

Winter 2021



# nurture

Family Nurturing Center



"Although the world is full of suffering,  
it is also full of the overcoming of it."  
- Helen Keller



Dear FNC Community,

I often give new donors, volunteers, and board members a tour of our Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati offices. There is no better way to understand our mission. After a tour of our Cincinnati office, a volunteer shared with me her impression of our "Goodbye Room":

*"At first glance it was nothing special. A small room with a single table, a few chairs, and a box of tissues. But that box of tissues told the whole story. This was the place for final goodbyes. The place where the best result for the child meant a termination of parental rights. This room held the last words, the last hug, the last gifts. That box of tissues was the last thing they would share."*

She saw it: the heartbreak of the past living right alongside the hope for a new future. This is true for all our families.

### Hope and heartbreak, hand in hand.

Our families have struggled in 2020. They want to look forward to 2021 with hope. Foster parents need support, children need visitations with their birth parents, birth parents need parenting guidance. Survivors of child abuse, children and adults, need therapy and counseling services. That is why we're here.

### That is why you're here.

You can make all the difference to someone right here in our community through your support by sponsoring the services they need to make for a better 2021. We all have hopes for next year, many of which rely on things beyond our control. But it is within your control to provide hope for a local family.

### Will you be their hope?

Together, let's leave behind the heartbreak of 2020 and walk side by side toward a bright and hopeful 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane".

Jane Herms, MSW  
Executive Director

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# BIG IMPACT

We've all had to adjust to a new "virtual" life and our families in the foster care system are no exception.

While today families are again able to connect in-person using rotating schedules and built in "quarantine time", there were a handful of months where we were conducting visits exclusively virtually. Virtual family visitations can be awkward but keeping these people connected to each other in any way we can is invaluable.

We did a virtual visit with a family of four, Mom, a teenage boy, and two young girls. Keeping everyone engaged can be tricky but this family radiated love. Mom was diligent in asking specific questions and praising each kid. They all expressed their feelings for each other, even the teenage boy shared,

**"I LOVE YOU, MOM, AND I LOVE THE GIRLS SO MUCH."**

The girls put on a show for their mom and brother. The entire visit was full of smiles and laughter. But there is a story behind the story.

"Mom" is actually the kids' maternal grandmother, their biological mother unable to raise her children because of struggles with addiction. This grandma is fighting through a strained relationship with her own daughter, homelessness, and the agony of having her grandchildren removed from her care. She misses them immensely and tries to stay strong when she's with them.

**SHE WAS OPEN, VULNERABLE, TEARFUL, AND THANKFUL.**

**SHE IS A PERSON, GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME.**

**SHE IS A SURVIVOR.**

Stories like this fuel our mission and our approach methods. We share these stories with each other, and now, we're sharing them with you. You deserve to see and hear the impact of your dedication to Family Nurturing Center.

Our clients are people, going through hard times. They are survivors. And your support makes a world of difference.

## Thank You to Our Friends



Thank you to Hamilton County Non Profit Relief for funds which helped us continue to provide essential family services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding allowed us to purchase PPE and improve technology in order to provide safe and flexible services.



We are overwhelmingly grateful for our long standing friendship with the Northern Kentucky University chapter of Kappa Delta and their \$8,500 donation. These girls managed this donation even amidst the postponement of their Shamrock Color Me KD 5K event benefiting Family Nurturing Center.

# WHERE HOPE LIVES

Last year we relocated our Northern Kentucky office and we're proud to say we've created quite a beautiful new home. Since we can't safely invite you in for a live tour, we thought we'd do one the 2020 way...virtually!



## INTERACTION ROOM

We are only one of a few providers for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), an innovative approach that allows for hands-on coaching by a trained clinician to the caregiver through an earpiece that is aimed at enhancing relationships and equipping caregivers with the ability to successfully navigate trauma-based behaviors.



## WIN WALL

The stories we hear, the challenges our participants face, can, at times, feel astounding. It is important to celebrate each and every win no matter the size. We share these wins with each other on our win wall to stay connected to each other and our clients.

## KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Our kids on the block puppets have a special spot, one of our counselors shared, When I deliver therapy services in schools, I tell the kids "The puppets that come visit you at school work in my office. They sit right down the hall from me!" Their faces light up when they realize that my coworkers are from the Kids on the Block puppet show.



