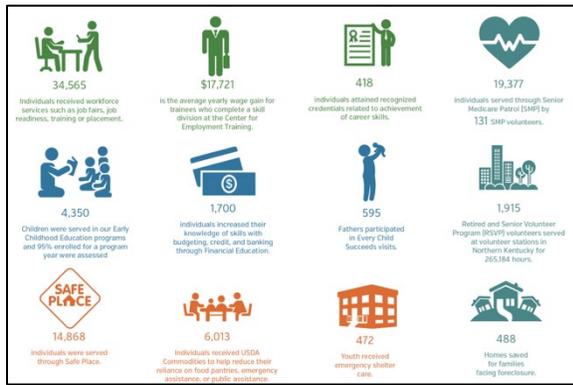


Brighton Center

UCCOM LC1 Service Learning

Brighton Center works in many different capacities with the hopes of alleviating barriers and creating opportunities for individuals and families to become self-sufficient members of the community. Through their many avenues they tackle food insecurity, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, education, and many other barriers that the people of NKY face. There are several ways they address these social determinants of health. To address food insecurity, they have a family center that provides food pantry services, clothing vouchers, personal hygiene items, and some financial assistance. To address the lack of affordable housing in the



https://www.brightoncenter.com/our_impact/outcomes

units for low-income families. To address education, they created the center for employment training with programs in medical assisting, health technology administration, and human resources. In 2022, they had 184 people enrolled in the center for employment training and individuals who

Northern Kentucky area, they created Brighton Properties, dedicated to developing housing opportunities to bring stability to low-income families, individuals, and communities. For example, last year they provided 207 housing units for seniors, 12 units for disabled individuals and 31

Brighton Center: *BUNDLING RESOURCES*

Brighton Center addresses a wide variety of SDOH, including physical environment, health, financial literacy, and food accessibility for its community members. By “bundling” resources within single banks like the Newport Family Center, Brighton Center addresses the way that one social determinant of health is interconnected with others. For example, when customers arrive at the Family Center, they can get food and clothing from the free store, consult with a patient advocate, and get connected to opportunities to pursue higher education. Brighton Center also recognizes that some patients cannot get to the Family Center and addresses this transportation issue by offering a “Club Care” service. Customers signed up for Club Care can have fresh groceries delivered straight to their door on Friday afternoons.



The Family Center in Newport.

https://s3media3.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/eUjMxI6ZNaSlvqVA41gDI_Sg/o.jpg

completed the training saw an average wage improvement of \$20,120.¹ The specific mission that our project focused on was the intersection of poverty and reports to child protection services. They recently received a grant to fund to Health Families project which works to get low-income families supportive resources in situations of child neglect due to poverty. Their work is funded by grants and donations.

The team at Brighton Center continued their services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with the understanding that community needs only increased during this difficult time. They developed infection control practices and allowed support staff to work remotely in order to protect staff and customers from illness. Brighton Center leadership felt that it was imperative to continue services throughout the pandemic in order to support the multifaceted needs of the Northern Kentucky community.

The Brighton Center project from last year focused on determining the current knowledge physicians and other health professionals in Northern Kentucky had surrounding the change to the definition of neglect as dictated in Senate Bill 8. This change clarified that neglect is specifically when a family has the resources to supply a child with their basic needs but chooses not to. Its goal is to prevent families from having to interact with Child Protective Services when they are unable to provide their child with resources as a result of poverty rather than as a result of abuse.

While Brighton Center currently offers resources for parents and children engaged with CPS, they could benefit from more education to individuals making CPS referrals. In our research last year, we found that many physicians were not aware of the changes to the definition of neglect in Senate Bill 8. This is something that the Cincinnati city government and the various governing bodies in Northern Kentucky can help with. They can lead an education effort to try and improve knowledge of this change in neglect so families can be better served wherever they receive care, since many cross the bridge and are seen in Cincinnati despite their Northern Kentucky residence.

To aid in the fulfillment of our long-term goal, there are several areas that would benefit from support at this time. Raising awareness of the change in the definition of neglect to now include consideration of the financial ability of the guardian is vital to the success of Brighton Center's work. In service of this goal, large-scale dissemination of this information to providers in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky is important, as the catchment area of these providers is most likely to include pediatric patients living in the area Brighton Center serves. While we were able to distribute this information to a number of providers in this area, it remains an area that requires support. Brighton Center can continue to make progress in educating community members, but support from government to broadly distribute educational materials on neglect could help reach medical professionals not already connected with the Brighton Center.

Language Matters:

Brighton Center refers to those they serve as customers. This choice of language helps reduce the possible stigma community members might feel when reaching out for help. Instead, they are just customers coming in for services to help uplift them and their families.

¹ https://www.brightoncenter.com/our_impact/outcomes

A Challenge and an Opportunity: *HOUSING INSECURITY IN NORTHERN KY*

One of the most pressing socio-economic pressures in northern Kentucky towns like Newport is the renovation of affordable housing complexes into more expensive apartments. Many residents, including elderly individuals on Medicaid, have been forced to evacuate these buildings and find new housing, of which there is a limited amount. As these residents are pushed further from their traditional resource banks (including Brighton center), issues of housing and food insecurity are exacerbated. Brighton Center is addressing this challenge on multiple fronts, including delivery of food to displaced individuals through their “Club Care” program.



Recent Housing Development on Newport on the Levee

https://externalcontent.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.soapboxmedia.com%2Fimages%2Ffeature_images_fox_era%2Fissue_527%2F13320847_481241115402318_159615113617237719_o.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=a2097a3c72f04561acc2db549f7180b31e8c5993137a2c7be5c947ac102e4f3f&ipto=images