



LIFE LEARNING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Life Learning Center™

ABOUT US

Life Learning Center equips vulnerable and economically disadvantaged individuals with the necessary tools and resources to envision, achieve, and sustain a better future for themselves and their families. Through life skills training, career readiness programming and placement, and support resources, we empower people to transform the trajectory of their lives. While many other social service organizations target short-term solutions to systemic issues (like food, clothing, and shelter), we empower individuals to overcome the root cause barriers surrounding their circumstances. The individuals we primarily work with are those stuck in a cycle of poverty, substance use disorder (SUD), and reincarceration. However, our program is proven and tested to work for individuals battling a variety of life's many barriers. We deeply care about every individual who makes our communities what they are, and we believe that everyone we serve is worthy and capable of greatness. Life Learning Center represents hope, opportunity, and endless possibilities for those eager, ready, and willing to embrace change.



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

Life Learning 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.

Envision A Higher Purpose

The centerpiece of LLC's educational continuum is Foundations for a Better Life™, an intensive 12-week life skills curriculum that helps low-income, unemployed, and underemployed individuals identify and overcome the barriers they face in five key domains of life: physical, financial, spiritual, emotional, and relational. The Working for a Better Life curriculum embedded in the 12-week program focuses on learning practical job search skills, interviewing techniques, resume building, and mock interviews resulting in job placement at a living wage with benefits.

Enrollees stemming from a diverse range of referral sources participate in an application and interview process to determine program eligibility. Before, during, and after the program, Candidates access a plethora of care services to mitigate barriers as deemed appropriate. Once they complete the transformational skills program, commit to a substance-free lifestyle, and secure full-time employment, Candidates become "Members," and they are Members for life. This status grants access to LLC's facility and its full scope of services.



CORE VALUES

Change

occurs through cognitive skill-building, and 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



RELATIONAL



EMOTIONAL



SPIRITUAL



FINANCIAL



Life Learning Center™

20 West 18th Street
Covington, Kentucky
41011

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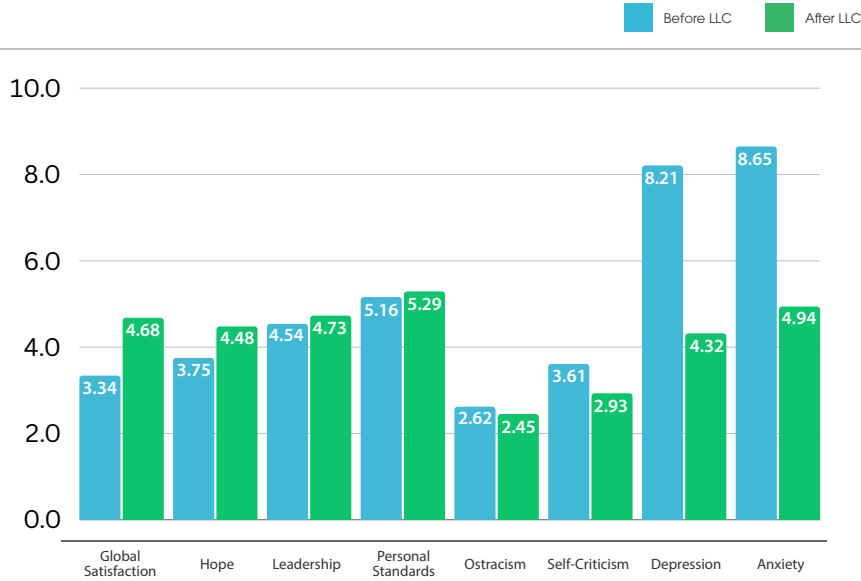
Chris Carle

President
Alecia Webb-Edgington



Outcomes

Terrace Metrics



LLC Candidates participate in a series of assessments which measure risk and resiliency domains. These assessments provide a score upon the Candidate's entry into the program and are reassessed upon their completion.

Life Learning Center uses the Terrace Metrics© assessment to measure Candidate outcomes across key behavioral health indicators. The largest, positive differences were found with respect to global satisfaction, hope, and self-criticism. In addition, post-program respondents reported feeling less isolated from others, and did not blame themselves as much for making perceived mistakes. Mean depression and anxiety scores were significantly lower at graduation.

\$7.2

Million dollars have been put back into the economy through wages and benefits.

