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## Providence House in the News

April was a month to remember at Providence House. Not only did we break ground on our campus expansion, but we also worked hard to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention throughout the month with our Shades of Blue Luncheon and City2City 5K.

With all of these exciting events and developments, the media took notice! Beginning with an article in The Plain Dealer on April 3rd for our groundbreaking, and finishing with an inspirational column by Regina Brett at the end of April, we had TV, Radio, and various newspapers from around the region covering our events throughout the month.

All of this great coverage is loaded on our website and we keep our site up-to-date with our latest news and media stories, so be sure to stay "in the know" by visiting provhouse.org.

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@provhouse26), and check out our videos on our YouTube Channel (youtube.com/providencehouseCLE)! Our newsletter only prints twice a year now to save precious dollars for our children; so stay connected in between editions to get all of the great new news at Providence House!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### CLEVELAND EURO CAR CRUISE-IN

The first annual Cleveland Euro Car Cruise-In is a 3rd party fundraiser benefiting Providence House that will draw hundreds of European car aficionados for a fun-filled day of music, raffles, games, and of course – cars! Admission to this event is FREE, but a \$5 per car donation is suggested.

DATE: Sunday, July 8, 2012 | TIME: 9:00am – 3:00pm

LOCATION: Donauschwaben German American Club, 7370 Columbia Road, Olmsted Township

### COMMUNITY SHARES ANNUAL POWER LUNCH

Community Shares of Greater Cleveland's Annual Social Justice Celebration. Tickets are \$40; to purchase, contact Ashleigh DeVito: Ashleigh@communityshares.org or 216.361.9920

DATE: Friday, June 22, 2012 | TIME: 11:30am – 1:30pm

LOCATION: Windows On The River, 2000 Sycamore Street, Cleveland

## SAVE THESE DATES...

### AUGUST 28, 2012:

#### CLEVELAND POLICE 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT BABY SHOWER

2<sup>nd</sup> District Station, 3481 Fulton Road, Cleveland – 4:00pm

Annual 2nd District "Baby Shower" to benefit Providence House. Come out to support Cleveland Police and the babies and children of Providence House!

### DECEMBER 4, 2012:

#### 17TH ANNUAL "DECK THE HOUSE" LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

Cleveland Browns Stadium, AT&T CityView Lounge – 5:30pm-9:30pm



## Providence House

Every child is your child.™

2037 West 32nd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

www.provhouse.org

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Call 216.651.5982 x247

TO MAKE A GIFT  
Call 216.651.5982 x225

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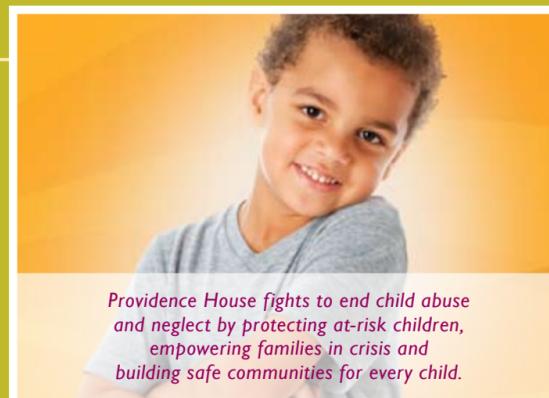
## What Do Babies Dream Of? Our Babies' Dreams Might Surprise You...

A snugly crib, a warm blanket, a full belly, a doctor when you're sick. Simple basic needs met for most children. But not for many of those who come to Providence House. Your support can help us provide the most basic needs to infants and children in crisis who come to Providence House.

Please consider giving critically needed items listed below or making a "Baby Dreams" gift on our website at www.provhouse.org to help our babies' dreams come true.

## WISH LIST CRITICAL NEEDS:

- Gift cards to Dave's Supermarkets, Giant Eagle, Target, Walmart, Office Depot, Staples, and gas stations are always helpful and provide the most flexibility to meet immediate needs
- Girls' summer and winter outfits, sizes: 6, 7
- Boys' summer and winter outfits, sizes: 4, 6, 7
- Shoes and sandals – no flip-flops, please! – boys and girls, sizes: 1, 1 ½
- Formula: Similac Advanced, Similac Alimentum, Similac Sensitive Isomil, Isomil with Iron



Providence House fights to end child abuse and neglect by protecting at-risk children, empowering families in crisis and building safe communities for every child.

