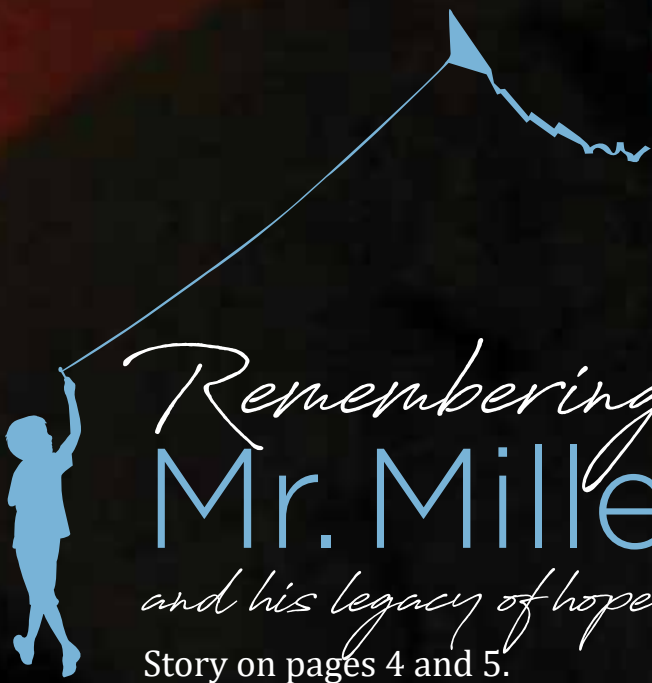




the
VOICE

DCCH
CENTER
For Children & Families

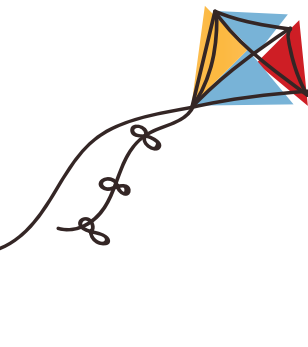
WINTER 2020



Remembering
Mr. Miller
and his legacy of hope.
Story on pages 4 and 5.

WINTER 2020

you have given me hope



“Just wanting to thank you and your team for putting up with me for so long... you all at DCCH have helped me become a better person and help me manage my emotions better. Thank you so much.”

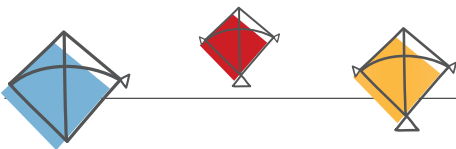
This short and sweet message was e-mailed to one of our staff by a youngster who recently discharged from our residential treatment program. It was like music to the ears of our dedicated and compassionate staff. Working with children who have undergone significant trauma and who wrestle with major emotional and behavioral challenges can be very difficult. Sometimes, day-to-day, it can be tempting to wonder what impact we are having on these children. But then, we get a comment like this, and we realize something somehow made it through... a spark planted within a child that seems to say, **“Someone really cares about me. I am loveable. You have given me hope.”**



In short, that is what we strive to do for the children and families whom we serve: give them hope, courage, strength, peace...and love to steer them toward a happier and healthier future. What a privilege it is to be part of that healing process! What a blessing it is to have so many generous and compassionate supporters and advocates like you who enable us to do so! On behalf of our children and staff here at DCCH, I thank you for partnering with us in our mission. Be assured, you are giving our kids hope!

Bob Wilson

Bob Wilson
Executive Director



Take action!

Throughout the newsletter we have called out ways that you can make a difference in creating and fostering hope for a child. **Look for the smaller kite indicators** that will highlight actions you can take. **#ChangeLives**

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 Programs

Ron Bertsch
Director of Therapeutic Foster Care/Adoption

Emily Burch
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



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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@DCCHCenter.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.



HOPE

and a KITE

Have you ever noticed the similarities between a well-built and properly flying KITE and HOPE?

KITE

The cross is at the center.

The cross is still present, even if not immediately noticed from some angles.

The cross fills up and gives shape to the kite.

The cross is necessary for success.

That is, without the cross, the fabric is rather useless, but with the cross, even rags are useful for flight and can provide a humbling balance.

The cross must be properly anchored.

HOPE

Hope is the confident expectation, the sure certainty that what God has promised in the Word is true, has occurred, and or will in accordance with God's sure Word. Hope is never a static or passive thing.

It is dynamic, active, directive, and life sustaining.

