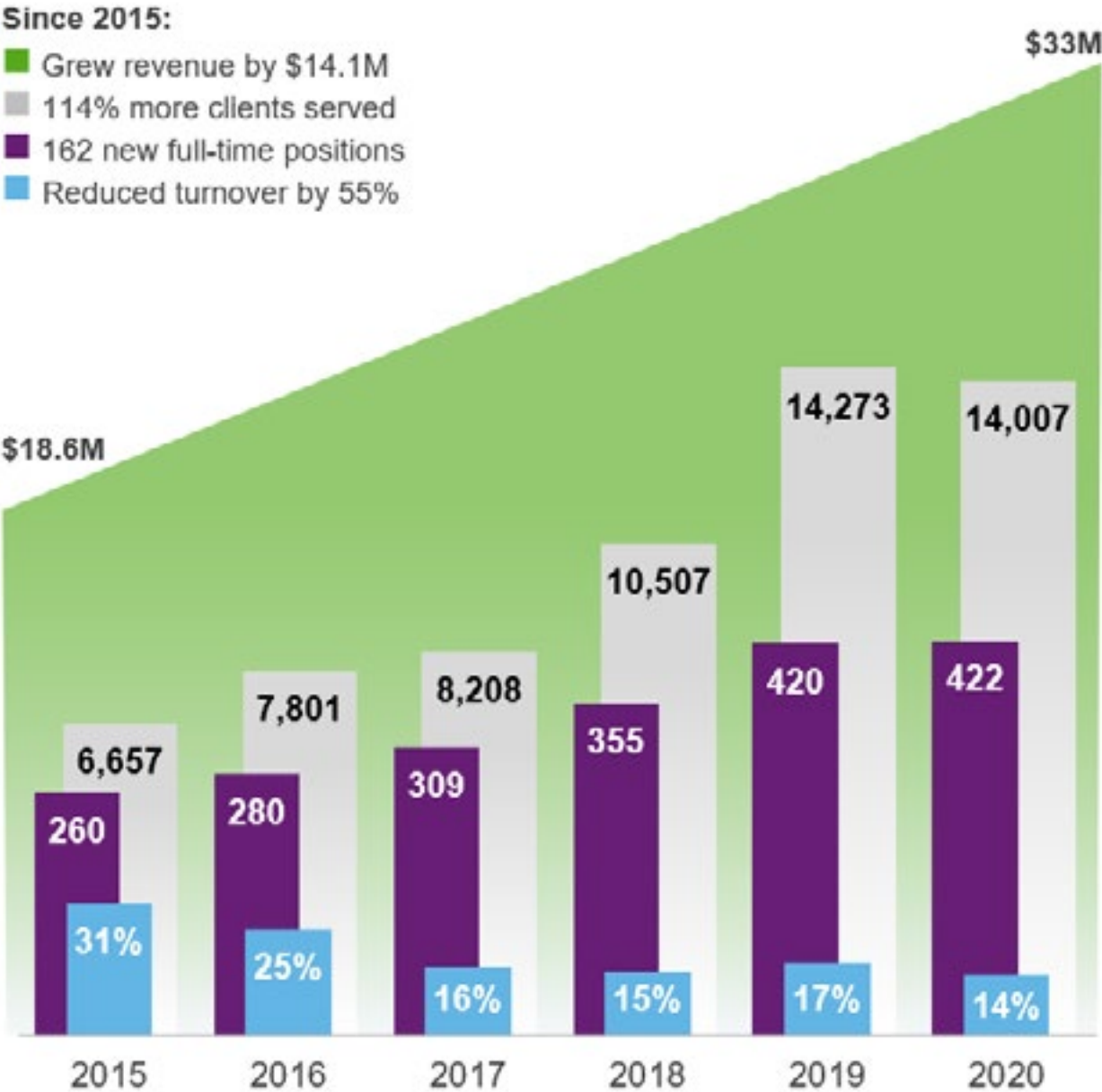
I'm grateful for your help and ongoing support. The Children's Home and our mission of service to children and families has been, and remains, a pillar of the Greater Cincinnati community.

Sincerely,

John Banchy  
President and CEO



## Revenue Growth Chart



Decrease in client counts due to impact of COVID-19 on educational restrictions, decrease in new referrals during stay-at-home order, and missed opportunities for professional trainings due to closures.



