



April 2023

Dawn Glenny to Retire at End of 2023

Dawn Glenny, CEO of Greenleaf Family Center, has announced that she will retire as the organization's leader at the end of 2023. Glenny has been the CEO of the Akron-based agency since April 2013. Greenleaf was founded in 1912 and provides counseling, education and support for thousands of individuals who face challenges with daily living and personal crises.

Under Glenny's leadership, Greenleaf maintained its core counseling and addiction services and successfully navigated Ohio's Behavioral Health Redesign. Programs were added and expanded to support adolescent suicide prevention, healthy moms and babies, parent advocates, families with young children in need of safety supplies and Summit County Next Program participants to provide employment supports to individuals living in poverty. Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continues to be a signature Greenleaf program. Glenny ensured that the agency continued to meet the high standards necessary to maintain its accreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

Greenleaf's financial condition improved significantly under Glenny's leadership. Agency revenue tripled, new funding sources were added, and a costly defined pension program was terminated. Greenleaf's building mortgage was retired a year early.

A dynamic strategic planning process was implemented by Glenny with the support of the Board of Directors; the resulting plan set the course for Greenleaf's future direction for Greenleaf. Glenny restructured the agency to improve efficiency and to make the best use of staff skills.

Glenny's tenure was not without challenges. She successfully led the agency through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that agency services continued to be available while protecting the health and safety of staff and clients. She also led Greenleaf's efforts to successfully attain PPP loans with 100% loan forgiveness, putting the agency on a solid cash foundation. Glenny led the agency's recovery from a cyber liability attack in 2018.

Greenleaf Board Chair Jennifer Hanzlicek spoke highly of Glenny's leadership. "During the last 10 years, Dawn has been a tremendous asset to Greenleaf Family Center. Through her guidance and leadership, the agency has continued to grow and serve the community. We truly appreciate her service."

Staff members describe Glenny as a servant leader who cares equally about staff and clients. They value her willingness to listen, her openness to new ideas and her commitment to building a strong team.

Reflecting on her time at Greenleaf, Dawn says, "Over my professional career, I have had the privilege of working for some great organizations. These past ten years at Greenleaf Family Center have been the most challenging and rewarding of my career. I am proud of the programs and services we provide at Greenleaf and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to lead this wonderful team and develop not only great programs, but provide exceptional service to our clients. The team at this agency is second to none and it has been my honor to support them in my role as CEO here. I also want to thank the current and previous Greenleaf Board members for their support, advice and strong board governance. I would encourage people in the community who have not served on a non-profit board to consider taking on this important governance role."

The Board of Directors has established an Executive Search/Transition Committee to lead the search for a new CEO. The Committee expects to post the job opening in May and have a new CEO named by September 2023 to allow for a smooth transition from Glenny to the new leader.

Our Appreciation

We are grateful for the following foundations and funds who have supported our important programming through their generous grants and gifts.

Our sincere gratitude to the **Polsky Fund of Akron Community Foundation** for their generous grant to expand our PEERS program to meet the growing need for support by parents of children challenged with mental health and other complex needs.

We are grateful to have been selected as a beneficiary of **TRIAD's 2023 Design4Good Pro Bono Partnership Program**. Their creative team will work with us to develop our brand standards and tools for social media use.

We thank **Synthomer Foundation** for their generous grant to support our Adolescent Suicide Prevention program for Middle and High School students in Summit County.

We appreciate our partners in the community who support the valuable work we do to strengthen individuals and families.



FUNd to Win OSU Tailgate Fundraiser

Save the Date - Saturday, Oct. 14

Come join the fun at Thirsty Dog Brewing Co. Taphouse and cheer on The Ohio State Buckeyes as they face Purdue on Oct. 14. Watch the game, enjoy delicious food, soft drinks and craft beers and participate in our raffles and football Squares Board for a chance to win at the end of each quarter.

Watch our website and your email for more information.

[Learn More Here](#)



New Parent Support Groups

The PEERS Program is joining with community partners to provide support groups for parents who have children with complex needs who are involved with multiple systems of care. As parents with lived experiences, the PEERS Parent Advocates are in a unique situation to be able to connect with other parents and support them as a peer.