\$19

hour average salary

The economic impact of incarceration is far-reaching; the cost to incarcerate an adult in the Commonwealth of Kentucky is \$73.20 per day and the average substance use disorder cost per inmate is an additional \$6.31. **Employment plays a critical part in reducing the economic and financial burden for taxpayers.** A study of the formerly incarcerated found that employment was the single most important factor in decreasing recidivism. **Studies show that employers see benefits, too,** as Human Resource Managers found that annual turnover was on average 12.2% lower for employees with criminal records and by adopting a program to recruit employees with criminal histories it reduced turnover from 25% to 11%.

Structure and stability are crucial aspects of the recovery journey, especially for those early in substance use disorder recovery.

Unemployed people show a significantly higher frequency in their use of alcohol than employed people. Unemployment is also associated with higher rates of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use as well as dependence.

Employment plays a crucial role in building dignity by providing the employee financial independence, skill development and growth, social integration and most importantly, a sense of contribution to their family and community.



Recidivism:

2023
(1 year)
6.16%

Individuals who completed Foundations for a Better Life at Life Learning Center show a significantly lower recidivism rate of 6.16% which is a stark contrast to the national average of 83% according to the Manhattan Institute.

Total Employed in 2023:

256

Fields of placement:

- Commercial Painting
- Manufacturing/warehouse
- Logistics
- Maintenance
- Non-Profit/Outreach
- Customer service/Fast Food
- Healthcare
- Hospitality

