Since 1832, Pressley Ridge has done whatever it takes to create success for children and families. From therapy and treatment to foster care services and education for children with special needs, including autism and deafness, Pressley Ridge empowers kids and families with the ability and confidence to succeed. Pressley Ridge serves communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Delaware.

To get involved or find out more information, visit PressleyRidge.org.

Building for Successful Futures
Pressley Ridge is excited to announce plans to build a new School for Autism and Deaf on our main campus in Pittsburgh, PA. This $12.5 million project, slated to break ground in the spring, has been designed through the help of autism and deaf experts to serve our unique population of students with enhanced learning experiences that include:

- Large sensory rooms with adjustable strobe lighting, as well as textiles, swings, and other comforting sensory objects
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and culinary classrooms provide opportunities for all students to explore their diverse interests
- The FedEx Ground PASES (Practical Assessment Exploration System) Lab gives students the opportunity to explore careers through simulated work environments, while learning life skills to encourage independence
- Flexible space, such as a multi-purpose room and media labs, for community engagement

Thank you to our early supporters of this project (as of 1/30/18), including Pressley Ridge Foundation, Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, Massey Charitable Trust, and FedEx.

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Youth are running for their lives thanks to one therapist at Laurel Park.

Community Support
Pressley Ridge could not continue our critical mission without the support of these local businesses and community groups.

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Fostering in Faith

“Love fiercely and hold loosely.” This is the mantra of Niki and Seth Reichart’s decade-long journey of fostering. Their mission began with a desire to adopt shortly after their first son was born. The emotional toll of five failed adoptions eventually led them to fostering, a decision made based on the teachings of the Bible.

Time after time, they hear the question — how can you bring these children into your home without getting too attached? To that, Niki says, “We don’t do it because we are immune to the heartbreak. We do it because we are commanded by Jesus. You have to love with a great risk to your own heart.”

Today, the Reicharts’ home and hearts are full with four biological boys and four adopted children ranging in age from four to twelve. Niki admits fostering wouldn’t be so easy without her “tribe” of fellow foster moms, who are her safe zone for venting. Niki’s tribe includes her sister-in-law Hannah Origel, who, along with her husband Jesus (otherwise known as Zeus), has fostered a total of eleven children.

For Hannah, fostering is contagious. Her parents and grandparents took in kids while growing up, and she saw the joy her brothers’ families derived from fostering. She and Zeus believe that the Bible has called them to bring in children and give them a loving place to stay. They want to serve the community, and fostering is a real, tangible way to do that.

With two biological sons, Hannah and Zeus began fostering in 2014 in response to the need for bilingual families to care for undocumented Hispanic youth in Pittsburgh. From there, they adopted one child (and hopefully, soon to be two).

Just like the Reicharts, Hannah and Zeus are inevitably questioned about the heartbreak that comes with fostering. “You can’t think about yourself. Imagine a kid being ripped from their home with nowhere to go. It’s an honor to be the one to get that phone call and to be a part of these children’s stories.”

Hannah, too, relies on the invaluable support of the foster mom tribe. When times get tough, they remind her of her purpose. She and Niki also lean heavily on the staff of Pressley Ridge, who is available 24/7 and has been with them through the good times and bad. Monthly meetings provide time for both the foster parents and children to connect and learn from one another.

Both families are grateful that their biological children have grown up with foster care and adoption as a part of their lives. The experience has made them empathetic, loving and generous, just like their parents.

The Reicharts and Origels are a testament to the difference that one family can make in the life of a child. For more family photos, visit www.PressleyRidge.org/fosteringinfaith.

Community Support

• 9,344 individuals were served in 55 programs across 6 states.
• 1,692 foster kids found loving, supportive homes.
• 5,775 individuals received mental and behavioral health support.
• 295 youth participated in short-term residential therapy.
• 330 students received specialized education.
• 90% of individuals experienced stronger family connections upon completion of services.

2017 Year in Review

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Running For Their Lives

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Letter from the President

President and CEO

E verywhere you look — on the news, social media, magazines and in our communities — you can’t help but see the devastating effects of opioid abuse across our country. While the numbers are staggering, Pressley Ridge is proud to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of the children, adults and families in our service areas who are affected by this epidemic.

Through our community-based programs, our staff works to provide the skills and confidence to overcome challenges brought on by loved ones who are using. In all of our programs, individuals — young and old alike — are taught to focus on their strengths in spite of what they may be dealing with in their lives.

Perhaps our biggest impact is in helping displaced children find temporary, safe homes while their parents get the help they so desperately need. In the past four years, the number of drug-affected children coming into the foster care system in the U.S. has increased by 32%, and the regions we serve are among those states with the most dramatic increases. Because of this, Pressley Ridge is experiencing a critical need for foster parents. We need people like you who care about children. Single adults, parents, couples, or grandparents of any race, religion or culture — if you have room in your heart and home, you can be the difference in the life of a child.

Becoming a foster parent isn’t an easy decision, and it’s certainly not the right decision for everyone. Even if you can’t foster, there are many ways to support our families with your time, talents and treasures. By collecting food, toiletries and other necessities, raising funds, or volunteering your time, talents and treasures. Even if you can’t foster, there are many ways to support our families with your time, talents and treasures. By collecting food, toiletries and other necessities, raising funds, or supporting our events as an attendee or volunteer, you can have a real impact on the lives of those we serve.

