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Thanks to Bill Brooks and his team at Brooks Flooring for hosting their annual Charity Fish Fry on March 15! Generous (and hungry) friends raised \$4,400 for the children in our Residential Program. We're so grateful for Bill and his amazing group. See you next year!

### Learn More Online!

In addition to all the great news we're sharing in this Summer issue, we have a lot more to share online! Visit [DCCHCenter.org](http://DCCHCenter.org) for more information, videos, updated news, events, annual reports, and more.



In this issue we share Katie's story, in "her own voice," on page 2.



*thank you! thank you! thank you!*

## Swing Into Spring

Thank you! You helped change a life!



On April 27th, DCCH held its annual spring fundraiser...and it was a spectacular success! Over 400 guests attended this year's event to give their support and love to the children living at DCCH. Because of their dedication to our mission and programs, they helped raise more than \$315,000 for our awesome kids!

There were many highlights to the evening. Bidding wars on a trip to Disney and a bottle of Pappy raised a combined total of over \$10,000 –

for just these two items! But the most compassionate event happened at the end of the evening when our guests gave DCCH children gifts of hope totaling over \$40,000! It was amazing!

We also want to send special thanks to our financial sponsors. Their funding has a significant impact on the services we provide. Without these wonderful businesses and agencies, we would not be able to change so many lives. Help us say thank you; please consider using their products and/or services in the future. For a complete list, please visit [DCCHCenter.org/give-a-gift/sponsor](http://DCCHCenter.org/give-a-gift/sponsor).

Likewise, this night would not have been possible without the incredible Swing Into Spring Committee volunteers. They are the heart and soul of this event and work tirelessly to make everything perfect – and incredibly successful!

If you would like to receive future mailings about Swing Into Spring or find out how you can get involved, please email us at [Info@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:Info@DCCHCenter.org). We're excited to hear from you!

### Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25, 2020!

*(Always the fourth Saturday in April)*



2019 Swing Into Spring Committee

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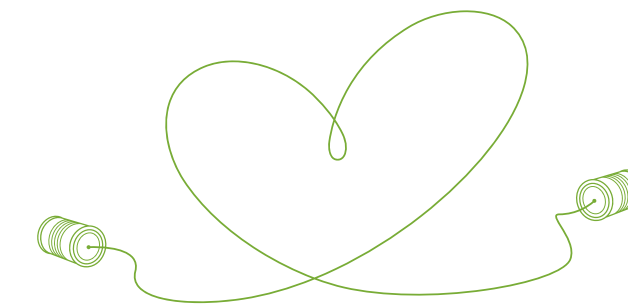
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Katie's story is just one story of many that we hear from the children we serve at DCCH. Please read her words and prayerfully consider making a difference in her life and the lives of other children we serve through your participation in our **2019 Summer Appeal**.

**No amount is too small to help these children who long to hear a voice that says they matter.**



*the power of voice*

## 2019 Summer Appeal

It's been said that words matter. They do. When you speak, it's important to use the power of your voice for good. The children at DCCH haven't always heard positive words from the voices in their lives. They've heard things like, "you're no good," "you'll never amount to anything," or worse yet, they hear profanities directed at them. That's what emotional abuse looks like.

It's also been said that **actions speak** louder than words. Truer words have never been spoken. Many children in our care have experienced physical and sexual abuse, causing them significant behavioral and emotional issues. They've lived in fear and pain, and when they arrive at DCCH, 85% suffer from PTSD and 97% from General Anxiety Disorder.

We can write more about this, but we'd like to share Katie's story in "her own voice":

**"Hi, I'm Katie. I'm nine.** You wanna know about my family? It's not really a real family. I'm not supposed to tell, but Dad drinks and uses a lot of drugs. He gets real mad sometimes and hits my mom. Mom drinks a lot of wine and sometimes uses drugs like dad. She gets mad at me and hurts me. She says I'm dumb and calls me names. I get real angry and try to run away or break things in the house. But they don't want to think about me and my brother, so they make us stay in our room a lot. Sometimes they forget to get food so we're pretty hungry most of the time. I'm always worried about my brother. At school, I don't want anyone to know what's going on at my house. I don't have any friends 'cause they'd want to come over and that would be bad.