Individuals Completed
Trades/Commercial
Driver's License

16

Candidate Demographics and Key Metrics

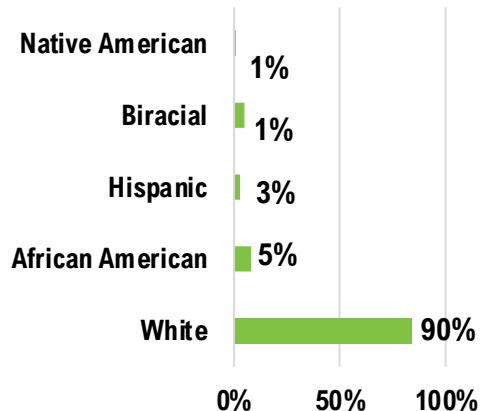
55%
MALE

45%
FEMALE

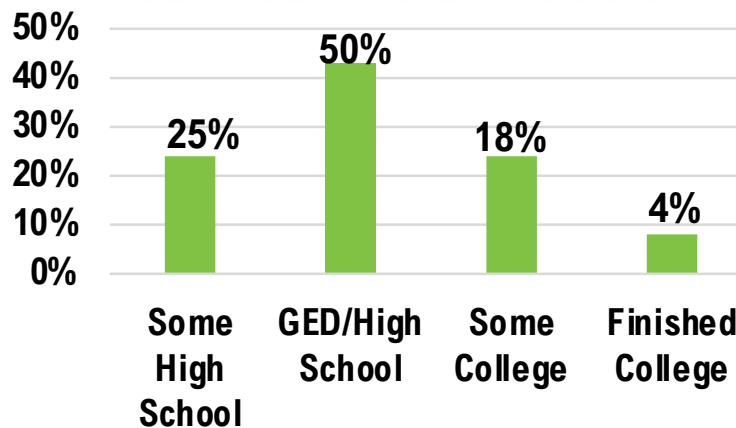


Average age of
38 Years Old

RACE / ETHNICITY



HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



80%



