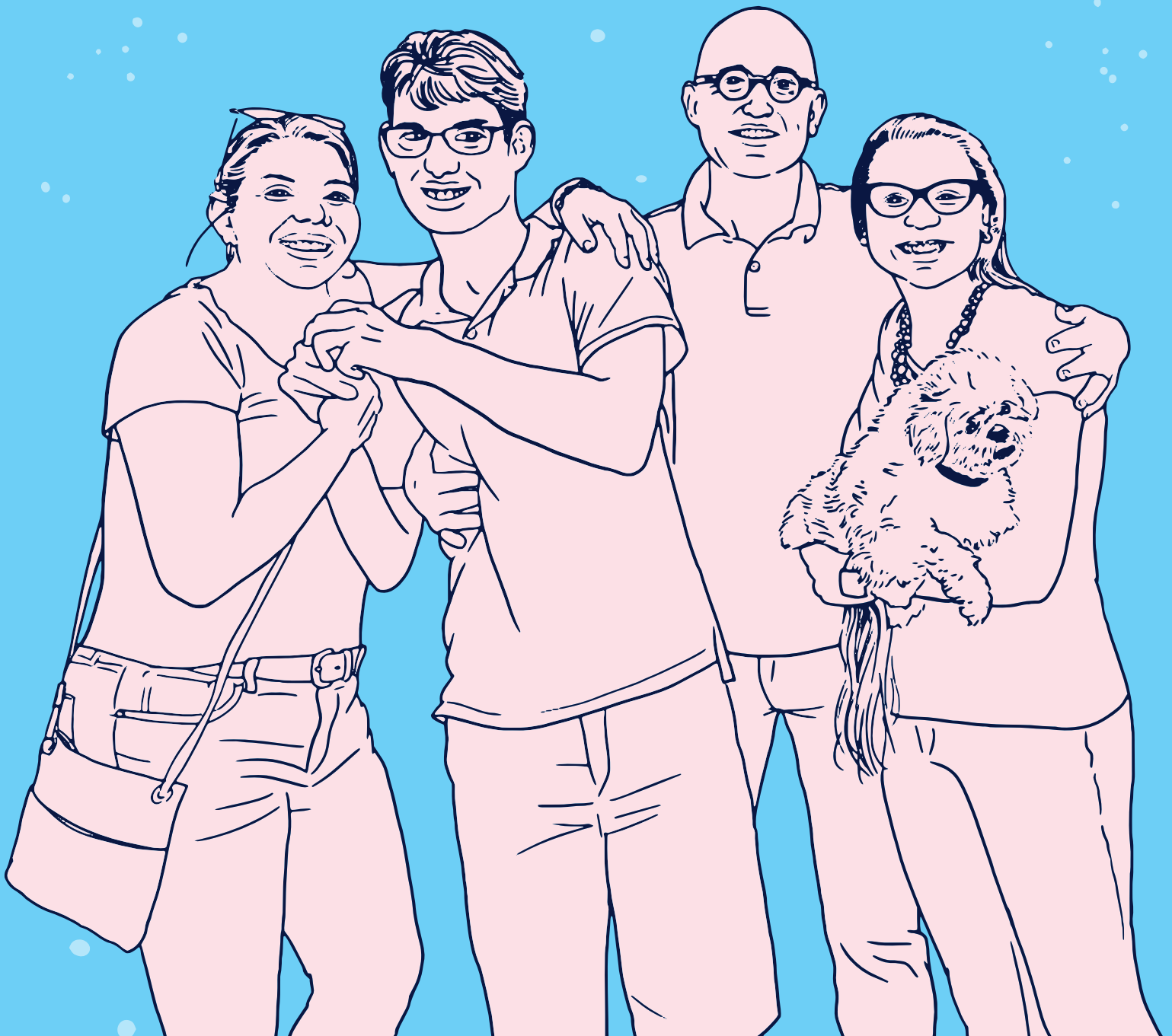


starfire

more

Starfire Annual Report 2017–2018

**A CELEBRATORY LOOK BACK ON OUR
YEAR OF COMMUNITY BUILDING
AND A GUIDE TO BUILD COMMUNITY
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**





YOU
BELONG
HERE

starfire

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Starfire's Executive Director, Candice Jones Peelman

4

On Taking Work Home
A letter from Starfire's Executive Director.



6
Community Participation
We are building inclusion one place, one person at a time.



8
Community Activation
We activate neighbors and neighborhoods to connect people.

14



Meet Our Team
Our team models what it looks like to live in a society that says all people belong, all people have value and something to add to the conversation.

