President’s Report
Feb. 22, 2021

 Decorating All-Staff Retreat on Main Campus

The annual All-Staff Retreat held Dec. 18 was reimagined due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite being unable to gather in the traditional setting, The Children’s Home’s senior leadership were able to host employees and thank them for their continued commitment to our mission of service. The event consisted of a drive-thru on the main campus circle drive. Colleagues drove through the circle, stopped at specific points, and were greeted and thanked by agency leadership. The drive-thru featured gifts, a food truck, holiday music and staff were awarded the remainder of the day to enjoy with their families.
President’s Awards and Promise Awards

Each year, some of our most outstanding employees are recognized with the President’s Awards and the Promise Awards. Our awards program is unique because they are peer nominated and peer voted.

Blake Scott – Teaching Family Model Practitioner of the Year

Muriel Suttles – Best Point Promise Award

Dana Couch – CoStars Promise Award

Shelby Yates – Heidt Center of Excellence Promise Award

Beth Beischel - Children’s Home Hero Award

EJ Pennington – Presidential Award

Courtney Bokelman – Presidential Award

Sherri Martin – Presidential Award

Stan Stone – Presidential Award
The Children’s Home has been recognized by the Greater Cincinnati Community for its impact in the area of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

The Children’s Home was recognized with the 2020 Modeling Opportunities for All CLIMB Award.

The organization was recognized by the Leadership Council for Nonprofits as a 2021 recipient of the Inclusive Culture Award.

President & CEO John Banchy was named the 2021 Medical Mutual Pillar Awards Nonprofit Executive Director of the Year.

John Banchy was appointed to the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council by Governor DeWine and was also named the co-chair for the Children Services Levy.
53% of behavioral health services delivered via telehealth in 2020

When Ohio schools closed on March 14 due to the pandemic, The Children’s Home was poised to immediately start providing telehealth services, in lieu of face-to-face, ensuring continuity of care for our community’s most vulnerable population.

Total telehealth services delivered in 2020: 59,232
Early Childhood Day Treatment & Day Treatment

- ECDT opened a second full day classroom. The students enrolled attend in-person for education and therapeutic groups daily. These classrooms have operated safely and successfully all year.

- We held the first Campus Book Fair in September. Through this event, 150 students on campus received the opportunity to pick out their own books to take home.

- The Day Treatment program has been facilitating a Therapeutic Arts group for the Day Treatment Middle School and High School groups weekly. For many of our students, they are unable to experience unstructured creative time in their home, school, or community settings. Each week, they complete a new project that helps to provide a creative outlet and boost self-esteem while the youth build skills that help them achieve their treatment goals.

Jeff Becze of U.S. Bank, and member of The Children’s Home’s Ambassador Board, helps a client select books during the book fair held on main campus.

Day Treatment students created skull art just prior to Halloween. This art project was part of a contest where ECDT staff voted on their favorite piece.
HR Update


📅 We are actively recruiting therapists and educators.

📅 We are now partnered with 10 different universities for internships, student teaching, field placements and practicums.

📅 We have moved to a paperless file system for our employees and have implemented software to collect signatures electronically, saving the agency hours and resources.

Safety & Security

📅 Jevon Richardson is excelling in his role as our new Campus Safety Supervisor. He has leveraged his experience as a former police officer to enhance our already strong relationship with our campus officers and our students.

📅 Our School Safety Manual is scheduled to be reviewed and updated by April 1

📅 We are scheduling a Safety and Security Audit with an outside firm for both campuses in the near term.

📅 Our behavioral health staff have received both rounds of COVID vaccinations. We are working with our partners at Cincinnati Health Department for scheduling the rest of our personnel in accordance with guidance from the state.

Dr. Joe Rieman (l), medical director at The Children’s Home, receives his COVID vaccine at the main campus gym.
Facilities and IT Update

Due to COVID an increasing number of our employees are working remotely. We have upgraded our core networking switches and storage capabilities to accommodate the increased network traffic as we increase our telehealth offerings.

