A New Beginning for Isaiah and Ciara

You’ve helped save a young family.

It’s not easy being a parent. Hundreds of parenting books exist, but when you really feel like you’re failing, where can you turn?

Bart and Teri juggle the demands of careers and family like most working parents. After a few frustrating, chaotic years complete with daycare expulsion, they finally found the guidance they were seeking at The Providence Center.

Adopted in 2012, Isaiah and Ciara filled Bart and Teri’s home with love and joy…and energy! With both toddlers diagnosed with ADHD, every day was non-stop activity.

"Isaiah’s motor was constantly running," Teri said. "Almost every day, I got a phone call from daycare about his bad behavior.”

Ciara was a challenge too, with an explosive temper and extreme anxiety that made redirecting her nearly impossible. "Ciara would scream and throw herself on the ground," Bart said.

"We felt helpless. Life was so stressful. Our home was in chaos.” - Bart

Phone calls continued with more negative feedback about Isaiah. One day at daycare, Isaiah played Superman, leaping into the corner of a cabinet and resulting in an emergency room visit. The next call asked them to leave daycare.

It was more than they could handle. They turned to The Providence Center.

"The moment we stepped inside The Providence Center, we knew we found a special place," Teri said. Isaiah received help at The Center’s Early Childhood Institute then transferred to Imagine Preschool, its inclusive preschool program in Warwick, where Ciara later joined him.

The Providence Center and Imagine didn’t see Isaiah and Ciara as problems; they were puzzles that needed patience and understanding to solve.

The staff created a plan to help them learn better behaviors and regulate their emotions. With clear instructions, positive words, structure and routine, their behaviors began to improve in the classroom and at home.

"It felt so good to finally have a resource that could help us make our children successful learners," Bart said.

Now, daycare is a positive experience for the family. "When we first picked up Isaiah at Imagine, they said, 'Isaiah did a great job today!'”

"We felt helpless,” Bart said. “Life was so stressful. Our home was in chaos. Weekends should have been fun family time, but they were just 48 hours of sheer frustration.”

Teri and Bart are grateful to The Providence Center for the genuine compassion and love they extended to their family.

"They turned our children’s lives around and saved our family,” Teri said. Ciara started kindergarten at her community school and Isaiah is still a student at Imagine Preschool. Thanks to The Providence Center, both Ciara and Isaiah are learning to become explorers of life without being overwhelmed by their emotions.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Providence Center is able to provide innovative support to children and families facing behavioral and emotional challenges.

To learn more about our early childhood programming, please call 401-276-4020 or visit us online at providencecenter.org.
A Promise to John
A sister turns to The Providence Center in her family’s time of need

Kathy can recall the exact moment when she witnessed her brother John’s severe mental illness beginning to take control. “Two weeks after my high school graduation, John’s symptoms started.”

John’s life was a series of repeated hospitalizations and failed attempts at getting treatment. Living in their parents’ care, he attended college, and earned a law degree from Suffolk University. But, the stress of transitioning to the workforce overwhelmed him.

When their parents died in 1990, Kathy became John’s primary caregiver, dedicating herself to doing anything to help him avoid another psychiatric episode. “He was my brother, my responsibility,” Kathy said. “I would never leave him.”

The Providence Center’s staff arranged a plan that allowed John to live independently with support from case managers and constant monitoring by Kathy. But John had difficulty living on his own, one incident included an accidental fire. Kathy realized he was not safe. “I was in over my head. I was sinking and so was John,” she said.

“John’s Providence Center team recommended that he be placed in a group home. Deeply saddened, Kathy agreed. She knew that it was the best option for her brother, but couldn’t help feeling like she had failed. As it turned out, The Center’s Hope House was the solution they both needed.”

John thrived in the safe, welcoming environment of Hope House and he enjoyed the structure and companionship. It presented Kathy with the peace of mind she longed for. “The Providence Center became John’s family, and mine too,” Kathy said.

As his family would, the staff and residents gathered around John when he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2006. Kathy was moved by the outpouring of support, from the CEO to the residential staff who worked to address John’s medical needs. When he neared the end of his life, their love and compassion carried them both through John’s battle with cancer and his final days.

“The Providence Center lifted the weight of the world off of my shoulders...they were the answer to my prayers and the support I needed when he passed away.” Kathy

To honor his memory, Kathy continues to support The Providence Center and has included The Providence Center in her will to ensure quality care will be there for other families in need of compassionate support during life’s most difficult moments.

Donors Contribute $1 Million for Facility Renovation

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of our $1 million fundraising campaign to renovate the 528 North Main Street facility in Providence.

With a 30% increase in clients served since 2010 and an expansion of programs and services, The Providence Center established a master plan to renovate the building to accommodate its growth and improve the client experience. The three-phase renovation introduced energy-efficient solutions for heating and cooling and restructured service areas.

“The Providence Center provides first-class services and our patients and staff deserve a first-class facility as well,” said Dale K. Klitzker, Ph.D., president of the Providence Center and senior vice president of Ambulatory Behavioral Health for Care New England. “This renovation is significant and will have a lasting impact. Thank you to our generous donors who made this project possible.”

The renovations include:

- **Phase 1**: Replacement of four 40-year-old boilers with an efficient gas heating system for an annual savings of $30,000 in operating costs and a 30% improvement in energy efficiency.

- **Phase 2**: Upgrade of electrical and fire systems, relocation and expansion of the on-site pharmacy, and renovation of first floor client service areas to create additional space to serve more clients. This phase was financed through restructuring the organization’s debt using tax-exempt bonds.

- **Phase 3**: Replaced air intake system was installed to improve air quality.

For more information about how you can support The Providence Center, please contact Lisa Desbiens at (401) 528-0127 or ldesbiens@provctr.org.

Our sincere appreciation to the following donors who made a significant philanthropic investment in the 528 North Main Street Facility Improvement Project.

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- Dominion Diagnostics, LLC

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