However you choose to contribute, thank you for joining us in the fight to create stronger communities for the children and families in the face of this epidemic.

Suzanne L. Cole
President and CEO

You Have the Power to Create Success

There are many ways to impact the lives of the children and families of Pressley Ridge.

Community Service

Many of our program centers are in need of improvements. Corporate volunteers, service groups or individuals can give just a few hours of painting, landscaping or gardening and make a visible difference.

Backpack Giveback

Many of our families are unable to provide the most basic necessities for their children. You can host a drive for food, toiletries, school supplies, coats or other essential items.

Donate

Your gift of any amount will give a child the chance to succeed. To donate, use the enclosed envelope, call (412) 872-9435 or visit PressleyRidge.org/donate.

Running For Their Lives

Laura O’Hara is an avid runner who recently found a way to share that passion with the youth at Pressley Ridge Laurel Park. As part of being a therapist, Laura teaches self-regulation skills to the youth on her caseload, and in the summer of 2017, she introduced a new skill: running.

The club began with five young men who ran on campus twice each week. They competed in several outdoor events throughout the summer and fall with Laura running right alongside them.

In the months since the club started, two of the five original members were successfully discharged from Laurel Park. The group has continued to grow, even adding a second club for girls. For these youth, running is a healthy outlet that helps them manage their emotions and build confidence, and their coach couldn’t be prouder of the results. They continue to push themselves to meet their personal goals. The goal of one runner, Nick, was to to beat Laura in a race, and he did — twice!

Caring Communities

Presley Ridge’s ability to deliver our critical mission is dependent upon our partners who provide us not only with monetary support but also with the items and services our kids and families need. With countless individuals, companies and groups aiding 55 programs in six states, we can’t possibly mention all of the good that will be done on our behalf, but we can highlight just a few of our strongest supporters.

• In the fall, Pressley Ridge was the beneficiary of Whole Foods 5% Day. In all, more than $15,000 was donated to our programs from sales at all three Pittsburgh, PA locations.

• Barnes & Noble in Cranberry Twp., PA featured Pressley Ridge in their annual Holiday Book Drive. In addition to $800 in proceeds donated by the store, shoppers purchased more than 3,200 new books for our children — a store record for the Holiday Book Drive.

• Nationally, Mattress Firm is dedicated to creating hope and opportunities for children in foster care. In the past year, their Ticket to Dream Foundation has donated thousands of dollars, clothing, shoes, school supplies and toys for children in Delaware and Western PA.

• Once again, Epsilon Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was a staunch supporter of Pressley Ridge Delaware, purchasing and wrapping Angel Tree gifts for children in care. In total, chapter members have donated 700 gifts over the past four years.

• In Central PA, OWL Chiropractic in Lancaster adopted Pressley Ridge as their charity of choice, and in just four months, they have already donated more than $2,000, along with Angel Tree gifts for our kids. Nearby, The Melting Pot Harrisburg is in its third year of hosting charity dinners to benefit Pressley Ridge. And in York, restaurateur Athena Keares has consistently supported Angel Tree over the past five years.

• The holiday party for families in Cumberland, MD was made possible by contributions from Rehab First, Chesie Federal Credit Union, Cumberland American Legion, Scarpelli’s Funeral Home, Dr. Ryan Penry, Domino’s Pizza, Martin’s Grocery Store and Weis Grocery Store.

• Legacy Construction has been a great friend to our kids and families in Cleveland, OH, sponsoring events and providing no cost repairs to the local office.

• Mt. Healthy Hatcheries has been a tremendous partner to Pressley Ridge Cincinnati for more than five years, providing funding, sponsoring events and introducing others to our mission.

• Kappa Sigma Pi’s history of supporting Pressley Ridge and our youth in West Virginia spans more than three decades. The organization provides the 107-acre campus of our Laurel Park residential treatment program and has financed several major capital improvements over the years. Each year at the holidays, they also provide gifts for the youth.

• The Annie E. Casey Foundation works to improve the lives of America’s children and their families and has generously provided funding and gifts for foster children in the Baltimore, MD area for the past four holiday seasons.

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We also want to thank the hundreds of others who have supported our kids and families in so many ways!

Save the Date

Cocktails for Camp
April 19 - Cincinnati

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
May 14 - Saget AE

Sporting Clays
May 14 - Seven Springs Mountain Resort

Ice Cream Fundae
August 19 - Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

For more information, visit www.PressleyRidge.org/events.

Portraits of Success

1. Adoptive parents and kids enjoyed the exhibits at the Lancaster Science Factory in celebration of National Adoption Month.

2. Day School Johnstonstown students explored the Earth - inside and out - through a 19-foot balloon.

3. Children enjoyed water activities at Camp Presley.

4. Pressley Ridge Laurel Park hosted the 3rd Annual Laurel Park Turkey Trot.

5. Day School Greensburg students volunteered to pack food at Westmoreland Community Action.

6. School for the Deaf students explored the great outdoors on their annual camping trip to Keystone State Park.

www.PressleyRidge.org/events.

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