



Alone we can do so little;

Together

we can do so much



Life Learning Center™

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Mission

Life Learning Center delivers a holistic, integrated continuum of education and care to help our “at-risk” citizens step up to their highest potential.

Vision

The Center is building a caring and serving community by helping people learn, secure and sustain a better way of living through gainful employment. The people we serve become healthier, happier, and more productive individuals working to change their future.

Philosophy

Life Learning Center believes that permanent self-sufficiency begins with a transformational change that permits long-term success.

Many socially oriented service programs, if not most, provide only temporary support or relief for those in poverty. The goal of Life Learning Center is to provide Candidates with the necessary tools and support that will allow them to not only find a job, but sustain a living wage career. The Center focuses on overcoming barriers in ALL five domains of life: physical, emotional, relational, financial and spiritual.



Our Process

Individuals interested in enrolling in Life Learning Center’s Foundations for a Better Life™ program undergo a thorough applicant interview to determine their eligibility. There are over 80 data points collected from individuals in order to capture the full scope of the person to better understand their needs for education and care.

Upon acceptance into the program, individual applicants are identified as “Candidates”. Once they complete the 12-week transformational skills program, commit to a substance free lifestyle and secure full-time employment with benefits, Candidates graduate and become “Members”. Members of Life Learning Center are Members for life and earn full access to LLC resources. Members are also encouraged to remain connected to LLC through continued peer support, volunteering, accessing our clothing closet, participating in our Saturday events, or by simply visiting for a meal or cup of coffee in our Café.

Despite misconceptions to the contrary, not all of our Candidates and Members are coming from the justice system. Anyone with a barrier to employment may participate in Foundations for a Better Life™ as there are important lessons for anyone in each module of the program.



Life Learning Center™

20 West 18th Street
Covington, Kentucky 41011

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From Mr. Butler

Life Learning Center was founded with the intent to lead and empower the “at risk” citizen to reach their highest potential. To accomplish our mission, we support individuals experiencing poverty who are actively seeking transformational change, by delivering a holistic, integrated continuum of education and care. We encourage Candidates to reflect upon themselves and take action physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, and financially through our twelve-week Foundations for a Better Life™ curriculum. Through this transformation, Life Learning Center is the catalyst for meaningful change in our community, one Candidate at a time.

The ultimate goal is to develop permanent self-sufficiency that permits long-term success. Individuals experiencing poverty need more than a job to stabilize their family. Rather, they require a transformational change that involves a conscious effort and a focused approach, revealing a plethora of barriers preventing families from moving forward. As such, Life Learning Center offers more than just connections to employers; we offer granularity in service scope, connecting individuals with employers who will fit their needs and vice versa to ensure long-term success and opportunities for growth.

Life Learning Center could not operate without the selfless dedication of our employees, board members, our array of community and employer partners, and most importantly our university of volunteers. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for all those who support this breakthrough work by their volunteering, financial commitments, and partnerships.

What follows is a comprehensive reporting of our 2021 impact at Life Learning Center. Please, help us continue the good work through a financial contribution, volunteering your time, donating items for our Care Closet or Dignity Store, or sharing the good news about Life Learning Center throughout the community and on social media. Thank you for assisting us in our mission to impact positive change across the region and beyond.

Bill Butler

Core Values

Change

occurs through cognitive skills building a commitment to learn and develop social and emotional intelligence

Sustainability

is achieved through job placement opportunities and mastering life skills for long-term success.

Dignity

is redefined through personal growth, financial savings, value formation, and behavior change.

Contributions

are expected through “giving back” in the form of volunteering and/or becoming an ambassador for LLC with friends and family.

