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- 2 Fill out the "Sign Up for Our E-newsletter" form on the right side of the site.
- 3 E-newsletters are sent twice monthly. Sign up today!

COMING SOON

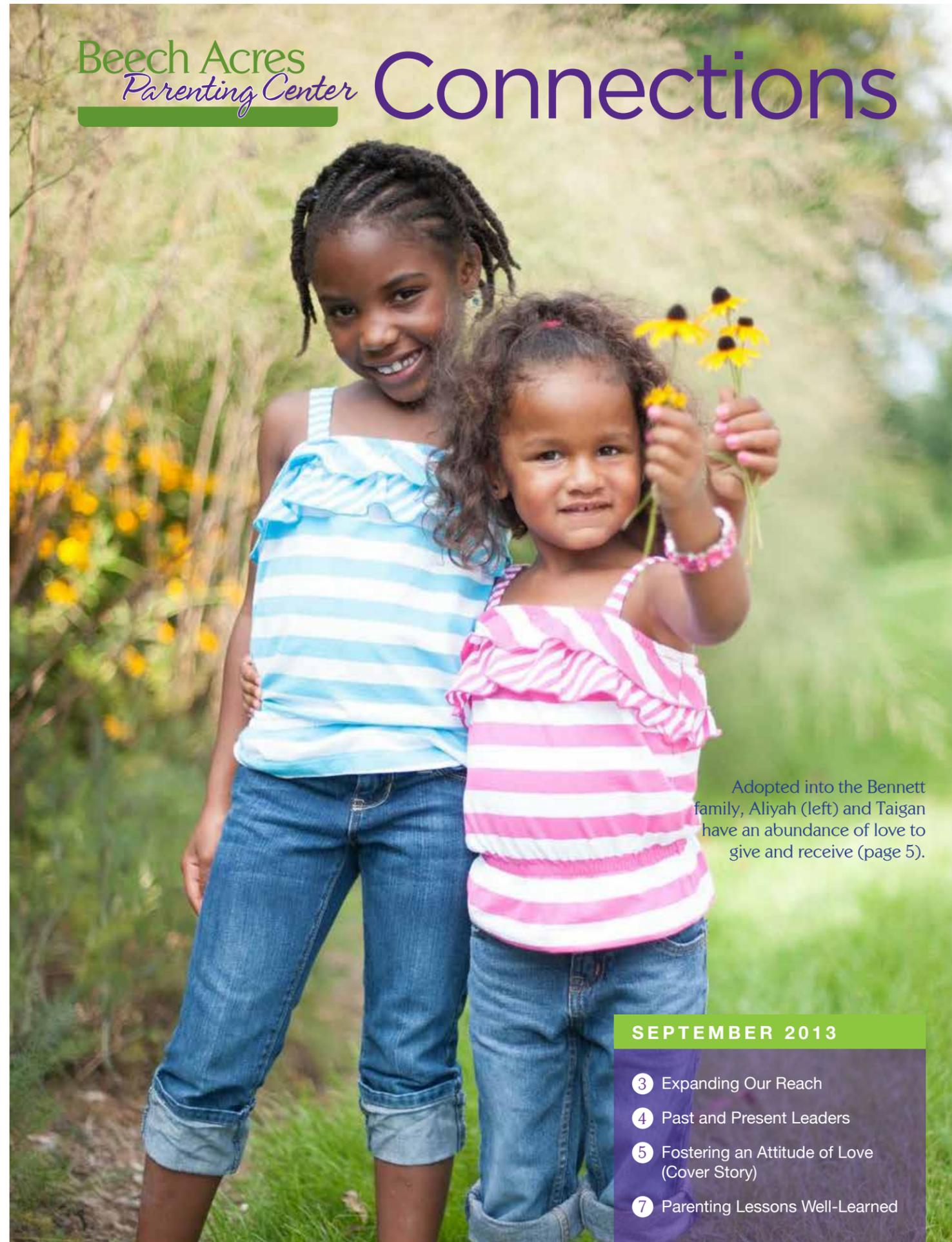
The New BeechAcres.org!



A new and improved Beech Acres website is coming soon to a computer near you. Launching in late September, the new site boasts enhanced functionality, easier navigation, and a responsive design so it can be used easily on mobile devices.