## INSPIRATION WALL

When a client leaves for the day, we invite them to take a piece of inspiration home with them. These envelopes, filled with hopeful quotes, funny comics, and personal messages allow us to send our clients out into the world with a piece of light in their pocket.



TAKE WHAT YOU NEED...

“

**OWNING OUR STORY AND LOVING OURSELVES THROUGH THAT PROCESS IS THE BRAVEST THING THAT WE'LL EVER DO.**

Brene Brown

”



We are overwhelmingly grateful for a \$15,000 grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation for our Kids on the Block Program.

## CHARLES & RUTH SELIGMAN FOUNDATION

We'd like to thank the Charles and Ruth Seligman Foundation for their generous \$15,000 grant directly toward our Kids on the Block program.

## Thank You to Our Friends



### BLUE RIBBON BASH

*To End Child Abuse*

As you well know, each August we hold the Blue Ribbon Bash fundraiser to end child abuse. Like so many other live events this year, we were forced to postpone until next April.

But, thanks to YOU, our amazing supportive community, we were able to raise \$19,000 in replacement donations.

In true Family Nurturing Center fashion, we're turning lemons into lemonade and are using this as an opportunity to revitalize the Blue Ribbon Bash 2021! By holding this event in April, we're able to align it with Child Abuse Prevention Month increasing our ability to bring awareness to the community.

We don't know what this event will look like yet, but we do know it will happen, it will be amazing, and it will support thousands of children and families in our area.



# OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY!



**THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK PROGRAM** provides school based prevention services which increase public awareness about the problem of child abuse and equips children with the skills to recognize and report such abuse and bullying and school safety.

Following the presentation, the puppeteers are trained to address issues related to child abuse and answer questions from the children via the puppets, so that children can clarify any information and gain additional insight into abuse.

To schedule an event contact  
[autumn.caldwell@familynurture.org](mailto:autumn.caldwell@familynurture.org)

Family Nurturing Center is pleased to offer the **STEWARDS OF CHILDREN** curriculum in partnership with **DARKNESS TO LIGHT**. Stewards of Children is a revolutionary prevention program designed to teach adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It uses real people and real stories to show you how to protect children.

To bring this event to your business or organization contact,  
[L-A.Stopa@familynurture.org](mailto:L-A.Stopa@familynurture.org)

## Thank You to Our Friends

*The R. C. Durr Foundation, Inc.*



*The heart of Northern Kentucky*

Thank to to the RC Durr Foundation's \$27,500 grant toward technology needs.

Our computer hardware and software is invaluable to our community efforts, providing us with the tools necessary to be efficient and effective for those we serve.



Thank you to United Way for donating more than 10,000 masks and hand sanitizer - making our in-person sessions a safe reality!



## Training

### *Carol Lapin, Director of Training*

Our mission demands that we do everything within our power to end the cycle of child abuse. Part of that is acknowledging that we cannot do it all, and we cannot do it alone.

Our training program, run by Carol Lapin, offers a wide range of education, awareness and skill trainings to professionals and community groups. Customized workshops, trainings, and in-services are available on a fee-for-service basis. CEUs are available from the OH Social Work Board and KY Board of Social Work.

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## Now offered virtually, our trainings include:

- Engaging Fathers
- Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Facilitator
- Nurturing Parenting Facilitator
- Nurturing Fathers Program Facilitator
- Nurturing Parenting Programs Facilitator
- Nurturing Philosophy
- Stewards of Children
- Nurturing Program for parents and their children with special needs and health challenges facilitator training

For questions, or to register for a training, contact Carol Lapin at [carol.lapin@familynurture.org](mailto:carol.lapin@familynurture.org)

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Carol Lapin is the Director of Training at the Family Nurturing Center. She has a Master of Science in Social Work and for more than 20 years, Carol has been teaching, training, and sharing the philosophy and skills of the Nurturing Parenting Programs® for adults, children and adolescents in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. In 1998, she received the recognition of Dr. Stephen Bavolek, principal author of the programs, as a National Trainer of Trainers in the Nurturing Parenting Programs.