The agency provided cell phones for our telehealth providers to allow better communication between our therapists and their clients.

Aging roofs over the main campus Gym and Heidt Center front classrooms have been replaced.

The Heidt Center kitchen began in December and is on schedule to be completed by the end of March. This new learning kitchen will not only provide food for the students of the Heidt Center and CoStars but will also serve as a learning/job training environment for our student body.

(L and R) Construction continues on the new kitchen at the Heidt Center of Excellence. The kitchen will allow the Heidt and CoStars program to be more self-sufficient and will also augment our transition services program.
Marketing and Strategic Communications

From June – December 2020, The Children’s Home received over $200,000 in earned, i.e., non-paid media coverage despite competing against a national election and pandemic.
Top Stories included our community flu shot offering, our HUGS program and a “back-to-school” story showcasing our Heidt Center students.

A recent promotion with Dear Restaurant raised over $2,000 for the agency in just over a week and garnered 7,274 joint impressions for the agency and Dear Restaurant on Facebook alone. The top-performing post featured a photo and quotes from executive chef Brian Young. 
Voluntary Services Program

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 limiting our usual volunteer activity, our support from our neighbors and partners remains high! Some highlights are:

- We had several volunteers participate in our transition services by volunteering to conduct Mock Interviews.

- The Ambassador Board was a huge help at our book fair! They help students pick out books and sanitized between classes.

- We had our most successful Giving Tuesday and HUGS (Help Us Give Smiles) holiday giving campaign to date. We were able to serve 450 children and raised over $240,000 of in-kind gifts and donations.
The Heidt Center of Excellence continues to collaborate with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the Advanced Improvement Methods (AIM) program. This program focuses on helping our middle school students learn executive functioning skills and encourages students to enhance their overall organization and prioritizing tasks at home and school.

February is also Fit February in continued collaboration with Special Olympics of Hamilton County.
Access to quality, reliable child care is essential for working families. Throughout the pandemic, the critical need for child care has continued to elevate; which has led to changes in polices and opportunities for relief funding.

CoStars was well positioned to respond to policy changes, access available relief funding and expand services to include school age children 5-12 years of age.

Currently CoStars is operating four preschool classrooms and two school-age classrooms. To accommodate school-age children, access to technology and additional outdoor recreation space needed to be enhanced.

We created a flexible program structure that allowed us to respond to the changing needs of families and schools transitioning between remote and in-person learning.

Over the past few months, there has been a noted increase in the number of young children experiencing stress. As a result, children often show regression in their development, struggle in managing their feelings and interacting with peers.

Our experience in promoting children’s social emotional wellness and access to in-house early childhood mental health services have enabled us to provide children and families with supports needed to strengthen their resilience and better manage day-to-day challenges.
Home Visitation (Every Child Succeeds, HIPPY, SPARK)

We continue to provide home visitation services to Cincinnati’s most vulnerable families. Working with HIPPY USA, SPARK Ohio and Every Child Succeeds we have created systems for serving families through a combination of phone, videoconferencing and drop-off services where staff have provided early learning materials, books, diapers and much needed PPE and household products to families.

Resilient Children and Families Program

We are the lead agency of the Resilient Children and Families Program (RCFP).

RCFP promotes the social and emotional development and well-being of young children, strengthens the capacity of adults who care for them, and advocate for coordinated, aligned systems.

We have begun a research project designed to assess the equity of child social-emotional health and family wellness outcomes of RCFP across demographic groups.

Working in partnership with Joining Forces for Children, we will engage families and early childhood professionals in co-developing, piloting and evaluating equitable approaches.
Got-Special KIDS was gifted to The Children’s Home in 2019. The operation has been modified to incorporate a training program for young adults on the autism spectrum and other related diagnoses.

Products are now shipped to 46 countries.

Educational, therapeutic and sensory friendly items are inventoried, packed, labeled, and shipped by our GSK trainees – “for the special needs community; by the special needs community.”