



Youth Organizations

Providing engaging learning environments for children and youth builds self-confidence and self-esteem while combating negative influences such as youth violence. These organizations are increasingly needed to provide safe, positive places for children to go after school, on weekends, and during the summer. This is especially true with the large number of parents working nontraditional hours. Children not only need safe, educational environments, they also require positive adult interaction.

The following organizations have been reviewed by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) in the recent past.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.'s (BBBS) mission is to help children become confident, competent and caring individuals through a professionally supported, one-on-one relationship with an effective adult mentor. BBBS matches children between ages eight and 13 living in single-parent or nonparent homes in an 11-county service area. www.bigsforkids.org

Boys and Girls Club of Clermont County

Established in 1996, Boys and Girls Club of Clermont County (BGCCC) is part of a nationwide affiliation of Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Its mission is to provide quality programs to youth of all backgrounds so that they may develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. First and foremost a safe place for children to be when they are not in school, BGCCC serves approximately 100 children daily ages six -18 at two sites - New Richmond and West Clermont. Core program areas include: 1) education and career

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What can you do?

This is a small sample of youth 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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development; 2) character and leadership development; 3) health and life skills; 4) the arts; and 5) sports, fitness, and recreation. www.thepositiveplace4kids.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati

Established in 1939, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati (BGC GC), through its six clubs, provides a safe place for children to gather during nonschool hours. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for youth as participating members of our richly diverse urban society and to achieve social, health, character, educational, vocational, and leadership development for youth. Clubs provide activities ranging from tutoring to art programs from board games and sports to college tours and job readiness training. During the school year they serve an average of 789 children per day and 892 per day during the summer.

www.bgcg.org

Child Focus, Inc.

Child Focus, Inc. (CFI) was established in 1977 to provide comprehensive services to meet the needs of children and their families in Clermont County. Its mission is to join with communities in strengthening families and improving the quality of life for children. CFI serves over 5,000 children annually, ages pre-natal through age 22, and their families through a large range of services including: Head Start, parenting education, family literacy, GED test preparation, substance abuse prevention, partial hospitalization, mental health prevention, prevention services in schools, foster care, independent living, case management, as well as others. www.child-focus.org

Children, Inc.

The mission of Children, Inc. (CI) is to provide developmental experiences for children in a variety of settings, partner with families to extend these experiences into the home and collaborate with the community to create opportunities that strengthen all families. CI serves 3,500 children daily through nine child-care centers, a network of 90 family child-care homes, before- and after-school and summer care programs, and Every Child Succeeds program. The organization also maintains a statewide advocacy network, provides training to early childhood professionals, holds an annual two-day conference and is the one of the most respected and largest providers of early childhood education in Northern Kentucky. www.childreninc.org

The Children's Home of Cincinnati

Established in 1864, The Children's Home of Cincinnati (CHC) offers services to children from prenatal to age 21 in four distinct areas: adoption, early childhood, education and mental health. Its mission is to improve the lives of children and their families facing social, behavioral, and learning challenges through individualized services of superior quality. Touching the lives of 4,000 people each year, CHC's wide array of services address adoptive children and families, new parents in need of guidance and support, children with special educational needs, and children with complex mental health issues. Programs are conducted on site and in home, school and community settings and are designed to promote the healthy development of children and their families. www.thechildrenshomecinti.org

Cincinnati Youth Collaborative

Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC) was established in 1987 to respond to the growing high school dropout rates and low graduation rates in Cincinnati's public schools. Its mission is to bring people

together, institutions, and other community resources to help youth graduate from high school, enter post secondary education, and/or obtain employment. CYC's core activities include administering mentoring and college access programs as well as a Partners In Education program that bring businesses and schools together to expand resources available to students. CYC serves more than 5,500 children and youth annually. www.cycyouth.org

Girl Scouts - Great Rivers Council

The mission of the Girl Scouts - Great Rivers Council is to help girls grow up to be caring, competent, confident women. The Council serves girls in a nine-county region in Southwest Ohio and Southeast Indiana. The Council was a 2006 ONE Award recipient. (The ONE award was created by the *Business Courier* to reward and encourage excellence in nonprofits in four areas: people, principles, process, and performance.) www.grgsc.org

Lighthouse Youth Services

Lighthouse Youth Services (LYS) was established in 1969 with the mission to advance the dignity and well being of children, youth and families by encouraging good citizenship, responsible behavior and self-reliance. A comprehensive youth and family service organization, LYS provides a wide range of programs including emergency shelter, residential treatment, foster care, educational and academic services, juvenile corrections, transitional living services for older, homeless youth, and in-home services for families in crisis. There are six divisions of LYS and a total of 15 programs serving an average daily population of 450 children, youth and families in residential programs; 140 students per day in three education programs; and over 1,000 families in LYS family service programs. www.lyc.org

Project GRAD

Project GRAD Cincinnati, a community-based nonprofit organization created in 2001, is part of a national initiative aimed at improving the success of urban school students to academically achieve, graduate from high school and enter and complete a college education. Annually, Project Grad Cincinnati supports over 2,000 students and nearly 170 teachers, principals and counselors within the Cincinnati Public Schools. www.projectgradcincinnati.org

YMCA of Greater Cincinnati

The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati has been in existence for more than 150 years and currently serves more than 431,000 people in a nine-county area through 21 branches. Programs include traditional YMCA programs as well as specialized services that are offered in partnership with other organizations. The YMCA is also the largest provider of child care in the area with 85 day care centers. www.cincinnatiymca.org

Youth, Incorporated

Youth, Incorporated was established in 1969 by two local judges who identified a housing need for young girls as an alternative to the Juvenile Justice Center. The organization today serves approximately 750 girls and boys annually who have found themselves involved with law enforcement. The program intervenes in young lives by providing a safe and structured residential environment to stabilize out of control youth (ages 10-18) in Hamilton County who are misdemeanor and nonviolent offenders, concentrating on providing positive interactions by caring adults until their court date. www.cincinnatiyouth.org

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