



## TRANSFORMATIONS | Restoring Health, Transforming Lives



### Looking back and forward in gratitude

Transformation Awards 2020 was a virtual event. Pictured above, Center for Respite Care clients wait to individually go on camera to share their words of gratitude for your ongoing support. Since the COVID-19 global health crisis, the Center has maintained a limited client census. As required by our state license, two rooms have been set aside for quarantine if and when needed. Client time out in the community has been restricted to only medically related activity. Trainings have been given to clients and staff on social distancing, hand washing and wearing masks, which have been made available to all. The clients are very compliant with the health and safety protocols that have been put in place. It is quite gratifying to see how supportive they are with each other as we go through this crisis together.

We can't thank our volunteers enough for their ongoing support on behalf of the Center's clients. Despite the pandemic, volunteer hours increased from 2,392 to 4,249. This was with a smaller volunteer corps – 144 vs. 283 in 2019-20. The numbers decreased because we didn't host any student groups for tours, meals, and leisure activities. The increase in hours can be seen mainly in the volunteer provided meal program – 1299 hours in 2019-20 vs. 2388 hours this past year.

We are so grateful to our volunteers and donors, many of whom connect the Center with wider circles of families, neighbors, faith-based organizations, businesses, and educational institutions. To learn more about the day to day life of the Center and our clients, we invite you to check out our new bi-monthly blog, The Center's Words. It can be found on the Center for Respite Care's website, [www.centerforrespitcare.org](http://www.centerforrespitcare.org). We so look forward to the time when we can again have guests, volunteer groups, and individuals providing opportunities for community connection as our clients move from medical recovery to independence. You make the mission happen!

### SPRING 2021

#### Inside this issue

Message from the CEO	2
Transformation Awards 2021	3
New NKU Social Work Connection	4

*Our mission is to provide quality, holistic medical care to homeless people who need a safe place to heal, while assisting them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.*

#### Our Core Values

*Ignite the human spirit by restoring health, hope, and dignity.*

*Demonstrate mercy and compassion for all. Provide high quality health care.*

*Connect the individual to the Greater Cincinnati/Tristate community through case management.*

*Serve, collaborate, and educate within our internal and external communities.*

#### Center for Respite Care

P.O. Box 141301, Cincinnati, OH 45250





## Message from the Chief Executive Officer **Laurel Derks Nelson**

There is a saying: "Show me a budget and I will show you your values." My take is: "Show us how you invest your time, and we will show you your values." Values are the core of how we operate. The time of COVID-19 has tested our values. We believe it is our values that enabled caring treatment and enduring commitment during these challenging times. (See our core values on page one.)

We started to hear about the virus called COVID-19 about one year ago. We have learned about other similar viruses over the years – and many of us assumed this would be treatable and not widespread. We were very wrong.

Along with our physician, Dr. Bob Donovan, we elevated our safety/hygiene measures in place, most notably, information for staff and clients about staying safe in and out of the Center (no touching, shaking of hands, frequently washing hands, maintaining distance from each other, etc.). Our clients only leave the facility for approved, essential medical appointments. We continue to accept and be thankful for meals from volunteers.

We masked up and continued to care. We have remained in full operation and have continued to treat our current clients. While the Center is most known for the health care treatment we provide, we also bridge our clients to more permanent housing, support job searches, provide clothing and goods and offer an entry back to the outside world. Like you, our clients now have more limited options, and my team has been creative and committed to making a positive bridge possible.

Gladly, we have completed the vaccine series for staff and clients.

I am certain that there have been times that my team would have preferred to remain in the warmth and isolation of their own homes, but they pressed on – doing what it is that we do to care for ill people without a place to call home. Our team is well aware that people experiencing homelessness have very few options.

The Center for Respite Care continues to offer options for those who need it most. And for us it is about the health of the community that is the home to us all. Thank you to Cincinnati for providing and supporting a place that cares for our neighbors and friends.

*Excerpted from a Cincinnati Enquirer OpEd Article published February 18, 2020*

## Dr. Robert Donovan **2020 Health Care Hero Finalist**



**What's the most challenging part of your work:** Our calling is about understanding how people ended up in our care and how we can best equip them to heal and then live a full life. While the treatment that I provide is medical, our team works on social services, housing, and community involvement as well.

We often talk about the “social determinants of health” being critical to know in anyone seeking medical care. For people experiencing homelessness, social determinants are extremely important and always need to be considered in making medical decisions. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council publishes adapted clinical guidelines which help our members address these unique challenges, and we always keep these in mind.

