

# ENGAGING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

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Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends,

**Since our founding in 1832,  
Pressley Ridge has always been about families.  
Safe families. Joyful families. Loving families.  
Successful families. Strong families.**

Everything we do is centered around strengthening the families we serve. Whether through therapy and treatment, education or finding a supportive family for a child in need – temporarily or permanently – the lives of those we serve are positively changed.

The statistics and stories of success throughout this report are evidence that our impact resonates well beyond just the individual under our care. Fathers, mothers, siblings, grandparents, aunts, friends and others are engaged in our family-centered services.

Through the commitment of community foundations, corporations and local individuals and families, we have been able to continuously expand our mission and services over the past 185 years. In fiscal year 2016 alone, more than 6,800 children and adults were directly served by our 58 programs, in addition to the countless others who indirectly benefited.

The Pressley Ridge employees who serve these families are also impacting their lives by contributing financially to the Opportunity Fund, which allows us to help our families beyond the normal scope of work. Just this year, we were able to cover the cost of utilities for several families when times were tough. We were also able to purchase a special swing for an adoptive child with severe disabilities and provide braces for a teenager – further proof of our commitment to our families.

No matter how you supported to Pressley Ridge this year, please know that the impact of your contribution was felt far and wide by many. On behalf of the kids and families to whom you gave the chance to succeed, we thank you.

Sincerely,



*Susanne Cole*

**Susanne L. Cole, MBA, MA**  
*President and  
Chief Executive Officer*



*Brad A. Funari*

**Brad A. Funari, Esq.**  
*Chairperson  
Board of Directors*



## VISION

### “All Kids Thrive”

All of us at Pressley Ridge share a dream that one day all kids may thrive. All of our efforts every day are directed at creating a world in which our vision can become a reality.

## MISSION

### “Whatever it takes to create success for children and families”

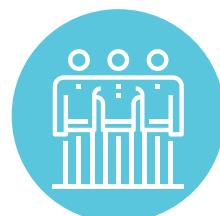
Our mission statement speaks to our complete and unequivocal commitment to do all in our power to improve the lives of children and families everywhere and especially those whose lives we touch. There is no challenge too big or barrier too strong to keep us from doing our utmost on their behalf. We succeed when they succeed.

# SERVICES OVERVIEW



## Foster Care

Placing children in stable homes with specially-trained foster parents, while working to reunite them with their biological families or find an adoptive family



## Community-Based Services

Individualized mental health services designed to strengthen, preserve and keep families together so that children can remain at home and in their own schools and communities



## Education Services

Intensive, individualized education for children with mental and behavioral issues with the ultimate goal of returning the student to the public school setting; as well as specialized education for children with autism and deafness



## Residential Treatment Services

Individualized, trauma-sensitive care in small group homes and campus-based facilities emphasizing psychological safety, trusting relationships, competency development and family involvement



# SUCCESS STORIES



# THE SHEARN FAMILY

## Foster Care



February 22, 2017

To the Entire Pressley Ridge Team:

Please accept this letter as an expression of the heartfelt gratitude that my wife Juanita and myself have for the treatment team at Pressley Ridge.

Tragic circumstances landed us in the presence of new life situations that we had no idea how we could conquer. Our lives suddenly changed and included full-time responsibility for our three grandchildren. I must admit that I was not ready for this task, and perhaps at times, was not the easiest person to work with. There were multiple uncertainties and fears that accompanied the adjusting to our new role; however, our treatment team at Pressley Ridge stood beside us every step of the way.