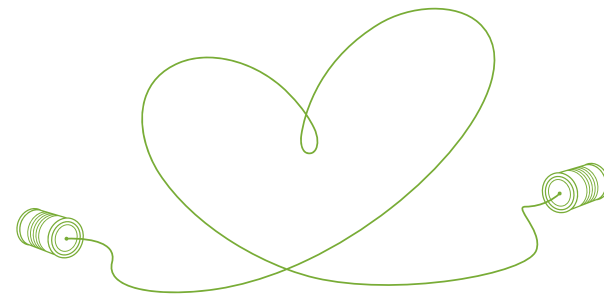
Once, dad hit mom so hard her head busted open. Mom was knocked out and I cried and tried to stop her bleeding. I yelled at my dad and started punching his legs. When I did that, my dad kicked me and told me to leave her alone and go to my room. I did because I was afraid.

Then one day the police came to my house. They'd been there before and dad went away for a while. That was kind of nice. But then he came back. Anyways, this time the police took mom and dad both to jail. That's when I came to DCCH. They said I had some problems with not controlling my temper. I don't trust anyone. I didn't think anybody cared about me. But the people at DCCH said they could help.

My therapist here is so nice. I'm learning why I feel like screaming or hitting things. He's helping me figure out ways to feel safe and calm myself down. I'm getting to work with the horses here and I love that. There are lots of things I'm learning. I even made friends. I feel better now and am getting happier. They said mom and dad would be in jail for a while and they're looking for a good foster family for me. I hope that comes true. I just want to feel safe and loved."



SUMMER 2019



Dear **Friends**,

For quite some time, this newsletter has been known as “The Voice.” Many folks (myself included!) may have become so accustomed to this title that we lose sight of how appropriate it is. So, please allow me to put some well-deserved focus back on it. “The Voice” is not just a catchy name for our publication. It is a powerful word that embodies our overall mission here at DCCH.



We strive to be the voice of advocacy for children whose young voices have all too often gone unheard amidst overwhelming trauma and chaos. We work to be the voice which reassures these kids they are worthwhile and lovable. We endeavor to help them reclaim and strengthen their own confident voices going forward in their young lives.

When I say “we,” I am not simply referring to our dedicated staff. It is a wide range of voices who speak out to truly change and impact our Residents’ lives. From board members and volunteers to donors and friends in the community, I am continually amazed by the vast number of individuals and groups who make up this chorus of healing.

This publication celebrates the wonderful sound of all the voices that give DCCH the power and compassion to provide quality care for our youngsters. On behalf of them, thank you for joining in!

With gratitude,

*Bob Wilson*

Bob Wilson  
Executive Director

**Join us at Carrabba’s Italian Grill for lunch or dinner!**

**Wednesday, June 19 and Thursday, June 20**

**Tell your server you support DCCH Center & Carrabba’s will donate 20% of your total back to DCCH!**

*If you have a Carrabba’s coupon, please consider saving it for your next visit to provide the most support to DCCH Center during this event. Thank you!*

**Crestview Hills Location | 2899 Dixie Highway | 859.344.6163**

LEARN MORE ONLINE    

### Our Executive Staff/Directors

**Robert J. Wilson**  
Executive Director

**Tim Lucas**  
Director of Finance/Operations

**Amy Pelicano**  
Development Director

**John Ross**  
Director of Clinical Development

**Ron Bertsch**  
Director, Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption

**Cheryl Taylor**  
Director of Residential Treatment

**Michael Shannon**  
Recreation Director

**Joelle Seibert**  
Training Director

**Lisa Cline**  
Food Service Director

**Dan Townsend**  
Facilities Manager

**Sr. Jean Marie Hoffman, S.N.D.**  
Director Emerita



#### Accredited by

Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children

- Northern Kentucky’s first agency to be so accredited
- Eight consecutive accreditations since 1990
- Accreditation valid until 2022

**CIRCULATION:** This newsletter is being mailed to over 5000 addresses. DCCH does not purchase or obtain any outside mailing “acquisition” lists resulting in unsolicited correspondence to you from us. We do not sell our mailing list to other organizations.

**MAILING NOTICE:** We strive to maintain the highest quality in our mailings to our constituencies. If there is an error on the attached label or you wish to be removed from our mailings, please notify the Development Office at 859/331-2040 ext. 8534, or email APelicano@DCCH-Center.org. We will immediately attend to your request and confirm that it has been done.

**THE VOICE IS ONLINE:** The Voice is available digitally via email, on our website and Facebook page. To have The Voice emailed to you, please send your request to APelicano@DCCHCenter.org. Find DCCH on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/DCCHCenter and on Twitter @DCCHCenter.



*there is a voice that doesn't use words. listen.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

We want you to get to know Linda Rawe! One of our most dedicated volunteers who, since 2009, goes above and beyond, generously sharing her time, talents, and treasure to support DCCH. We recently asked Linda some important questions and her answers attest to her passion for our mission. Take a look...