*Excerpted from an interview by Nikki Kingery Projects Editor, Cincinnati Business Courier Jun 11, 2020*

## Transformation Awards 2021 - Meet this year's honorees!

### Impact 100

Impact 100 empowers women to dramatically improve lives by collectively funding significant grants that make a lasting impact in our community. Their vision is to be the model organization which enables each woman to realize the power and reward of her giving. Impact's membership, avid volunteers, and supporters consist of 10,000+ tristate women who care deeply about the needs of our community in Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Eastern Indiana. Impact 100 has awarded more than \$5.12 million dollars to local nonprofit organizations, funding 47 breakthrough non-profit initiatives. Their focus areas are: Culture, Education, Environment Preservation, & Recreation, Family, and Health & Wellness. Of course, the beneficiary of Impact 100 is the community as a whole.



*(Staff and volunteers pictured pre-pandemic)*

### Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread serves the needs of Cincinnati residents and those who frequent the area. Its vision is that every person in the Greater Cincinnati community has sufficient access to food, essential social services and a safe place of belonging. Its mission is to provide stability and hope to guests in need by offering meals, hospitality and services in a safe, respectful environment. This includes food and activities for both children and adults. Staff and volunteers serve 300 to 400 meals daily, five days a week.

### The Chertock Family

In 2004, Michael Chertock joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, where he is currently chair of the Piano Department. Chertock is well known on both the national and international stage. Along with benefit concerts for Habitat for Humanity, the Michael Chertock and Friends Holiday Concerts on behalf of Center for Respite Care have been held since 2014. The annual event is held in the sanctuary of Sycamore Presbyterian Church. This year's virtual concert raised the third highest sum for the Center.



Left to Right: Michael, Maaïke, Jenneke, Jordon, and Maria Chertock



### Mary Ellen Tobe-Roberts (Volunteer of the year)

When the Roberts' returned to Cincinnati in 2016, they became parishioners of St Francis De Sales. The church introduced them to philanthropic opportunities that included The Center for Respite Care. Mary Ellen learned that the Center was based in the former Catholic Messenger building; the newspaper had been a fixture in her home while growing up. Her interest peaked, she attended the Transformation Awards. She felt the warmth and compassion and heard a loud message that said, "This is the place that I want to be." Her time commitment and gifts to the Center have made her a key volunteer.





Welcome Monshare



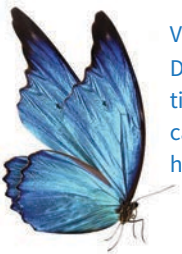
Client learning activity



Monshare & Nancy at the staff farewell party

Learning activities were maintained by a new collaborative venture with Northern Kentucky University’s College of Social Work. Nancy Moore, one of our regular volunteers, has the social work credentials to supervise social work interns. The Center was chosen as an intern site. The weekly presence of Monshare Hughes allowed for both group learning activities as well as individualized assistance.

From Monshare: “Interning with the Center for Respite Care has been an incredible experience, filled with good relationships, purposeful work, and opportunities. I have grown tremendously over the last eight months, professionally and personally, which I credit my clinical supervisor, onsite supervisor, and case management team. The Center provided enhanced learning opportunities, I worked alongside the Chief Advancement Officer producing grant language for the purpose of advancing the Center’s program. Not only have I gained better skills, but I have developed relationships that reaffirm my commitment to the profession and to the clients.”



Volunteer social work hours provided:

During the past fiscal year, Nancy contributed 207 hours of volunteer time, both in direct service to our clients and in her supervisory capacity. During his eight month program, Monshare provided 577 hours of volunteer time in client group and individualized settings.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**



513.621.1868



CenterForRespiteCare.org



crchelp.org



@HomelessRespite



CenterForRespiteCare

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

development@centerforrespitcare.org

Center for Respite Care  
**2021-22 Board of Directors**

- Damian Billy - Chair
- Mike Behme, CPA - Treasurer
- Christopher Tassone, JD - Secretary
- Mark Manley, MD - Past Chair
- Brian Antenucci, CFA
- Beverly Bokovitz, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
- T. Canady
- Cary Hines, CPA
- Greg Jarvis
- Diana Klinedinst
- Rachel McKinney
- Joseph Pflum, MD
- Cary Powell
- Martha Schueler
- Lori Uphaus
- Amy Winkler

Laurel D. Nelson, Chief Executive Officer

Robert Donovan, SM, MD  
Physician

Dr. Donovan’s services are generously provided by Cincinnati Health Network.