



August 2023



Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program (CSD) Expands our On-site Services

We are excited to announce that our CSD program will be expanding their in-person services in Holmes, Medina, Portage, Summit, and Wayne Counties. We are grateful for an expansion grant from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities that allows us to have a full-time staff person dedicated to community outreach, advocacy, and support services to Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and individuals with hearing loss at various locations in each of these counties.

Our services may include community education, employment supports, basic needs assistance, accessing government assistance programs, independent living skills, communication access, information and referral to community resources, and general advocacy spanning across community, educational, legal, and medical settings. "I am looking forward to networking and doing community outreach into the rural areas of Ohio, to reach those underserved in our community," Mark Byrd, Case Manager, said.

Please look for more information in the coming weeks, including locations for our in-person services, and a schedule of dates and times we will be in each county. If you or someone you know is interested in our program, please contact Mark Byrd at (VP) 234-525-6207 or (Tel) 330-376-9494, ext. 248.



FUNd to Win OSU Tailgate Fundraiser **Saturday, Oct. 14*** **Get Your Tickets Today!**



Come join the fun at Thirsty Dog Brewing Co. Taproom 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.

Tickets include food, 2 Thirsty Dog brews, soft drinks and dessert.



*When the game time is set, it will be announced via email, our website and Facebook page.

[Tickets, Raffles, Football Squares and More, Click Here](#)



Our Appreciation

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

We are forever grateful for the \$10,000 gift from the **Margaret J. Dietz Irrevocable Trust**. This major gift will bring hope, guidance, and stability to those who need it most in our community.

Our sincere gratitude to **Westfield Insurance Foundation** for their generous *Legacy of Caring* donation. Additionally, we thank **O'Neill Insurance** for nominating us to receive this invitation only award.

Our appreciation to **County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board** for their grant to support the expansion of our behavioral health services, alcohol and drug services, suicide prevention and PEERS programs.

We thank **The Sisler McFawn Foundation** for their grant to support universal Adolescent Suicide Prevention Programming (ASPP) during the 2023-2024 school year.

Our thanks to **The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation** for their grant to support the Summit-Portage Sources of Strength Secondary and Elementary Programs Project in 2024.

We are grateful to the **Barberton Community Foundation** for their grant to support evidence-based suicide prevention programming for Barberton Middle and High School students as well as gatekeeper trainings for school staff and other community members during the 2023-2024 school year.

We appreciate everyone who supports the valuable work we do to strengthen individuals and families through our important programming.

Greenleaf Welcomes Four New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome 4 new Board members to our Board of Directors. Each brings a unique set of skills and experience to our Board and we look forward to their leadership and guidance as we move forward.

We invite you to get to know these individuals:

Joan Booth - "I was born and raised in Akron. At a young age, my parents instilled in me the need to give back to your community. I first came to Greenleaf after hearing about their mission during the recent Akron Health Equity Summit. My goal at that time was to use my nursing skills to volunteer and it never occurred to me that I had skill sets for board work. After meeting Dawn, I realized the importance of board membership. I'm looking forward to using my skills to help this wonderful organization."

Réyna Pérez - Réyna is currently attending Wake Forest University toward a Master of Arts in Counseling degree (May 2024). She is a substitute teacher in the Akron Public Schools and formerly served as the school librarian at Crouse Elementary School. Reyna has significant past work experience serving underserved populations in our community and has a passion for this work. She has been a member of Torchbearers since 2023 and

is conversationally fluent in Spanish.

Reilly Perme - “Throughout the start of my career in the banking world and working with some of the wonderful organizations that support our community it has been evident how many individuals around me are struggling when it comes to mental health, poverty, & equality. I am blessed to have had the opportunities in life that I have and feel that I now have a duty to give back and use some of the skills that I may take for granted to assist one of these organizations doing this great work. Greenleaf Family Center has been a staple in the Akron community for over 110 years and provides critical services to our people and I was honored for the opportunity to give back through board service with this impactful agency.”