## In Case You Missed It...External Media Coverage



**"Staying open for essential workers, The Children's Home has been great during this time of need."**

**-Taibah Abdul-Muhaimin**

Single-mom and healthcare worker

**No one turned away**  
Every child and family in our programs and services has been able to stay in our care. No new client has been turned away

**Pandemic Certified**  
We converted our 5-star Step Up To Quality preschool operations to become "pandemic certified" providing child care to community front line workers

## THE CHILDREN'S HOME'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

(Between March 15 and June 1)

**7,034 hours**  
*Of telehealth therapy conducted for some of our communities most vulnerable individuals*

**4,067 clients served**  
Since the start of the pandemic

**Over \$120,000 raised from individuals**



### Expanding Our Reach

- For FY 2020, we earned \$251.04K in earned media coverage since we began tracking in June 2019.
- Website traffic up 7.52% compared to the same time period as last year.
- Nearly 25,000 followers combined across all leading social media platforms featuring The Children's Home and Got-Special KIDS with consistently high engagement rates.
- We want you to join us! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram!

 [www.linkedin.com/school/the-childrens-home-of-cincinnati](https://www.linkedin.com/school/the-childrens-home-of-cincinnati)

 [www.instagram.com/life\\_tch](https://www.instagram.com/life_tch)

 [www.twitter.com/lifeattch](https://www.twitter.com/lifeattch)

 [www.facebook.com/TheChildrensHomeCincinnati](https://www.facebook.com/TheChildrensHomeCincinnati)

## Back To School

Our education staff is looking forward to the 2020-2021 school year! Heidt Center of Excellence, Upper School, and Lower School welcomed our students on August 20th.

Additionally, day treatment services will continue, with full day students receiving academic instruction also beginning on August 20th. We have implemented CDC guidelines to provide a safe environment for students and staff. We have a school nurse five days a week as well as the Levine Family Health Center on site to address student needs.

Our therapists, counselors, and care coordinators are also looking forward to heading back to their community campuses at the start of the school year. Having a presence in our partner schools places our specialists right where they are needed most –with kids who need our services –and we're able to do it in a school setting where students are comfortable.





## Family Visitation Center Marks 1-year of Service



The Children's Home Family Visitation Program recently marked its 1-year anniversary of service to parents and children, which was initially launched in partnership with the Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court. The program was made possible via a grant from the Cincinnati Bar Association and is an ideal place for families who have been awarded court supervised visitation. The center, located on the main campus of The Children's Home, provides a safe, secure environment staffed by trained professionals, a Cincinnati police officer, and features amenities such as spaces where a parent can do homework with their child, watch movies, or play with their children via the playground or basketball court.

"I'm very proud of what we've accomplished in our first year with the Family Visitation Center," said John Banchy, president and CEO of The Children's Home. "One year ago, the very first family we served had a mom who, because of a variety of challenges she was overcoming, had not seen her little girl in 18-months. We fixed that. The center helped re-establish the parent-child bond, which is beyond crucial to the healing process."



The program has vast support throughout the Greater Cincinnati community. Since its inception in January 2019, the center has welcomed two more courts, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and the Clermont County Court of Domestic Relations, who use the provided services. During the course of the center's first year, The Children's Home's Family Visitation Center supervised 140 visits serving nearly 30 families. For eight of those families, supervised visitation was lifted by their respective court that had jurisdiction over their case. Every family using the family visitation center receives a critique form with an opportunity for parents to provide feedback regarding the center's services. Comments include things such as, "Everything was fantastic. I would recommend this to any parent that may need these services;" "They believe in me and treat me without judging;" "The supervisor was amazing and understanding;" "Not having to communicate with the other party during visits;" and "The freedom to just enjoy my time with my daughter."

"What makes us ideal to provide these services to families in Greater Cincinnati is our expertise, our central location and how our facility is designed," said Pam McKie, chief operating officer of The Children's Home. "Our staff is well trained and dedicated to preserving the dignity of both parents; and, our staffing and safety protocols ensure a safe and secure environment that the courts and the parents who are either visiting or dropping their children off for visitation deserve. "The visiting parent experiences a productive and nurturing visit in a place staffed with uniquely talented and compassionate people," she added. "If the situation demands it, parents never have to see one another, which reduces tension and anxiety for everyone - especially the child."