5 Domains



PHYSICAL



EMOTIONAL



RELATIONAL



FINANCIAL



SPIRITUAL



Envision A Higher Purpose

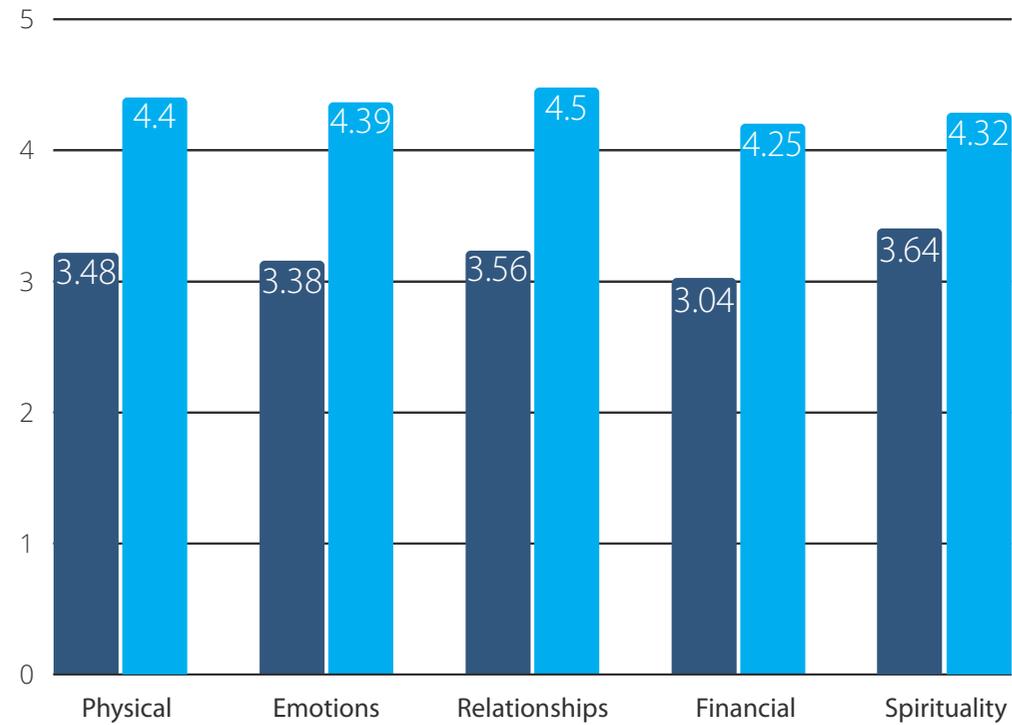
Life Learning Center delivers an Education and Care Continuum to help identify and address barriers preventing Candidates from sustaining a better life for themselves. When Candidates first begin Orientation, the volunteer faculty encourages each participant to focus on one’s past and present while envisioning a better future. Once his or her personal barriers and goals are shared, Candidates participate in “Pillars of Growth” classes to learn how to overcome obstacles faced in every domain of life (physical, emotional, relational, financial and spiritual). While attending classes taught by

volunteer faculty, Candidates learn essential life skills such as time management, healthy relationships, boundaries, and budgeting. Additionally, Candidates may request a volunteer Candidate Support Coordinator or Peer Support Specialist who serves as a mentor to provide accountability and support on Life Blueprint goal completion throughout the program. Specifically, Candidate Support Coordinators continue to hold the Candidate accountable by meeting and reviewing any barriers they may be experiencing.



Candidate Outcomes

Before & After Life Learning Center

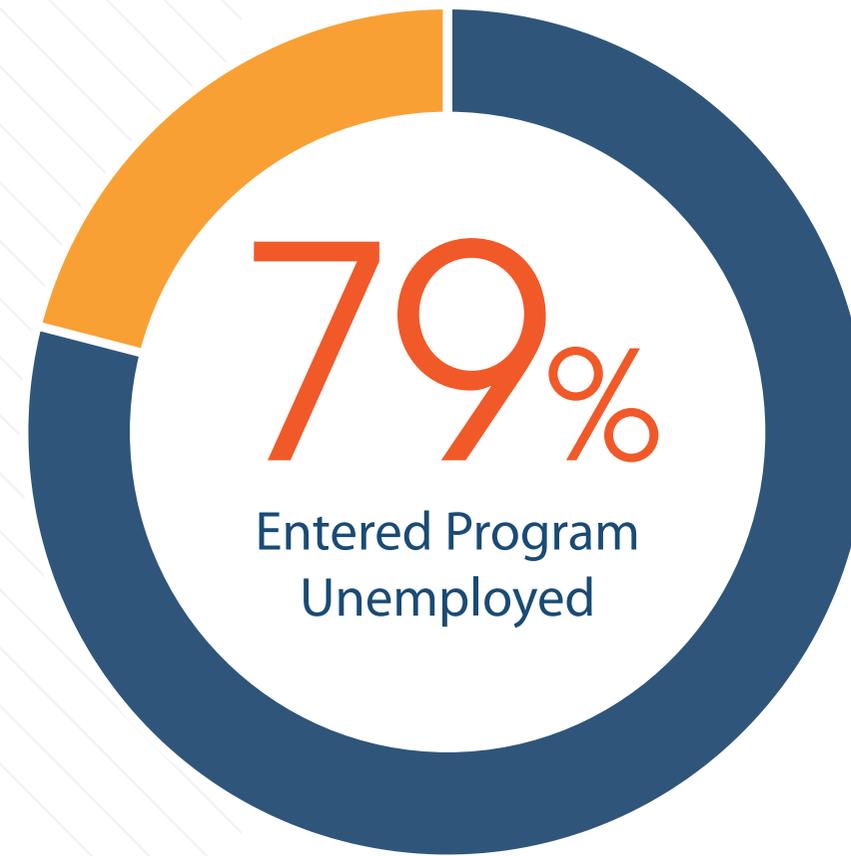


LLC Candidates participate in a series of assessments to measure conceptualization and application across the five domains of life through utilization of a 1-5 self-ranking scale.

