



GLAD House 2025 Impact Report



Featuring...
*The healing power
of humor!*

Healing Through Hope & Humor



For the past 27 years, GLAD House has been a safe, healing place for hundreds of children in Cincinnati. GLAD House is a place where they can be warm, fed, and, most importantly, are free to just be kids.

The children who walk through our doors have faced unimaginable trauma. They carry heavy burdens no child should ever have to bear—fear, loss, and broken trust.

Our clinical staff listen to heartbreaking stories every day, helping children find hope and stability through care, consistency, and compassion.

Yet even in the midst of that pain, we see so much hope. One of the best parts of my day is hearing the sound of laughter echo through the halls after a tough day. That laughter—from staff on the most difficult days—is powerful. It reminds us all that healing isn't just about therapy and hard work; it's also about joy, connection, and play.

We see that healing happen every day.

When Erika came to GLAD House at 11 years old, she was unsure how to trust anyone. She argued with staff and resisted every rule. But slowly, as she began to feel safe, something beautiful happened—she started to laugh. She started to play. She built trust through shared moments of fun and learned how to express herself in healthy ways.

When she graduated from GLAD House, Erika proudly said:

“

I didn't know about you people at first. You were always in my business and talking about rules and consequences. It took me a while to learn to play around and have fun with you guys. I'm glad I did—I'm gonna miss this place.

”



That's the power of GLAD House. It's where laughter becomes healing. Where trust is rebuilt. Where children find a community that believes in them—even when they don't yet believe in themselves.

But we can't do it without you.

Your support helps provide meals, therapy, safe spaces, and—just as importantly—moments of joy and laughter that change lives. With your gift, we can continue to be that safe, nurturing place for children impacted by parental addiction.

Your support keeps the doors open, the lights on, and the laughter alive. Thank you for helping us create a future filled with hope, healing, and happiness—one child at a time.

With gratitude,

Michelle Cox
Michelle Cox, LISW-S
Executive Director

“

**Where does the
hamburger go dancing?**

The Meat-Ball!

- Joke by Aleyah, age 8

”



Learning Through Laughter

- + + At GLAD House, our social-emotional skill lessons help children
- + + **understand their feelings, build healthy relationships, and practice the coping tools they need to manage daily challenges**
- + + —skills that are essential for healing and long-term resilience.

This year, students brought those lessons to life through a Newspaper Comic Strip project, using storytelling and illustration to explore real-world themes like anxiety, impulse control, and sharing.

Mitch's Stage Fright:

Mitch the alien faces his fear of speaking in front of others, using positive affirmations to calm his worries. His story helped our kids see that **courage often begins with a kind word to ourselves.**

The Last Muffin:

When Moose, Mouse, and Pig find a single muffin, **they choose to share it equally.** Their adventure shows how simple acts of empathy and fairness can turn small moments into connections.

The Cat-Astrophe:

Robbie the Robot teaches Cookie the Cat to **pause and think before reacting,** offering a playful lesson in impulse control and making safe choices.

What does a train say when it eats?

Chew-Chew!

- Joke by Josiah, age 7



Projects like these invite our kids to engage with important life skills in a way that feels **joyful, creative, and empowering**—reminding them that growth can be fun, and every story can spark a new strength.