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## Providence House

Every child is your child.™



SUMMER 2012

## PROUD TO SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE

We often take for granted the great sacrifices that our military men and women face, both on the home front and on the battlefield. Many military parents must leave their children with spouses or other loved ones and encounter dangerous, and sometimes deadly situations in service of our country. But some parents do not have a support network to help them when they leave home. Johnny, a father of two small boys, was one of these parents. Brittany, his wife and mother of his sons, was struggling with sobriety and mental health issues and was unable to care for the boys. Since Johnny was deployed to a naval combat zone with the 7th Fleet, the family did not have a safe and loving place for their 3 year old and 1 year old sons to stay – until they found Providence House.

Johnny needed to fulfill his duty to his country, and Brittany needed to seek help; they both desperately needed somewhere to turn. Fortunately, they were referred to Providence House by Brittany's Department of Children and Family Services case worker as she was transitioning into a treatment program at Laurelwood. Knowing that what they each needed to do would not allow them to care for their boys; they placed Johnny (3) and Matthew (1) at Providence House.



Johnny and Matthew

Older brother Johnny and his younger brother Matthew were very busy during their stay at Providence House. Johnny showed great improvement in his speech development after attending speech therapy at MetroHealth Hospital, and Matthew was caught up on all of his immunizations. They participated in daily activities like arts and crafts, story time, and educational activities; they went on field trips to the

Children's Museum of Cleveland, the Aquarium, and the Zoo; and they got to play and laugh with other children their age. One of the most memorable moments of their stay was Matthew's first birthday party. Surrounded by balloons, decorations, children, staff, and volunteers, Matthew smiled and giggled as they sang him Happy Birthday – just seconds before he stuffed his little face with birthday cake. While his first birthday party wasn't complete without mom and dad, Matthew experienced love, happiness, and laughter with his Providence House family.

While Providence House provides comfort, fun, and love; nighttime can still be scary and lonely for children who miss mommy and daddy. Many children go to bed uncertain of what tomorrow may bring. They miss the bedtime rituals they had with their parents. Before their dad, Johnny, shipped out, he filmed himself reading a favorite bedtime story to his boys so they could see him every night while he was away. Young Johnny was especially mesmerized by the image of his dad reading to him onscreen, closely watching his father as he read one of his favorite bedtime stories to him. It is in these special moments these little boys had the opportunity to stay connected to their dad no matter how far the distance between them may be.

Parents or guardians who bring their children to Providence House come from all walks of life

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AND MORE!

**Thank you to everyone involved!**

Thank you to our Annual Corporate Partners and our 31st Anniversary "Shades of Blue—Blueprint for the Future" Luncheon Event Sponsors.

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**BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**

## A Note from Natalie

Dear PHriends,

Every April, Providence House makes a major push to raise awareness of the importance of fighting child abuse and neglect. But just 12 months ago, we were fighting to keep our doors open to all the children and families who desperately need Providence House and our unique services.

A year ago, I wrote in this column about our urgent need to update and expand our crisis nursery to serve more children and meet new state regulations. We asked for your help to "Protect the Promise" we made more than 30 years ago to protect children at risk of abuse and neglect. I'm thrilled to report that this spring, we broke ground on our expansion. We are indebted to our generous donors who helped make this happen. But even when it opens, we will still need ongoing support to serve our children and families.

During our fight to build our new wing and remain compliant, we also realized that we could and should be doing more. We began to see opportunities to expand: our work, influence, and base of support locally, statewide, and across the county. Our successful efforts to end child abuse and neglect can be modeled in any community where children are at risk of abuse and neglect. Here in Cuyahoga County, the need has never been greater — more than 21,000 reports of child abuse and neglect were made to the 696-KIDS hotline in 2011. And the numbers across Ohio and the US are equally distressing.

While we're excited by the progress we've made, the reality is that we must do more as an organization and community to protect children and empower families. We announced at the Shades of Blue Luncheon our "Blueprint

for the Future," which sets the stage for our ongoing work to protect the promise we made over three decades ago.

Our Blueprint for the Future is focused on five key elements: Creating our Campus, Expanding our Services, Replicating our Model, Positioning our Brand, and Diversifying our Revenue. Each of these focus areas is essential to meeting our goal of helping more children.

The first and most critical of our three-phase expansion plan to Create our Campus is underway. In case you missed the recent story in The Plain Dealer, we broke ground on this new expansion on April 3rd. Adding this wing allows us to combine our children's shelter and services all under one roof. We are on track to finish in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with our children in our new wing this fall. And we will be fully compliant with new state policies, double the number of children we can serve, and push the number of children we serve each year to nearly 250. A big thank you to each and every one of the 300 individuals, companies, and organizations

that contributed to our "Protect the Promise" capital campaign to complete the new wing.