January 1, 2021–
December 15, 2021

■ Before LLC
■ After LLC

Employment Outcomes



January 1, 2021-December 15, 2021

826
REFERRED



249
CANDIDATES ENROLLED



155
CANDIDATES EMPLOYED OR ENROLLED INTO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



613
APPLICANT INTERVIEWS



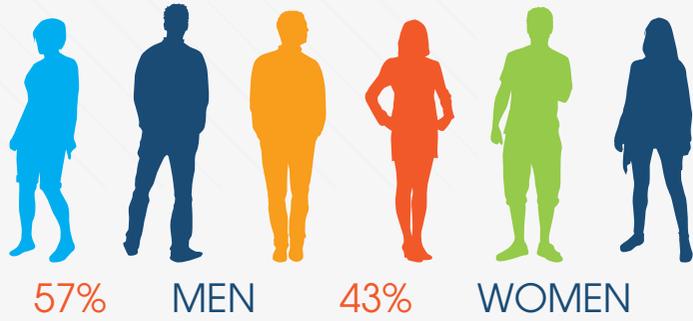
133
CANDIDATES COMMENCED



738
CANDIDATES & FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED

Tracking Period: January 1, 2021-December 15, 2021

Candidate Demographics & Barriers



- 87% Caucasian
- 9% African American
- 3% Multiracial
- 1% Hispanic/other

Average Age

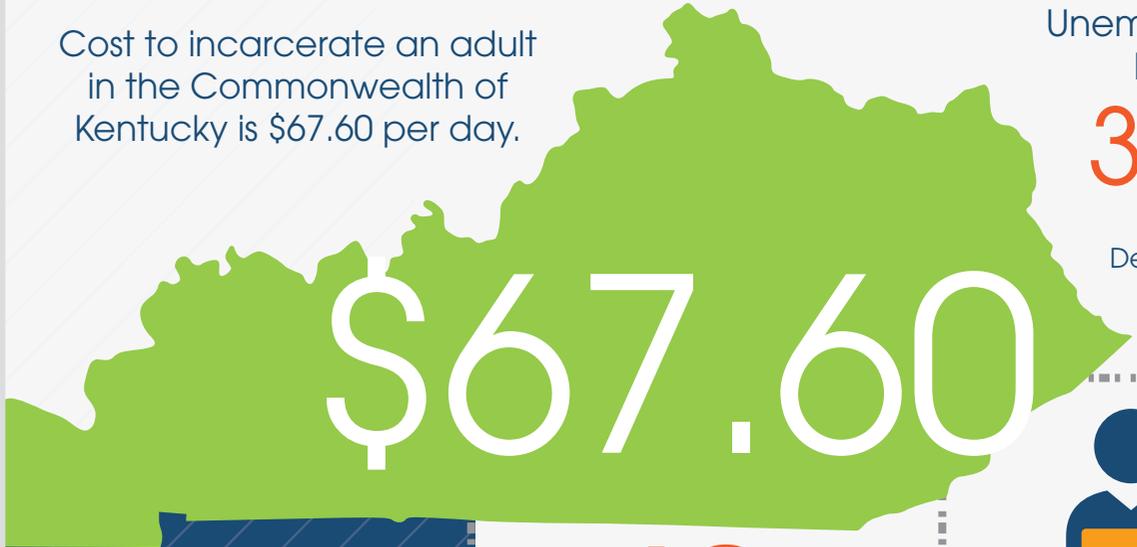
35

Are single parents

51%

Poverty Statistics

Cost to incarcerate an adult in the Commonwealth of Kentucky is \$67.60 per day.



Kentucky Unemployment Rate:

3.9%

*As of December 2021

National Poverty Rate

11.8%

Adults in poverty are

3x

more likely to be arrested than those who aren't.

