Founded in 1940 as the Society for Crippled Children, we serve children and adults with a broad range of disabilities and special needs including physical, developmental, neurological and emotional challenges. Our unique service model weaves together education and autism services; therapy and the Intensive Therapy Clinic; recreation, camp and sports programs; adult services, and family support/social work services to meet the needs of the entire family and provide the best outcomes. We provide services on-site, in homes, in schools and on-line via telehealth and remote learning.

OUR MISSION

We empower children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential.

OUR VISION

A future where individuals with varying abilities have opportunities across the lifespan to live life to the fullest. Everyone will reach their highest potential at home, school and in the community as a result of the family-focused and integrated services our staff so competently and passionately provides.
Dear Friends,

Relationships are at the heart of everything we do at the Achievement Centers for Children. We are proud of the bonds we have formed with our families, children and adults and we are thrilled every day to have the support of donors, volunteers and staff who help us fulfil our mission; empowering children and adults with disabilities and their families to achieve their greatest potential.

We left 2019 ahead of our goals, both with client development and fiscal support. Successful events had helped our programs to further mature and we looked forward to seeing this growth continue in 2020. Of course, the adage, “Hard times will always reveal true friends” came to light as we entered March.

“When the test of friendship is assistance in adversity, and that, too, unconditional assistance.”
— MAHATMA GANDHI

When the Governor announced Ohio’s stay-at-home order, we were delighted to see our Board members and staff step up to the plate. They showed compassion, commitment and creativity which highlighted how much they care for our families, our team and our mission. Better yet, we saw parents and caregivers take on new roles. Using telehealth, family members worked with us to learn therapeutic techniques, to connect more frequently and to help us help all of our “Achievers!”

Overall, we found that relationships are what will take our agency well into the future. We thank those who made additional donations, those who continued to work long, odd hours and those who have rolled up their sleeves with us to make the most of their child’s future.

While we look forward to seeing our relationships grow and strengthen, we also look forward to seeing where our mutual admiration and commitment will take us. Thank you for your support in these unique times.

Sincerely,

Sally Farwell, MEd
President and CEO

James Kacic
Chairman, Board of Directors
Mason’s Breakthrough

Mason Holman and his mother, Shauna, enjoy a quiet moment before heading into therapy.
When children can’t effectively express themselves, frustration and anger can bubble to the top, resulting in challenging behaviors and a sense of helplessness. Three-year-old Mason Holman came to the Achievement Centers for Children with just that concern. His mother, Shauna, was searching for a solution when, as she said, “A friend of mine’s son was attending here, and she said I should give it a try.” Mason started receiving both speech and occupational therapy. Shauna said, “The therapists guide me through everything that they’re doing—and Mason loves it.”

Mason has experienced many successes, including learning how to slow down while eating and how to improve his transition between activities without a major meltdown. He now uses countdown timers, visuals and an “all-done” bin which Shauna implemented at home when the stay-at-home order was enacted. A few months into therapy, this energetic boy was functionally using, “more,” “my turn” and “thank you.” Shauna brightened while talking about Mason’s therapists, “Immediately as we came in, they bonded with him, and clicked with him.” Shauna embraced Mason’s therapy, carrying through with tasks at home, via tele-therapy sessions during the agency’s COVID-19 closure. While giving Mason a hug, she said, “It’s just awesome. The way that they work with him is very hands-on, it makes me feel comfortable seeing that my child is comfortable with them.”

“They guide me through everything . . . and Mason loves it.”

Top photo: Stephanie Sindelar (left), Speech Language Pathologist, and Natalie Evers (right), Occupational Therapist, reward Mason for a productive session.
Ella Hanley started coming to the Achievement Centers 13 years ago to work with our speech therapy program. Her diagnosis of Down Syndrome quickly became just a footnote as she took to therapy with ACC speech language pathologist, Steve McDermott, and showed great strides in her intelligibility of speech and written communication. She says, “The Achievement Centers has helped me grow a lot. Writing stories with Steve helped me to get started on writing my own blogs.” Ella is a guest blogger for our agency, sometimes sharing her song lyrics and poetry. This year, she graduated from high school and plans on studying music history at Tri-C. Enjoy this poem by Ella!

Good weather, good day
Come out and play
We’re seeing a wonderful sight
Let the sun shine bright!

