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Note from the founder & chair

~by Kim Marcum-Mercier

It is an exciting time for Sarah House! After enduring a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 started off as quite promising.

We have recruited five new board members and are excited to have these talented individuals and new energy on the Sarah House board!

Our professional grant writer is actively submitting grants, as we continue to make plans to hire our first employee! (An executive director).

We held our first virtual fundraising event this past May which was very successful.

We have updated our feasibility study and actively pursuing a capital campaign.

We are working closely with the Ohio department of Medicaid and will soon be meeting with private insurance companies to establish appropriate billing codes under the Sarah House licensure.

We are in active discussions for a stand-alone house or the possibility for partnership and growth of services for children with complex medical needs in Ohio.

We continue to look for vital land or a building donation to move Sarah House to the next phase, and closer to opening its doors.

This is not an easy project, as there have been many hurdles to overcome since there are so few "houses" like this model of care in the United States. However, we continue to make great strides as we pursue our goal to open Sarah House! It's supporters like you, who make this all possible!

Thank You! Kim



“Reach for the Stars” Event

~by Nancy Stiefvater

With the goal to build a physical home by 2025, The Sarah Zepernick Foundation-Sarah House Cincy hosted an inaugural fundraiser – a virtual four-day silent auction called “Reach for the Stars” May 13-16, 2021.

Working with the GiveSmart fundraising platform, more than 70 amazing auction items were posted online making the bidding process seamless for our donors. We had tremendous support from the Greater Cincinnati business community in marketing our event, providing corporate sponsorships (Brixey & Meyer, Chew Chew Junction, Frederick Funeral Home, Geraci Jewelers, Kiesland Myers and Netcrafters), and donating items for our event. Thanks to Scott Ruprecht, the founder of Cincinnati’s GiveBackXP for working with us to provide some remarkable experience packages to help us in our fundraising efforts. Area companies who donated items for the auction included Bath & Body Works, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum, CincyShirts, Five Seasons Family Sports Club, Geraci Jewelers, Grandview Tavern, Home Depot, Kendra Scott, Kings Island, La Rosas, Paolo USA Jewelers, Skyline, Reality Tuesday Café, The Cincinnati Zoo, The Dinner Detective, TriHealth Fitness & Health Pavilion, Vom Fass, Woodhouse Day Spa.

All the Sarah House Board members worked tirelessly and helped solicit donations and donated items themselves to make our first major fundraiser a great success. We raised over \$12,000!

Special thanks to Clyde Gray, WCPO Cincy Lifestyle program, for doing a live TV interview with Kim, to Emmett Leopardi for offering his services for free to do a video of Kim, and to Thom Mariner, co-publisher of Cincinnati’s Movers & Makers magazine for publishing an article about Sarah House and our event.

New Board Members

~by Kim Marcum -Mercier

2021 started off great for Sarah House with the addition of five new board members!

We welcomed John Francis, Heather Herr, Kyle Singerman, Ariel Schmid and Julie Goddard. Please be sure to check out their photos and biographies on the sarahhousecincy.org website.

I feel so blessed to have such an amazing board of talented professionals! We have a lot of good energy and exciting ideas taking place on this board.

Meet Gail Pyne-Geithman Grant Writer



~by Kim Marcum-Mercier

Gail was hired on as a freelance grant-writer for Sarah House in 2019. Gail is from an ancient market town called Waltham Abbey, in Southern England, about 20 miles from London. She still has her beautiful British accent, even though she has lived in the US for 23 years.

Gail's background is in biochemistry, stroke and head injury, particularly imaging methods. She is a graduate of University College, London (Biochemistry 1995), the University of Oxford (Doctorate, cerebrovascular biochemistry 1999) and the University of the Sciences, Philadelphia (Biomedical Writing Masters 2018).

Gail is employed full time at Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a Medical and Scientific Writer. She lives in Clifton with her husband Randy, a Navy Veteran, of 18 years, and their 2 children, David (16) and Ruth (9). They have a dog, 4 cats and 2 rabbits.

Giving Tuesday 11.30.2021

~by Ariel Schmid

Sarah House pushed out communications for its very first Giving Tuesday this year through social media. Posts were created on several of the Sarah House social media platforms and were shared by board members and our community.

While modest, Sarah House raised around \$1,000 which we gratefully consider a good successful first Giving Tuesday campaign.



Newly Elected Officers for 2022

Kyle Singerman led the compilation of Board of Director open positions and nominations. Elections were held during the December monthly board meeting and the results are as follows for 2022:

- Chair - John Francis
- Vice President and Co-Chair - Kim Marcum-Mercier
- Treasurer - Michelle Locey
- Secretary - Nancy Stiefvater

Sarah House Goals Achieved in 2021

~by Rhonda Cooper

Sarah House made great progress in internal revitalization with new faces and energy, renewed efforts on capital campaign building, grants requests, potential hiring, and community presence. See our list of successes below:

1. Recruitment of seven new board members, five members stayed on throughout this year.
 - a. Identified board members' skill base
2. Reviewed and identified board members still needed.
 - a. Treasurer (to take Michelle's place), Legal, Business, and Finance
3. Restarted Sarah House community awareness.
 - a. Kim completed awareness video
 - b. Kim was interviewed on Channel 9 with Clyde Gray
 - c. Virtual fundraiser event commercial on WARM98
 - d. Virtual fundraiser event story in "Movers & Makers" magazine
4. Held first virtual fundraiser in May.
 - a. Raised ~\$12,000, well below the \$50,000 goal
5. Social Media board experts assigned as task force.
 - a. Facebook page updated
 - b. New accounts set up on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
6. Website updated to include new board members, electronic donation ability, and icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, & Twitter.
7. Like House Coalition Dashboard participation.
8. Utilized "One Source" services for feasibility study consultant.
9. Project Plan for updating the feasibility study with assigned task force.
10. Completed RFP for feasibility study.
11. Updated feasibility study completed by year end.
12. Project Plan for beginning capital campaign with assigned task force.
13. Completed RFP for capital campaign manager.
14. Cincinnati Cares "board match" recruitment ads updated in November.
15. Election of new officers in December with new chair and vice chair.

We are happy with our achievements for this year and look forward to even more wins in 2022, working hard to bring our vision to reality.



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