95%

Have a criminal background

78%

Lack a resume

56%

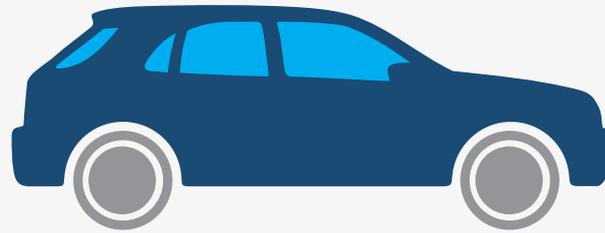
Lack a driver's license

21%

Lack a high school diploma or GED

59%

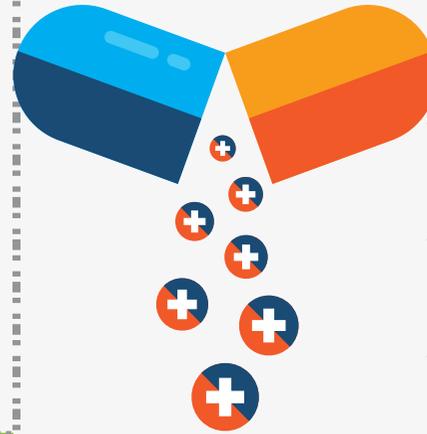
Require Transportation Assistance



71% Report \$0 Monthly Income at Program Start

42% Lack Qualifications

73% Lack Work History or Have a Gap in Employment



Have a history of substance abuse

97%

Have a dual diagnosis

60%

Comprehensive multi-generational approaches that invest in the whole family are essential in providing solutions that interrupt intergenerational cycles of poverty.

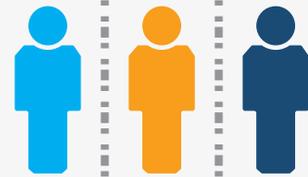
49%

of incarcerated men were employed in the three years prior to incarceration and their median annual earnings were \$6,250; only 13% earned more than \$15,000.



The unemployment rate among formerly incarcerated people was

27%



1 in 3 adults have a criminal record that may show up in a routine background check report.

19 MILLION

As of March 2021, 19 million Americans filed for some form of jobless benefits despite a record number of over 7M job openings.

Those who are earning less than 150% of the federal poverty level are 15x more likely to be charged with a felony.