The flowers, in bloom
Pretty soon it will be June
We’re seeing a wonderful sight
Let the sun shine bright!

Some days it can be cloudy
But that will help the flowers grow
When I feel gloomy and pouty
I just wait for the clouds to go!

As a song writer, a poet and an Achievement Centers’ blogger, Ella is always ready to share ideas and to express herself.
Two players from the Achievement Centers for Children’s Cavs Junior Wheelchair Basketball Team have been recruited to play basketball at the university level! Evan Heller, who noted, “I didn’t start playing basketball until 8th grade,” has been tapped by Auburn University where he will major in Special Education. Gabe Warsing, whose basketball career started in 6th grade when he joined the ACC team, has joined the Edinboro University wheelchair basketball team. He plans on majoring in Physical Education. One of the team’s coaches, Lexi Rohrbach, speaks very highly of these gentlemen, calling Gabe an, “extremely hard worker” and Evan an, “uplifting presence on the team.”

We are happy that our adapted sports program has helped these young men find their path to a bright future.
our-year-old Greysen Moon came to ACC for speech and occupational therapy and our Early Childhood Mental Health program (ECMH) in 2018. His mother, Saketha, said, “since he’s been coming to the Achievement Centers, he has come such a long way . . . In the beginning, I really thought my son was going to be non-verbal.” Greysen was communicating through gestures and grabbing things but was not able to verbally express wants or needs. He would get frustrated and scream, cry or have a tantrum. Saketha smiled as she said, “treatment has worked out really well. The ACC staff is very consistent with him and you can tell they communicate with each other, so there are no gaps in treatment . . . it just works for him.”

The speech and occupational therapists helped him use pictures to communicate and worked to improve his daily living skills like feeding, tooth brushing and toileting. ECMH provided Greysen’s family visuals to help him anticipate what was coming next in his day. Breathing exercises and learning “feeling words” gave him the tools he needed to better express himself. Greysen is now talking, using two- to five-word sentences. His therapists are also addressing fine motor skills to help him be even more successful in school. As Saketha took Greysen’s hand to head into therapy, she said, “The staff become part of the family. They did such a good job with him, my niece comes here too.”

“since he’s been coming to the Achievement Centers, he has come such a long way . . .”
NORTH COAST THERAPY ASSOCIATES, LLC (NCTA)
A subsidiary of ACC
NCTA’s 35 therapists provided 27,729 hours of school-based therapy to students with special needs through ten school districts in Cuyahoga and Summit County. NCTA’s nearly 1,200 student caseload received 21,514 hours of occupational therapy and 5,652 hours of physical therapy. When all of NCTA’s school districts shut down in the spring due to COVID-19, NCTA therapists continued to provide 5,000 hours of remote occupational and physical therapy.

SPECIAL EVENTS/ FUND DEVELOPMENT
Through all of our special events, online and print appeals and other fundraising, individual, corporate and foundation donors contributed more than $2.1 million to further our mission.

Blue Chip Blue Tee, our annual golf tournament, teed up more than $78,250 to benefit programs and services.

Cheers to Camp Cheerful, a festive, fall event at Camp Cheerful, raised $96,300 to help fund our camp programs for children and adults with disabilities.

Our Sparkle, Shimmer and Shine Gala recognized Dee and Jimmy Haslam and the Cleveland Browns for their longtime support and raised more than $450,000 for our critical programs and services.

A Most Excellent Race went virtual in June and we enjoyed great success with participants from around the world. As this was our first virtual event, we were thrilled to raise $77,000—“Most Excellent!”

RECREATION
Respite Camp We had 303 campers at our Weekend Respite Camps, our highest number ever. Our respite weekend campers enjoyed campfires, dances, talent shows, music and art and more!

Therapeutic Riding sent six riders to show their skills at the Chagrin Hunter Jumper Classic. We provided equine-assisted therapy for Guidestone (children in foster care), P.A.L.S. (mental health counseling), Brecksville- Broadview Heights preschool children and more than 200 other children and adults. Volunteer coordinator, Hannah Hayes, achieved her PATH International Instructor Certification to teach Therapeutic Horsemanship—congratulations, Hannah!

Adapted Sports Our Cavs Junior Wheelchair Basketball Team brought home another championship. The team was undefeated at the 2019 Turnstone Fright in the Fort tournament in Fort Wayne, Indiana and finished their season ranked 10th nationally. Well done!