Dr. Katherine (Katie) Sheridan – Dr. Sheridan is a board-certified family practice physician at Cleveland Clinic Akron General with a passion for serving underserved populations in the community. She also volunteers her time as a family physician at the Hartville Migrant Health Clinic, including providing prenatal care and non-operative obstetrical deliveries.

Greenleaf in the Community

Our Moms and Babies First, KISSSS and Family Support Network (FSN) program staff shared resources at the **Full Term First Birthday Community Baby Showers** on Saturday, July 15 and July 22. One of the lucky families won our FSN baby supply basket valued at over \$100 as shown below!



Prevention Corner



The ASPP TEAM

is having fun facilitating the universal, school-based Elementary Sources of Strength Curriculum at Longwood YMCA and Wadsworth YMCA day camps. Sources of Strength is a program that is based on a color wheel of eight strengths that support students health and helps them build resiliency

We are looking forward to a celebration of growth and strengths as students head back into the 2023-2024 school year!



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOLS

SOURCES OF STRENGTH

We have been working side by side with students at **Cuyahoga Falls High School** to find ways to build community awareness around the growing program on their campus.

Sources of Strength is a suicide prevention program that lets students lead and choose campaigns that help their schools population.

Look for us downtown at Fall's Fridays!



Greenleaf was excited to return to the **Barberton Summer Extravaganza!**

Over four sessions, students going into grades 8 & 9 had the opportunity to participate in team-building activities, small group discussions, and overall strengths focused conversations. The goal was to provide students with a **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** component to their regularly scheduled summer school programming!



We're Hiring!

**Position:
Prevention Specialist**

Find us on Indeed!

<http://bit.ly/3Qg9msp>

Mark Byrd, Advocacy and Support Service Coordinator for our Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSD) program, continued the speaker series funded by the **City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office** through the American Rescue Plan Act, Violence Intervention and Prevention grant. On June 27, Mark presented to over 25 attendees at **Victim Assistance Program**. The VAP empowers our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence and tragedy in Summit County. Mark's presentation focused on Deaf culture, basic American Sign Language (ASL) communication and best practices when working with a Deaf victim.

We are grateful for our partnership with **The City of Akron Fire Department**. They have provided our CSD with over 90 strobe fire alarms to be given out to Deaf individuals to protect their homes in case of a fire.

To learn more about our CSD, **click here**.

American Sign Language Classes Begin Oct. 11 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, Oct. 16, 2023 - Nov. 20, 2023 from 6 - 7:00 pm
 - **ASL Level 2** - WEDNESDAYS, Oct. 11, 2023 - Nov. 15, 2023 from 6 - 7:00 pm
- (Please note that ASL 1 is a prerequisite for ASL 2)

For more information and to register, [click here](#).



**FAMILY SUCCESS
NETWORK**

Our New Family Success Network is Now Taking Referrals

The Family Success Network (FSN) is a free, family support services program that includes family coaching, parenting tips, money management, financial assistance for parenting needs, and connections to additional community supports to help families succeed.

[Click Here for Information and Referrals](#)

CEO Search Process Update

The Board's Executive Search/Transition Committee is in the interview phase of the search for a new CEO for Greenleaf. The Committee members were pleased with the number of qualified individuals who applied, including candidates from the Greater Akron area, as well as from other parts of Ohio and other states.

"We are gratified by the level of interest in our CEO position. It speaks highly of Greenleaf's reputation as a provider of high-quality services and as a great place to work. We are focused on finding an individual who can work well within Greenleaf's unique culture and can lead the organization toward greater impact and connection with the community," said Jennifer Hanzlicek, Greenleaf Board Chair.

The search process is expected to wrap up in late August with the announcement of a



Donate Today

Donors like you make it possible for Greenleaf to deliver life changing care.

Did you know that a \$25 donation would provide books and therapy tools to help children in counseling?

Or that a \$50 donation provides group therapy for a single mom struggling from trauma and hoping to gain better parenting skills?

YOUR contribution helps us to do everything we can to strengthen individuals and families.

www.greenleafctr.org

Stay connected with us.



Greenleaf Family Center | 580 Grant Street, Akron, OH 44311 www.greenleafctr.org

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