#### What drew you to volunteer at DCCH?

My husband Randy was asked to join the DCCH Board in 2008 and quickly developed a passion for its ministry. We began working the summer festivals where I had the opportunity to meet the dedicated staff and board members. Attending a Foster Care Information session and learning of the need for families, attending the Annual Meetings and hearing the bio of a typical residential child, and attending the annual Swing Into Spring fundraiser all planted the seeds of my passion for DCCH.



Linda and Randy Rawe

#### In what capacities have you served/volunteered?

I started volunteering at the summer festivals, then joined the Swing Into Spring Annual Fundraiser Committee and was honored to be asked to join the Board of Directors in 2014. I soon learned of the HALO League and jumped at the chance to work with the children. I also serve on the Program and Executive Committees and volunteer at the Flea Market.

#### What is your favorite part of volunteering at DCCH?

The amazing leadership, dedicated staff, active Board of Directors, and many faithful volunteers make volunteering at DCCH fun and rewarding. However, without a doubt, working directly with the children is my favorite activity. We know that the Residential children have been through horrific situations and experiences, and when you look at them, you realize that

they are just kids, who want to be loved. Playing games, making crafts and interacting with them on outings is so uplifting. To see them laugh and smile, to receive a big thanks and a hug from a child who has a hard time trusting again just melts your heart. It keeps you coming back and wanting to do all you can to bring a little joy to their lives.

#### Why would you recommend volunteering at DCCH?

Volunteering at DCCH is a wonderful way to give back to our community and to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable children. The leadership and staff are so friendly and feel like family. They have a wonderful way of making volunteers feel appreciated.

#### Do you have additional comments?

I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with so many talented, passionate, and generous volunteers, leaders, and staff at DCCH. I receive much more than it is possible to give.



*some things are worth the wait*

# Foster Care Spotlight

Buddy and Amanda Robinson are no strangers to DCCH's Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Program; they've fostered and adopted children! They, like all of our awesome foster families, generously open their hearts and homes to the many children in need of a loving family and safe place to live. Some of the children in the Program are reunited with their biological family members, while others are adopted by the wonderful foster parents who want to adopt children into their own families. These adoptions are special occasions, even more so when the adoption is for an adult.



Trey, Buddy and Amanda Robinson

Over the years, Buddy and Amanda have served as mentors and advocates for a number of children who've come through our Program, which is where they first met Trey. They provided respite care for Trey before finally agreeing to foster him when Trey was eighteen years old. They continued to foster Trey into his twenties, while he successfully participated in DCCH's Independent Living Program. Now twenty-one, Trey was officially adopted into Amanda and Buddy's family – as an adult!

To celebrate the Robinson's held a "name reveal" party. Trey asked his parents to choose his middle name and after great thought, Buddy and Amanda chose to name Maxwell, after Buddy's father who had adopted a little girl from Korea, Buddy's sister of 49 years. Buddy and Amanda gifted Trey a dog tag style necklace engraved with his new initials "TMR" and the phrase "Some things are worth the wait." Trey has been on a long journey to reach where he is now: in a loving home with the secure sense of permanency he has been seeking for so long.

Being a foster parent can be a difficult endeavor, but it is also a rewarding one. Trey has become an integrated part of Buddy and Amanda's family and has formed lasting connections with his siblings, who have helped him grow and expand his horizons, from trying new foods to making new friends to finding new enjoyable activities. Buddy and Amanda have welcomed Trey into their family and are providing him with the love and support he needs to be a successful young man.

When asked to talk about the adoption, Buddy and Amanda began to describe how different it was to foster an older child. Buddy said, "younger children are still open to parenting, while teenagers already know what they want and need. Older teenagers and young adults need someone there to support and encourage them; they need someone to always have their back."

Older teenagers in foster care have been moved around quite frequently in their childhood and are looking for a place to call home throughout their lives. They need a person to call if they have questions as they become an adult, and they want a place to go for the holidays. In his own voice Trey says, **"Talking about being adopted can be scary, especially at an older age. But trust me when I say finding a forever family is possible. It may take a while. But believe me, there's nothing more amazing than finding a forever home."**



## Do We Have Your Attention?

May was National Foster Care Month, but at DCCH, we strive year-round to give every child a loving home. There are nearly 10,000 children in the Kentucky foster care system; many as a direct result of the devastating opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth. **The DCCH Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Team** works tirelessly to recruit, train, and support foster families from all over Northern Kentucky to care for children in need. Interested, but not quite sure if you're ready to foster? Become a DCCH volunteer and tutor or mentor a child. You'll be providing children with stability and the chance to develop relationship skills they'll need to succeed in a foster home.