### *The Children's Home's Family Visitation Center 2019:*

- Welcomed our first family from Hamilton County Juvenile Court
- Welcomed our first family from Clermont County Court of Domestic Relations
- Supervised 140 Visits
- Served Nearly 30 Families
- Began a Pilot Program with the Hamilton Co. Court of Domestic Relations for Supervised exchange



# Rockin' at Riverfest

Dear Supporters and Friends

On behalf of The Children's Home, please allow me to personally thank you for your continued support of our agency as we navigate the challenges of COVID-19, while ensuring our 156-year old mission of serving the most vulnerable remains intact.

It is with disappointment I must share our decision to cancel Rockin' at Riverfest 2020. And while we will not celebrate our marquee event, the needs of the vulnerable and underserved populations do not disappear because of a global pandemic.

And neither do we.

The need for our services is now greater than ever. We were able to shift our preschool operations to become a "pandemic certified" facility in record time and ensured our community's critical personnel, like first responders and members of the medical profession, were able to get to work knowing their kids were in a safe and secure environment.

Our therapists quickly set up a telehealth service model, which ensured no child or family in our care suffered a lapse in care. Thanks to our allies and supporters in Cincinnati, we've not had to turn anyone away seeking our help.

I'm humbly asking for your continued support for The Children's Home and our mission of service. In the absence of a physical event, it's my hope you will pledge your tax-deductible donation to The Children's Home and the 30+ programs we provide as we continue to serve. Visit [tchcincy.org](http://tchcincy.org) to donate or go to [rockinforTCH.givesmart.com](http://rockinforTCH.givesmart.com) to participate in our upcoming commemorative auction, open until mid September.

With the help of some dedicated community partners, we are moving three of our premiere events at Rockin' at Riverfest – our live, and silent auctions, along with Fund the Mission – to an online format. Innovation has been a cornerstone of our near 160-year history and this time is no different. We anticipate the online auctions and Fund the Mission to be meaningful and a lot of fun for our community and certainly a wonderful opportunity to support our marquee fundraiser. Please stay tuned for forthcoming information. We will weather this storm because of great people like you. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roderick D. Hinton".

Roderick D. Hinton  
Chief Administrative Officer





## The Children's Home telehealth services offer a lifeline during COVID

*During the pandemic, the need for mental health services is more vital than ever.*

A child served by The Children's Home with suicidal ideations and self-harm behaviors was being treated by the agency in a clinical setting at his school to ensure his health, well-being and recovery.

Then, COVID-19 changed how health care providers like The Children's Home treat vulnerable patients who can't be seen in a traditional manner due to social distancing guidelines. Now these kids are home, disconnected from many of their support systems.

"Once school was closed, telehealth allowed us to continue to provide ongoing mental health services to assess for risk and provide the same level of care that we would have in the school setting," said Jenny Carman, behavioral health services supervisor at Best Point Behavioral Health by The Children's Home. "I have no idea what we would've done to support this client if his insurance did not cover telehealth as his parent could not pay for the full cost of services."

Carman said the child has made substantial progress due to being able to continue treatment through The Children's Home's telehealth capability. It's becoming a crucial support to many who would otherwise be forgotten because, Carman says, many in Cincinnati's most vulnerable populations "struggle day-to-day."

But not every family is so fortunate. Many underserved populations in Cincinnati have difficulties accessing telehealth capabilities.

Carman said she was deeply saddened when the governor announced budget cuts in education, as many of her clients and their families are already battling daily, life-essential issues that the pandemic worsened.

Carman supervises a staff of specialists who provide therapeutic services to at-risk youth throughout the community.

Many of the health providers on The Children's Home staff have worked directly with partner schools to deliver communication devices to vulnerable families, have delivered food, or helped set up communication access with a teacher when a student was struggling with schoolwork at home.

Communication access also means clients can continue their treatment and therapy.

Rachel, a client whose children are served by the agency, said telehealth has helped her obtain the needed treatment for her children that the pandemic would have otherwise prevented.

"The shutdowns were hard for us," Rachel said. "Our family consists of four severe asthmatics and one immune-compromised family member. So, when the virus hit, and with the unknowns of how it could affect our family, we were forced to take all necessary precautions to stay inside, not get out, and to just shelter in place until further notice."