In Portage County, PEERS is joining with program funder and community partner Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide in-person and virtual support groups to parents of children with disabilities. PEERS staff have begun meeting

with parents twice each month, once virtually and once in-person, to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for parents to share experiences and support one another. For the in-person sessions, Portage DD has arranged for space and child care to be provided by Buckeye Residential Services.

PEERS Program Manager, Marjorie Cook, is also partnering with Child Guidance and Family Solutions to provide a parent support group for parents of youth involved in CGFS's Intensive Home Based Treatment program. These groups are run as a six-week series providing education, resources, and opportunities for peer support from other parents.

PEERS also continues to provide an online Facebook Parent Support Group for parents of children with special needs which provides a great deal of up to date information as well as the opportunity to connect with other parents. Requests to join can be made here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GFCPEERS>

Everything is better when we're working together!



Congratulations Are In Order

Congratulations to our Prevention Manager, Daniel Bennett, for receiving the Community C.A.R.E. Appreciation Award at the Six District Educational Compact awards dinner on April 11.

Daniel is a co-leader of the Sources of Strength program at Cuyahoga Falls High School. This youth led prevention program uses the power of peer social networks to create healthy norms and culture to prevent suicide, violence, bullying and substance misuse. Schoolwide campaigns focus on enhancing student well-being, healthy coping and belonging. Dedicated and passionate youth and adults work together to reduce stigma surrounding mental health, promote help seeking behaviors and enhance a positive school culture.

We are grateful for Daniel's commitment to the promotion of "Healthy Communities Health Youth". This is a well-deserved honor.



April is Counseling Awareness Month

by Caleb Kunkel, Director of Behavioral Health

April is a time to celebrate the great work that our clinicians do to help support and strengthen our clients. After working at other agencies, I've been fortunate to know several excellent professionals that care about their clients, care about their work, and work to preserve the integrity of the field. But I've never been around a more exemplary set of clinicians than those at Greenleaf Family Center.

Most clinicians care about helping others. It's one of the base requirements for employment in the field. I've never seen more compassion for others than

It's also no surprise that this compassion follows in other areas of their lives. They serve in their communities, help take care of ailing family members, and volunteer at churches. But the thing that has impressed me most, the thing I've never experienced at other agencies, the thing that makes Greenleaf such a unique place to work, is that the clinicians also care deeply for one another. It's as true of the veterans that have spent greater than 10 years in the field as it is for those just starting out in their careers. They pick each other up to help ease one another's burdens. They celebrate

the compassion I see with the staff here. Their care for their clients comes out in their sessions. I hear positive feedback from their clients. But I also hear their concern for others in supervision. I hear it in the way they discuss their cases with me. I hear their compassion in the way they struggle mightily to help those that are hardest to reach with conventional methods. It's in the way they conceptualize and re-conceptualize, it's in the countless ways they shift and adapt their interventions to suit their clients' needs.

successes together, mourn losses and support one another together. They meet and vent and process and laugh and commiserate...together.

Without a doubt, we have clinicians of the highest quality, trained with and possessing superior clinical skills. Our clinicians work with integrity of the highest standards and they serve as wonderful ambassadors for our field. But I've never been so privileged as to know a group of clinicians that work so beautifully together.



April is Deaf History Month

Deaf History Month is a time to raise awareness about the Deaf community and their struggles in our society. The month also focuses on honoring the immense contributions of Deaf individuals and the Deaf community to our country. Our **Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** program has been providing ongoing advocacy work and interpreting services to enhance quality of life and to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community since 1980. You can celebrate by learning American Sign Language! To learn more, see the article below and to sign up, [click here](#).