Beech Acres
Parenting Center
6881 Beechmont Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45230

Beech Acres Parenting Center Connections



Adopted into the Bennett family, Aliyah (left) and Taigan have an abundance of love to give and receive (page 5).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrating 22,000 served in FY 2013!



In fiscal year 2013, we **served 22,000** children and parents. That's double the number served three years ago. Additionally, our Parent Connections staff fielded **28,430 phone inquiries and 277 emails**, the vast majority from parents seeking answers to a wide variety of challenges.

Among the many reasons for our growth are:

- We have added new services and programs, as our existing programs have evolved and we respond to expanding needs of our consumers.
- We are a one-stop shop, with one phone number to call, so people can describe a problem or need and be connected to resources that are coordinated and personalized.
- We are widening geographic coverage, resulting in a growing client base at our West Side office since its 2012 opening. New facilities in Warren and Butler counties (see page 3) will expand our reach even further this fall.

We encourage people to take a look at the extensive menu of what we offer, and we have integrated the whole Beech Acres experience for them. That experience is friendly, compassionate, customized, and coordinated. It equips parents with intentional parenting skills, so they can model values and behaviors for their children. It has helped fathers like Chris Termuhlen (see page 7) deepen relationships with their children.

As we serve everyone who comes to us, we have faith that the resources will be there to support our expansion and growth. Sometimes the resources are courage and love, like that of John and Amber Bennett for their five adopted children (see page 5). Or maybe it's a donation from a grandparent who wants to give young parents a chance to hone their parenting skills.

We are grateful for all the resources you share with us – whether money, time, or love – as we continue the important work of inspiring and equipping parents, families, and communities to raise capable, caring, contributing children. Thank you for partnering with us!

Sincerely,

James R. Mason
President & CEO

NEW FACILITIES

Expanding Our Reach

Beech Acres to Open Offices in Warren and Butler Counties

"People like to get services in their own communities. We are creating comfortable, welcoming, inviting spaces easily accessible to families in Warren and Butler counties," said Sharidon Wolz, Program Director for Mental Health.



Beech Acres Parenting Center opens a new facility in Lebanon this fall with an emphasis on mental health and prevention services.

Two Beech Acres Parenting Center locations will open this fall, one in Lebanon and the other between Hamilton and Middletown. Each has its own focus, tailored to community needs and requests.

Warren County (Lebanon) Location
Mental health and prevention services will be the focus of the Lebanon facility, supported by funding from the Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Warren and Clinton Counties (MHRBWCC).

Free services for residents of these counties will include:

- Individual parent coaching for challenges including behavioral issues, divorce, death, or other crises.
- Interactive parenting workshops on topics such as bullying or raising resilient children.
- Kinship groups that meet monthly for caregivers who are raising children because the biological parents cannot.

In addition, Beech Acres is providing comprehensive mental health and parenting services at the Warren County Learning Center in partnership with the Warren County Educational Service Center and the MHRBWCC.

Butler County Location

Butler County services will emphasize therapeutic mentoring, foster care, and relationship building.

Therapeutic mentoring offers one-to-one coaching for young people with mental health and behavioral challenges. Teachers, judges, police officers, and other mentors are intentionally matched with children who can benefit from their skills and experience.

To support the foster care work of Butler County Job & Family Services, Beech Acres needed a "home base" in the area to recruit, train, and support foster parents in Butler County. "We need more foster homes in Butler County, so we can build on the natural support of the school, extended family, and community," said Julie Kneuen, Program Director for Child Welfare.

In addition, a grant will allow our Butler County site to offer individual coaching, classes, and couples' retreats to build strong marriages and relationships.

"We're known for our niche with parenting," Wolz said. "These communities have been seeking us out, and we're finding a way to make more of an impact. We're inspiring a lot of hope."

This fall, Beech Acres Parenting Center will add two new locations to our existing facilities.