57% of MEN

of WOMEN 72%

were in poverty prior to being arrested

73% Have a mental health diagnosis

Have a physical health diagnosis 49%

Have a felony conviction

85%

44% Are in Sober Living facility

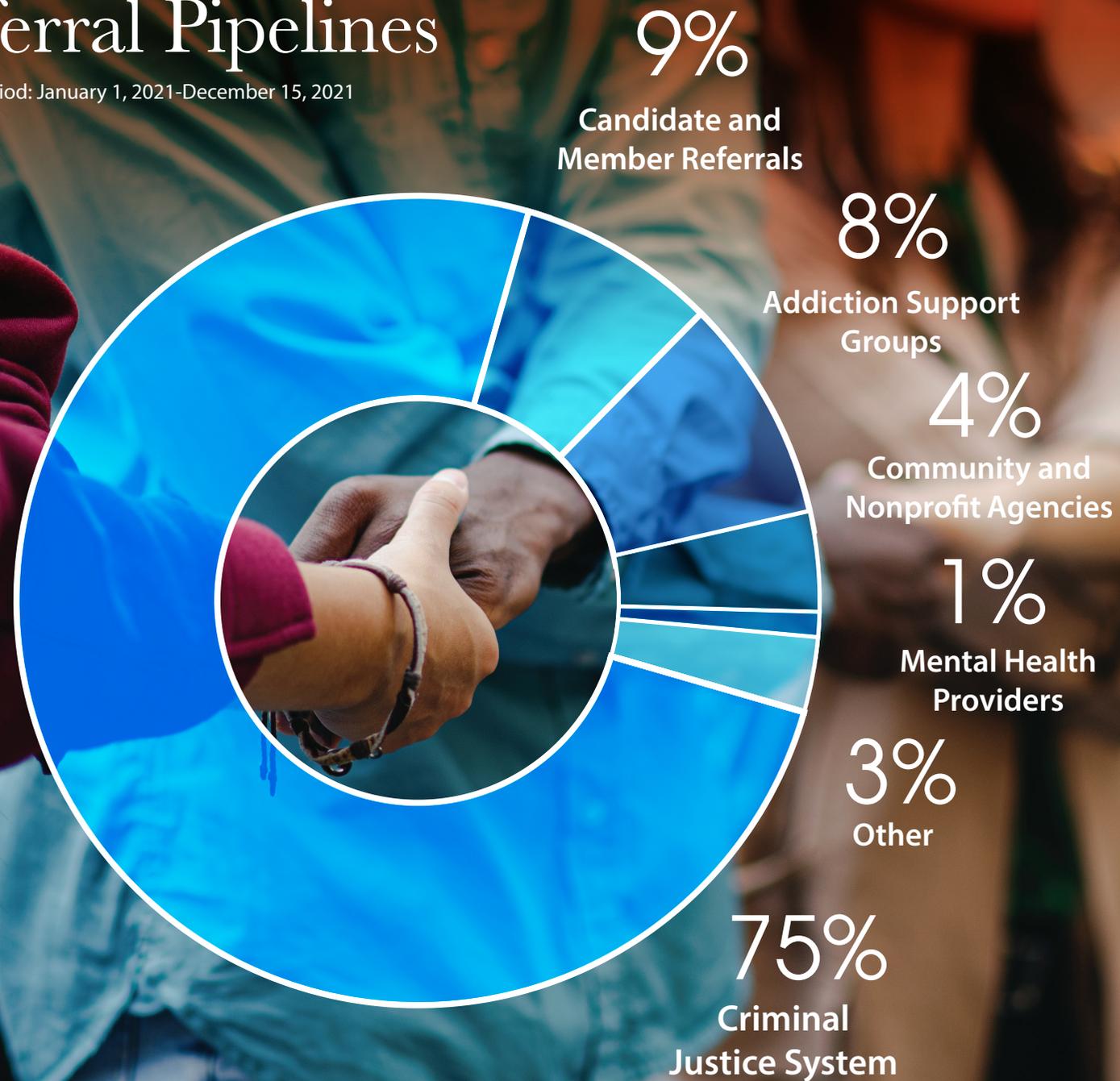


Participants in reentry programs benefit from a combination of practical resources and empathic support spanning from pre-release to varying lengths of time in the post-release period. Those resources are 1) structural context; 2) supportive relationships and 3) continuity of care including pre-release planning.

*These facts have been gathered from multiple reputable sources. For a complete listing, please visit our website.

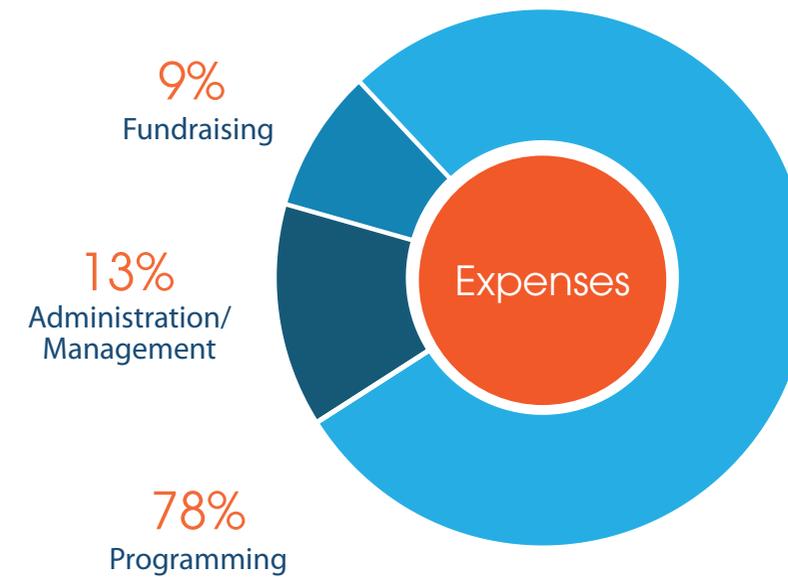
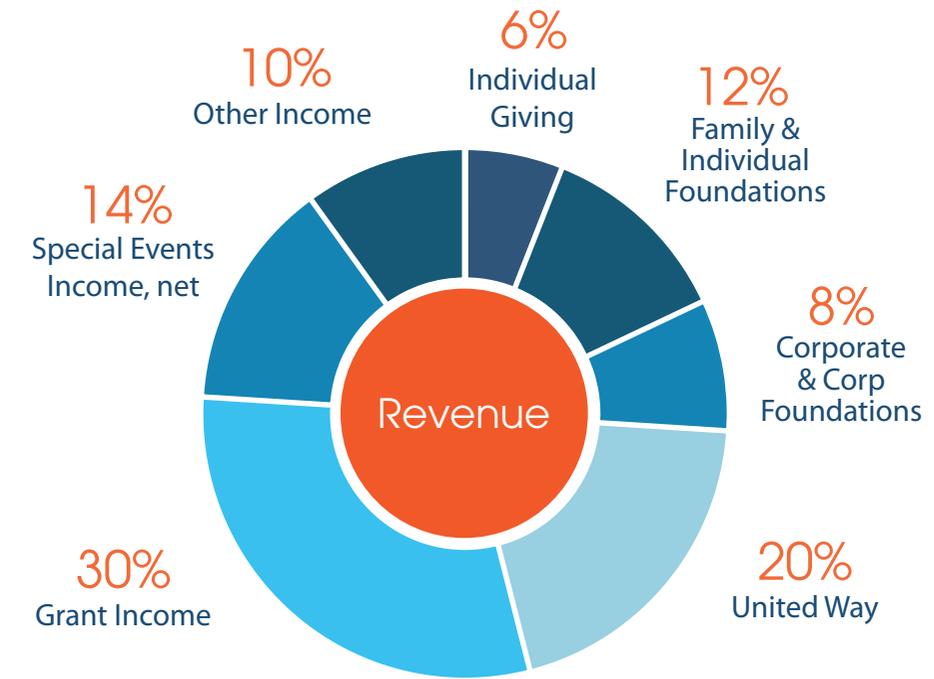
Enrollment & Referral Pipelines

