



February 2021

Happy New Year! Wow was 2020 Something!

Dawn Glenny, CEO

Here are the top 10 highlights from 2020 (Letterman style):

1. Exceeded annual fundraising goal notwithstanding COVID
2. Exceeded 2019 billable hours for our Behavioral Health Department
3. Mastered Zoom, Team, and other platforms we'd never heard of prior to delivering remote prevention services.
4. Made more than 30 mental health and wellness videos for youth and SHARED them widely on our own YouTube channel ([click here](#)).
5. Provided more hours of job readiness, on the job training, and other case management services to our deaf, deaf blind, and hard of hearing clients.
6. Successfully navigated and received a PPP loan with forgiveness recommended to the SBA.
7. Successfully reaccredited the agency through our Council on Accreditation (COA) process with a "remote in-person" review.
8. Increased telehealth services (drug and alcohol and mental health counseling) providing more counseling hours than in 2019 AND saw a sharp decrease in no show counseling appointments by offering this convenient option for our clients.
9. Successfully transitioned to a new interpreting scheduling and billing platform.
10. "Survived" and thrived as an agency through COVID-19. Our staff have been absolutely amazing since COVID began mid-March 2020, meeting technology challenges, personal and family challenges, remote learning challenges, and adapting to the many safety requirements to work at the agency and accommodations to work from home!

Our Thanks for Helping Us Surpass our Fundraising Goal!

To all of our donors who contributed to our Year-end Annual Appeal and supported us throughout 2020, we thank you! You are thinking of others during these difficult and uncertain times which truly reflects your kindness and generosity. Because of you, we far surpassed our Annual Appeal goal.

We didn't know how the pandemic would affect our donations knowing that job loss, uncertainty and illness would most likely impact our donors and their families. YOU have made a difference and the individuals served through our many programs will continue to receive the life changing services they need. We are grateful!

Thank you!

You have made a difference!

With gratitude,
the Board of Directors and Staff
of Greenleaf Family Center



Our Appreciation

Thank you to our Board of Directors who supported

me in so many ways, including several “special” board meetings when COVID first struck, offering expertise through navigating the PPP loan process, legal advice on vaccines and work from home strategies, all the while helping with our reaccreditation process.

What will 2021 look like?

This year’s challenges include best practices to ensure safety of our clients (remote counseling versus in person counseling), back to in person suicide prevention and other prevention services in schools and the community, returning to in person home visits for our Community Health Workers, and expanding the sign language interpreting platforms and options for our staff.

For the board, in 2021 we will be working through the process of a new strategic plan for the agency as well as additional board governance training as we welcome a new board governance chair.

And finally, we bid a very fond farewell to Don Pavlik, Senior Vice President, PNC Bank. Don has served on the board since 2012, serving both as Board President and Board Treasurer. Don helped the agency through a termination of a previous defined benefits plan and refinance of the agency’s debt to accomplish this, plus a cyberattack back in 2018. Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Committee, Mark Valentine - Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, Jennifer Hanzlicek - President Elect and Laura Brelin - Secretary.



We are grateful to the following foundations who have supported our important programming and operations through their generous grants.

Our appreciation to **The Sisler McFawn Foundation** for their \$5,000 grant to support our Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program (ASPP).

Our thanks to the **Clonrock Foundation** for their \$5,000 donation to support our Moms and Babies First program and Celebrating Families! program.

We are grateful for the generous \$5,000 grant to support our mission from the **MG O’Neil Foundation**.

Our thanks to the **Henry V. and Frances W. Christenson Charitable Foundation** for their \$500 general operating grant.

During these challenging and unprecedented times, we appreciate our partners in the community who support the valuable work we do to strengthen families.

Greenleaf’s PEERS Parent Advocacy Program is Growing!

Greenleaf is excited to announce two new partnerships that will expand Advocacy services to families throughout Summit County.

The PEERS program provides education, empowerment, resources, and support for parents of children with a variety of complex needs who are involved in multiple systems of care in the community such as the mental health, disability services, special education, juvenile justice, or protective services systems. Parent Advocates have a lived experience as parents themselves of children with complex needs.

The Summit ADM Board has long been a supporter of the PEERS program. Summit County’s Juvenile Court has also partnered with PEERS to provide Advocacy services to families of youth involved in the Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice program. In 2020, Summit’s Family and Children First Council (FCFC) also began to support PEERS in order to increase services

available for FCFC involved families. During 2020, while slowed by the impacts of the pandemic, PEERS Parent Advocates still provided over 1,300 hours of service to 154 clients.

Greenleaf is now collaborating with NAMI Ohio (the National Alliance for Mental Illness) and their Parent Advocacy Connection (PAC). This collaboration will provide Greenleaf with the opportunity to hire additional part-time Advocates with a focus on families experiencing mental health concerns.

Summit County Juvenile Court is beginning a new multi-disciplinary team to assist families involved with Summit County Children Services and the Court. They are also partnering with Greenleaf to provide a Parent Advocate for the parents involved in this new venture.

Parents who are involved in these complex systems of care with their children are sometimes confused, uncertain, frustrated, or overwhelmed. Greenleaf is pleased to be able to expand support services for these parents to assist them in having their voices heard and obtaining the best services possible to meet their children's need.



Community Welfare Forum Presentation on Suicide Prevention

Daniel Bennett, our Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator, presented virtually at the Community Welfare Forum held on Feb. 17. Daniel gave an overview of suicide warning signs, risk factors, the role of mental health in suicide prevention and how to seek help with concerns. During this time of added stressors and limited social interactions for both adults and youth, this issue is even more important to address effectively. If you are interested in a virtual or in-person presentation on suicide prevention for your business, please contact Daniel Bennett, Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator, at bdaniel@greenleafctr.org.



Save the Date: Oct. 2 FUNd to Win OSU Tailgate Event

Join us for a fun filled football tailgate party and become a champion for individuals and families in our community that are strengthened by our programs and services. The OSU vs Rutgers tailgate will take place at the Thirsty Dog Brewing Company Tap House on Grant Street in Akron.

More information on how to purchase tickets and sponsorship opportunities will follow. [Click here](#) to stay up to date.

Did you know?

AmazonSmile

Do you make purchases through Amazon? Did you know that AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Greenleaf Family Center every time you shop, at no cost to you.

AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% to us.



Virtual American Sign Language Classes Begin in April

Our American Sign Language classes are now offered in a new VIRTUAL FORMAT! Join us through Zoom for our Spring session beginning on THURSDAYS, April 15 - May 27, from 6pm-7pm. ASL classes will help you develop expressive and receptive skills by learning language structure, Deaf Culture and Fingerspelling. We hope to see you there! Learn more and register [here](#).



Night at the Races is Rescheduled for Feb. 19, 2022

COVID-19 impacted all our lives in ways we could never have imagined. Our first and foremost priority is to keep our attendees and supporters safe so our Board of Directors made the decision to postpone the event until Feb. 19, 2022. Mark your calendars and be ready for an even bigger and better fun-filled evening! Continue to watch your email and mail for updates.



We are unwavering in our commitment to our community to strengthen families!

You Can Make a Difference!

These are critical times. Individuals and families are struggling in increased ways like never before. **You can help!** 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 moms, alcohol and drug prevention, to suicide prevention, **YOUR contribution helps us to do everything we can to strengthen individuals and families.**

By making a gift today, YOU are investing in your community to provide life changing support. *Please give your most generous contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford.* You can also join our **Circle of Friends** giving program by becoming a recurring monthly donor.

Thank you f

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