

# 2020 - 2021 GLAD HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT

# ROUTE TO SUCCESS

As we continue to figure out how to live safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is one question always at the top of my mind: how can we help the GLAD House kids not just survive, but THRIVE? To our kids, the Covid-19 pandemic presents another adversity—on top of parental addiction, poverty, abuse, neglect, and community violence. But with the support of our generous community, we are making a difference in their lives.

Because of you, our kids have GLAD House, which is a safe place filled with caring, trauma-informed adults to teach them coping and problem solving skills to manage their intense emotions and overcome obstacles related to their lifetime of adversity.

Over the last year at GLAD House, 100% of our kids participated in essential social skills groups! The kids learned about coping skills, such as using assertive communication, having positive self-talk, and trusting safe adults. These essential tools help them heal from their traumatic experiences.

Our kids understand that they can reach their full potential free of substances and help break the cycle of addiction. And our outcomes prove that we are making the difference for so many kids! Through our alcohol and drug education groups, the kids have learned about the medical model of addiction, responding to peer pressure, and medication safety. 87% of the GH kids reported gaining knowledge of the harmfulness of drugs and alcohol!

Our kids know that mental health is important for everyone! Despite all their adverse experiences and the Covid pandemic, our kids worked hard to use their coping skills to manage their symptoms of anxiety and depression and to control their impulses. 78% of them improved their social skills and ability to resolve conflicts over the last year, and we are so very proud of them.



#### SIX: 100% of caregivers would recommend GLAD House to a friend! FIVE: 93% of caregivers reported that their family life was better since their FOUR: 78% child came to GLAD House of our childrens' ability to resolve conflicts improved **THREE:** 78% of our childrens' social skills improved TWO: 87% of our kids reported learning about what happens **ONE:** 100% of our when a person children in the uses drugs Champs Program participated in essential social skills groups

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Our Mission: To improve the lives of children and their families by breaking the cycle of addiction.



The GH staff worked tirelessly to collaborate with the children's caregivers to teach them strategies to help the kids manage their intense emotions. They also connected families with resources to meet their basic needs. That is why 93% of our families reported their family life was better since their child came to GLAD House, and 100% of our caregivers would recommend GLAD House to a friend!

We are so grateful for all of you. Thank you for believing in us to provide a comprehensive program to the silent victims of our drug epidemic—children of addicted parents. And thank you for letting our kids know they are important and valued!

With gratitude,

Michelle Cox

Michelle Cox, LISW-S, OCPS, Executive Director

# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

This year, our theme is: We fall. We break. We fail. But then, We rise. We heal. We overcome!

**DURING CHALLENGING** times in our lives it can sometimes feel as if we are climbing up a mountain with many different obstacles. At GLAD House, we learn that there are many ways that we can face and overcome these obstacles. By identifying our goals, using our coping skills, and with the aid of trusted people in our life, we know that there is no challenge too difficult or mountain too large for us to overcome.

**MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS** represent what we use to overcome our obstacles, like doing yoga, taking deep breaths, and using a glitter bottle!

**GOATS, LOGS, AND BOULDERS** represent the obstacles we have to overcome to climb to the top: like bullies, meeting new friends, and going to a new school.

**TENTS** are the shelters that make us feel safe: like a healthy family, trustworthy friends, and a support system.

FLAGS that lead up the mountain display our goals, like "to stay focused," "impulse control," and "to be my own person"!

**TOGETHER**, we are climbing the mountain, overcoming obstacles, and reaching our goals!























# BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER... WITH MAGNIFIED GIVING

What would your ideal world be? If you could do anything, how would you fix the world's problems? These are questions we asked the GLAD House kids, as over the last year they were given the opportunity to be the change they wished to see in the world!

Magnified Giving is an incredible organization that teaches philanthropy to youth—for life! Their mission is to educate, inspire, and engage students in philanthropy, and to touch the hearts and minds of teens, lighten the concerns of others, and magnify the impact of philanthropy.