Our efforts to Expand our Services include efforts to better serve our children by welcoming a broader age range of children — up to age 10, allowing siblings to share living spaces and nurture family bonds, and creating larger, improved education, developmental, and play spaces. At the same time, we hope to develop a Family Intervention Center that will mentor, educate, and counsel our crisis nursery families and additional families in the community. And we will continue to explore partnerships



**"While we're excited by the progress we've made, the reality is that we must do more as an organization and community to protect children and empower families."**

with other nonprofits, neighbors, and public and private sector organizations to improve and broaden our services through collaboration.

We also know that our unique model can benefit children everywhere. So we're working to replicate it anywhere and everywhere it is needed. Our work to Replicate our Model will take us to counties throughout Ohio and cities throughout our country. Leaders in Columbus have taken notice and are working with us to determine the best location to create Providence House satellites. We also recently welcomed leaders from Pittsburgh who want to replicate our model there. And we continue to tell our story at national conferences in the hopes that children across America might benefit and find safety.

We continue to Position our Brand through our interactive website, growing special events, targeted marketing, and active media relations. As you read this newsletter, you also will learn about our new PHriends Campaign, led by our young professionals group. We want to continue our April outreach efforts through a community campaign that reaches everyone who believes that Every Child is their Child. We encourage you to visit our website, join the campaign, get a PHriends car magnet,

and stay informed about our events and activities in the community.

Finally, we're focused on Diversifying our Revenue to build on our strong foundation and ensure our long-term sustainability. We've made several trips down state to urge representatives in Columbus to help our mission. We're seeing the results of our active campaign. The Attorney General's Office and Victims of Crime fund now support us, and we are working to make state regulations more cost-effective for our model. Reaching new donors is also a priority whether it's businesses, foundations, or individuals. We want to stay in front of them — and you — with our compelling story because we need everyone's support to achieve our goals.

With your support, we can help families like Johnny, our military dad featured in this edition, who was serving our country overseas when Providence House helped care for his children. It is your support that allowed us to serve nearly 150 children and their families last year alone. And it is your support that will help us make our Blueprint for the Future a reality, preventing child abuse and neglect and keeping families together — healthier, safer, and stronger.

Check out our progress on the web!  
[www.provhouse.org](http://www.provhouse.org)



## Be more than a Providence House donor... be our PHriend!

Sign up today at [www.provhouse.org](http://www.provhouse.org) to become an official PHriend of PH! By becoming a PHriend, you are committing to a higher level of support for Providence House by adding showing your pride in being a voice for children in our community. Beyond writing a check or volunteering, you are showing the community that you believe in — and have joined us in — our mission to end child abuse and neglect by protecting at-risk children, empowering fragile families, and building safer communities for every child.

Become a PHriend and receive your PH car magnet and future announcements about PHriends events and PHriends gear!

The PHriends effort is led by our PHriends Executive Committee, a group of young professionals whose mission is to educate the Greater Cleveland community about the role that Providence House plays in protecting our community's children, and to encourage their awareness and involvement in supporting the efforts of the organization.

If you or someone you know is a young professional interested in joining the PHriends Executive Committee, please email [phriends@provhouse.org](mailto:phriends@provhouse.org) for more information and to learn about the application process.

## PROUD TO SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE — continued from page 1

and nearly every situation imaginable. Providence House requires each parent to sign a contract when they place their children with us, which requires them to commit and adhere to a family preservation plan that includes visitation, parent support programs and case management. In order to receive services, all families must meet admission criteria for appropriate reasons for placement and participate in the programs and services offered in our program.

Brittany visited her boys regularly while she was receiving treatment. She worked closely with our licensed social workers on her case plan, attending two appointments a week to work through her substance abuse issues and mental health concerns. While Johnny was away, Brittany participated in the Parent Support and Educaton Program that identifies a parent's strengths and opportunities for growth as a nurturing parent. The staff at Providence House worked with her on budgeting, developing family rituals, and learning play activities to help encourage the positive development of the children.

It was an exciting day when dad returned from his overseas deployment and the whole family was reunited. No one was



▲ PH Car Magnet

Become our PHriend today!  
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more excited to see him than Matthew and Johnny! The family has relocated to Maryland, where Johnny is stationed at Patuxent River Naval Base. The work that began at Providence House is now continuing in Maryland. And, Providence House continues to provide long-distance support to the family as they transition and move forward as a happy, healthy family.

The foundation that is built for children and families at Providence House is vital to the long-term success of the family as a whole. This responsibility begins when a family makes the difficult choice to bring their children to Providence House. Johnny made this heart wrenching choice for his family as he left to protect his country, stating in a letter to us, "I am always thanked for serving my country. But it is I who thanks Providence House for taking care of my boys so that I can serve knowing that they are safe and loved."

Whether it's a military deployment, a health crisis, domestic violence, homelessness or other issue, Providence House is always here to protect children and empower families. It is our mission. It is our passion. It is our honor to serve our community's children.