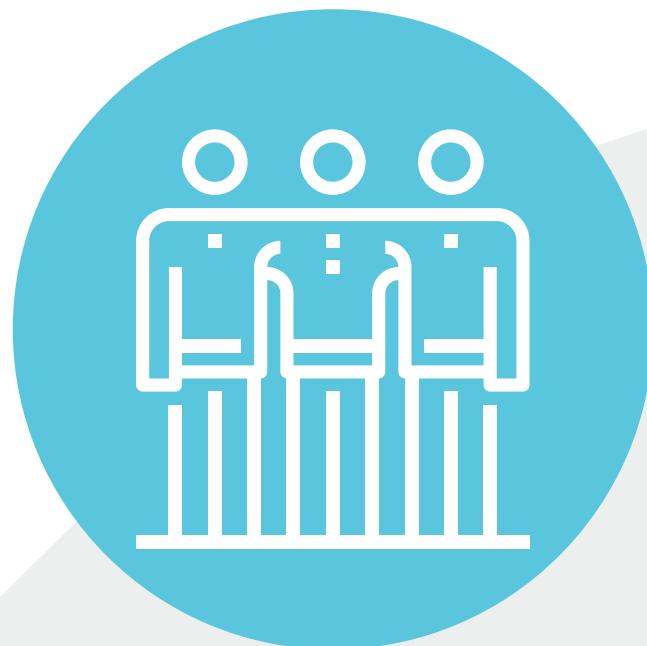
We are forever grateful for the care and professionalism that was expressed to us during the most turbulent times of our lives. The professional services at Pressley Ridge focused on engaging my entire family in the treatment and care of the children, and assisted both my wife and I in developing the skills and resources that we needed.

Thank you is simply not enough to speak to the gratitude and appreciation that we have for Pressley Ridge. Thank you for making us comfortable, treating us as family, and assisting us to transition and remain united as a family. The Shearn family will remain forever appreciative for the level of professionalism shown to us during our tenure with Pressley Ridge.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Edward Charles Shearn

# XAVIER & PEACHES

## Community-Based Services



Zandra (Peaches) had known Xavier all his life. She was his “Auntie,” the long-time partner of Xavier’s great uncle, and Xavier came to live with them as a teenager.

When that living situation didn’t work out, Peaches decided she was going to adopt Xavier into her family. With adult children and grandchildren, this amazing woman decided she had more love to give, especially for this handsome, athletic and intelligent young man.

As Peaches and Xavier worked to build their family, she reluctantly took the recommendation of Children & Youth Services (CYS) to contact Pressley Ridge's Crisis Stabilization and Family Preservation Services.

Xavier was struggling to break old patterns of negative behavior, and Peaches found it difficult to juggle her new responsibilities while dealing with CYS, the courts and juvenile probation. In addition, she was trying to find a place to live while still focusing on her job, children and grandchildren. To help with managing all of this, she and Xavier worked with Pressley Ridge's Family-Based Mental Health Services.

Xavier found it hard to accept and adjust to a stable, permanent family environment. Yet, Peaches and the Pressley Ridge team were there to reinforce the progress that the family had made. Eventually, they found a new home and school and began working on adoption. Things were finally looking up, despite a few hiccups along the way.

Unfortunately, life presents us many challenges over time and Peaches and Xavier were no exception to this. An unfortunate event occurred that resulted in Xavier suffering a near-death experience that left him in critical condition. With the family's other formal supports unavailable, Peaches reached out to the Pressley Ridge team, who rallied to support them through the crisis.

After weeks of prayers, tears and long days in the hospital, it was clear that though Xavier would survive, however he would never be the same. Permanently affected by his injury, Xavier needed intensive care and was placed in a long-term recovery hospital before being transferred home. Peaches would be by his side during this journey to recovery with continued support from the Pressley Ridge team.

On his birthday, one year later, the Pressley Ridge team saw Xavier again. This time it was the most joyous of occasions in a courthouse where he received the greatest birthday gift of all – the finalization of his adoption into a loving, forever family that nothing, not even almost losing his life, could take away from him.



# JORDAN

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## Education



Mark and Patti McCloud were concerned when their 18 month-old son, Jordan, still hadn't said his first words. After a series of evaluations, Jordan was diagnosed with autism at age two and a half.

Understandably, Mark and Patti were confused and overwhelmed. As they attempted to process their new path in life, medical professionals provided a list of things that Jordan would never do. Not ready to give up on her son, Patti responded, "How do you know?"

Now, more than 18 years later, she still thinks that way. Although Jordan is non-verbal and severely affected by autism, Patti can see him learning more every day. "He hears everything. He understands everything. I have no doubt in my mind."