In 2010, Carol received recognition from Mark Perlman, author of the Nurturing Fathers Program, as

a Certified Consultant and Master Trainer. At the 2015 Nurturing Father's Summit, Carol Lapin was awarded the "Woman of the Year" for her support of fathers and their families. According to Mark Perlman, "Since 2009, Carol has been instrumental in promoting father involvement at Family Nurturing Center by including the Nurturing Father's Curriculum in their programming. She became a Master Trainer for Nurturing Father's Programs in 2010 and has trained professionals throughout Kentucky and Ohio to facilitate Nurturing Father's Programs in their community."



Family Nurturing Center

5 Spiral Dr, Suite 100  
Florence, KY 41042

[www.familynurture.org](http://www.familynurture.org)

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## PROGRAMS

- Conduct tailored **EDUCATION PROGRAMS** for schools, organizations and community events designed to teach children how to recognize and report child abuse and teach adults how to prevent, recognize, and respond to child abuse.
- Support the development of strong, healthy relationships through family-based **PARENTING SERVICES**.
- Partner with the **OHIO CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM** to provide supervised visitation services and parent enrichment services.
- Provide comprehensive, specialized, trauma-responsive **COUNSELING SERVICES and HOLISTIC WELLNESS ACTIVITIES** for child victims of abuse and adult survivors of childhood abuse.
- Facilitate **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING** to elevate skills and competencies when working with children, adults, and families.

## STAFF

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Jane Herms, MSW, Executive Director  
 Carol Lapin, MSSW, Director of Training  
 Paul Miller, Director of Donor Relations  
 Bobbie Webster, SHRM-SCP, Director of Human Resources/Operations  
 Hannah Barker, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant  
 Jessica Fletcher, Payroll Analyst  
 Edie Furtado, Human Resources /Operations Assistant

### KENTUCKY SERVICES

Jill Gay, LISW-S, LCSW, Kentucky Director of Programs and Services  
 Ashley Dunn, MSW, Kentucky Program Coordinator of Programs and Services  
 Michelle Comora, Kentucky Services Program Assistant

### Prevention Services

Autumn Caldwell, Prevention Specialist, Kids on the Block  
 Rebekah Cookston, Prevention Services Case Manager  
 L-A Stopa, Prevention and Wellness Specialist  
 Whitney Szabo, Kids on the Block Puppeteer

### Treatment Services

Lori Daley, CSW, Child Abuse Treatment Services Therapist  
 Kim Fussinger, LPCC, Child Abuse Treatment Services Therapist  
 Carly Justice, CSW, Child Abuse Treatment Services Therapist  
 Melanie Nelson, CSW, Child Abuse Treatment Services Therapist  
 Petina Strickley, CSW, Child Abuse Treatment Services Therapist  
 Sarah Johnston, Child Abuse Treatment Services Case Manager

### OHIO SERVICES

Beth Wentz, Ohio Director of Programs and Services

### Parent Enrichment Services

Alisha Broughton, MSW, LSW, Clinical Supervisor  
 Robin Mulcahy, Family Engagement Specialist  
 Carley Storer, MSW, LSW, Clinical Specialist

### Visitation Services

Maggie Spring, LISW-S, Visitation Program Coordinator  
 Terri Shelton, MA, Information Specialist  
 Rachel Heck, LISW, Clinical Facilitator  
 Victoria Hitchens, Intake Specialist  
 Michael Perry, Floor Supervisor  
 Emily Hackett, Program Assistant  
 Allyson Weil, Program Assistant  
 Jeff Clare, Senior Facilitator  
 Jordyn Cook, Senior Facilitator  
 Chris Deering, Senior Facilitator  
 Jeremia Sams, Senior Facilitator

Janet VanNuland, Senior Facilitator  
 Iesha Bailey, Facilitator  
 Marcia Bailey, Facilitator  
 Andy Bernert, Facilitator  
 Sonya Brown, Facilitator  
 Mariah Delaney, Facilitator  
 Vada Edwards, Facilitator  
 Jessika Evans, Facilitator  
 William Hall, Facilitator  
 Sharon Harney, Facilitator  
 Diane Harris, Facilitator  
 Lori Hartman, Facilitator  
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