RIVER ROCK ADULT DAY SERVICES
Our River Rock participants enjoyed visiting a farm, a fair, an orchard, a baseball game, several museums and more. Other fun activities included a pajama and movie day, visits from a therapy dog and S’mores-filled bonfires. Educational programs focused on life skills like cooking, volunteerism and caring for horses. Additionally, we provided 1,783 service hours virtually to our River Rock participants to help fill their “stay at home” days with interesting and engaging activities.
EDUCATION AND AUTISM SCHOOL

This year, the school expanded student enrollment by almost 20% and built new relationships with several school districts. In addition, a high school-experienced intervention specialist was hired to help with the expansion of 10th grade classes and therapy services were restructured to create positions for Speech and Occupational therapists focused on the Autism School. ACC provided devices to students in the Autism school who needed them to participate in distance learning.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Help Me Grow received their Infant Mental Health Level 1 credential and implemented the Growing Great Kids curriculum. In 2020, three staff members were hired and received their home visiting credentials. Our President/CEO and Director of FSS advocated to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in Columbus for increasing Help Me Grow reimbursement rates.

Early Childhood Mental Health exceeded its 2019 goal by more than 50% for clients served. ECMH staff completed the Ohio Model of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation trainings to assist with building effective relationships with families and other professionals. ECMH streamlined internal policies and procedures which assisted with the successful transition into providing clinical services through telehealth. For the first time, ECMH and Behavioral Health teams shared two social work interns with our Education Department.

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Our TAP coordinator, Terri Weekly, and her family (above) participated in our socially-distanced A Most Excellent Race: Virtual!

Help Me Grow Social Worker, Teresa Browning (opposite page, top), hands expectant mother, Marquetta Martin, a bag of essentials that she will soon need for her baby.

Jimmy and Dee Haslam were honored at last year’s Sparkle, Shimmer and Shine Gala for their ongoing support of the ACC Browns Adapted Football team (opposite page, center).

ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS’ COVID-19 RESPONSE

Immediately after the stay-at-home order was issued in March, our staff began to research best practices and guidelines for telehealth, participated in webinars and training sessions, set up Zoom and Doxy.me accounts to reach out to clients, scheduled calls for clients with no computers, reached out to families via email, provided learning material packets and started remote learning sessions, developed health and safety policies and protocols and adjusted billing procedures. Our staff was nimble, creative and responsive—all in the service of our mission and our clients—during a most challenging time. ACC provided devices to students in the Autism school who needed them in order to participate in distance learning. We are committed to adapting to the needs of those we serve.
ENGAGING SUPPORT

1,487 Donors supported our work

3,312 TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

Out of every dollar donated 83¢ directly benefits our clients and furthers our mission

We served 648 Therapy Clients

Provided $1.3 million in subsidized services

Volunteers gave 7,985 HOURS OF THEIR TIME IN OUR THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM

1,236 Volunteer hours for Adapted Sports

3,921 FACEBOOK FANS

INCREASED SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING BY 52%
2019–2020 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

INCOME
- Service Fees: $6,668,748
- Contributions: 2,862,337
- United Way: 121,834
- Government Grants: 316,928
- Miscellaneous: 542,853

TOTAL: $10,512,700

Endowment Investment Gain/Loss: $(11,275)
Trust Gain/Loss: $(35,026)

EXPENSES
- Therapy: $3,268,506
- Education: 1,596,208
- Camp: 2,116,153
- Family Support: 1,702,478
- Transportation: 16,473
- Management: 1,132,357
- Development: 767,170

TOTAL: $10,599,345

Depreciation/Amortization: 533,170

*Preliminary Audit Report

2019–2020 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- Provided a total of 194,201 service hours to children, adults and their families.
- Provided approximately $1.3 million in subsidized services.
- Received a client satisfaction rate of 98% through family surveys received.
- Raised over $2.1 million in charitable support from the community.
- 96.5% of clients receiving services at the Achievement Centers for Children achieved, or partially achieved, their individualized goals, including improved functional skills (crawling, walking, talking), increased academic achievement and improved social/emotional development (interacting with peers, managing stress, coping with a disability).