Jordan requires 24-hour care for even his most basic needs and can't comprehend danger. Fortunately, he has a strong safety net surrounding him in the form of his parents, seventeen-year-old sister, other family members, and his current and former teachers and support staff.

When he was five, Jordan's pediatrician insisted that Pressley Ridge was the single-best option for in-home wrap-around services. Shortly thereafter, he also began participating in the extended school year program and weekly therapeutic social groups, where Patti formed a strong bond with the other parents. After Jordan's high school closed in 2015, he began attending Pressley Ridge School for Autism full time.

Although Jordan is non-verbal, Patti says he is extremely social and loves being around others – especially other men, which is one reason that Patti appreciates Pressley Ridge. "Jordan is a man's man. He responds well to males, and there are a lot of men on the staff at Pressley Ridge, which you don't see a lot in this type of work."

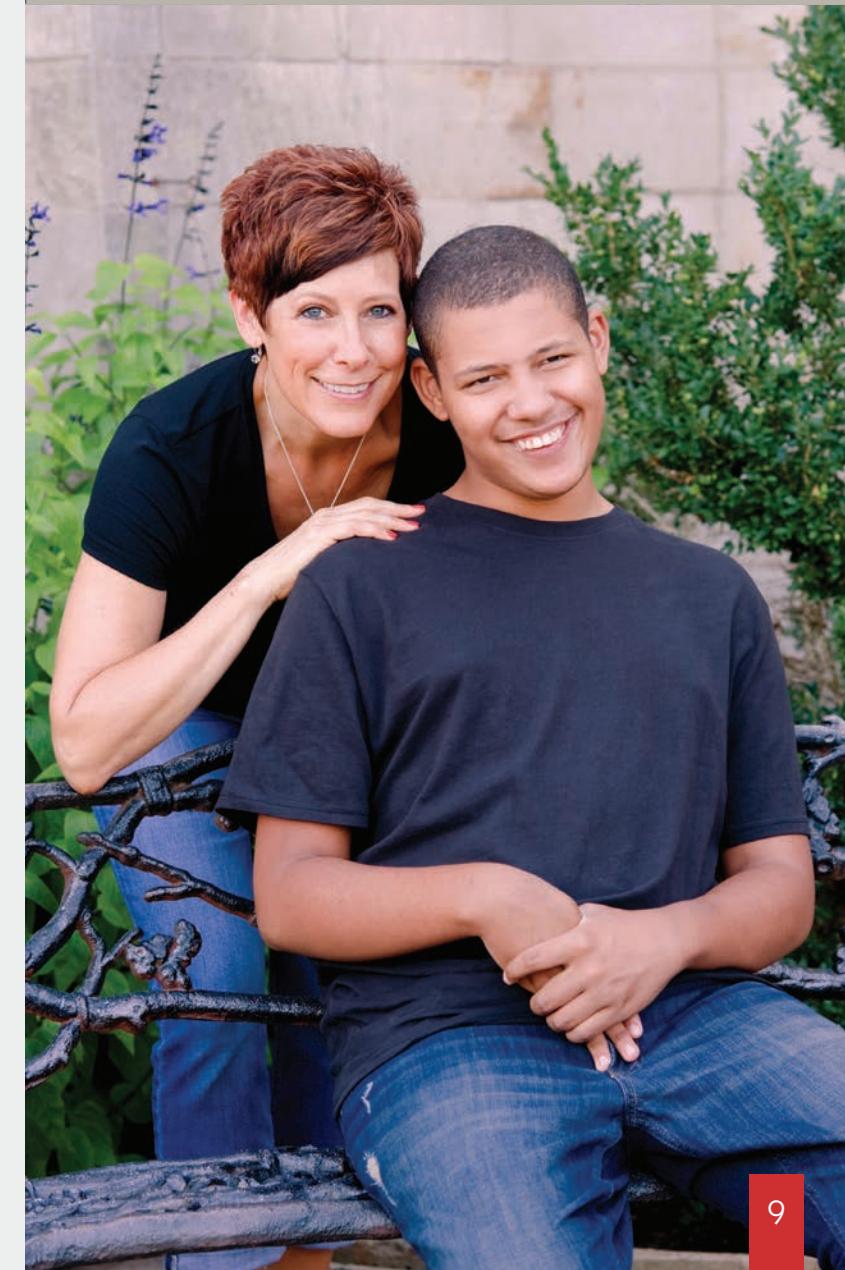
In general, Patti can't say enough about the staff in the Autism program, who she says are knowledgeable, well-trained and caring. "The people here are touching lives and changing lives."