Rachel contacted her children's therapist, Behavioral Health Services Therapist Jennifer Zavadil-Ryan, and inquired about setting up an alternative care vehicle for her children. Telehealth wasn't immediately available at the onset of COVID-19 but as soon as it was, she said Zavadil-Ryan called her back and set things in motion.

"It has been such a big help for our family," said Rachel. "My two sons look forward every week to the sessions. It has helped them work through their fears and worries as well as some other issues all from home. I also feel that it has provided a level of openness and comfort that a therapy office just couldn't provide for them."

For now, The Children's Home will continue to use telehealth to support kids and families if policies established by the state allow the nonprofit agency to do so. As the state slowly begins to reopen, traditional face-to-face appointments are slowly becoming available, but many will continue to use electronic appointments for their therapeutic needs.



## Reds Senzel donates to local children's charity

A Cincinnati Reds outfielder has generously donated to The Children's Home pandemic childcare program.

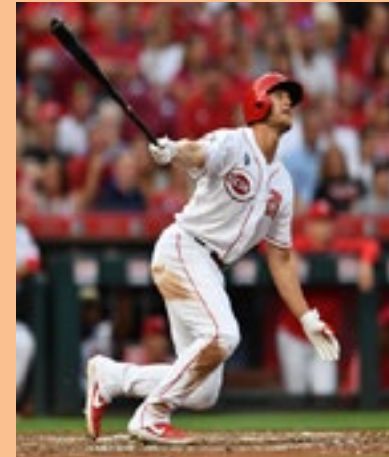
Centerfielder Nick Senzel, #15, donated \$10,000 to help support the new program, which provides childcare for the children of parents who have been deemed essential workers and cannot work from home.

"I've been very fortunate, and the people of Cincinnati have been very welcoming to me," Senzel said. "Baseball is fueled by the communities we play in. It's very easy to partner with an organization that's committed to helping local families impacted by COVID-19. I'm proud to be part of the fight in this small way."

In March, CoStars Preschool by The Children's Home shifted its program to become what the state now calls "pandemic certified." To meet these stringent criteria, The Children's Home instituted different classroom sizes, smaller student-to-staff ratios and a commitment to remain open to serve children of essential community workers – usually healthcare personnel and first responders.

"CoStars have been great in times of need," said Taibah Abdul-Muhaimin in a recent interview. Abdul Muhaimin is a Cincinnati healthcare worker and full-time single parent.

"Not only are they staying open for essential workers, but I was also able to get schooling for my cousins who attend another school, which is closed," she said.



"Even before the pandemic I could count on Costars for anything. I am more than grateful to have my family at Costars, the staff is absolutely fantastic!"

"I can't begin to thank Nick enough for his generosity," said John Banchy, president and CEO of The Children's Home. "Cincinnati has a long tradition of supporting our own in times of need and he's demonstrative of that. His donation is, right now and in real-time, helping kids and parents who have no where else to turn as our entire community navigates uncharted waters."

CoStars by The Children's Home is currently serving a dozen kids whose parents or guardians are needed by Greater Cincinnati and surrounding areas.

The staff diligently follows the health guidelines issued by Ohio, have had no illnesses reported among children or staff, and are currently planning dedicated space to serve more families who may need pandemic childcare services.

Guidance for families who may qualify for placing their child with the CoStars emergency childcare program are available by calling 513-527-7306

If you or your organization would like to serve families in need, we would welcome your involvement and your help.





Students at the Heidt Center of Excellence recently began training at Got-Special KIDS to learn workplace skills any employer would find valuable.

“I started Got-Special KIDS after we learned our son had autism,” said Tamara Andersson, Got-Special KIDS founder and prior owner.

“I discovered there was very little out there in the way of therapeutic, educational or sensory resources for kids on the autism spectrum, or who have sensory processing disorders or other behavioral and learning challenges. Once we were well-established in the special education and special needs communities, I decided to gift my company to an organization that serves the underserved. The Children’s Home was the obvious choice!”

The students are learning the basics of the largely mail-order operation and are doing everything from processing orders when they come in, fulfilling the order, securely packing it and shipping it efficiently and properly.

“This program is in its infancy but the conceptualization is very exciting to watch,” said Jill Smith, operations director of The Children’s Home. “What we’re doing is taking an active role in empowering a special needs population that is vastly under-employed on a national level. Many of these students thought they’d never be able to work but we’re illustrating that doesn’t always have to be the case.”