We hope you enjoy the dynamic, active, directive, and life sustaining stories of HOPE in this newsletter.



Written by Bob Wilson

“I put the cat out!” That was the subtly humorous way that Bill Miller would let me know every Thursday and Friday evening that he had locked the front doors to the Welcome Center here at DCCH and was finally stepping away from his post as volunteer receptionist, switchboard operator, and friendly gatekeeper for our organization. Mr. Miller (I could never bring myself to call him just “Bill”) would then slip his coat on, wish me a good night, and saunter out of the building, ending another day of faithful service to our children and staff. Week after week, year after year, his feline reference never failed to make me smile and chuckle. The same goes for when he would scuttle down the hall toward the ringing phone, playfully exclaiming, ***“Coming, Mother!”***

Mr. Miller’s gentle sense of humor was (and is) certainly something to cherish in and of itself, but it only scratches the surface of what makes him the very essence of what DCCH is and strives to be. He has been faithfully “putting the cat out” since 1993, when he began volunteering here. During his volunteer tenure, he not only logged countless hours with the aforementioned front desk duties, he also served as a “surrogate parent” advocate in educational conferences for those children in our program who did not have parental representation. He wanted to make sure these kids’ educational needs were being appropriately addressed. His lengthy volunteer resume at DCCH also includes helping with critical administrative tasks, fundraising activities, and anything else that he could get his hands on. Just on the basis of this long and faithful volunteer history alone, Mr. Miller can be considered a blessing and true pillar to DCCH. But again, this is only the tip of the iceberg. His connection goes much further and deeper than this.

Mr. Miller is woven into the very fabric of our organization, because the fabric of DCCH is deeply woven into who he is. He spent 87 of his 89 years of life involved with this place, in one way or another. I would often introduce him as “our oldest resident.” From age 2 to 18, he grew up here when it was St. John’s Orphanage. As an adult, he spent over 22 years as an active board member who was instrumental in transforming the organization from an orphanage into the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home residential treatment facility. He also served as business manager here for 15 years, diligently ensuring the good stewardship of our property, resources, and finances. Keep in mind, all of this is was in addition to his amazing run as a volunteer!

In every phase of his DCCH life, Mr. Miller was, by all accounts, the most humble, compassionate, and gentle soul one could encounter. Ask anyone who met or knew him: He was one of those extremely rare individuals who makes you feel like a better person just by being around him. Think Northern Kentucky’s own version of Mr. Rogers! His positivity would automatically challenge you to be a better version of yourself. He treated everyone with dignity and respect and his Catholic faith was a shining example of what the Gospel looks like in real life.

On a recent cloudy Friday afternoon, things were winding down for the weekend and I found myself alone in the reception area. I saw Mr. Miller’s empty chair behind the desk. At first, I was filled with sadness and emptiness. Then, I felt compelled to go over and have a seat. In the rare quiet, I humbly sat in Mr. Miller’s chair and immediately began thinking about the gift that this man was and still is. The sun momentarily broke through the high windows of the lobby and illuminated the mural that Mr. Miller loved so much. It depicts Jesus calling the children to him. Even though tears welled up in me, a big smile ran across my face. After a few minutes, I got up and knew exactly what to do next. Put the cat out.

God bless you, Mr. Miller.