Headquarters:

6881 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

West Location:

3325 Glenmore Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

NEW Warren County Location:

767 Columbus Ave.
Lebanon, OH 45036

NEW Butler County Location:

1879 Mercedes Dr., Suite A
Hamilton, OH 45011

Central Phone Line:

513-231-6630



Congratulations to new BAPC Board Chair, Tim Stautberg



Tim Stautberg, senior vice president at The E.W. Scripps Company, was named Board Chair for Beech Acres Parenting Center at the annual meeting in June. Stautberg previously held the roles of Vice Chair and Treasurer for the board.

At Scripps, he leads the company's portfolio of newspapers and affiliated digital products in 13 markets from coast to coast. Among the largest local newspaper brands owned by Scripps are the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Naples (Fla.) Daily News, Ventura County (Calif.) Star, Corpus Christi (Texas) Caller Times, and the Knoxville (Tenn.) News Sentinel.

Stautberg has served on the Beech Acres board for nearly 10 years and has witnessed the organization evolve into the parenting center it is today. "I'm proud to be part of an organization that decided to chart a new course, focusing its energy and resources on equipping parents, grandparents, and other dedicated adults with the tools, skills, and knowledge to raise caring, capable children," said Stautberg. "Beech Acres strives to support parents and families with the resources they need so that our community can flourish."

Beech Acres also welcomed six new board members: Sue Cummings, Jenny Franta, Chip Hendon, Julie Kugler-Ackley, Nick Ruehl, and Sourushe Zandvakili. We will profile each of our new board members in upcoming newsletters.

Reflections from Priscilla Ungers



Immediate Past Board Chair

During Priscilla Ungers' two years as chair, Beech Acres Parenting Center opened a new West Side office, paved the way for Warren County and Butler County expansion of programs, rewrote the mission and vision statements, updated

the organization's strategic plan, and initiated a rebranding process.

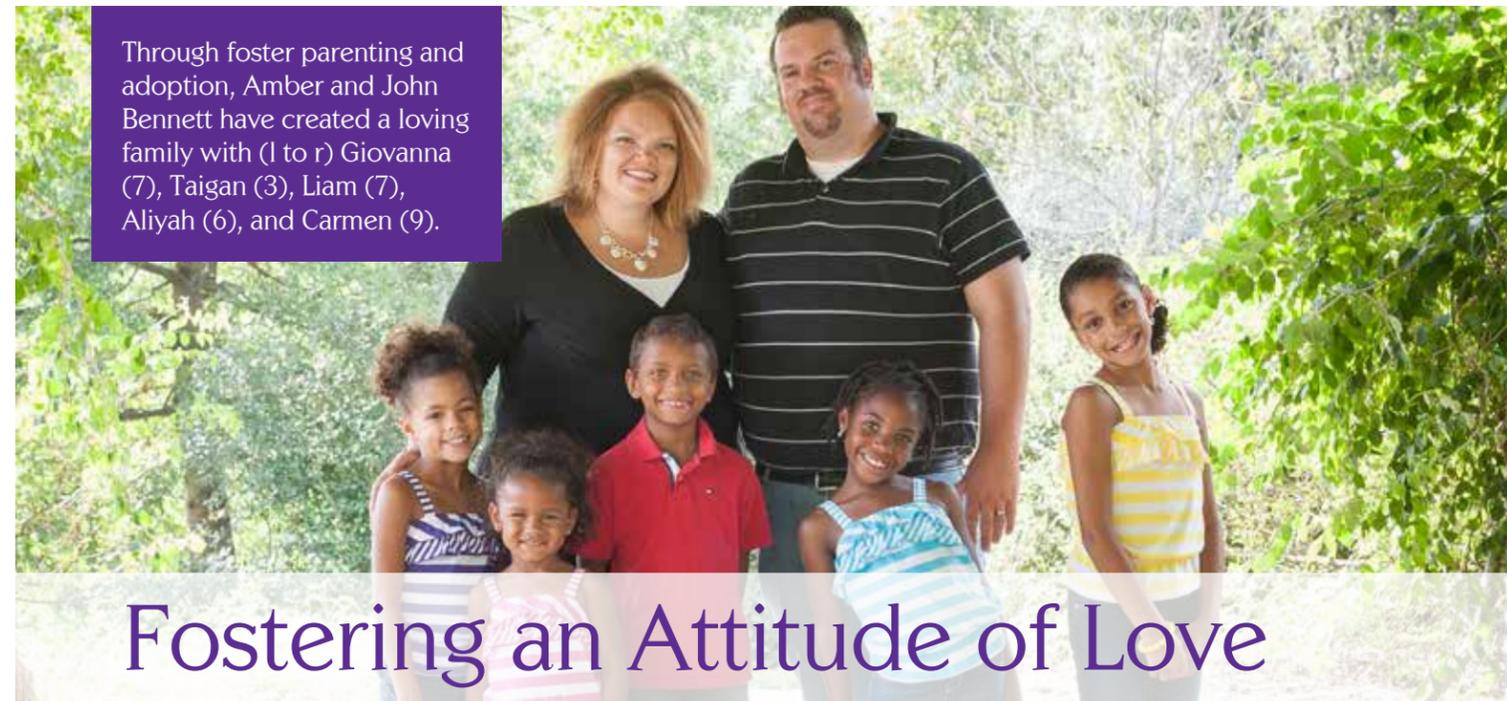
Since I joined the board in 2005, I have continued to be inspired and energized by what Beech Acres' work is doing to change lives in a positive way. I see the passion of the staff, people like Resource Coordinator Mary Flagg, who engages parents and children in a Family Peer Support Program in schools. I see board members using their expertise to help us rebrand ourselves for better visibility in the