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

TAKE SOME TIME TO
LOOK AROUND, LOOK WITHIN
MHNATIONAL.ORG/MAY



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

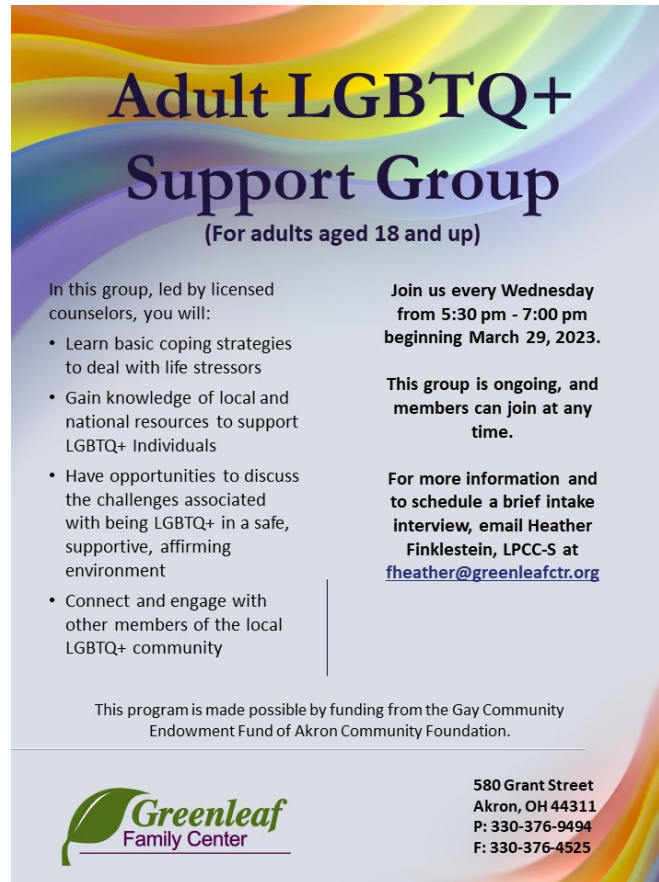
Mental Health America is encouraging individuals to look around and look within. From your neighborhood to genetics, many factors come into play when it comes to mental health conditions. We encourage everyone to consider how the world around them effects their mental health. If you are struggling, we are here to help. To schedule an appointment, call (330) 376-9494, ext. 209.

**Mental Health America
Resources**

Greenleaf's Adult LGBTQ+ Support Group Meets Every Wednesday

Are you or someone you know looking for a safe, supportive and affirmative environment to discuss the challenges associated with being LGBTQ+? We realize that while much has changed, discrimination, stigma and bias still exist. This can lead to mental health challenges in the LGBTQ+ community.

We are here to help! Below is information on our adult support group that meets every Wednesday. **You can join at any time.** If you are interested, please email Heather Finklestein, LPCC-S at fheather@greenleafctr.org or call our office at (330) 376-9494.



Adult LGBTQ+ Support Group

(For adults aged 18 and up)

In this group, led by licensed counselors, you will:


- Learn basic coping strategies to deal with life stressors
- Gain knowledge of local and national resources to support LGBTQ+ Individuals
- Have opportunities to discuss the challenges associated with being LGBTQ+ in a safe, supportive, affirming environment
- Connect and engage with other members of the local LGBTQ+ community

Join us every Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm beginning March 29, 2023.

This group is ongoing, and members can join at any time.

For more information and to schedule a brief intake interview, email Heather Finklestein, LPCC-S at fheather@greenleafctr.org

This program is made possible by funding from the Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation.



580 Grant Street
Akron, OH 44311
P: 330-376-9494
F: 330-376-4525

American Sign Language Classes Begin June 5 Sign up Today!

Our American Sign Language (ASL) classes will help you develop expressive and receptive skills by learning language structure, Deaf culture and fingerspelling. ASL classes will be held at Greenleaf Family Center. Classes are intended for individuals 12 and older and the cost is \$100.

There are two upcoming sessions:

- **ASL Level 1** - MONDAYS, June 5, 2023 - July 3, 2023 from 6 - 7:30 pm
- **ASL Level 2** - WEDNESDAYS, June 7, 2023 - July 5, 2023 from 6 - 7:30 pm

(Please note that ASL 1 is a prerequisite for ASL 2)

For more information and to register, **click here.**



Stay connected with us.



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