The students are making progress and making it fast. “Its been amazing so far,” said Shayla Becze, job readiness and senior retail operations manager of The Children’s Home.

“The students are passionate and eager to learn. When you see how they tackle the tasks they’ve been assigned it reinforces what we already knew – everyone, regardless of whatever life challenges they may have, endeavors to lead an independent life with dignity and respect. Got-Special KIDS is actively providing the autism community with those tools and capabilities.”



The autism community is often over-represented in issues pertaining to under employment or unemployment. But, these men and women often have talents that make them desirable job candidates in the job market.

“Nationally, about 66% of the autism community are unemployed,” said Dawn Kaylor, human resources manager of The Children’s Home. “But, studies from a variety of sources show that the special needs community make very desirable employees. They tend to be fiercely loyal to their organization, which leads to very low turnover, and they are routinely among the most laser focused and productive people in any work environment. Some companies are actually recruiting workers on the autism spectrum because they have found these employees tend to excel at jobs that require repetitive tasks, an aptitude for detecting patterns, or higher math or skills involving coding.”

The Got-Special KIDS story is still developing but will be an exciting new chapter for The Children’s Home. The organization currently ships products to an international audience and will embody the idea of, “For the special-needs community; by the special-needs community.”



[www.got-specialkids.com](http://www.got-specialkids.com)



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# WHO | WHAT | WHERE

**83%**

Children  
Experienced  
Trauma

**85%**

Families  
Living in  
Poverty

**177,718**

Hours of Behavioral  
Health Services  
Provided

**27%**

Individuals  
Served on  
our Campus

**73%**

Individuals  
Served in the  
Community

## CAMP-I-CAN 2020





# DRIVE – THRU GRADUATION

Our drive thru graduation was a big splash and not just due to the thunderstorm!

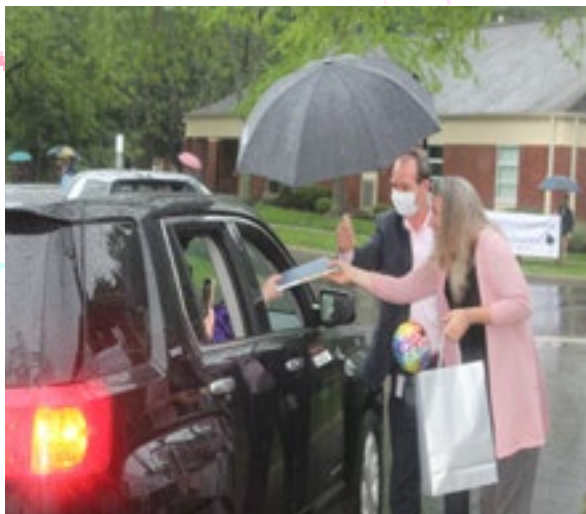
The Children's Home and the Heidt Center of Excellence celebrated their graduating seniors with a drive-thru graduation celebration on May 18.

"We have some of the brightest and most passionate educators in Greater Cincinnati," Pam McKie, chief operating officer of The Children's Home said. "As the state slowly began its phased reopening, we assembled a task force to explore whether it was even possible to do something special and more personal for our students. The team came up with an innovative 'drive-thru graduation' concept."

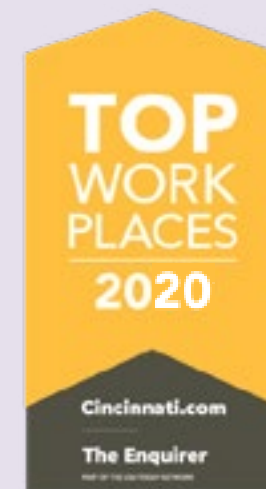
The graduates and their families processed through the circle drive in their cars, in alphabetical order. At the top of the circle, their diploma and other gifts were placed in the trunk or handed through the car window depending on the family's preference. They then met a photographer at the end of the circle to commemorate the moment.

A limited amount of staff members lined the campus circle drive, maintaining social distancing, to cheer and wave to the graduates as they passed by.

"We wanted to do something special for our seniors; but, obviously keeping safety and adherence with state guidance as our top priorities," McKie said. "We coordinated with our partners at Cincinnati Police Department, have a plan to maintain appropriate social distancing, and ensured staff and students will not be in direct contact with each other."