community, advising us on acquiring new facilities in Warren and Butler counties, or building relationships with stakeholders who support our mission.

For 164 years, Beech Acres has worked to improve children's lives, and we've never veered from that. Through our compassion and care, we are helping parents be the best they can be – so they can see and grow the best in their children.

We want to bring to the forefront the importance of parenting in making our community strong and vibrant. We have the ability to achieve our goals through the skilled leadership of our CEO, a strong leadership team, and dedicated staff. They believe in the mission, and this motivates them to address challenges and grow opportunities for parents and their children.

Though my term as board chair has ended, I remain an engaged board member working to fulfill our mission of "inspiring and equipping today's parents, families, and communities to raise capable, caring, contributing children!"



Fostering an Attitude of Love

It's a brilliant Sunday afternoon as the Bennett family piles out of their minivan and into their comfortable home in Amelia. Amber, John, and their five children have just returned from church, and their oldest, Carmen, slips out the back door to visit grandma and grandpa next door.

As the children scatter, John and Amber settle at their kitchen table to recount the making of an extraordinary family.

In 2006, the Bennetts were childless and deeply committed to starting their family through adoption. They pursued their dream by applying to become foster parents with intention to adopt, as well as hiring a private adoption lawyer.

Then followed two crushing disappointments as moms made last-minute decisions to keep their babies. The Bennetts temporarily halted their pursuit of parenthood – but they say God had other plans.

Their lawyer called with news that an expectant mom had heard the Bennetts' story and wanted Amber to raise her baby. The couple was still grappling with the decision when their lawyer called back days later to say the baby was born prematurely, and she was theirs, if they wanted her.

The memory of making Aliyah theirs still brings tears to John's eyes. "She was 4 lbs., 13 oz. of complete beauty."

Shortly after the couple brought Aliyah home, Hamilton County Job & Family Services (HCJFS) called to request that they foster two sisters. A month later, they welcomed Carmen and Giovanna, then 2 and 1, into their home. "We went from zero to three children in three months," Amber marveled.

It took the Bennetts five years to adopt the girls, however, as their biological grandparents blocked permanent

custody. Beech Acres Parenting Center offered support throughout the ordeal and continued to partner with Amber and John when Hamilton County relinquished foster care services to licensed agencies in 2010.

"Beech Acres stepped in without missing a beat," Amber recalled. "A support worker visited us, and over time they've come to know and love our children."

In 2012, Beech Acres came to the Bennetts with another request to adopt. A young brother and sister, Liam and Taigan, were under the foster care of Amber's parents (and next door neighbors). They needed a permanent place to live.

Once Carmen and Giovanna's adoption was finalized last October, Amber and John agreed to take Liam and Taigan into their home. Beech Acres worked closely with HCJFS and the family to facilitate a smooth adoption process.

