



## Health Organizations

Human health has improved dramatically in the U.S. and life expectancy has increased. While the development of antibiotics and vaccines for common infectious diseases and improvement in surgical remedies have extended and improved lives, new threats have also emerged. Drug-resistant strains of bacteria have evolved as fast as new antibiotics are developed. Chronic immune deficiencies compromise the quality and length of life. Increased rates of obesity and diabetes may contribute to today's children becoming the first generation in history not expected to live as long as their parents. Inconsistent access to health care results in disturbing disparities between the uninsured and insured.

Locally,

- Twenty percent of Greater Cincinnatians have been without health insurance at any given time within the last year.
- Twenty-four percent of families with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 do not receive prescription drugs because the household needs to buy food, clothing or pay for housing.
- Thirty-eight percent of third graders in Hamilton County are overweight.
- The Hamilton County infant mortality rate is 13.9% compared to the national average of 6.8%.

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has recently reviewed the following organizations.

### Behavioral Health

#### Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS)

GCBHS is a mental health agency providing medical and other support to youth and

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### What can you do?

This is a small sample of health organizations GCF has recently supported. If you would like to contribute to one or more of these organizations or want more information please contact a member of our Giving Strategies Group at (513) 241-2880.



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adults with severe mental illness and related disorders. GCBHS' psychiatric services include diagnosis, assessment, treatment and medication management. Some clients require intensive "wrap-around" services to remain in the community and work toward recovery. GCBHS has created teams that help clients achieve, maintain and increase their independence. GCBHS collaborates with the state prison system to provide services and treatment to individuals who are mentally ill and released from prison on parole.

[www.gcbhs.com](http://www.gcbhs.com)

#### **Clermont Counseling Center (CCC)**

CCC, a private nonprofit mental health center, has served the residents of Clermont County since 1973. It provides mental health services to adults and families who are confronted with emotional difficulties, family and relationship problems or abuse, and mental illness. Case management, vocational training, housing support and peer support programs are offered to assist adults with severe and persistent mental illness in order to recover their independence. Approximately 2,400 clients receive services annually.

[www.clermontcounseling.org](http://www.clermontcounseling.org)

### **Individuals with Disabilities or Chronic Diseases**

#### **Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI)**

CABVI, established in 1911, provides counseling, rehabilitation, information and employment services to people who are blind or visually impaired in the Greater Cincinnati area. Services include: instruction in computer access, assisting parents of visually impaired children through an early childhood intervention program, instruction on the use of prescribed low vision aids, training in independent living skills, counseling, information and support groups. The agency employs between 50 and 60 people who are blind or visually impaired in the Industries Program, and has annual sales of approximately \$10 million in Industries Program products.

[cincyblind.org](http://cincyblind.org)

#### **Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship (CTRH)**

CTRH, founded in 1985, provides affordable therapeutic horseback riding to disabled children and adults, ranging in age from two to 75 years of age. Board-certified physical, occupational and speech therapists deliver treatment in conjunction with a professional horse handler and a specially trained therapy horse. A patient who is unable to walk alone can experience a motion remarkably similar to the human gait. The effect of this movement enhances physical coordination and strength, respiratory control and attention skills. Patients with conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis or traumatic brain injury gain upper body mobility, strength and calmness which affect the function of their entire body.

[www.crh-horse.org](http://www.crh-horse.org)

#### **Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Established in 1903, Clovernook promotes independence and high quality of life for people with visual impairments and/or with multiple disabilities. Services including training and support for independent living, orientation and mobility instruction, vocational training, job placement within Clovernook and in the community, counseling, and youth services. Clovernook provides services to over 4,000 individuals a year out of offices in Memphis, Tennessee and Cincinnati.

[www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org)

#### **Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati (DSAGC)**

DSAGC, established in 1981, partners with families and others to create an environment in which individuals with Down syndrome are welcomed with fairness, enthusiasm, and encouragement. DSAGC provides information, resources and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and their communities. Each year, 800 children and families receive direct services in a nine-county region.

[www.dsagc.com](http://www.dsagc.com)

**Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati (HSDC)**

HSDC, established in 1925, is a rehabilitation facility providing services to those who need assistance regarding speech, language, hearing, and deafness. More than 8,000 people benefit annually from HSDC's specialized services and outreach activities. Families must meet the required federal poverty guideline levels to receive services. HSDC programs include: speech pathology services such as speech-language evaluations and therapy, stuttering treatment and therapy for voice disorders, audiology services including hearing tests, free hearing screenings for the public and lip-reading classes. Community services for the deaf include sign-language classes, 24-hour interpreting services, C-Print (a computer aided speech to print transcription system) and youth development programs.

[www.hearingspeechdeaf.com](http://www.hearingspeechdeaf.com)

**Ohio Valley Voices, Inc. (OVV)**

OVV teaches young deaf children to speak and to understand when others speak to them. It is the only Tristate organization that provides a totally oral deaf education option and early intervention services as soon as a child receives a hearing impairment diagnosis. When surgically implanted medical devices are combined with intense speech therapy, signals received by these devices change into meaningful speech sounds or language. In order for deaf children to learn to speak, OVV's program teaches spoken language throughout the day and children rely on spoken language for communication.