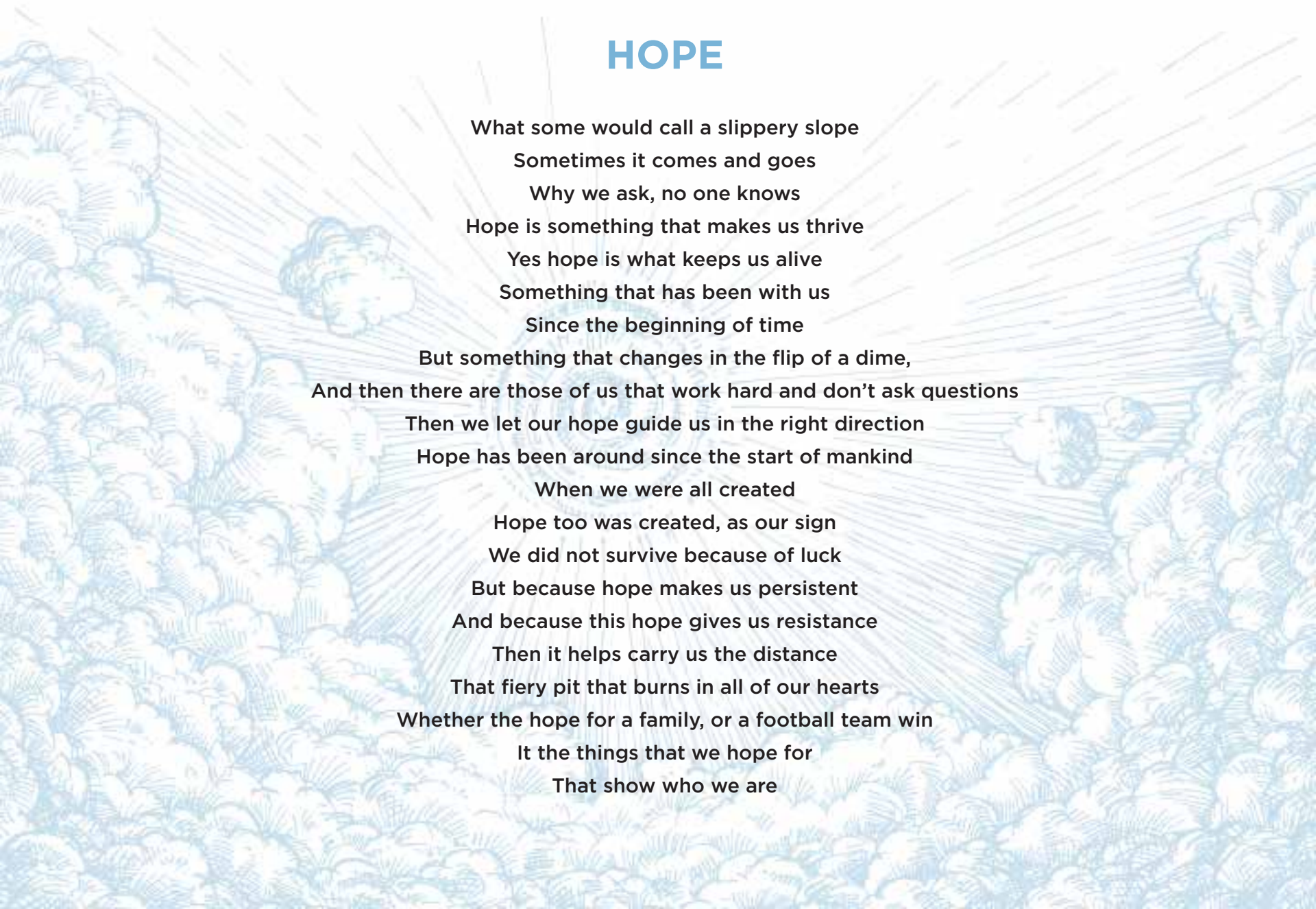


Although we are weeping, **help us keep soaring!**

Mr. Miller had a positive effect on so many people. One of those is a teen currently in DCCH's Residential Treatment Program.

"Dean" is a poet. A brave young man, Dean spoke with our Board at a recent meeting and shared a couple of his beautiful poems. He also reflected on his relationship with Mr. Miller, who was the first person he met upon arrival at DCCH. Mr. Miller talked with him about his feelings and shared his own story with Dean. He went to visit Dean and, if Dean was having a bad day, he'd go see Mr. Miller. Dean learned so much from him – what's happening today is not the worst thing ever; keep your eye on the future, it will be better; the help you're getting now is invaluable so hang on; have hope because there is a brighter tomorrow. The time, caring, and love Mr. Miller shared with Dean had a profound impact on this young man. What a blessing for Dean to have experienced that special relationship with such an incomparable soul. Mr. Miller inspired him to write this poem, which he is happy to share with you.

HOPE



What some would call a slippery slope
Sometimes it comes and goes
Why we ask, no one knows
Hope is something that makes us thrive
Yes hope is what keeps us alive
Something that has been with us
Since the beginning of time
But something that changes in the flip of a dime,
And then there are those of us that work hard and don't ask questions
Then we let our hope guide us in the right direction
Hope has been around since the start of mankind
When we were all created
Hope too was created, as our sign
We did not survive because of luck
But because hope makes us persistent
And because this hope gives us resistance
Then it helps carry us the distance
That fiery pit that burns in all of our hearts
Whether the hope for a family, or a football team win
It the things that we hope for
That show who we are



hope goes the distance

Going Miles and **Beyond**

It's not every day you hear about an adult being adopted by a family. But that is exactly what happened with the Miles family. Jerry and Jenny Miles have changed many lives through their 42-year marriage and dedication and desire to serve others, especially children. They have nine children, of whom seven joined through adoption. Jerry and Jenny are parents, teachers, advocates, coaches, foster parents, grandparents, mentors, and adoptive parents.

