

CINCINNATI BAR FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT:

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER GRANT

Each year through our grantmaking, the Cincinnati Bar Foundation directly impacts thousands of people in our community. Last fall, the Children's Home received funding from the Foundation for The Family Visitation Center Program created in conjunction with the Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court. This program addressed the unmet need in Hamilton County to provide a safe and secure facility for supervised visitation.

With the grant funds, the program began in January 2019. The outcome of the first family visit was a success:

"We are ecstatic that our first family had a visit last evening at the Family Visitation Center and there was such a successful outcome. By way of background, Mom is required to be supervised because of an addiction to opioids. Dad and his family are very supportive of Mom's efforts in recovery.

Mom has not seen her 8-year-old daughter in the past 18 months. Mom was quite nervous and excited when she arrived at The Children's Home. Dad was as excited as his daughter and her Mom. Dad, with obvious effort, ensured that his darling daughter was dressed to impress with her hair up in a cute braid and bow. He had allowed the daughter to save all her art projects to show and share with her mom. Also, they brought along gifts that had

not been exchanged during the holidays. The most heartwarming moment of the visit happened when the daughter gave her mom a Christmas present of a big fluffy blanket with the child's face on it. The daughter then said, "I can sleep with you every night and cuddle."

Roz Florez, Randal Bloch and I were there, along with The Children's Home staff, to observe via cameras and we can assure you, there was not a dry eye in the place. Thank you to everyone for your support of the Family Visitation Center at The Children's Home. Last evening, we witnessed firsthand why this is such a worthwhile addition to our court's offerings," said Lisa Gorrasi, court administrator.

At the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, we believe in funding worthwhile programs in the community. Justice and legal system reach far beyond the courtroom and touch all our lives.

"The Cincinnati Bar Foundation's support is critical to the establishment of the Family Visitation Center at The Children's Home. The financial grant has provided this much needed and heartwarming service to families in transition," said Administrative Judge Jon Sieve.



John Banchy, president and CEO of The Children's Home, Judge Amy L. Searcy, Judge Susan Tolbert, Administrative Judge Jon J. Sieve, Pam McKie, chief operating officer of The Children's Home, and Randal S. Bloch (left-right).