

Bellefaire JCB  
celebrating 150 years

A rich history...  
A promising future

150 *years*



ANNUAL REPORT | 2019-20



Adam G. Jacobs, Ph.D.

## A Year of Celebration, Challenge and Hope

As we prepare this annual report we are in the midst of a global health pandemic and while there remains much uncertainty of this we can be sure, Bellefaire JCB will endure just as it has for the past 150 years. In that century and a half, the agency has weathered wars, depression and the flu pandemic of 1918. Through it all, we have remained steadfast in our mission to provide innovative and exceptional care education and advocacy to enhance the emotional, physical and intellectual well-being of our children, teens and families.

The past fiscal year has shown us the strength of our community and reaffirmed our role as a central support for those who depend upon our services. We ushered in the year with the Backyard Bash to celebrate Bellefaire's 150 year anniversary with nearly 400 people gathered in our backyard. Both longstanding and new friends joined us as we toasted the past and looked to the future. Of course, we had no idea what the future would hold.

As fiscal year 2019-20 progressed, Bellefaire JCB remained focused on its core mission, delivering critical behavioral health and education services to children and families from across the region and beyond. And then the pandemic took hold. At no point was there a consideration of closing our programs. After all, our campus is home to nearly 90 individuals, the Monarch School provides needed education and therapies to more than 140 students,



Ira C. Kaplan

and our community based counselors treat the most at-risk youth in the community. With the support of our community and determination from our staff, Bellefaire JCB persevered, transitioned to remote learning, delivery of behavioral health services through telehealth and made other adjustments to ensure the continuity of care.

It turns out that our efforts during the spring were the training ground for what appears to be our new normal, at least for a little while. We also believe that the lessons learned will help us deliver services more effectively well into the future. From the beginning and still, we are grateful to many for their support. We thank those who donated PPE, made face coverings and assisted with staff appreciation efforts. We are grateful to our staff for their dedication, creativity and flexibility. They have been our front line in enabling us to continue to serve our stakeholders and have performed remarkably under stressful circumstances.

And, finally, we are grateful to you, our community of friends and supporters, who believe in the value of our work and our mission. Here's to another 150 years. May we continue to go from strength to strength. On behalf of our Board of Directors, the staff of Bellefaire JCB and the children and families we serve, thank you.

*Adam G. Jacobs, Ph.D.*  
President

*Ira C. Kaplan*  
Chair, Board of Directors





## Program Highlights 2019-2020: A Year Like No Other

Bellefaire JCB served 36,000 children, youth, family and community members. The number of families served continues to grow through expanded programming, use of technology such as webinars and Bellefaire's state and national recognition as a premier provider of children's services.



With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, 2020, both education and behavioral health services moved online. Bellefaire was able to safely maintain the 90 individuals in residence on the campus.



This year, Bellefaire JCB served more than 4,000 Jewish youth and their families, including 1,425 students and parents served through the Jewish Day School Counseling program. [Watch our video, \*Repairing the World\*.](#)

School-Based Counseling provided services in more than 75 schools in districts throughout Northeast Ohio. Staff worked with more than 2,100 children who were referred by teachers and administrators because of behavioral health issues. As with other programs, therapists shifted to telehealth with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before the pandemic, Monarch Boarding Academy (MBA) was home to more than 50 individuals ages 8-21 with autism. MBA is a co-ed therapeutic residential treatment program that compliments the classroom experience at Monarch School.



## Making an Impact on Children, Families and Our Community



The Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) program provided education and prevention services to nearly 9,000 teens and family members in Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Beachwood, Chagrin Falls, Mayfield, Orange, Shaker Heights and Solon. During Covid, programming continues virtually.



Treatment Foster Care trained nearly 300 families to prepare for welcoming children in need into their homes. In 2019, Bellefaire placed 33 children into foster families. Staff continues to identify and license homes in the Orthodox community that can accommodate children of observant families, particularly large sibling groups.



JBBBSA celebrated their 30th Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser, which attracted more than 200 bowlers and netted a record amount of revenue and fun. Since March, Bigs and Littles have been getting together virtually for group activities and one-on-one monthly conversations.

In response to Covid, most MBA students remained, but some did not. Monarch School launched a new Distance Learning Program for community students that includes new technology platforms, programs, training and procedures. Monarch provided educational and related services through both synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (delayed) interaction.



## Program Highlights 2019-2020: *continued*

In March, Bellefaire temporarily closed Monarch School and JDN Early Childhood Center in adherence to a statewide mandate. A week later, JDN reopened under a Temporary Pandemic License to provide free childcare services to Bellefaire essential staff. Today, JDN is open and operating according to Ohio guidelines.



The Homeless and Missing Youth Program annually serves about 4,000 teens and families. In the pandemic, “pop-up” drop-in centers are used so supplies can be given and resources shared while maintaining a safe social distance.