Jerry and Jenny first contacted DCCH Center in 2015, when they decided that adding just “one more child” to their family was what God had called them to do. After having two biological children, they chose to open their home to children in need. They began fostering in 2001 and their journey to adoption in 2005. Nick and Malachi were among the first adopted and are now grown and out of the home.



Jerry, Donald and Jenny Miles

The youngest child they adopted was 9-month-old Randall. A few years later, they adopted Damian, who was four at the time. Then in 2014, 11-year old Trevon joined the family, followed by 11-year old Henry in 2018. Randall, Damian, Trevon, and Henry, now 16, 17, 15, and 12 (respectively), were excited last year to welcome Henry's older brother, Donald, to the family.

Donald's younger biological brother was adopted by Jerry and Jenny through the DCCH TFC Program in 2018. Although the boys were not together the two plus years of Henry's foster-to-adopt journey, Jerry and Jenny made it a priority to keep the brothers connected. **Through the visits between the two brothers, Jerry and Jenny started forming a relationship with Donald.**

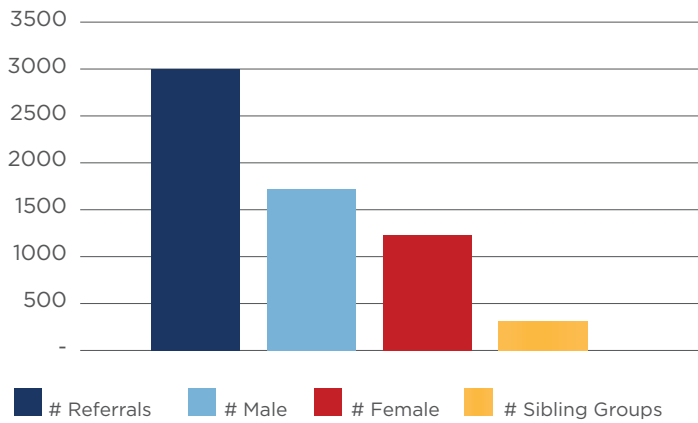
When Jerry and Jenny were told Donald needed a family, as he was anticipating discharge from his previous placement, they did not hesitate to open their home to him. Jenny says, **“Even though he was older, he still needed support and guidance.”** Donald has embraced the opportunities Jerry and Jenny have offered him. Jerry says, “he's been a great role model for his four younger brothers, and we are so happy we were able to make him part of our family.” Jenny says, “everyone is supportive of each other and **we're learning to be a family together.**” DCCH could not be prouder of the success of this young man and his wonderful family.

“This is one example of how a family is making a difference in their community. They are amazing, dedicated, a true example of living their faith and calling from God,” says Ron Bertsch, TFC Director at DCCH.

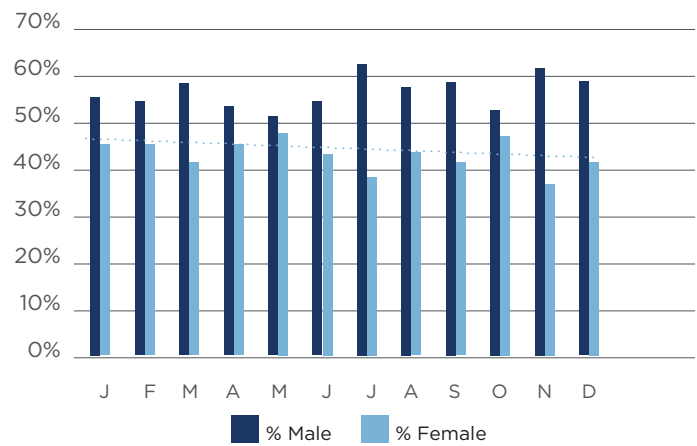
Did you know?

