



Providence
House

house news

WINTER 2022



Cultivating a Culture That Embraces Everyone

Providence House wants everyone who engages with us to feel welcome and valued, from our clients and staff to our donors, volunteers, and community partners.

It's so important to us that we made "Embrace Everyone" by cultivating a culture of inclusivity and equity one of our top priorities in our Destination 50 Strategic Plan.

To set a strong foundation for our efforts, we brought in a national consulting firm, Gradient, to work with our Board of Directors and Team Members through training sessions and discussions about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), as well as interviews and focus groups about individual experiences with Providence House.

Through this, we can develop a common awareness and appreciation of our differences to better serve our mission.

Our focus on DEI is not just about race or ethnicity; it's about every child and family in our community and understanding their lived experiences. Through this, we can develop a common awareness and appreciation of our differences to better serve our mission.

"During difficult times, Providence House families need to know that their children are safe, fed, clothed, and loved, but it is also very important that they experience an environment where DEI is not just accepted but expected," said Angie Stojkov, Providence House Board Member and Chair of the Board's DEI Committee. "Everyone within the Providence House family – the staff, the Board, the kiddos, and the families served – should feel that they are important for who they are and not what they are. DEI is about people respecting people. That is important for Providence House and for all of us as human beings."

The response from Board and Team Members has been wonderful. Now both groups are focused on turning conversations into actions through DEI Committees that will work together on systemic changes to ensure Providence House truly reflects and supports our diverse families, supporters, and community.

We hope to increase our accessibility, become an even stronger advocate for children and families, and ensure Providence House is a place where everyone knows they belong.

everyone

Elevating the Voices of Our Families

The children and families we serve are the heart of Providence House, and now, their voices will be an integral part of our ongoing programs and services.

Our parents and guardians work incredibly hard to improve stability for their families during times of crisis and great need. So many of them believe in the transformative support Providence House offers that nearly 70% of our clients self-refer based on an endorsement from someone they know who has had a positive experience with us.

Our parents and guardians are truly partners in our family preservation efforts, and we're excited to expand and formalize that partnership by launching a Parent Advisory Council in 2023.

The Parent Advisory Council will provide an opportunity for Providence House to engage families who have worked with us in developing and implementing our programs to enhance the services we provide.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity to elevate the voice of the direct recipients of our service.

"We don't want to make any assumptions about what our families and children need," said Ashley Stock, Director of Programming and Clinical Operations for Providence House, "Our goal is to provide an opportunity to elevate the voice of the direct recipients of our service, to ensure we're providing



what's most meaningful and helpful to them, and this will help us to do that."

The Parent Advisory Council will include 10 to 15 parents and guardians who represent the full scope of services we provide, from our Crisis Nursery to our Community Education and Resiliency Program. This will allow Providence House to include diverse perspectives and experiences in the program and service decisions we make going forward.

We also want this to be a worthwhile opportunity for our families that will help them learn, grow, develop professional skills, and build relationships with other participants.

Our vision for the Parent Advisory Council is for Providence House staff and families to work together in an environment of equality and respect with the common goal of providing support that meets the ever-changing needs of our families and our community.

Once the charter for the council is approved, we will begin hosting information sessions and recruiting parents and guardians to participate!

Emergency Placement Program

Trauma experienced during childhood can have serious long-term impacts on a young person's life. That's why Providence House has chosen to partner with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide a caring, trauma-informed environment for children taken into emergency custody.

Our Emergency Placement Program began in 2019, and since then, we reserve two beds in our Crisis Nursery to provide home-like shelter and direct care services for up to 14 days to children in DCFS custody as an alternative to the county's childcare room. The program offers emotional and physical safety to children during this critical period of trauma and transition and provides DCFS staff with peace of mind in knowing they are well cared for as their cases are investigated.

