

Giving Life a Dream



GLAD House
Annual Report 2016

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Every Child Has a Story...

Everyone has a story. A story about school, a story about home, a story of unmet needs, and possibly a story some are too afraid to share. When addiction impacts a child's family, the child is quickly taught "don't talk, don't trust, and don't feel." When a child is living with a parent who is struggling with addiction, his life becomes unpredictable. He can't be sure which side of Mommy or Daddy he will see that day, because his parents can be really good parents when they are not abusing substances. These children are not always sure when they will get their next meal, if someone will be home to help with homework, if they will do something to make their parents angry, or if there will be anyone to tuck them in at night.

GLAD House aspires to be the stability in these children's lives to impact their story by building resiliency and breaking the cycle of addiction with our holistic approach. Staff at GLAD House show these children that they are not alone, are not destined for the same future as their parents, and that there are other ways to manage stress and solve problems besides substance use. These children learn that they can come to GLAD House to spend time with people who want to hear about their day and who understand their success in school is important to making positive life choices.

At GLAD House, children are exposed to a variety of positive outlets, such as art, music, yoga, and mindfulness. At GLAD House, the children are given a warm meal and they are allowed to play and just be kids. Many of these children take on parentified roles in their homes, so having people teach them it is okay to be a kid gives them such a sense of relief. At GLAD House, these children see therapists who help them make connections to how their experiences can impact the way they feel, act, and think. In groups, these children learn to have empathy for others, and they learn effective ways to manage their feelings and options for solving problems.

Often times children will tell service providers that they cannot depend on anyone because "people always leave" or "people always break promises." At GLAD House, these children know they can depend on smiling faces, empathy, and support to help them to begin to trust again, to tell their story, to teach them it is okay to feel things deeply, and to learn how to manage those feelings instead of masking them with drugs or alcohol.

To truly create change for a child, the family must be included. All the work of service providers to strengthen self-esteem and to increase hope can be undone by one negative comment by a parent. Providers at GLAD House reach out to the parents to help them learn to address their unmet needs and to help them learn how to parent their children effectively. Many of our parents have been raised in violent homes and they know they don't want to be abusive, but they don't know what else to do as violence was a part of their childhood story. GLAD House service providers build trust with these parents and teach them other ways to raise their kids while also practicing their own healthy self-care.

GLAD House exists to intervene in the lives of the children who need it the most, to take them by the hand and show them that their stories can be so much more than the hardship they have experienced in the past. With help, they can live purposeful lives free of drug use.

Michelle Cox, Executive Director

From the Desk of Michelle Cox, Executive Director

The Heroin epidemic has hit our community hard, and everyone wants to do more for these children and families. GLAD House has an amazing reputation in our community, and I came to GLAD House to take up its cause because I want to do more too. I will be bringing GLAD House's holistic approach to treating these children of addicted parents and share it with the community so that people know their stories don't have to end the same way. GLAD House knows how their lives can be different.

I also have a story of why I entered the field of Social Work. As a child, I watched my parents complain about going to work each day, so I decided I wanted to do something I was passionate about and not just work to have money. I decided to invest in children and their families to help make the world a better place. I received my Masters of Social Work from the University of Cincinnati and I have been a therapist for 16 years. Hearing "thank you for being there" or "my time with you has made such a positive impact on my life" from children are things that I consider priceless.

I worked for 4 years at Center for Children and Families in Madisonville providing outpatient therapy, homebased therapy, school-based therapy, and clinical supervision. I most recently worked at Child Focus, Inc. as Assistant Director of Clermont Regions. I had a small therapy caseload and also managed a team of Coordinators, Therapists, and Qualified Mental Health Specialists who provided therapy, CPST, prevention, and consultation in the office, school, and home settings. I am excited to be at Glad House to improve the quality of life for children and parents who are struggling with addiction.

Addiction is a cycle, from one generation to the next...

8 million children in the U.S. live with at least one parent who suffers from drug or alcohol addiction. Children of an addicted parent are:

More likely to have behavioral problems

More likely to develop a mental illness

3 times more likely to be abused

4 times more likely to be neglected

8 times more likely to develop an addiction later in life

Get The Facts

...But with help, it can be broken.

At GLAD House, we believe those statistics are unacceptable, and they can be changed. Our comprehensive interventions help children learn through prevention education and therapy how to cope with, and ultimately move beyond, this destructive family pattern. They learn to manage their impulses, anger, and behavior so that they can define and achieve their goals.

According to our most recent Caregiver Survey:

92% of GLAD House kids improved their social skills

75% improved their grades

75% increased their ability to resolve conflicts

100% of caregivers reported that their family lives have improved

This is Their Story

At GLAD House, our children aren't merely numbers. They aren't statistics. They're kids. Every child who walks through GLAD House's doors has a story of his own to tell. Our kids have stories of losing parents to addiction or incarceration, adapting to new homes and schools, making new friends, and having experiences that none of their friends have in common or could understand. Such a burden of secrecy weighs them down, making them unable to continue their journeys.