**Want more details about fostering?** Attend a TFC Informational Meeting to learn about the foster process in a no-pressure environment. Email Natalie Hemmer, TFC Recruiter at [NHemmer@DCCHCenter](mailto:NHemmer@DCCHCenter) today and **#changealife!**



## Therapy Center At DCCH

Mental Health Counselors for Children, Adults, Families, and Couples

**The Therapy Center at DCCH** offers quality counseling and mental health services, including individual, family and marital therapy, grief counseling, and more. Experienced therapists work closely with clients to help them identify, assess, and meet their needs and goals. We empower clients to build and strengthen meaningful relationships with themselves and others.

The Therapy Center is a Trauma Informed Care Agency with an emphasis on interventions, decision-making, and infrastructure designed to promote healthy relationships based on self-care, safety, compassion, and understanding of the unique experiences of children, families, and staff.

**Are you ready to change your life?** Call us at **(859) 331-0821**.

We also provide therapy in some local schools. Please contact us for more information about this and our other services.

## Statistics

There are:  
**9,800+**  
children in State custody

We average:  
**326**  
child referrals to DCCH per month

We have:  
**55**  
DCCH foster families

We need:  
**100**  
new foster families

Mark your calendar...

### Wait No More: Preparing Hearts & Homes for Kids in Foster Care

*Presented by Focus on the Family*

Learn about foster care and adoption, and practical ways you can support foster and adoptive families. Engage with experts who will answer your questions.

**August 20th**  
**6:00-8:00PM**  
**Florence Baptist Church**  
**642 Mt. Zion Road, Florence, Ky 41042**  
**Event is FREE**

Google "Eventbrite Wait No More Florence Kentucky" to register.





a voice for the future

# Legacy Gifts

Thought about the future? Deana and Mike have.

**Deana** has been a quiet, loyal donor to DCCH for six years. For the last two years she's been a monthly donor, increasing her gifts along the way. She recently decided to take out a life insurance policy and made DCCH the sole beneficiary. Deana says, "this is one of the most meaningful things I've ever done. I feel so good knowing DCCH will be able to continue helping survivors of child abuse in the future!"

**Mike's** been involved with DCCH for three years as a Mentor in our Residential Treatment Program. His experiences have instilled a strong sense of dedication to the long-term sustainability of the Program. Mike knows that, sadly, there will be a need to help survivors of child abuse in the future. Last month, he made the critical decision to put DCCH in his will. He says, "Caring for these kids has to be a priority, and we have to make sure DCCH is able to continue what they're doing to help children succeed."

### What is a legacy gift?

We define it as any major gift, made in one's lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. By contrast, gifts to our annual fund or for capital projects are made from a donor's discretionary income and, while they may be budgeted for, they are not planned. Legacy gifts provide financial support for DCCH forever!

### How can I do this?

Legacy gifts can be made through a Bequest, Charitable Remainder Trust, Charitable Lead Trust, Life Insurance Policy, or Retirement Plan Assets assigned to DCCH. There are easy ways to set these up, and our Development Team or your attorney/financial planner can help you every step of the way.

### Been there, done that?

If you have already included DCCH in your estate plans or life insurance beneficiaries, even if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous, please inform us of your plans so we may thank you now!

For more information, and to receive confidential, personal assistance about legacy giving opportunities, qualified charitable distributions, or matching gifts, contact Amy Pelicano, Development Director, at [APelicano@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:APelicano@DCCHCenter.org) or (859) 331-2040, Ext. 8534.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

### What Is A QCD?



Know anyone who's 70 ½ years young or more? We've got a sweet deal for you! If you are 70 ½ or older, you can now make gifts directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to DCCH without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal.

#### How it Works:

- You must be age 70 ½ or older at the time the gift is made.
- You must request from the IRA plan custodian a direct transfer of funds to DCCH for the gift to be tax-free.
- Each person may give up to \$100,000 per year.
- Gifts can be used to satisfy your IRA required minimum distribution each year.
- Funds held in other retirement plans such as a 401(k) or 403(b) plan are not eligible but may be rolled over to a standard IRA to then be used for a tax-free rollover gift to charity.
- DCCH's Tax ID Number is 61-0463943.



## Matching Contributions

### Do You Match?

You can double or triple the impact of your donation with a matching gift.

Your company may match your gift to DCCH and #MakeADifference too!

Learn more by contacting Amy Pelicano at [APelicano@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:APelicano@DCCHCenter.org)

## Matching A Donation

Can Double or Triple The Impact of Your Gift!



#### STEP 1

Donor makes a contribution to a nonprofit.



#### STEP 2

Donor submits a matching gift request to employer's HR department.



#### STEP 3

Company reviews donation and nonprofit to determine eligibility.