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND



28%



LACK STABLE HOUSING

52%

LACK TRANSPORTATION

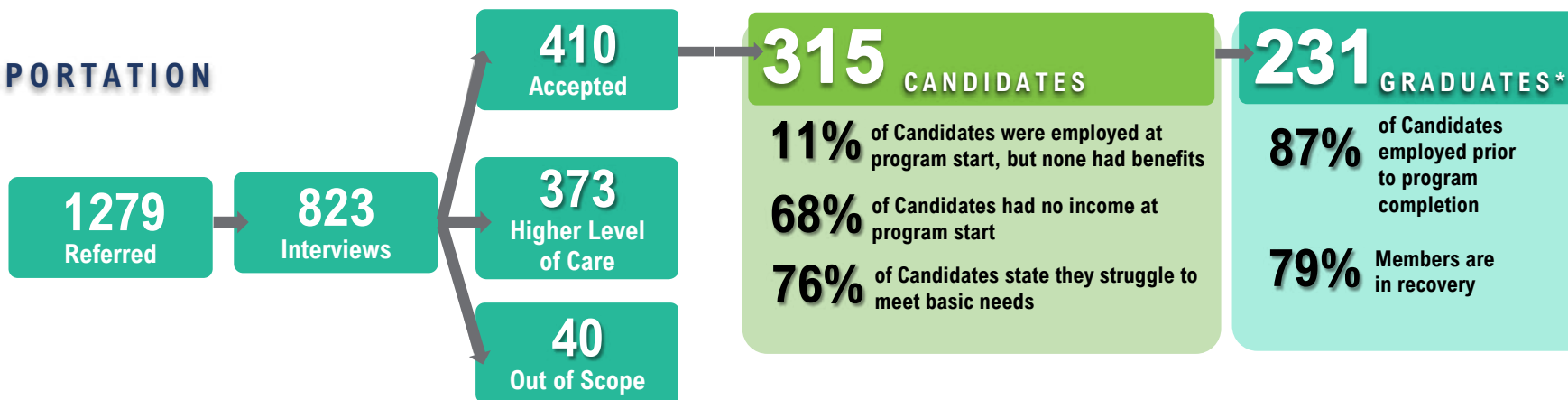
68%

STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH

82%

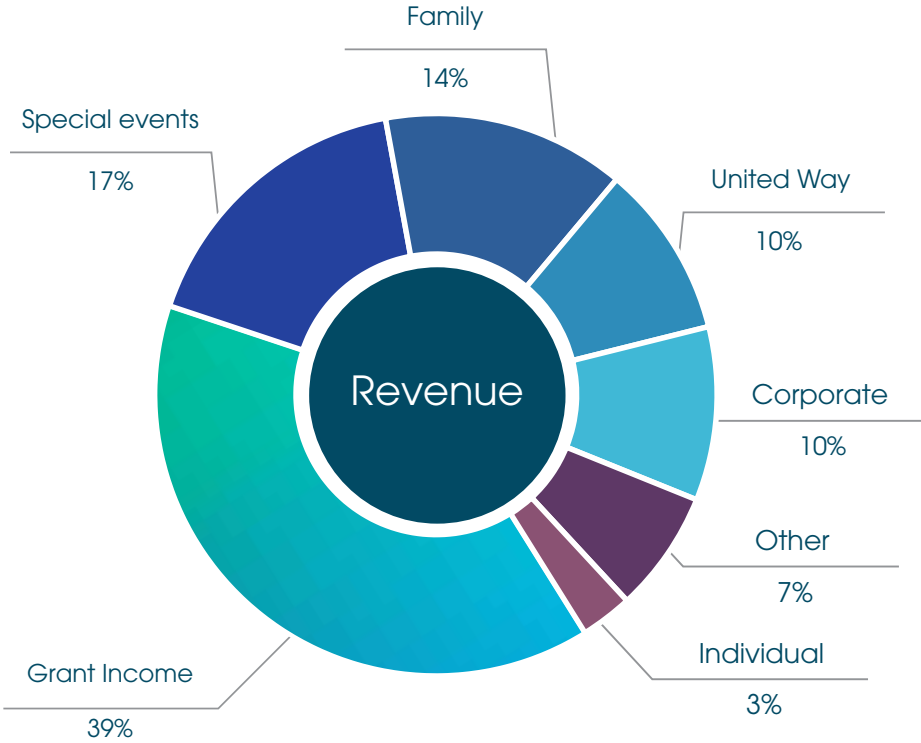
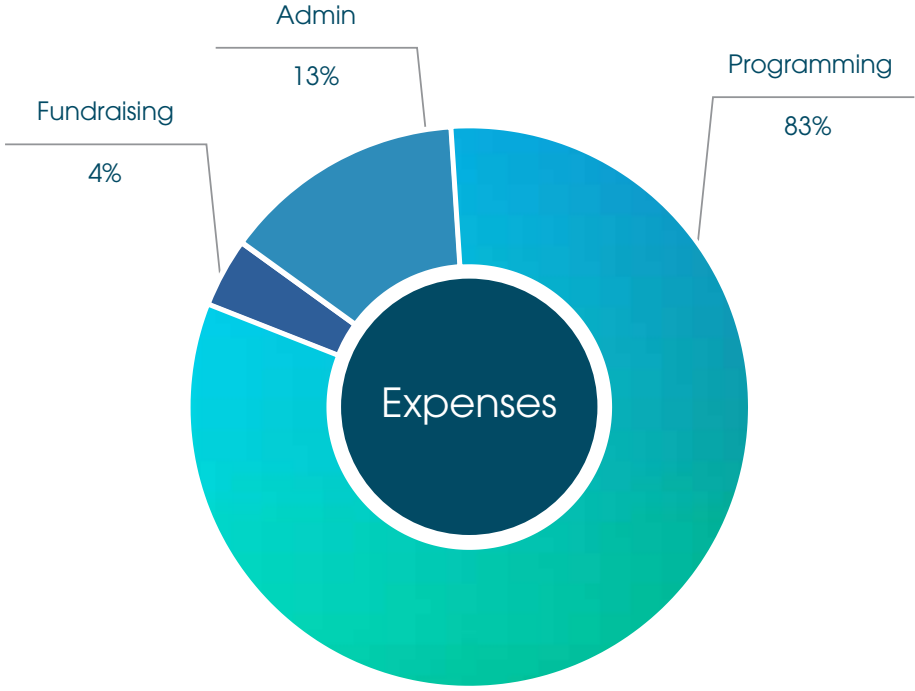
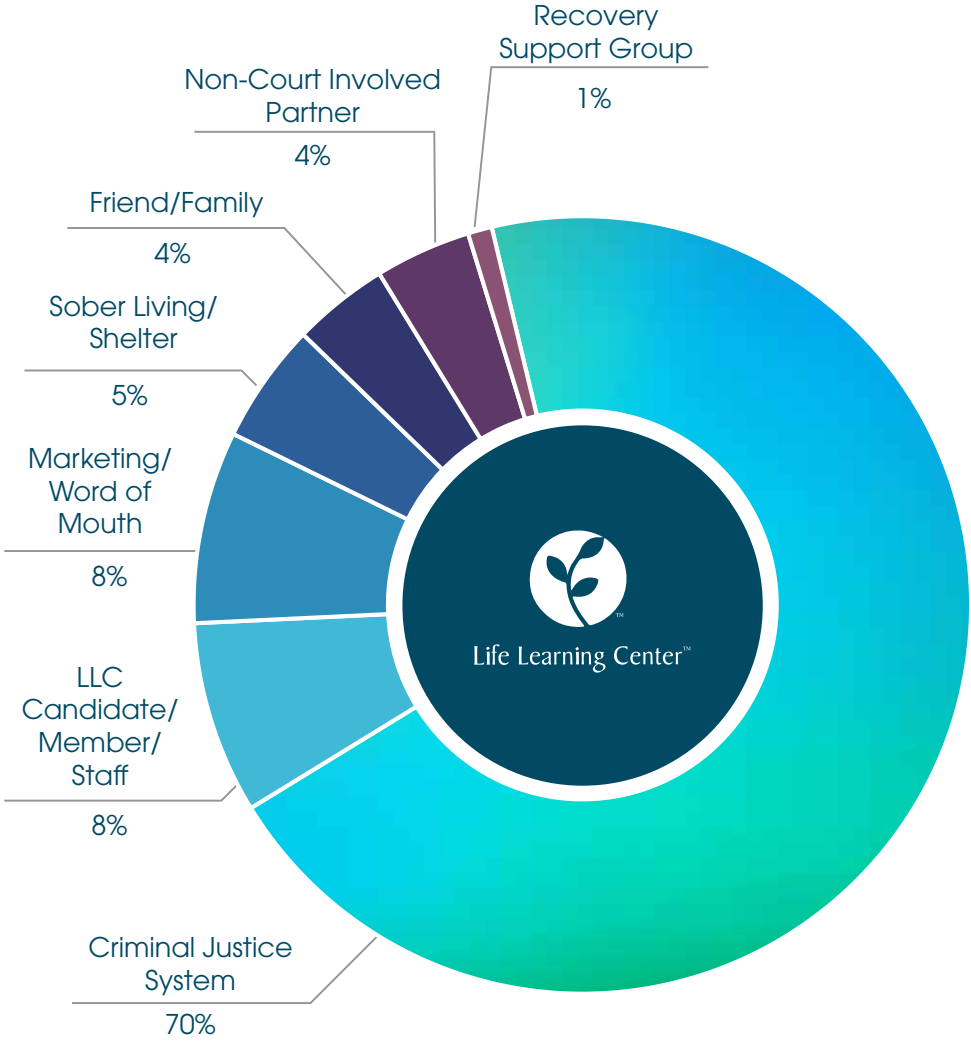


SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER



30,019 CARE OFFERINGS DEPLOYED

Enrollment & Referral Pipelines



CANDIDATE STORIES

Jennifer Mauch

Through Life Learning Center's transformational skills program, Jennifer Mauch took charge of her life and found a rewarding career as Benefits Coordinator and Construction Administrator at Greater Comfort Heating and Air. As a continued employment connector, volunteer and friend to LLC, Jennifer was the Honorary Captain at a Cincinnati Reds game as a representative of LLC and was honored at the 2023 High Stakes Gala. Jennifer shared her experience with LLC:

"Not that long ago my life was in turmoil. My relationship with my family wasn't what I wanted it to be. I spent 28 years in a relationship that was getting more dysfunctional by the day. The Life Learning Center reminded me that I could change my life and take control of the choices I make. I am grateful every day for how my life has changed. I still work on the five pillars every day. I have rebuilt my relationships with my kids, every month



...when things get tough, I can handle difficulties without turning to harmful behavior.

I spend a weekend with my grandsons and my parents have regained their trust in the choices I make. I am learning how to manage my 401k; a couple of years ago I never considered that I would even have one. I walk my dog a little farther when I can to get in some extra steps, I have faith in God and express it the way I choose. Emotionally I continue to improve my coping mechanisms so that when things get tough, I can handle difficulties without turning to harmful behavior. I want to thank Life Learning Center and their remarkable program. I am grateful every day for how my life has changed thanks to LLC."

Gary Brown

Gary shared his story at LLC's October graduation:

"I came to LLC not thinking I would need or use anything this program offered, but I realized I needed everything provided, right down to the food boxes. It's a first for me, a commitment that I saw through until the end. I learned something that benefited me every day. I got a solid and true review of my past, considered my present and now determine my future. I start where I stand because today is the day tomorrow will be!

There is the physical and emotional part, too. I couldn't love others until I loved myself. I learned new ways of reacting differently to certain situations. Now, without regret, success to me is getting started and never quitting. If we lose, it is from a lack of sustained effort. Failure isn't falling; it's staying down. Positivity is a choice.

...success to me is getting started and never quitting. Positivity is a choice.

Work week showed me why I never advanced in a job after being interviewed. I am now employable. I now have a bank account. There have been a lot of opportunities in my life that I have let just slip by me. Now, I am going for all the gusto. I'm setting a new path in life. I don't set my goals too low; I know if I want it, I need to get after it."



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 service providers that deliver their programming on our campus.



- Kentucky has one of the highest poverty rates in the United States with a rate of 16.5%. Approximately 50,000 people in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties are affected by food insecurity. 17,690 meals were served by the Pillars Café in 2023 which included nearly 1,000 food boxes. That is an increase of 44% over 2022 numbers and continues to increase in 2024.
- In 2023, Life Learning Center provided just over 30,000 care offerings and resources to Candidates and Members which equates to an in-kind value over \$104,000.

- The Dignity Store has become more popular with Candidates and Members and we now offer open shopping hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.
- \$11,278 worth of Dignity Dollars were redeemed in 2023.
- 2023 brought in additional Residential Partners with Dress for Success Cincinnati, Voices of Hope, and St. Elizabeth Journey Recovery Center.
- As of July 2023, there were approximately 1,100 adults and 390 children who were without housing in NKY. Of those, 39% have substance

- use disorder and 26% struggle with mental health. One of the requirements for enrollment at Life Learning Center is stable housing, which our Enrollment and Care teams assist each Candidate to secure if they need assistance.
- Life Learning Center serves as a host site for a minimum of 7 diversified recovery support meetings weekly.
- 159 monthly bus passes and 962 single ride bus passes were provided to Candidates in 2023.
- 8,090 clothing provisions were dispensed including undergarments, winter coats and more.