Monarch Center for Autism’s website ([monarchcenterforautism.org](http://monarchcenterforautism.org)) attracted visitors from all over the globe. Last year, almost 21,000 participants from around the world engaged in at least one Monarch community education webinar.



The issues impacting homeless and missing teens intensified during the pandemic as many of the typical places these youth could go, such as libraries and schools, were no longer available. The Homeless and Missing Youth Street Outreach Team worked with a variety



## Program Highlights 2019-2020: *continued*

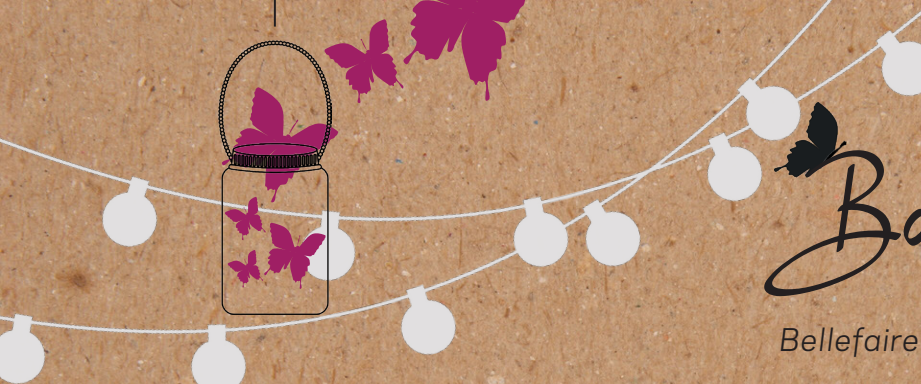


Our frontline workers were met with an outpouring of support from our community beginning with Bellefaire’s Board of Directors who spearheaded a staff appreciation campaign that included masks, small gifts, meals, and personal notes of encouragement and thanks.



Volunteers from both the Jewish and general communities made hundreds of face coverings for our staff while others donated critically needed PPE and cleaning supplies. Support came from both longstanding and new friends, including members of the Greater Cleveland Chinese community.

of partners from across the community to find missing youth and to ensure that those on the streets were safe. A local news outlet aired a segment that featured Bellefaire’s Homeless and Missing Youth program and the impact of the pandemic.



# Backyard Bash

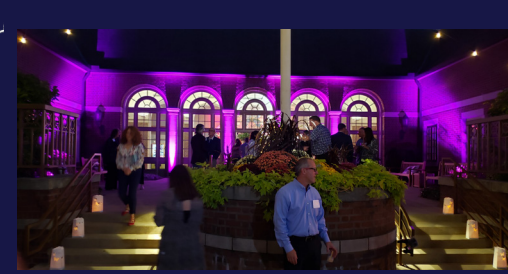
Bellefaire JCB's **150<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary Party



On a gorgeous September evening, Bellefaire JCB hosted one of the most notable parties of the season, the **Backyard Bash**. Nearly 400 guests gathered on our campus under the stars as we celebrated the agency and its service to the community for 150 years. Both new and longstanding friends joined together as we honored Bellefaire's legacy and shared our mission, which has continually adapted to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk children and families. We are deeply appreciative of the guidance and dedication of our event co-chairs, planning committee, honorees and host committee for making this event such a success. Most of all, we are grateful to you, our generous donors, who continue to support the important work we do on behalf of children and families.



[Click here to read more about Bellefaire's 150th Anniversary and historical timeline in our Backyard Bash commemorative booklet.](#)



▶ shabbat shalom

▶ the vibe

Backyard Bash — 150 years

Backyard Bash — 150 years



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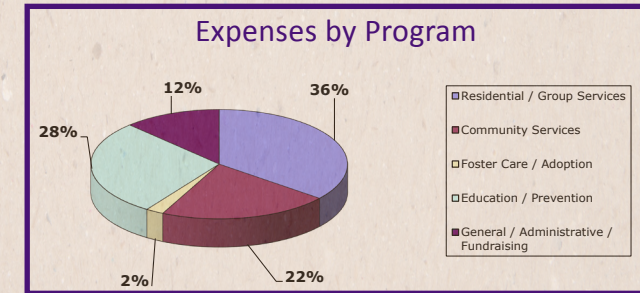
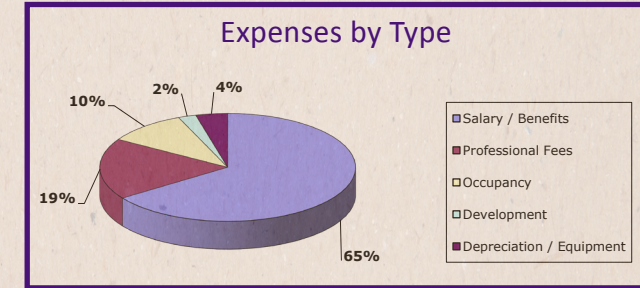
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July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



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