Though in the beginning, Patti didn't know anything about autism, over the past 18 years, she and her family have become passionate advocates, both for the individuals with the diagnosis and their parents. She chairs an annual fundraising event for and serves on the board of the local chapter of Autism Speaks, and in 2005, she was hired at Pressley Ridge as a Family Support Coordinator. In this position, she works to ensure that all aspects of our programming are engaging and friendly to the entire family. It was a perfect fit for Patti in more ways than one. She could use the experiences of her own family to benefit the families receiving services from Pressley Ridge. In addition, the position offered her the flexibility to put Jordan's needs first. If he is having a bad day and can't go to school, Patti can work from home to be able to care for him.

Most recently, Patti has been using her personal experience of exploring options for adult services to work with the team at Pressley Ridge School for Autism to design a program for adults who are "falling off the cliff," as she puts it. At age 21, which Jordan will reach this year, young adults with autism are no longer eligible for services through the education system.

Through the Adult Community Integration Program, Pressley Ridge hopes to provide a solution for at least a small number of those affected. Once fully up and running, the program will assist adults with autism in acquiring, maintaining and improving the self-help, domestic, socialization and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community-based settings.

Ultimately, Patti's dream is a community designed specifically for adults with autism where Jordan can thrive. "What I want for him is a purposeful, meaningful life where he can live with his peers, yet still get the supervision that he needs."



# VICTOR

## Residential Treatment Services



Wendy moved to Pittsburgh from Puerto Rico in search of supports for her then five-year-old son Victor, a non-verbal youth with autism and intellectual disabilities. By the time he was 14, the intensity and frequency of his unsafe behaviors required out-of-home placement at a residential treatment facility. Wendy sought a long-term care provider for Victor and entrusted his treatment to Pressley Ridge.

In October 2015, Victor came to live at Home Places, Pressley Ridge's residential treatment facility for youth with autism or developmental disabilities, and began attending the Pressley Ridge School for Autism.

With an established routine and a consistent staff presence, Victor became accustomed to his new house and housemates. As his behaviors stabilized, staff began to work on increasing his social skills, communication and ability to tolerate unanticipated changes in his daily schedule.

Over the past year and a half, Victor has had many successes, including increased communication in school through his iPad, participating in Miracle League baseball and riding a train in Canada with his mom to visit extended family. Victor, along with the two other young men who live in his

program house, has attended a range of new activities from sensory-friendly movies to Penguins' hockey games and a monster truck show. He is also able to spend more time in the company of others and is less rigid in his routine.

Victor has had the opportunity to rebuild a strong relationship with his mother during weekly visits at Home Places, as well as regular home visits. Recently, along with a little encouragement from Pressley Ridge staff, Victor even walked his mother down the aisle at her wedding. Wendy described his achievements by saying, "I have my Victor back."

Family, Teachers and Home Places staff work together on Victor's individualized goals. Since his first day at Home Places, Victor has had the same residential staff members working with him, and Wendy attributes his progress to them.

"It has been a transformative experience for Victor and for me, and it is all due to our combined efforts with the Home Places staff. They are a dream team and work in perfect harmony to ensure that all three boys have successful and meaningful lives. I am a witness to their dedication...and I am grateful for this blessing."