When GLAD House connected with Magnified Giving last year, students from several local junior high and high schools reached out to us to learn more about our program and our impact on the community. They researched GLAD House and interviewed our executive director, and learned that GLAD House has the only comprehensive, trauma-informed program in the Cincinnati area that provides mental health and drug prevention services to children of addicted parents!

Finally, the students presented about GLAD House to their student body in an INCREDIBLE, informative, impactful presentation! Thanks to their amazing efforts, GLAD House was selected to receive four grants from Magnified Giving!

The GLAD House kids were so excited to hear that they had been selected for grants that would go to pay for point store prizes, art supplies, and fun, holiday activities.



# GLAD HOUSE KIDS GIVE BACK ...

But the excitement wasn't over: Our kids were given the amazing task to research their own local nonprofits and select one that THEY would donate a gift to!

Our oldest group of 10-12 year olds took the lead on the project. They started with a Zoom interview with Magnified Giving's founder, Roger Grein, who has an inspiring story of perseverance, love, and generosity. Our kids related to his story of being adopted, and they wanted to know all about his life! They were also very curious about how he made his money, and why he chose to give so much of it away.

Next the kids discussed what "community" means to them, their friends, and their family—and what they think the needs in their community are. They envisioned a brighter future: "What would the community look like in 10 years with this issue fixed?" And then brainstormed how they could contribute to solving the problem.

After much research and discussion, one of our kids chose Bethany House, which 11-year-old Jaxson presented to all of GLAD House! Bethany House is a family-centered resource of homelessness services, which includes prevention of homelessness, emergency shelter, housing programs, and support post-shelter!

Jaxson knows what it is like to wonder where he is going to sleep at night, as he and his mother have transitioned in and out of shelters. He very passionately asked his GLAD House peers:

#### "If you were homeless, how would you feel? Wouldn't you want a safe place to be? We need to be good human beings: If you see someone thirsty, you give them a bottle of water. If you see someone without a place to live, you help them find a home."

After Jaxson's heartfelt presentation, Bethany House was chosen with unanimous support from the GLAD House kids! Due to Covid precautions, we participated in a private award ceremony with the staff of Bethany House, and the kids were thrilled to have made such a difference.

We can't thank Magnified Giving enough for the wonderful experience that the GLAD House kids had. Through Magnified Giving, our kids felt important and valued. They were so gratified to learn that four schools felt they were important enough to donate money to! And they felt so important to have been given the responsibility of deciding who they could donate money to in turn.

This year, our kids will be researching more non-profits and charities to decide who they want to donate to again, and they couldn't be more excited! Magnified Giving is community at its best: bringing people together to give, and teaching them the joy of giving back.





# **GLAD HOUSE FINANCIALS**



### YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES • • •

CHARITABLE GIFTS to GLAD House provide support for the agency to fulfill its mission and help donors with important financial benefits and potential tax savings. There are many meaningful opportunities for you to change the lives of the children and families we serve. Please consider the following:

#### CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Gifts of cash and checks provide an important source of annual support for GLAD House.

#### GIFTS IN-KIND:

GLAD House is often in need of in-kind donations such as school and craft supplies, snacks, educational materials, or games. Please contact us to discuss current needs.

#### MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES:

Donations may be made in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. This is a wonderful way to recognize someone special who has touched your life in a meaningful way.

#### **BEOUESTS:**

Remember GLAD House in your will. Through estate planning provisions, you can leave a lasting legacy to support GLAD House and the work it does.

#### PLANNED GIFTS:

There are various planned giving options available offering opportunites for commitments that will have a major impact on GLAD House while providing numerous benefits for the donor. Examples include gifts of stock, real property, life insurance, retirement plan benefits, annuities, or trusts. Consult your attorney, accountant, and/or financial planner to discuss the best options for you.

It is with sincere gratitude that we recognize the generous donors who made financial and in-kind contributions to GLAD House. This listing reflects gifts received from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

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