In Fiscal Year 2019–2020, many of the clients served by the Achievement Centers participated in, or received, multiple programs and services. Over the past year, the agency provided 4,207 programs and services (duplicated) to 3,312 individuals and their families (unduplicated). These numbers include North Coast Therapy Associates, LLC.
2019–2020
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Eaton Corporation employees (near right) volunteered for a work day to help landscape around our Highland Hills offices. Camp Cheerful welcomed employees from Ohio Desk (far right) who volunteered for a work day to help beautify the grounds.
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The Achievement Centers for Children gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their financial contributions over $100 within the past fiscal year, July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020.

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The Memorial Tournament
MetroHealth System
Mia Salon Studios
Mitchell’s Ice Cream
Mr. Handyman
Mulholland and Sachs
Nautica Queen
Nespresso USA
New Era Cap
Norwex
Oatey Company
Ohio Desk
Deborah and Roger Osgood
Oswald Companies
Padua Franciscan High School
Palm Beach Tan
Paradise Flower Market
Ms. Linda Pavlick—Blooms of Blessings
Penfield Quilters
Petitti Garden Centers
Pier W Restaurant
Playground World
Playhouse Square Foundation
Punderson Manor Lodge & Conference Center
Rainforest Car Wash
Robert E. Hartshorn Portraits & Fine Art
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Roggenburk
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Roggenburk
Mr. and Mrs. Juan Roman
Rosewood Grill
RSM US
Ruth’s Chris Steak House
Sapphire Pear
Ms. Karen Semrau
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Sexton
Sgt. Clean’s Car Wash
Shaker Heights Country Club
Shear Desire Salon
The Sherwin-Williams Company
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Shipley
Simple3
Katie and Brian Spring
Square 22 Restaurant
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stasek
Step 2 Corporation
Stonestar Golf Club
Strongsville Superwash
Sunnyside Automotive Group
Sunrise Farm
Strategic Alliances

2019–2020

Achievement Centers for Children is proud to contract and/or collaborate with:

- Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS)
- Aluminum Cans for Burned Children
- Autism Community Collaborative
- Autism Society of Cleveland
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Berea—City Department of Recreation
- Bright Beginnings
- Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU)
- Case Western Reserve University—MSASS
- Catholic Charities Head Start
- The Centers for Families & Children
- Cleveland Browns Foundation
- Cleveland Cavaliers
- Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital
- Cleveland Indians
- Cleveland International Film Festival
- Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Cleveland Metroparks
- Cleveland State University
- Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland
- Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
- Fresh Air Camp
- Groundwork Ohio
- iCan Bike/iCan Shine, Inc.
- Invest in Children
- Kent State University
- Lake Erie Nature and Science Center
- Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- MetroHealth
- Milestones Autism Resources
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)
- NE Ohio Infant Mental Health
- Neuro-Developmental Treatment Association (NDTA)
- Ohio Center for Low Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
- Ohio Contractors Association
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio Guidestone
- Ohio Occupational Therapy Association
- Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)
- Pre4CLE
- Rocket Mortgage
- Starting Point
- State Support Team PBIS Region 3 Networking Group
- St. Augustine Manor
- United Black Fund
- United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland
- United Way of Greater Cleveland
- University Hospitals
- University of Akron
- Voices for Ohio’s Children
- Warrensville Heights City School District

Accreditation and Licensure

Achievement Centers for Children programs and services are licensed and accredited by:

- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County
- The American Camp Association
- Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA)
- Healthy Families America
- The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.)
- Medicaid, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Health

The Achievement Centers earned a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, the highest rating possible.

The Achievement Centers for Children is proud to be a United Way partner agency.
ACC Camp Counselor, Victoria Criswell (left), and Camper, Fiona Moore (right), enjoy a dip in the pool at Camp Cheerful.
OUR CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Holistic
Applying an integrated and interdisciplinary approach focused on the whole person

Family-focused
Compassionately involving families of all income levels as true partners

Results-driven
Providing exceptional programs and services based on proven practices

Diverse
Promoting diverse representation in direct service and agency governance

Employer of Choice
Attracting and retaining outstanding and professional staff who demonstrate mutual respect, honesty, professional growth, teamwork and excellence

Strong Stewards
Ethically and effectively managing all resources and accounting for client outcomes and organizational results

Highland Hills
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, Ohio 44128
Phone 216-292-9700
Fax 216-292-9721

Westlake
24211 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
Phone 440-250-2520
Fax 440-250-2530

Camp Cheerful
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
Phone 440-238-6200
Fax 440-238-1858

INFORMATION
216-292-9700
www.achievementcenters.org