

July 2022

Thanks to All Who Came Out to Support Our Night at the Races Event

After a cancellation and postponement due to COVID, our **Night at the Races** event returned with excitement on June 18, 2022. A big shout out to all our attendees, sponsors, advertisers, donors, and Goodyear! Everyone was instrumental in making this event a success and we are grateful!

Our crowd of over 190 people enjoyed great food from St. George Fellowship Centre, placing their bets on 11 horse races, participating in our raffles and sideboards and bidding on the Goodyear Blimp ride!

The live auction for a once in a lifetime opportunity to ride on the Goodyear Blimp was a nail biter as the bids kept going up leading to a \$2,100 final bid! We are grateful to Goodyear for their generous donation.

Throughout the evening our guests had the chance to bid for the naming rights of each horse in the 11th race. There was a total of 10 horses up for bid and this final race brought in \$2,750. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's event on **January 21, 2023!**

This event wouldn't be the success that it is without the generous support of our sponsors, and we are grateful:

Front Runner: Roetzel

Hands Down: Akron Children's Hospital and Huntington

Home Stretch: University of Akron Office of Inclusion and Equity and Terry and Mary Kay Finn

In-Kind: TLC Catering and The Print Shop of Canton, Inc.

We are Grateful - Hope for Hurting Hearts Benefit Dinner and Show

Kathy Kinney, a local community member, organized a benefit event for us called *Hope for Hurting Hearts* to bring awareness to the issues of suicide, substance abuse and overdose in our community and the effects they have on families and friends. Greenleaf received the proceeds from the May 19 event.

Keynote speakers, Linda and Dave Maynard, shared their own experience with loss as their family faced the horrific pain of losing their son, Noah, to an accidental overdose last summer. Dave and Linda are native Ohioans and the parents of two young adult children, Noah and Hannah. Their story was a beautiful celebration of Noah's life but also a story of heartache as Noah struggled with addiction, found his path to sobriety and later died from an accidental overdose. Linda and Dave hope that by sharing their story, others will be spared the same heartache.

Greenleaf staff spoke about hope, help-seeking, and local resources. Supporters were able to unwind by listening to entertainers Lonnie Jay Freeman and Kavan, the worlds #1 Rock and Roll Elvis. This benefit raised approximately \$2,665 and we are grateful to Kathy Kinney for organizing this event.

Our Appreciation

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

Our Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program is supported by a grant from The **Hudson Community Foundation** and we are grateful. This grant will provide programming in Hudson Middle School, High School and Seton Catholic School during the 2023 school year. Our thanks to **WITAN** for supporting our



Moms and Babies First infant vitality program. Funding will enable us to purchase 1,500 bus passes for clients in an effort to reduce transportation barriers which could lead to poor pregnancy and health outcomes for women and infants.

Our sincere gratitude to **Peg's Foundation** for their grant to support our Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program in Summit and Portage counties during the 2022 – 2023 school year.

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



Our Thanks to the City of Akron

We are grateful for the funding we received from the **City of Akron** through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Violence Intervention and Prevention programming. Our Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program will partner with Akron first responders to provide violence intervention and prevention training when interacting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members. The grant will also support our Moms and Babies First families to prevent domestic violence, child abuse, family violence, and intimate partner violence.



Announcing Our New LGBTQ+ Support Group

June was Pride month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, their culture, and the progress they have made. Much has changed but 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 a new support group beginning on **August 1**. If you are interested, please email Mike Finklestein, LPCC at fmichael@greenleafctr.org.

Adult LGBTQ+ Support Group

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 other Monday from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm beginning August 1, 2022 through October 10, 2022.

For more information and to schedule a brief intake interview, email Mike Finklestein, LPCC at fmichael@greenleafctr.org

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



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Our Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSD) Program Has Been Busy

CSD Helps Develop New Communication Card for the Deaf Community and Law Enforcement

CSD in partnership with OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities), and DWAVE (Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere), was selected to work with the Ohio Department of Public Safety and statewide law enforcement partners to develop a new communication card for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to use when exchanging information with law enforcement.

These new cards contain pictures that our Deaf/Hard of Hearing community can point to in an effort to help them more easily communicate with law enforcement. In addition, there are icons showing common violations and tips for officers to help them effectively communicate with Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals.

These cards can be downloaded onto a phone or printed for easy access. **Click here** to see the communication card. Our thanks to Mark Byrd, Advocacy and Support Service Coordinator, for working on this team to develop this important communication card. If you would like a copy of this card, please contact Mark at (234) 525-6207.

CSD Teaches American Sign Language (ASL) to Businesses

Did you know that one of the most exciting things that our CSD does is teach ASL classes at places of employment? Now you do!

Warwick Industries hired a Deaf individual but many of their employees did not know ASL, so they were unable to communicate with this individual. CSD provided ASL training to Warwick staff so they were better able to communicate with their fellow staff member.

CSD follows a 10-week community course curriculum and develops signs that are pertinent to the organization's industry. Warwick Industries and CSD have been meeting with one another

twice per week, both virtually and through in-person meetings. The picture below shows Warwick's employees fingerspelling the name of their company. Many of their employees are now able to have a conversation with their new Deaf employee because of our ASL class.

For more information or to schedule a training for your place of employment, please contact Mark Byrd, Advocacy and Support Coordinator, at (330) 525-6207.



CSD Interprets New Victim Assistance Program Videos

Victim Assistance Program (VAP), located in Akron, has expanded their advocacy services to provide victim advocacy services for civil protection orders (CPOs). VAP produced a 3-part video series on YouTube to explain the process. These videos include Part 1 – Filing the Paperwork and an Ex Parte Hearing, Part 2 – Service of a Civil Protection Order and Part 3 – Preparing for an Evidentiary Hearing.

To ensure that this new program reaches the Deaf community, VAP utilized our CSD interpreters to interpret each video. We are very proud of our interpreters, Julia Coulman and Kaylee Horn, and the awesome job they did on these important videos. As Rebecca Cool, MSW, LSW, Director of Services at VAP stated, "You and your group are doing amazing work in our communities!! Thank you for all you do."

To learn more about this new VAP program and to see our interpreters at work, visit **Filing a Civil Protection Order**.

Check out these career opportunities at Greenleaf:

Director of Behavioral Health Services

Chief Program Officer

Program Manager Family Success Network

Community Health Worker

Prevention Specialist

[Click here for more information](#)

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. If you or someone you know is struggling and in need of support, please call us at (330) 376-9494, extension 209 to set up an appointment.

For information and resources, visit **<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/minority-mental-health/>**.

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



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Your Gift Matters - Donate Today

Donors like you make it possible for Greenleaf to deliver life changing care. From mental health counseling, deaf interpreting services, support for African American pregnant women, alcohol and drug prevention, to suicide prevention, **YOUR contribution helps us to do everything we can to strengthen individuals and families.**

www.greenleafctr.org