#### STEP 4

Nonprofit verifies that the initial donation was made.



#### STEP 5

If eligible, the nonprofit will receive a check from the company.

## Grant Update

DCCH is so grateful for support from Community and Family Foundations. Their commitment to the children living at DCCH is a testament to the life-changing Programs we offer. So far this fiscal year, DCCH has received nearly \$220,000 in grant dollars. The DCCH Development Team thanks the following Foundations for their financial partnership:

Albers Foundation  
Ar-Hale Foundation  
Butler Foundation  
Charles H. Dater Foundation  
Crosset Family Fund

Homan Foundation  
R.C. Durr Foundation  
Sisters of Notre Dame Ministry  
Spaulding Foundation  
Sutphin Family Foundation

Thomas J. Emery Memorial  
US Greentech Community Impact Fund  
WalMart Community Fund

**Help us grow grants!** Contact Stacy Neurohr, Grants Administrator, at [SNeurohr@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:SNeurohr@DCCHCenter.org) or (859) 331-2040, Ext. 8558 to recommend a grant funder to us.



speaking through action

## DCCH Young Professional Ambassadors



GAME ON!



### Got some kick in your step?

DCCH's Young Professional Ambassadors are excited to host their 3rd Annual #CHANGEALIFE Kickball Tourney on Saturday, June 22.

Roundup your team of ballers for a fun day to support DCCH and its programs for survivors of child abuse.

Register a team and/or Sponsor the event at [DCCHCenter.org/Events/Kickball-Tournament](http://DCCHCenter.org/Events/Kickball-Tournament) or contact Vicki Boerger, Volunteer Coordinator at [VBoerger@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:VBoerger@DCCHCenter.org) or (859) 331-2040 Ext. 8833.

## HALO LEAGUE

Join the fun with DCCH's HALO League. These dedicated folks work directly with the children in our Residential Treatment Program to provide love, laughter, engaging activities, and hope all year round!

They meet monthly to plan activities and spend time with children to encourage and support them through a rough time in their lives.

Here's one example of their many activities: our annual "Trunk or Treat," held on-campus. Last fall we had over 60 cars all decked out with kooky and scary trunks and treats.



**GO HALO!** Thanks for the compassionate love and energy you bring to your work!

P.S. It's easy to get involved! Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at DCCH. To learn more, please email Barb Berkemeier, HALO President, at [Info@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:Info@DCCHCenter.org).



## To Market, To Market....

Do you know there are two markets associated with DCCH?

The first being the **DCCH Flea Market**, which is run by an amazing group of volunteers. They dedicate their time to open the doors on **Mondays, Thursdays, and the third Saturday of the month from 8:30am until noon**. This is a great place to find quality items at great prices while supporting DCCH.

**Saturdays: June 15 \* July 20 \* August 17 \* September 21 \* October 19**

The second is the **Farmer's Market**, which offers stands of Kentucky Proud foods and crafts. Running May through October, the farmers open their stands **every Saturday, from 10am until 1pm**, where you will always find a great selection of in-season produce as well as homemade specialty items to enjoy. All items are grown and produced in Kentucky.

You will find both markets at the DCCH festival grounds next to the Big Blue Barn. Come see us there, you never know what you'll find!

## Get Involved!

Interested in volunteering but not sure how to get started?

**Well, we've got you covered!** We're currently seeking awesome individuals to help us out as mentors, tutors, childcare, marketing, social media, volunteer coordination, and more!

- Mentor a child in our Residential Treatment Program.
- Tutor a child in our Guardian Angel School.
- Provide childcare during our Foster Care & Adoption support group meetings (great for a small group of friends).
- Assist DCCH with volunteer coordination.
- Good at marketing & social media? Work with our fun Development Team to build awareness in the community.

Want to learn more? Contact Vicki at [VBoerger@DCCHCenter.org](mailto:VBoerger@DCCHCenter.org) or (859) 331-2040, Ext. 8833.

## Shop!

**You can help change a life...just by shopping.**

Shop a lot? Sign up with Amazon Smile and the Kroger Plus Rewards Program and you can designate DCCH as your preferred charity, and every purchase means a donation to DCCH. Amazon and Kroger will automatically allocate a percentage of your bill to DCCH.

**Supply drives are a fantastic way to help DCCH.** In-kind donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Center Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Or, you can order the items online and have them shipped to us. We maintain gift registries at Walmart.com and Amazon.com.

**Here are some ideas:**

- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, and D)
- Toys (Ages 8-14 for Birthday closet)
- Legos
- Journals or Composition Notebooks
- Stress balls
- Radios
- Fans
- DVDs (Rated G or PG)