## The Children's Home named among top nonprofits in the nation



The Children's Home has been selected as one of the 2020 Best Nonprofits to Work For by The NonProfit Times, a leading national business publication for nonprofit organizations, as well as a 2020 Best Workplace in Ohio for the second consecutive year and a 2020 Cincinnati Top Workplace for the third consecutive year.

"It's a great honor to be selected," said John Banchy, president and CEO of The Children's Home. "These awards belong to the amazing people who comprise The Children's Home and who continue to serve even during these unprecedented times."

To be selected, organizations are subjected to an in-depth survey, questionnaire and a written business profile of the organization. Subject to close scrutiny by the evaluators, every nominated workplace is evaluated on subjects such as how employees rate the relevance of their work, company benefits, and how well their company promotes professional development.

"We very quickly changed how we provide service to our community in light of the global crisis," said Banchy. "Children and families who need us simply don't vanish when there's a pandemic. We've served Cincinnati since 1864 and we'll continue to find innovative ways to serve our community."

Banchy said many of the organization's behavioral health counseling services have evolved into a telephone or video based setting, the CoStars preschool facility has been deemed pandemic certified and is open for healthcare workers, first responders and other qualifying personnel; the education campus has switched to a distance learning model and the Levine Family Health Center is still accepting appointments.

The Children's Home has 30 distinct programs that provide service in 182 community locations in the Greater Cincinnati area. Their services address educational and behavioral health challenges, poverty, provide job and life skills coaching, and services for at-risk parents.

Last year, the organization served over 14,000 children and families in life-changing ways in Greater Cincinnati and surrounding areas.

"It's not business as usual but our staff has adapted how we serve in record time," Banchy said. "What makes us stand out to a national publication like the Nonprofit Times are the amazing men and women who work here."



# When Everyday is Take Your Child to Work Day



Visit [www.tchcincy.org](http://www.tchcincy.org) to learn more about Counseling for Caregivers.

The emerging “new normal” for working parents has blurred the lines of what were formerly very clear distinctions between work and home life as millions of Americans are teleworking because of COVID-19.

Now, as many parents and guardians are discovering, teleworking can translate to every day being “take your child to work day.”

“When we hear words like ‘structure’ and ‘boundary’ we typically think of terminology reserved for kids,” said Dr. Joseph Rieman, medical director of The Children’s Home. “But the mass influx of teleworking has changed the typical structured environment for many parents, which can blur what previously was a discernible difference between work obligations and family obligations.”

Dr Rieman said the diminished emotional support and connection with colleagues and friends in the workplace is comparable to the sense of emotional loss some kids feel when separated from classmates in school.

“If parents are constantly giving in to demands from the home office, coupled with familial domestic demands, then stress, fatigue and adverse health risks are not far behind,” said Dr. Rieman. “I hope parents and guardians know these feelings of being overwhelmed are normal; but there are ways to mitigate the stressors.”

Some of those mitigating techniques can stem from forcing one’s mindset to shift from “work mode” to “parent/guardian mode” says Debbie Gingrich, vice president of behavioral health at The Children’s Home.

“I like to call it ‘transitioning your brain,’ said Gingrich. “When the workday is done, try something that physically forces a shift from work to home. Walking the dog, exercising, start prepping dinner...anything you can do that you normally wouldn’t do at the office is extremely helpful and can actually let your ‘work brain’ rest,” she said.

Another way to help manage home and work boundaries is to get the kiddos involved.

“Children, especially younger ones, love to feel like they’re being helpful,” Gingrich said. “Could they staple papers? Maybe set the table for your lunch break? If they feel they’re a part of your home office, it can often lead them to be on your side. This translates into some level of understanding about the need, for example, for some quiet time if mom or dad are in a virtual meeting or on an important call.”

As the entire nation is navigating these new adjustments, parents and guardians should not feel they have to tackle these new stressors alone. The Children’s Home’s Counseling for Caregivers program is available, and you don’t need to have a child enrolled or affiliated with our organization to receive our help.



# Invest in Greater Cincinnati’s Most Vulnerable

Your generous support transforms the lives of more than 14,000 children, young adults and families in our community every year. Volunteer. Donate. Advocate. Visit [www.tchcincy.org](http://www.tchcincy.org) or call 513.272.2800





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