As the Bennetts relax in their kitchen, decorative stars interspersed with family photos hang from the ceiling. "Those are from our 'Gotcha Day' celebration," Amber explained, "the day we adopted Liam and Taigan."

Their story has inspired several families to become licensed foster parents. "You can't be around our kids and not want to do it," John said. "They include everyone in everything they do. From where they've come from to where they're at, they've achieved more than most people will in their lifetime."

To learn more about foster parenting, call 513-233-4707.

Estate and Trust Gifts

Beech Acres fondly remembers loyal and generous donor **Ruth Hust**, who passed away in 2007.

The final installment of her \$500,000 bequest was received recently. Known for putting others before herself, Mrs. Hust will long be honored for this final act of charity.

In addition, we recognize generous contributions to Beech Acres Parenting Center from:

The Estate of Mr. Alfred A. Apfel

The Estate of Arthur V. Baumann

The Otto C. Epp Fund

The Ida C. Kayser Trust

The Otto Luedeking Trust

The Estate of Marion H. Morrison

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Beech Acres Families Get Their “Fill”

For the fourth August in a row, dozens of Beech Acres families received much-needed school supplies, thanks to the Beech Acres Fill-a-Backpack program. The program is part of Beech Reach, an initiative that offers opportunities to help Beech Acres families in practical ways.

Nearly 100 backpacks were donated, filled to the brim with school supplies. “The Fill-a-Backpack program relies on the generosity of people in our community, and we are always amazed at the tremendous response we get,” said Patrick Nugent, Vice President for Development and Marketing.

Many thanks to all of our Fill-a-Backpack donors, as well as Beech Acres staff members who made the program a reality.

To learn more about Beech Reach, go to www.beechacres.org/beechreach.

FUN FACTS



100%

of Beech Acres’ eligible foster care children graduated from high school each of the last four years (compared to a national graduation average of 35%)

Parenting Lessons Well-Learned



Parenting classes at Beech Acres have helped Chris Termuhlen work through issues of divorce and keep his priorities on his children’s welfare.

Chris Termuhlen’s face breaks into a smile when he talks about his kids’ visits: “We ride bikes, play tennis, go to Winton Woods, and visit museums.”

Spending more time with his 9-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son is his passion. Right now, his divorce settlement guarantees him only four days a month with his children. He’s working hard to change that, and Beech Acres Parenting Center is giving him the tools to do it.

“The parenting classes I’ve taken have made me more compassionate and patient with my kids – and with everyone,” Chris commented. “They’ve helped me to switch from being vindictive and upset with my ex-wife to focusing on the real priority: moving my kids through this divorce process to make them whole again.”

When the divorce was finalized in January 2012, the family was directed by the court to take two parenting courses. They completed “Families in Conflict” and “Helping Kids Cope with Divorce” at Beech Acres. Then Chris started taking courses on his own.

“‘Parent Enrichment’ helped me take time to grow as a human being and to sort out discipline and other family issues,” Chris said. Soon after, he took the four-week “Back on Track for Dads.”

“We talked a lot about parenting with purpose,” he said. “When I play basketball with my son, I try to teach him sportsmanship. When the kids say or do something inappropriate, I try to coach them through it.”

Chris is extremely grateful to the Beech Acres staff. “Everyone is wonderful, accommodating, and bending over backwards to help.”

He wants to share the skills, knowledge, and confidence he has gained through Beech Acres with other fathers. “I want to be more active with fathers’ rights and teach the skills I’ve learned.”

As Chris drives to and from his work every weekday, he passes the house where his children live with his ex-wife. It saddens him to be so close but have no rights to see his children whenever he wants.

When he is with them, however, Chris is doing his best to model a good work ethic, as well as patience and compassion. He is hoping someday to play a bigger part in his children’s lives. Because Chris knows from the depths of his heart, “There’s a benefit and value to having both parents involved in a child’s life.”

For more on parenting classes, call 513-233-4706.



Back on Track for Dads

“Back on Track for Dads” is a free, four-week interactive course offered to dads who want to improve their parenting skills and become a more positive influence in their children’s lives.

The course is offered four times a year, if funding permits.

If you’d like to support the class’s ongoing success, contact Patrick Nugent, Vice President for Development and Marketing, at 513-233-4728.