THANK YOU to our Community Partners

- Action Ministries
- Addiction Services Council
- African American Chamber of Commerce
- Anthem
- ARC (Addiction Recovery Care)
- BAWAC
- Be Concerned
- Beacon of Hope
- Boone County Detention Center
- Brent Howell Foundation
- Bright Outlook Recovery
- Brighton Center
- Brightview
- Campbell County Detention Center
- CareNet
- Catholic Charities of Covington
- Center for Great Neighborhoods
- Center for Great Work Performance
- Children's Home of NKY
- Children's Law Center
- City Gospel Mission
- City of Covington
- Commonwealth's Attorney 16th Judicial Circuit, Kenton County
- Commonwealth's Attorney 54th Judicial Circuit, Boone & Gallatin County
- Covington Independent Schools
- DCCH Center for Children & Families
- DePaul Cristo Rey High School
- Diocese of Covington
- Dress for Success Cincinnati
- Duke Energy
- Emergency Shelter of NKY
- Employment Connections
- Enzweiler Building Institute
- Esperanza Latino Center
- Faith Community Pharmacy
- Family Care Counseling Solutions
- Family Nurturing Center (Florence)
- First Step Home
- Freestore Foodbank
- Gateway Community and Technical College
- Grateful Life Center
- Hamilton County Office of Reentry
- Hamilton County Sherriff's Office
- Harmony House
- Health Point Family Care
- Henry Hosea House
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Holmes High School
- HOPE Ministries
- Housing & Urban Development
- Housing Authority of Covington
- Housing Opportunities of NKY
- Humana
- Joseph House
- Justice Action Network
- Kenton County Detention Center
- Kenton County Public Library
- Kentucky Access to Recovery (fahe)
- Kentucky Jailers Association
- Kentucky Nonprofit Network
- Leadership Council for Nonprofits
- Leadership Northern Kentucky
- Legal Aid of the Bluegrass
- Life Recovery Center
- Lifeline of NKY
- Lincoln Grant Scholar House
- Ludlow High School
- Madison Avenue Christian Church
- Madonna House
- Mental Health of America
- Mentoring Plus
- NAMI Northern Kentucky
- New Foundations
- New Hope Center
- New Perceptions
- Newport Adult Learning
- NKY Area Development District
- NKY ASAP
- NKY Health Department
- Northern Kentucky University
- Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- NorthKey Community Care
- OneSight
- OneSource
- Oxford House
- Parish Kitchen
- Reset Ministries
- RETAIN Kentucky
- Rose Garden Mission
- Safety Net Alliance of NKY
- Samaritan Car Care Clinic
- Shelter House
- Sisters of Notre Dame
- Solutions in Living
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- St. Phillip Parish
- St. Vincent de Paul of NKY
- Sun Behavioral Health
- Sunstone
- Talbert House
- Ten Ten
- Tender Mercies
- The ION Center for Violence Prevention
- Thomas More University
- Transitions, Inc
- Trauma Free World
- Twin Rails Sober Living
- UK Extension Center
- UK Targeted Assessment Program
- Unexpected Blessings
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- University of Cincinnati
- Welcome House
- Xavier University

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Through a grant from the City of Covington, Life Learning Center collaborated with a task force of community partners and local mural artist, Ben Harrison, to install a mural to beautify the corner of 15th Street and Madison Avenue.



Life Learning Center continues to work with passionate volunteer groups and individuals, including Impact 100, Thomas More University, Gravity Diagnostics, and St. Elizabeth, among others. New to volunteerism in 2023 is the organization's "Contribution Plan," an extension of the LLC program encouraging Candidates and Members to give back within the community alongside LLC staff and volunteers. By empowering individuals with a "menu" of service-related options, the program delivers dollars back into the community and increases dignity by showing individuals the tangible difference they can make. These giveback efforts were done in conjunction with partners like Master Provisions, Urban Forestry, and the City of Covington.

Life Learning Center was the recipient of many grants in 2023 including: KY Colonels Good Works program over \$12,000 to support technology upgrades; Horizon Community Funds, Community Impact Fund over \$14,000 to support the growing Employment Team; Delta Dental \$10,000 for Candidate dental care; PNC Foundation, Fifth Third Foundation, Drees Homes Foundation, Butler Foundation and an anonymous foundation granted \$50,000 each; and Smith Brothers Foundation granted \$86,000 for software support. Several new grants were secured in 2023 including support from Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation and Bell Charitable Foundation.

Thanks to funding provided by Impact 100 in 2022, Life Learning Center was able to make significant improvements to the Pillars Café including the installation of a range, hood, and fryer. There were over 17,000 meals served through the Café in 2023 which included nearly 1,000 food boxes. That is an increase of 44% over 2022 numbers and continues to increase in 2024.



There were several honors bestowed upon Life Learning Center and staff throughout 2023. The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce awarded Life Learning Center the first Inclusive Excellence Award at their Annual Dinner. OneSource recognized LLC with their Nonprofit Partner Award. Director of Care, Ashley Boothby was honored with this year's Mary Ivers Success Award by Dress for Success. President Alecia Webb-Edgington was named one of the 2023 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government by the Kentucky Gazette.