During their stay at Providence House, we work to find an appropriate relative or foster home placement for the children while they benefit from the same assistance and programming as the rest of the children in our Crisis Nursery. Our trained Childcare

staff provides activities designed to alleviate trauma symptoms during a child's stay through our daily curriculum, and our Social Work team uses short, in-the-moment interventions with children whose trauma-related behavior may be escalated.

Last year, 13 children received 86 nights of care through the Emergency Placement Program, and 100% of DCFS staff reported having a positive experience working with Providence House.

Our contract with DCFS was recently renewed, and we are working closely with them and many partner organizations to identify more collaborative solutions focused on the well-being of children and families in our community.

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A NOTE FROM

Natalie



Our winter newsletter is focused on inclusion, which seems fitting as we enter the holiday season. We often reach out to family and friends, celebrate together, and share hope for health, happiness, and prosperity in the new year.

The diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts of Providence House are not new, but they are renewed and very intentional. We have always served and welcomed anyone who needs and supports us. From our families and staff to our Board and community, every interaction we have and every action we make is focused on embracing everyone.

Families reach out to Providence House for a variety of reasons, from respite care for their children to securing formula and other basic items to help make ends meet. At the holidays and every day, we work to provide them with the resources they need to achieve the health and stability all families deserve.

As we all navigate the new norm of an almost-post-pandemic lifestyle and confront increasing inflation and a possible recession, it can feel overwhelming. We have all endured a great trauma, experienced loss, and now have harsh new economic realities to confront.

We will all feel it at some level, and I dare to say none worse than frontline nonprofits like Providence House. As prices rise, we are challenged to cover the costs of staff, food, clothing, and utilities to care for the children who stay with us, and provide the support our families need to stay together. As recession looms, our donors are conserving resources and reducing giving, further challenging our ability to cover the costs of fulfilling our mission.

So, my request this holiday season is a simple two-fold "ask." First, include and embrace those around you, welcome them and share your lived experiences to find common ground. And second, include Providence House. We need you, and our children and families need you, to help see us through the challenging days ahead and the promising years to come.

Stay safe and well. May 2023 be filled with love and joy!

Natalie

Natalie A. Leek, President & CEO

Join us for the best holiday party in town!

Deck House

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 @5:30-9:30 PM



Mix and mingle with our honorary chairs, Cleveland Browns Legend Joe Thomas and Annie Thomas, and our celebrity emcee, Andrea Vecchio

Enjoy holiday performances, delicious food, and cocktails, and the 2022 Ed Block Courage Award ceremony honoring a Cleveland Browns Player

Bid on our specially curated collection of silent and live auction packages

Deck your own house with one of our beautifully decorated trees

Help Providence House give the gift of care to children and families in crisis this upcoming year during this festive evening full of holiday cheer!

You can purchase tickets online at provhouse.org/deckthehouse

Can't join us in person? You can still participate in the auction virtually by visiting provhouse.org/deckthehouse

For questions, please contact Makenzie Jones at makenzie@provhouse.org or 216.651.5982 x126

HOW TO SUPPORT PROVIDENCE HOUSE THIS *holiday season*

In addition to your holiday or year-end gift to support the growing number of children and families who need us, there are lots of fun ways you can get others involved and make a difference this holiday season! We have a Holiday Wish List and resources available at provhouse.org/holiday - and here are some ideas to get you started!

- **Organize a Giving Tree or Gift Drive**

Your family, company, or organization can host a holiday giving tree or gift drive to benefit the babies and children of Providence House

- **Host a Holiday Party**

Ask your guests to bring a gift for Providence House in lieu of a host gift

- **Give a Gift in Honor of Family, Friends, or Co-Workers**

We'll send them a holiday card to let them know you are supporting children and families in their honor

- **Make a Stock or an IRA Gift**

Make a significant impact on our mission while maximizing your potential tax benefits with a stock or IRA charitable rollover donation! You can find all of the details and instructions at provhouse.org/stock

If you have any questions about how you can help this holiday season, please contact Selena Vazquez at selena@provhouse.org or 216.651.5982 x169