Tracking Period: January 1, 2021-December 15, 2021



Financial Summary

January 2021 – December 2021



Success Stories



Steven Searcy

Meet Steven

Jo Martin, founder of Tattoo Removal Ink, didn't realize the immediate impression she had made on graduate, Steven Searcy. Steven was standing outside the Life Learning Center as Jo was entering. She politely said hello and asked if he'd be interested in removing the noticeable tattoos on his face and neck. He respectfully declined and Jo went about her day. A few hours later, Jo saw Steven hovering in the doorway of the Tattoo Removal office and asked if he had changed his mind. His response brought tears to her eyes. He explained that not long after their interaction, he said hello to another woman entering the building. Unlike the friendly greeting he'd received earlier from Jo, the woman turned away and said nothing. Steven felt ashamed, as he was sure that his tattoos were the reason behind her lack of acknowledgement. Knowing that tattoo removal would lead to greater confidence and fewer misconceptions of his character, Steven took the first step towards his path of improvement—for which Jo was happy to help and be a part of.

Steven continued to improve various aspects of his life, including accepting a full-time position at Tyson Foods after just a few short months of being on temporary assignment. Job Placement Coordinator and Peer Support Specialist, Ashley Boothby remembered the day Steven arrived at Life Learning Center immediately following his release from the detention center. "He had absolutely nothing except his clothes from the day he was booked. We provided Steven with a backpack of essentials for sober living, hygiene products, a 30-day bus pass, clothing, and a hot meal. He was so overwhelmed with gratitude that he was in tears." Steven told Ashley that no one had ever helped him before and he couldn't believe Life Learning Center was giving him so much. This kindness prompted Steven to come to the center daily, giving back in any way that he could—from moving tables to helping unload large food donations, he consistently offered to pay it forward as a way of expressing his gratitude. Steven mentions that through the support of Life Learning Center, he has built a strong foundation and secured gainful employment.

"Gainful employment has been found. A foundation has been built."



Darren Williams

Meet Darren

Darren Williams achieved a rare accomplishment at Life Learning Center: Perfect Attendance. Upon graduation, he was able to secure a job with Toyota. Darren explained that through his experience with and lessons from LLC, he has become more motivated to work. He learned to be a better decision-maker, enabling him to prioritize his responsibilities. Through these learned skills, Darren was able to save enough money to move from Sober Living into his own apartment.

"I have become more motivated to work. I'm a better decision maker and can prioritize my responsibilities."



Mark Rhoden

United Way Wishlist recipient

LLC's Director of Care Continuum successfully nominated LLC Member, Mark Rhoden to be a United Way Wishlist recipient. The United Way community came together to finance a full set of dentures for Mark, a transformational step in his recovery journey.

Thank you TO OUR RESIDENTIAL PARTNERS

Life Learning Center relies on partnerships within the community to accomplish our mission. We partner with a variety of entities, all of which are working together toward a common goal. Our Care Continuum is meant to provide wrap-around care offerings to mitigate the multi-faceted barriers of our Candidates. If LLC cannot provide the service, one of our partner organizations can. "Residential Partners" are a targeted compilation of community and service providers that deliver their programming on our campus.

- In 2021, over 6,700 care offerings and resources were utilized, equating to an in-kind value exceeding \$128,000.
- Having served nearly 10,000 meals in 2021, LLC Candidates receive daily meals and protein packs for the weekend.
- Candidates have access to LLC's on-site technology lab, fitness center, and clothing closet. Additional assistance is available for clothing, transportation, childcare, and laundry services.
- We provided over 153 safety net backpacks which include immediate hygiene and personal care essentials as well as 81 additional hygiene bags.
- Life Learning Center offers a minimum of 5 diversified recovery support meetings weekly.
- Life Learning Center has 3 community partners that offer outpatient substance use disorder and mental health treatment on-site along with smoking cessation and COVID vaccinations.
- Life Learning Center serves as a host site for Family Reunification meetings for Candidates required to participate in supervised visitation.

Alone we can do so little; Through these collaborative partnerships, we can do so much more.