# OUTCOMES

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

## Following the Conclusion of Services

- 88%** of individuals reported feeling that they were enjoying a close family
- 74%** experienced an increase in functioning on standardized scale
- 75%** of individuals were living independently or with family
- 96%** of individuals were living with family or independently
- 96%** of individuals were free from abuse or neglect
- 98%** of youth either graduated or are attending school



# DEMOGRAPHICS

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)



# 6,812

Number of Individuals Served

## Age

5 and younger	13%
6 - 12	33%
13 - 20	38%
21 & older	17%

## Gender

52% Male

48% Female



## Number of Individuals Served in All Programs

Treatment Foster Care	1,403	21%
Community-Based Services	4,774	70%
Residential Treatment Services	413	6%
Education Services	222	3%

## Length of Stay

< 3 months	36%
3 - 6 months	22%
7 - 9 months	18%
9 - 12 months	8%
Over 1 year	16%

## Race

African American	19%
Bi-racial/Multiracial	8%
Caucasian	46%
Unknown/Not Recorded	46%
Other	3%



# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

## FY2016 Revenue by State\*

Pennsylvania .....	\$ 41.6
West Virginia.....	\$ 17.8
Ohio.....	\$ 5.1
Maryland.....	\$ 5.5
Delaware.....	\$ 2.7
Virginia.....	\$ 1.1
Foundation & Institute.....	\$ 1.2
Training/Consulting/Other Services ....	\$ 0.5
Total Revenue .....	\$ 75.5

\*In millions

## FY2016 Revenue by Program\*

Residential .....	\$ 21.6
Foster Care.....	\$ 20.8
Education.....	\$ 13.6
Community Based.....	\$ 17.8
Foundation & Institute.....	\$ 1.2
Training/Consulting/Other Services ....	\$ 0.5
Total Revenue .....	\$ 75.5

\*In millions



# 2016 LEADERSHIP

## Executive Leadership

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President and Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Operating Officer

### **Douglas A. Mullins, CPA**

Chief Financial Officer

### **Tina L. Myles, Esq., SPHR**

Chief Human Resources Officer

### **Ron Gruca**

Senior Director of Development

### **Alan Bedell, MD**

Medical Director

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Executive Director: West Virginia & Virginia

### **Jesse McLean, MA**

Executive Director:

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### **Tammy Relken, MS**

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### Special Thanks to Our Donors

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

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Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations that have supported our work with children and families.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these listings.*

*If your name is incorrect or omitted, we sincerely apologize.*

*Please let us know so that we can correct our records.*

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We would like to express our appreciation to the more than 200 individuals who made gifts at this level.

\*deceased



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Children's Home Foundation  
of Harrisburg  
Dollar Bank  
Exchange Club of Carlisle  
Federal Home Loan Bank  
Henderson Brothers

**"Our son has excelled and continues to make progress academically and behaviorally...It's a testimony to other parents who have children with behavioral, academic or autistic challenges – with the right supports and academic environment, these children can excel."**

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Winchester Little Theatre



*"These kids are irreplaceable, and  
despite what they have been through,  
they need to know that there is  
somebody out there that cares about  
them, has faith and believes in them."*



# DONOR HONOR ROLL

## THE HOBB'S SOCIETY

Nicholas Hobbs was a visionary leader. As the architect of Re-Education, he is recognized as a pioneer in the treatment of troubled kids and families. At Pressley Ridge, his vision continues to give meaning to our work, just as Re-ED continues to be our foundation of excellence. The Hobb's Society recognizes the Pressley Ridge employees who give 1% or more of their salary in the annual employee giving campaign.

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*In addition to their priceless dedication of time and talent, our employees contribute more than \$56,000 to our organization.*

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**"Pressley Ridge showed me  
how to live and how not to live.  
What I am and what I am not.  
This has been a journey  
for me and still will be.  
Thanks for standing by me  
and believing in me."**

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**“Some of the children come into our home with a lack of love, and when you show that love to them, you see a lot of change in them.”**



**"They were there whenever I got in trouble with my probation officer... and helped me get through some of the tough times with the divorce (of my parents)."**

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**"Pressley Ridge is helping me to become more independent with every visit...They are always giving me challenges that are significant opportunities to build resilience and compassion."**

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As part of the **Constructing Their Futures** course, students at the Career Development Center worked alongside the skilled employees of Walsh Construction to design and build a storage shed on the CDC campus.





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