As part of our Recovery Community Center programming, Life Learning Center was the host location for several events, including Easter Egg Hunt, Reentry Resource Night, Halloween, and more. From 2022 to 2023, Recovery Community Center program attendance increased by 95%. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2024 and beyond.

In 2023, with the Kenton County Fiscal Court funding, Life Learning Center and Enzweiler Building Institute launched the Life Skills Training and Trade Certificate Program. This intensive 13-week program blends hands-on construction knowledge with comprehensive life skills, positioning them as work-ready individuals. The program meets the needs of those seeking entry into career opportunities in the construction industry, one of the region's most in-demand employment areas. By bridging the gap between skilled trades training and real-world challenges, these organizations have laid the foundation for a model of collaboration that transcends conventional boundaries.



Life Learning Center™



ENZWEILER
BUILDING INSTITUTE

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

On November 28, 2023, Life Learning Center welcomed their newest Residential Partner, St. Elizabeth Journey Recovery to the third floor. In attendance were notable community members, elected officials and Kentucky Governor, Andy Beshear. JRC offers a comprehensive menu of substance use recovery and treatment programs to an anticipated 1,500 patients annually. This innovative collaboration brings even more resources together under one roof.



On September 16th, Life Learning Center hosted its 8th annual fundraiser, the High Stakes Gala with guest of honor Wilbert Ziegler, Chairman of the Board of Zeigler & Schneider and President/CEO of the R.C. Durr Foundation. The event generated \$426,000 for the general operating budget and had the highest attendance of any previous year.

Life Learning Center hosted three graduation ceremonies on-site to celebrate the accomplishment of 231 individuals who completed

Foundations for a Better Life and either obtained employment or matriculated into post-secondary education. Notable guest speakers included Members from the graduating classes as well as Covington Mayor Joe Meyer and Simon Chinnamuthu from Madison Avenue Christian Church.



OUR GOALS & FUTURE

Life Learning Center's goals for the upcoming year focus on enhancing overall organizational success.

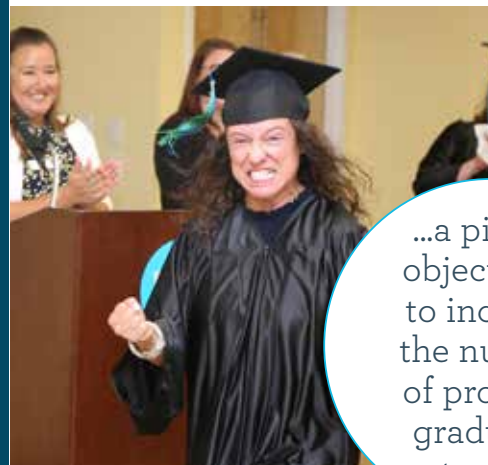
First and foremost, LLC is embarking on a strategic planning process combined with developing a robust marketing and communications strategy. This involves refining and implementing effective organizational and departmental strategies so that we can reach more enrollees, partners, and donors. This strategy work will also be used to upgrade our existing website.

Another significant goal is to expand the Multidisciplinary Recovery Reentry Team (MRRT) into Boone County. This expansion aims to broaden the geographical reach and impact of the existing Kenton County program by reaching new demographics and communities.

In addition, LLC will focus on diversifying our enrollment pipelines. This involves exploring and implementing innovative approaches to attract a more diverse Candidate pool, ensuring inclusivity and broadening our influence across the region.

Furthermore, a pivotal objective is to increase the number of program graduates to 400.

This will involve implementing initiatives to improve retention, employment rates, and overall Candidate success. Meeting this goal not only signifies institutional growth but also contributes to the development of a skilled and educated workforce.



...a pivotal objective is to increase the number of program graduates to 400

2024 marks the ten-year anniversary of Life Learning Center at our 20 West 18th Street location. In the heart of Covington, the property is the historic Stewart Ironworks building, where LLC staff are living the very definition of "irony."

Ironworkers once crafted the iron bars for most major American prisons within this facility. Now, it's home to a nonprofit that equips the formerly incarcerated with the education, tools, and support they need to get out of the cycle of poverty, substance use disorder (SUD), and reincarceration. Today, LLC is a communal space that promotes inclusivity around a common purpose: to help people help themselves.



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

www.lifelearningcenter.us

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