As of December 1, 2019, there were 9,847 children in “out of home placements” in the state of Kentucky – 1,353 in the Northern Bluegrass region alone (Source: KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services). In 2019, DCCH Center received **3,010 referrals for children in need of a family.** The average age of child referrals was 12.6 years old with **1,886 of these referrals being 13 and older.**

2019 Referrals



Male vs Female Referrals

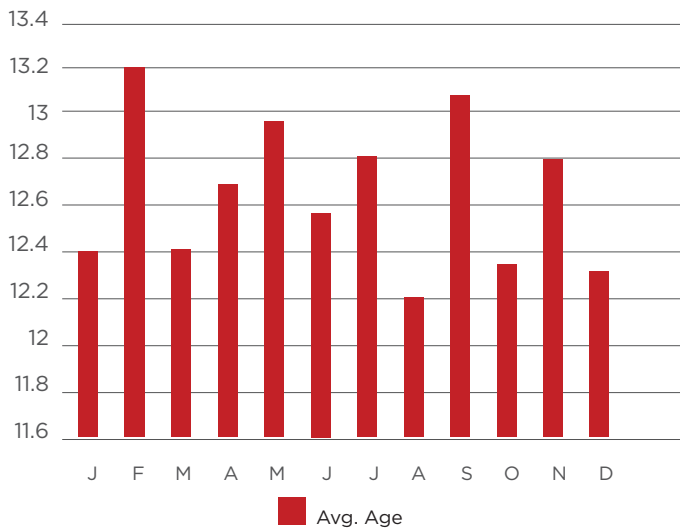


2019 # of Referrals

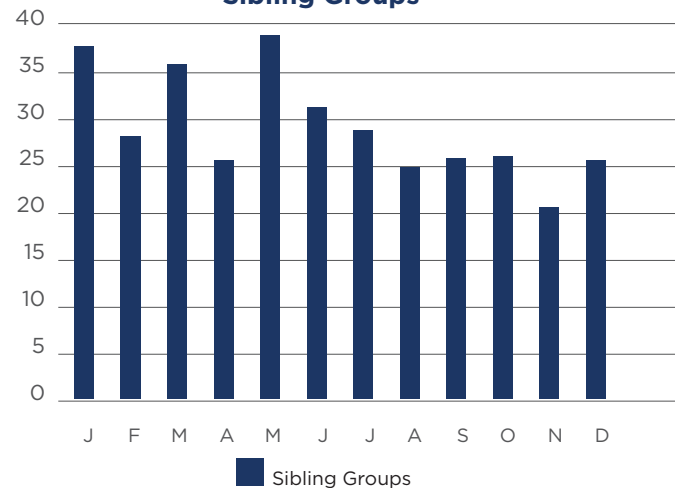


In the past year, state funding has shifted its focus with children in “Out Of Home Care.” There are a growing number of children who are being placed with a family member, relative, or what is called “fictive kin,” which is someone close to the birth family, like a close neighbor or friend, a teacher, or coach. Now, when a child is removed from the home, the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services is searching, as a first option, for relatives or fictive kin who would take the child in while in State custody. Not surprisingly, **relatives are more apt to take in the younger children, leaving older boys and girls still in need of a loving family.**

Average Age of Referrals



Sibling Groups



Can you give them hope?

Will you be the one to change their lives? **Learn more at www.DCCHCenter.org/GiveThemHope.**



hope is dynamic

Volunteer Happenings



L'Oréal volunteers

Throughout 2019, DCCH was blessed to have 165 individuals and 22 groups volunteer every single week.

In total, **659 individuals** volunteered their time and talents to the kids we all care for at DCCH. And special thanks to their families and employers for allowing them the time to change lives.

When asked, our volunteers have helped in every aspect of our organization. When the kitchens were being renovated, our volunteers made sure our kids and staff had hot meals. Once the kitchens were completed, others moved in to paint the common areas and hallways of our residential building. One donor even provided brand new chair cushions for each apartment. **They all helped create a calmer and more comfortable environment for the kids at DCCH.**

Volunteers also helped in our Welcome Center by greeting visitors, answering phones, filing paperwork, and assisting with accounting services. Guardian Angels School was blessed to have help for the library and tutors for our classrooms. **They provided one-on-one assistance for the kids who needed a little extra help with their studies.** We have had grounds work done, flower and vegetable gardens planted, and horse fencing installed and painted. And it takes an army of unique individuals to groom, feed, and train the horses used for the kids' Equine sessions.