Thank you TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 4C for Children
- Action Ministries
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- BAWAC
- Be Concerned
- Beacon of Hope
- Boone County Detention Center
- Bright Outlook Recovery
- Brighton Center
- Brightview
- Building Value
- Butler Foundation
- CareNet
- Castellini Foundation
- Catholic Charities of Covington
- Center for Great Neighborhoods
- Children's Home of NKY
- Cincy Smiles
- City Gospel Mission
- City of Covington
- Commonwealth's Attorney 54th Judicial Circuit, Boone & Gallatin County
- Commonwealth's Attorney 16th Judicial Circuit, Kenton County
- Covington Independent Schools
- Crossroads Church
- Cultivate Behavioral Health
- Diocese of Covington
- Drees Home Foundation
- Dress for Success
- Easter Seals of Greater Cincinnati
- Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation
- Emergency Shelter of NKY
- Employment Connections
- Esperanza Latino Center
- Evanston Employment Center
- Faith Community Pharmacy
- Family Care Solutions
- Family Nurturing Center (Florence)
- First Step Home
- Frances & Craig Lindner Foundation
- Freestore Foodbank
- Gateway Foundation
- Grateful Life Center
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- HOPE Ministries
- Hamilton County Office of Reentry
- Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
- Harmony House
- Health Point Family Care
- Henry Hosea House
- Holmes High School
- Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky
- Housing & Urban Development
- Housing Authority of Covington
- Housing Opportunities of NKY
- Intervention Team
- Joseph House
- Justice Action Network
- Kenton County Detention Center
- Kenton County Public Library
- Kentucky Career Center
- Kentucky Department of Corrections
- Kentucky Hospital Association
- Kentucky Jailers Association
- Kentucky Nonprofit Network
- Leadership Council for Nonprofits
- Leadership Northern Kentucky
- Life Point Solutions Network
- Life Recovery Center
- Lifeline of NKY
- Lincoln Grant Scholar House
- Ludlow High School
- Madison Ave Christian Church
- Madonna House
- Mental Health of America
- Mentoring Plus
- Mercy Home of NKY
- Mount St. Joseph University
- NAMI Northern Kentucky
- NKY Area Development District
- NKY Health Department
- NKY NAACP
- Narcotics Anonymous
- New Foundations
- New Hope Center
- New Perceptions
- Newport Adult Learning
- NorthKey Community Care
- Northern Kentucky
- Northern Kentucky University
- Northern Kentucky Youth
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- OhioMeansJobs
- OneSight
- Oxford House
- PNC Foundation
- Pendleton County High School
- Project Yoga of Cincinnati
- RC Durr Foundation
- Reset Ministries
- Rose Garden Mission
- Safety Net Alliance of NKY
- Samaritan Car Care Clinic
- Shelter House
- Sisters of Notre Dame
- Smith Family Foundation
- Solutions in Living
- St. Philip Parish
- St. Timothy Parish
- St. Vincent DePaul of NKY
- Sun Behavioral Health
- Talbert House
- Ten Ten
- Tender Mercies
- The ION Center for Violence Prevention
- Transitions, Inc
- Trauma Free World
- Twin Rails Sober Living
- UK Extension Center
- UK Targeted Assessment Program
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- University of Cincinnati
- University of the Cumberlands
- Upspring
- Welcome House
- Well-Suited
- Xavier University

2021 Year in Review

From welcoming special guests to earning regional accolades, Life Learning Center gained attention throughout the Commonwealth and beyond in 2021. Here are just a few highlights from the successes of Life Learning Center over the past year:

- U.S. Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell visited Life Learning Center twice in 2021. During his November visit, Life Learning Center welcomed Leader McConnell along with St. Elizabeth Healthcare CEO Garren Colvin. Together with LLC President, Alecia Webb-Edgington, they announced that St. Elizabeth Hospital would be using a \$2.4 million federal grant to implement Lift Up Project programming in a second location for its Journey Recovery Center. LLC will be welcoming St. Elizabeth Journey Recover 2.0 to our third floor in 2022. Leader McConnell also shared his support for the potential Volunteers of America Freedom House program replication project planned for Covington.
- Also in November, Life Learning Center was featured on CBS Saturday Morning for our unique approach to re-entry. LLC gained the attention of author Sam Quinones who is known for his chronicling of the opioid crisis in America. Mr. Quinones mentioned Life Learning Center in his newest book *The Least of Us* and spoke about our contributions to the NKY region through our work with those in recovery.
- In December, President Alecia Webb-Edgington was honored by the Northern Kentucky Chamber with the NKY Community Award. This award is given out to individuals, businesses or organizations throughout the Northern Kentucky region that have made a positive difference in our community.
- Multidisciplinary Reentry Resource Team (MRRT) has become a community focused initiative supporting system change for justice-involved individuals as they access and receive the appropriate level of care. In 2021, while COVID-19 was still isolating many individuals, the MRRT was leading systematic change in our region. Life Learning Center and the MRRT spearheaded jail population reduction while providing aftercare and treatment pathways to those released from incarceration.