[www.ohiovalleyvoices.org](http://www.ohiovalleyvoices.org)

**STOP AIDS**

STOP AIDS, formerly AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, Inc., was established in 1983 and provides care, HIV testing, support services and prevention education. Life-saving medications have increased patient longevity but have also created additional serious health complications in survivors due to drug toxicity. For that reason, STOP AIDS provides a comprehensive array of services needed over the continuum of HIV disease to approximately 1,500 HIV-infected clients. STOP AIDS works with 50 medical providers, government agencies, housing programs and dependency programs to coordinate the delivery of services.

[www.stopaidscincinnati.org](http://www.stopaidscincinnati.org)

**United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cincinnati (UCP)**

UCP, founded in 1948, offers therapy-based services and support with the goal of helping children and adults with physical disabilities achieve independence. Although cerebral palsy is not "curable" in the accepted sense, occupational, physical and speech therapies, medication, assistive devices, social services and technology help individuals improve their independence. Approximately 50% of those served do not have cerebral palsy, but another physical disability such as spina bifida, stroke, autism, brain tumor, or muscular dystrophy. The agency serves more than 450 individuals and families each year.

[www.ucp-cincinnati.org](http://www.ucp-cincinnati.org)

**Cancer Family Care (CFC)**

CFC was established in 1971 and is licensed to provide counseling services for cancer patients and their families. CFC's core programs include Treehouse Children's Services and the Center for Individual and Family Counseling. Treehouse Children's Services offers individual and family counseling, school-based support groups and bereavement services to any child/youth whose family member is seriously ill with cancer. The Center for Individual and Family Counseling offers patient/family counseling, support for the caregiver, referral service, education about a specific disease or condition and practical advice and assistance with communication among family members. A sliding fee basis allows programs to be available to patients and families regardless of ability to pay.

[www.cancerfamilycare.org](http://www.cancerfamilycare.org)

**The Wellness Community, Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky (TWC)**

TWC, founded in 1990, is dedicated to providing support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Programs include a variety of weekly support groups, stress management advice, art therapy, classes in tai chi, yoga, knitting and nutrition. Participation enables participants to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease. Walking the Dinosaur is a program designed for children and adolescents ages 5-18 who have a loved one with cancer. All services are provided free of charge in a home-like, community setting. People come to TWC at diagnosis, during or at the end of treatment, at recurrence or several years out of treatment.

[www.thewellnesscommunity.org](http://www.thewellnesscommunity.org)

**The American Heart Association (AHA), Cincinnati Metro division**

AHA's mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. It works to reduce the incidence of obesity and diabetes in children and to increase their physical activity. For example, Partners for School Health provides an approach that works with schools, children, families, the food and beverage industries, health care insurers, and pediatricians. Ohio is the only state in the country that does not have physical education curriculum standards established by its State Department of Education. The Cincinnati Public School District launched the program in 2007.

[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

**Prenatal Health****Healthy Beginnings (HB)**

HB is one of the only nonprofit, medical ministries in the U.S. that provides care to pregnant women regardless of insurance or ability to pay. Patients receive early pregnancy care in one of seven facilities: Clifton, Western Hills, Over-the-Rhine, Forest Park, North College Hill, Eastgate, and Northern Kentucky. HB addresses the problem of high infant mortality rates and low birth weights by providing early prenatal care to more than 800 under or uninsured women each year. Eighty-five percent of these patients are uninsured at the time of their first visit and would not receive early pregnancy care if HB's services were not available.

[www.healthybeginnings.org](http://www.healthybeginnings.org)

**Specialized Services****Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children**

Fernside was established in 1986 as the nation's second children's grief center. It remains a national leader in providing grief support services, outreach and education to the community. An affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati, Fernside services complement Hospice's comprehensive bereavement program by addressing the unique needs of children. Fernside provides the following services free of charge: Peer support groups serving over 850 children, teens and adults annually; Camp WeBelong, providing summer camp and retreat experiences; and community outreach, including in-school grief groups, education and training and publications.

[www.fernside.org](http://www.fernside.org)

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati (RMHC)**

RMHC, established in 1980, provides a low-cost "home away from home" for parents and other family members of seriously ill children treated at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Families are provided with a comfortable place to sleep, home-cooked meals, laundry, gym, and play areas for ill children and their siblings. Additionally, when a child no longer requires 24-hour in-hospital care, but must continue frequent out-patient visits, RMHC enables the family to remain close to the hospital. Families stay an average of 15 nights; the actual cost is approximately \$80/night. In 2007, 60% of guest families could not afford the minimum room fee of approximately \$20/night, but no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Approximately 1,100 families are served each year.

[www.rmhcincinnati.org](http://www.rmhcincinnati.org)

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