Many of our volunteers work together as a group. Activities, parties, birthdays, and holidays are celebrated with the children because of the planning and hosting of these wonderful groups. HALO and the Young Professionals set up and sponsor dine-and-donate events, tournaments, fundraisers, and one awesome bus trip. The Flea Market is completely operated by volunteers. This dedicated group works multiple days a week turning "one man's junk" into "another man's treasures." The funds generated from these sales all go back into caring for the children living here. Together, **these groups fulfill vital roles needed to give the kids the quality of life they deserve.**

And let's not forget about those special people willing to commit large chunks of their weeks to show the kids that they are loved. Individual volunteers spent time in the apartments several times a month working with children to help them adjust to their new surroundings. Weekly, mentors invest their time giving a child an opportunity to have adventures out in the communities to which they will return one day. Because of them, **these children have a supportive relationship they can look to for advice and encouragement** during this challenging time of their life.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have and continue to give their time and talents. You show up with smiles, love, compassion, and generosity in your heart. You are and inspiration to us all. We are better because of YOU.

 **Finding volunteer opportunities is easy!**

Just go to our volunteer homepage: DCCHCenter.org/Volunteer. You will find detailed descriptions of each volunteer opportunity.



hope is directive

A Legacy of Love



The Coleman siblings

DCCH has been caring for children and families for over 170 years, starting out as St. John's Orphanage. It was a safe place for children to go when their parents were down on their luck. Thousands of children have found refuge at DCCH over the years; many never forget the love and compassion they received; and some are determined to give back.

Betty Coleman Schneider was six years old when she and her three brothers arrived St. John's, their single mom unable to care for them on her own. The Coleman children lived at St. John's for seven years until their mom remarried and could manage the family once more. Wanting to leave a legacy of love and inspired by their safe place when things were rough, Betty and her husband Charles, along with their family, generously donated funding renovate all five apartment kitchens for the children who live at DCCH Center. We are beyond grateful for their commitment and support!

 **Check out this awesome transformation in video!**

Go to YouTube and search "DCCH Kitchen".



hope is life sustaining

Winter Blues Got You Down?



You're not alone, and the science backs you up! We've heard that rain, cloudiness, and even pollution can bring your mood to its knees. But a study by Brigham Young University Counseling and Psychological Services says it's the number of minutes between sunrise and sunset that actually make the difference. They say sunshine matters. A lot.

Why the sunshine? The light from the sun hitting your retinas triggers a release of a hormone called serotonin, which is mood-elevating. This also decreases the level of melatonin, which plays a role in sleep patterns and mood. So, hitting up a little sunshine and fresh air each day can make a big difference in how you feel. Just don't forget to wear sunscreen!

Not enough sun outside? Still having a little trouble getting up in the morning or making it through the day? The Therapy Center at DCCH is welcoming new patients. Our licensed therapists will see you within a week from the time you call for an appointment. Accepting private insurance as well as Medicaid, the Therapy Center 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.

 **Call the Therapy Center today!** (859) 331-0821

Employee Spotlight - Dave Rolph



The Staff at DCCH are the best! They are dedicated to the children in our care and are the heart of our organization. We'd like to introduce you to one of them...

Dave Rolph is a Case Manager in one of our Residential Apartments. Dave has a business background, having earned two degrees in this area. However, he was not feeling fulfilled in his business career and in 1997 decided to change his life's pathway by making social work his focus, in particular, working with children. He started at DCCH in 2002 as a third-shift Therapeutic Behavior Specialist. He worked in Foster Care from 2003 to 2005 and, in 2006, he returned to our Residential Treatment Program and has been there since.

As case manager, Dave is able to utilize his administrative skills of time management and organization while still working directly with the children. Dave's biggest satisfaction as case manager is seeing the children receive excellent medical care and having their medical needs addressed, often for the first time in their young lives.

He stated that the most important part of his job is to provide "a safe and consistent environment for our Residents. These children have experienced loss in many ways. They are grieving and DCCH's trauma-informed approach helps them process their loss in a safe environment. The hope is that the children will learn to develop trust by believing we (Staff) care and are there for them no matter what the circumstances may be."

Caring for children who have survived abuse can be emotionally difficult, and when asked how he copes, Dave replied, "Just knowing kids are here, at DCCH, safe and cared for, gives me hope. Everyone here is kind and compassionate. We are difference makers." At home, Dave values time spent with friends and family. He also enjoys going to concerts, dancing with his wife, and attending services at Crossroads Church. Thanks for all you do, Dave!



hope is active

Swing into Spring UPDATE

September 12, 2020



Your health and safety is important to us and, in keeping with CDC guidelines regarding gatherings, we have decided to postpone our Swing Into Spring event originally scheduled for April 25. The new date for **Swing Into Spring is Saturday, September 12, 2020** from 7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. in the SETEC Ballroom (St. Elizabeth Training & Education Center) in Erlanger, KY.