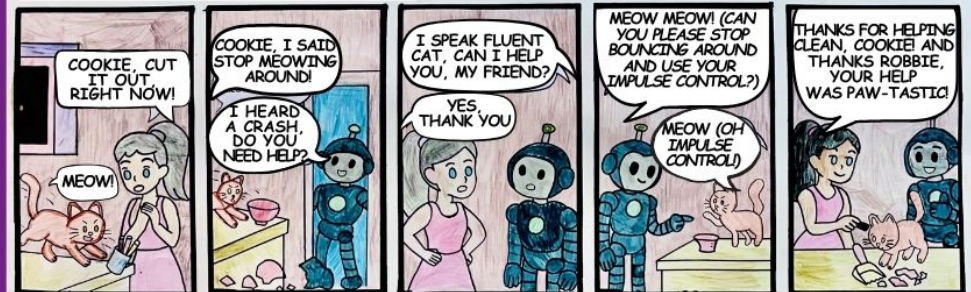
MITCH'S STAGE FRIGHT



THE LAST MUFFIN



THE CAT-ASTROPHE



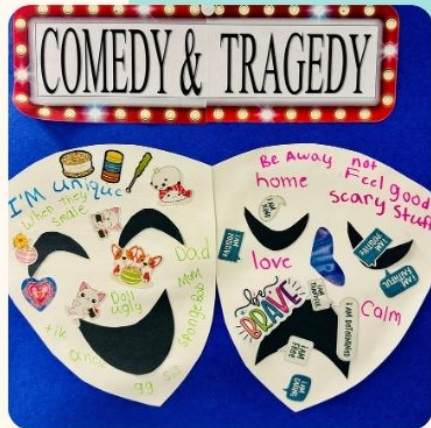
Comedy and Tragedy Masks



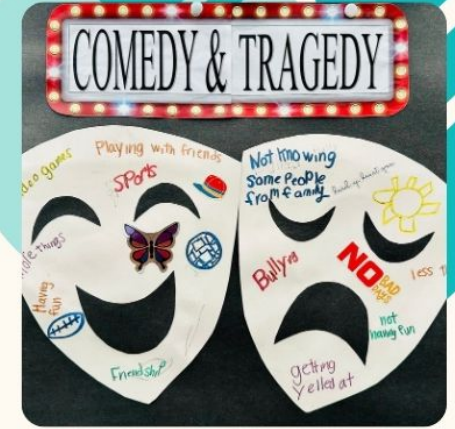
Life, much like art, often brings us both comedy and tragedy. Recognizing and appreciating both allows us to navigate life's ups and downs with greater resilience and perspective. The GH kids' Comedy & Tragedy masks project was designed to help our kids reflect on their experiences, both the good and the difficult.



Each child was encouraged to decorate their comedy mask using words, pictures, and stickers to show things that make them happy or laugh. On the tragedy mask, the children were encouraged to share about tough things they have overcome, as well as skills they've learned that can help them through difficult times.



On the comedy masks, our kids highlighted the simple joys that brighten their days—playing football, spending time with friends, watching movies, caring for dolls, and making people smile. Some even shared that coming to GLAD House is one of the things that makes them happiest. Their artwork reminded us how small moments of connection can bring real comfort and joy.



On the tragedy masks, the kids named challenges they've faced, like being separated from family, entering foster care, losing loved ones, or coping with bullying. They also reflected on strengths they've gained—love, bravery, and resilience. Many used this activity in therapy to bravely open up about difficult experiences, taking important steps in their healing journey.



Why couldn't Cinderella play soccer?
She ran away from the ball!

- Joke by Wyatt, age 10

GLAD House Financials

2025 REVENUES



- Contributions: 16%
- Foundations/Grants: 61%
- Medicaid Billings: 14%
- MHRM-HCMHRM: 9%

2025 EXPENSES



- Program: 72%
- Management and General: 11%
- Fundraising: 17%

* Net Assets: \$2,348,791
 ** Data Audited for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
 *** \$300k of grant funds have been awarded in FY 25, and designated for FY 26 and FY 27

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.

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 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.

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, 2024 - June 30, 2025.

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What do you call a wolf who works as a lumberjack?

A timber wolf

- Joke by Diamond, age 11





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The mission of GLAD House is **providing a safe and therapeutic community that empowers families to break the cycle of addiction.** This year, we've put a special focus on healing through humor. Laughter sparks hope and builds connection—and through those connections, trust grows, and healing happens.

Throughout this issue, you'll see how GLAD House kids are **using laughter and resilience to empower themselves.** As a bonus, you'll get to read some of their favorite jokes! Here's one from Angie, age 6:

What do unicorns call their dad?

Pop-corn!