At GLAD House, these kids finally have the ability to speak. Surrounded by friends whose families have gone through the same difficulties as theirs, there is no need for them to feel shame or fear. Every day, the kids meet in therapeutic groups of their peers. Every week, they meet with their own therapist and have the ability to express whatever is on their minds. Not only are they listened to without judgment, they are guided by our mental health professionals in ways to process their emotions, and are equipped with the tools they need to stand tall when they are faced with their lives' obstacles.

At GLAD House, they grow, learn, and become resilient. Because no matter how they have been impacted by the addiction of a caregiver, their stories have not ended. They are only beginning. They will change the statistics and become stronger. At GLAD House, our kids finally have the chance to say, "This is my story."



Everyday Success Stories

Every day is another page in our kids' stories. At GLAD House, we love to celebrate all successes, big and small. Sometimes the best achievements are those that happen day by day!

Tales of new beginnings...

Recently, we were very excited to welcome Samantha to the GLAD House family. Samantha's two older sisters also attend GLAD House, and they have been bringing her home stories about the new friends they've made, the games they've played, and the things they've learned. When Samantha came on her first day, she was greeted with a warm smile and a snack by Ms. Leanece. She soon met her new group leader Ms. Taira, and was introduced to all the other kids. Lucky for Samantha, her first day was also music class day, where she got to sing, learn, and play different instruments! After dinner, as she got back on the van to go home, Samantha declared this had been "the bestest day ever"!

Tales of encouragement...

One day, Justin came to GLAD House rather upset. He had not had a good day. He and his sister had been fighting a lot at home, and Justin was feeling frustrated. As he shared his story and his feelings with his group, each of his friends encouraged Justin to be patient and to forgive his sister, and consoled him to use empathy, just like they had been learning from their group leader Ms. Heather. Justin was really happy to have all the support of his friends, and he came back to GLAD House the next day to say that he and his sister had made up!



Tales of gratitude...

Winter is just around the corner—we can already feel Jack Frost nipping at our noses! Thanks to several very generous donors, at the start of this

winter season, we were able to give each of our kids new coats, hats, scarves, and gloves—whatever they needed! Aiden was so excited to receive not one scarf, but two! He insisted on wearing both at once all the way through dinner, the rest of program, and all the way back on the van ride home.

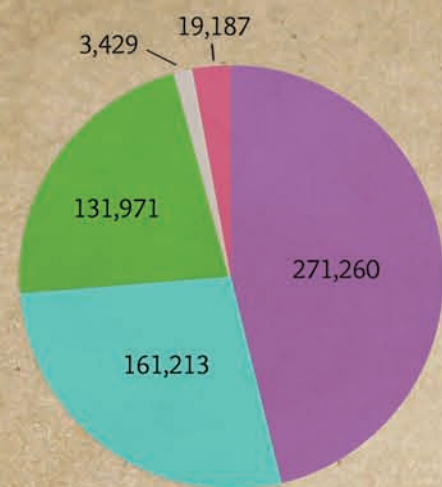


Tales of growth...

There are many ways to express yourself and tell your story, and Hannah has found hers—through art and music. Hannah has been with the GLAD House family for a long time. She's highly creative and loves to move! Before she found her outlet, it was hard for Hannah to express what she was feeling, especially as she dealt with very stressful situations like her mother's recovery process from addiction, or her move from school to school. She was often misunderstood, or written off as a "problem child." But now, every day Hannah brings her art and song books with her to share with her group leader, Ms. Alyssa. Throughout the day, at school and home, Hannah uses her books to paint a picture of what she has experienced or what she felt. Hannah is thriving, and we can't wait to see where her story will take her!

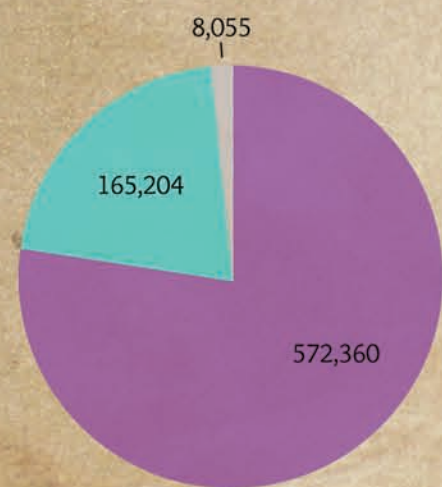
Tales of family...

Being a part of GLAD House is an important new chapter in the lives of each of our families, as they learn to grow and heal together. GLAD House is a safe place, and we want each of our kids to know that here, they are welcome and loved and never judged. On Audrey and Jaxon's first day at GLAD House, their new friends in their group wanted to help them feel as welcome as they could. Each of them introduced themselves to the new kids, and told them their favorite thing about GLAD House. With a big smile on his face, Brayden told them, "What I like about GLAD House is everyone is so nice to me and it feels like my home!"



2016 GLAD House Revenues

- Contributions 46%
- Foundations/Grants 27%
- Medicaid Billings 22%
- MHR SB 3%
- Donated Services 1%



2016 GLAD House Expenses

- Program 77%
- Management & General 22%
- Fundraising 1%

* Data Unaudited for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

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 numerous meaningful opportunities for you to change the lives of the children and families we serve. Please consider the following:

Bequests

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 opportunities 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.

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.

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.

Charitable Contributions

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

Donations, With Thanks...

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, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

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