It is our biggest fundraiser and we rely on revenue from this event for a significant portion of our operating budget. DCCH's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2020, and this poses challenges to our 2019-2020 fundraising efforts. **The CARE FOR KIDS RAFFLE CONTINUES**, so please, **buy more tickets at www.DCCHCenter.org/Raffle!!!** Following State regulations, we are not permitted to sell tickets unless they are purchased online. If you need help purchasing online, please call 859-331-2040 extension 8413. The drawing for the winners will be streamed on our Facebook page on April 25, 2020.

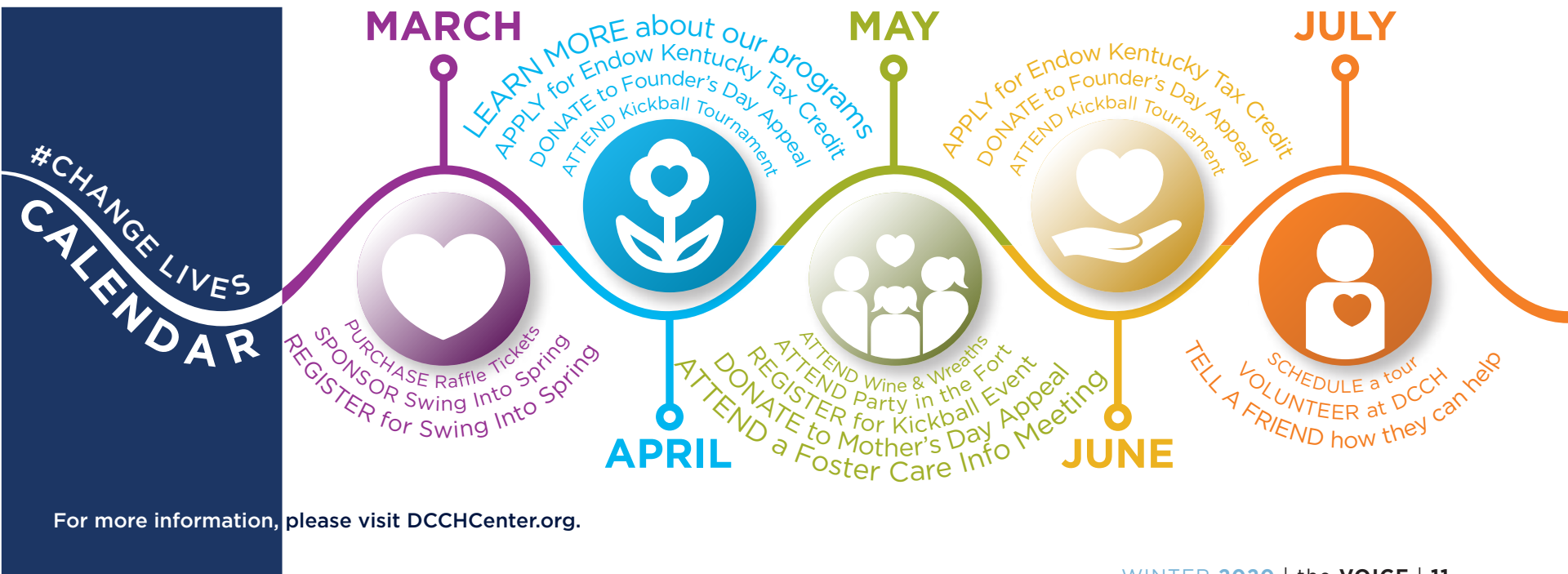
Can't make it to Swing Into Spring? Participate in the Silent Auctions from the comfort of your home! Beginning two weeks before the event, Silent Auction items will be posted online for people to view and start bidding! The auctions will continue through the night of the event. Learn more and register at www.DCCHCenter.org/Events/Swing-Into-Spring after July 1, 2020.

All net proceeds from Swing Into Spring will benefit children living at DCCH and provide a safe home, food, clothing, and life-changing therapy. Swing Into Spring is DCCH's largest fundraising event during the year. Corporate Sponsorships are still available. For more information about giving levels, please visit www.DCCHCenter.org/Sponsor.

 **Do not miss this event!**

Your support helps to give hope and #ChangeLives! See you on September 12TH!

Get Involved!





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