Life Learning Center was featured on CBS Saturday Morning for our unique approach to re-entry

- In July, LLC kicked off our exciting partnership with Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Fiscal Courts. Life Learning Center was able to use nearly \$120,000 Mental Health tax dollars to support our candidates while participating in the 12-week Foundations for a Better Life™ Program. We are proud to have been chosen by our surrounding communities for this support.
- In February of 2021, LLC was recognized as one of only eleven Recovery Community Centers (RCC) in Kentucky utilizing grant dollars from the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE). Recovery centers link individuals in recovery to various services, including employment support, mutual aid groups, counseling, and networking with others from the recovery community. As an RCC, Life Learning Center has diversified our recovery support group offerings by sixfold; we offer Saturday hours for support and holistic care to the entire community. Saturday programming is expanded and offers family-friendly, culturally inclusive activities.

Life Learning Center changed the narrative through our work to help people transform their lives

- St. Elizabeth Healthcare began the “Lift Up” collaborative in 2020 to address financial stability and independence for persons with Substance Use Disorders. This five-year project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration includes Journey Recovery Center, Life Learning Center, Brighton Center/KY Career Center, and Workforce Investment Board.
- For many in our community, overcoming a personal struggle can be enough to push someone mentally “over the edge.” LLC has changed that narrative through our work to help people transform their lives for long-term success. In September of 2021, we sent partners and friends literally Over the Edge through our special, first-ever rappelling fundraising event.

- In October, we roasted St. Elizabeth Healthcare CEO Garren Colvin at our Annual Gala. Through Gala ticket and table purchases, sponsorships, auction items and paddle raises, Life Learning Center raised over \$250,000 for their general operating fund.
- In December, Give Where You Live NKY giving circle members gathered to grant \$6,100 to Life Learning Center at their quarterly, speed philanthropy meeting. Give Where You Live NKY is a joint initiative presented by Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky and Mueller Financial, Inc., and its format lends itself to busy community members who are looking for an easy way to give back to nonprofits that serve Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties.



Our Goals & Future



Sen. McConnell, flanked by Garren Colvin and Alecia Webb-Edgington



Life Learning Center

We have big plans for 2022. This summer, Life Learning Center welcomes St. Elizabeth Healthcare Journey Recovery Center 2.0 (JRC) to our third floor. JRC will offer a comprehensive menu of treatment programs, basic healthcare, as well as obstetrics and gynecological programs to an anticipated 1,100 patients annually. This innovative collaboration creates a bi-lateral pipeline for individuals suffering substance use disorder, coupled oftentimes with criminal convictions and untreated mental/physical health issues, and is just one example of LLC's continued growth and impact on the region.

After successfully operating using an expanded 6-day-a-week format in 2021, we have goals toward expanding our Saturday programming.

New places, new things! Life Learning Center is committed to expanding its reach further into the rural communities of Northern Kentucky. Look for the expansion of our Foundations for a Better Life™ curriculum to support this initiative in 2022.

Life Learning Center provides meals to Candidates to alleviate their food insecurity. Last year, we served nearly 10,000 meals and aim to expand our offerings to provide even more meals in 2022. But in order to support our ever-growing program, we are in need of critical kitchen upgrades to meet the demand of our current Candidates and Members.

Life Learning Center relies on the selfless dedication of our volunteers, and we simply could not operate without their support. Our education continuum exists on the premise that classes will only be taught by volunteers, demonstrating the commitment of the community to support the community. Annually, over 125 volunteers come through our doors providing services at all levels. We seek to expand our cache of volunteers in 2022 to support our growing number of Candidates.



Life Learning Center™

20 West 18th St.,
Covington, KY 41011
859-431-0100
www.lifelearningcenter.us

Volunteer

Faculty
Candidate Support Coordinator
Mock Interviewer
Intern
Administrative Support
Ambassador

Refer

18 Years or Older
Pass Drug Screen
Stable Living Arrangement
Committed to Change & Gaining Employment
Background Check Required
7th Grade Reading Comprehension

Donate

- \$5,000** Underwrites the cost of one family to complete the Center's education and care programs, including training, personality assessments, class supplies, wrap around care offerings for the family, and on-site meals.
- \$1,000** Provides one cohort (up to 15 Candidates) the necessary tools for drug screens and background checks to ensure qualified applicants are accepted into the program.
- \$500** Underwrites the cost to print class material for one cohort, including: resumes, manuals, credit reports, faculty training guides, and classroom schedules.
- \$100** Provides bus vouchers for one Candidate to secure reliable transportation to and from Life Learning Center throughout the program.
- \$50** Underwrites Jobtimize assessment test to further a Candidate's self-discovery process.

Online: www.lifelearningcenter.us/annualreport

Mail Check: 20 West 18th St., Covington, KY 41011



Together



Life Learning Center™

20 West 18th Street | Covington, KY 41011 | 859-431-0100

www.lifelearningcenter.us