16

Family Leadership
Starfire provided 11 families with a budget to launch a project in their community as a way to connect their family and their child with developmental disabilities to more people.

20

A Round Up of the Year
Look back on the stories we're proud of from the past year.

22

How We Utilize Funding
Over the last year, Starfire supported 94 people with developmental disabilities completing 12,000 hours of one-on-one connecting support.

24

To Do
Things to Learn, Do, Share, and Attend. A list of people, ideas, and challenges to get you started on activating your own community.



26
Sustaining Connections
Our work to build an inclusive Cincinnati happens over many days spent together.

Back Cover

Post Card Activity
Tear off the back cover and use the post cards to get connected within the community!

On Taking Work Home

“A block away from my house, there’s a man who has been guerilla gardening for 30 years on railroad property. I’ve walked by this plot of land countless times with my children, in envy of his secret, sunny spot of land.”
–Candice Jones Peelman,
Starfire Executive Director



Magnolia, Rowan, Candice & Jordan Peelman

A block away from my house, there's a man who has been guerilla gardening for 30 years on railroad property. I've walked by this plot of land countless times with my children, in envy of his secret, sunny spot of land.

I began to think, "Why can't we garden together?"

So we knocked on his door, "Can we plant a garden here too?" Smiling back, he said yes and proceeded to walk us to our new spot in the garden.

It took courage to knock on a neighbor's door and ask, "Can we be a part of this too?" Nervousness, fear and doubt all said not to: "What if he scowls at us? What if we're not good enough gardeners worthy of the land?" But I saw a great opportunity in taking that risk.

It's been said we are a more connected society. And yet, many of us don't know our neighbors. In my life, I've tried to challenge that pattern—and it was no accident that I learned this. It's because of my work at

Starfire that I want to teach my children to seize opportunities that lead to meaningful human connections, to show up, to say yes to invitations, to stretch. To want more than what's easy or comfortable.

Starfire's entire approach is about wanting more, to invest our time in seeking out the things that make up a **good life**. (page 10)

We can all agree that people with developmental disabilities are seen and heard much more these days than twenty years ago. And yet, to be truly valued remains elusive for many people we serve. Families today are still told "no" more often than "yes." Imagination for so many people's lives is missing.

At Starfire we support people with developmental disabilities and their families to explore their highest hopes and dreams for life. We ask, "Who were you born to be in this world?" We believe there is more for people's lives than a life of being a "client" or "consumer." We design around an imagination that assumes all people have gifts, all people belong—as they are.

We ask, why can't people with developmental disabilities **participate in community life** (page 6) or be part of **activating their communities** (page 8)? Why shouldn't families of children with disabilities be **leaders** (page 16)? How might we **sustain connections** (page 26) in people with developmental disabilities' lives—over a lifetime?

The answer is—it takes all of us. How can you help? Your investment signals your belief that our communities need more—and that what's missing are the gifts, talents, and passions of people with developmental disabilities.

With your gift, Starfire continues to create an inclusive Cincinnati, for all of us. We are kicking off our Annual Giving Campaign with a goal of \$200,000. Show your support by going to starfirecincy.org/donate

In gratitude,

Candice J. Peelman

Community Participation

We are building inclusion one place, one person at a time. By supporting people with developmental disabilities in becoming part of different clubs, organizations, jobs, and volunteer work, we make room for gifts that would otherwise be missing in the community.





Emily

Salon Attendant (Hyde Park)

Emily is into fashion and make-up design. Her job at a salon is the perfect fit. Through this job, she is able to meet people she shares things in common with, and provide a useful service to the rest of the salon workers.

“When I first met Emily I saw the joy in her. I like to work with Emily, she brightens my day.” –Stefania, co-worker

“I’m so happy when I see Stefania here. She’s confident, a good worker, and a good lady.” –Emily

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/emily



Nancy

Sewing Circle (Madisonville)

Nancy says life is too short not to be happy. She has found happiness going to a local rec center three times a week to meet up with other women and men her age who also like to sew.

“As a person who makes her own clothes, Nancy is a marvel to the other women in the group.”

–Belinda, sewing group regular

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/nancy



Jack

Warehouse Assistant (Sharonville)

Jack found a place to work that matches his strengths. He is the fastest employee in his department. Jack sets the standard for new employees for the level of productivity that can be done. Jack and his co-worker Phil have connected over a mutual admiration and respect.

“Jack has shown me some enthusiasm that I didn’t know I had left in me. Because just working with Jack, it makes me smile.”

–Phil, co-worker

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/jack

79% of people served have a valued social role in the community that is either paid or unpaid. Of those with a valued social role, 35% have *both* paid and regular unpaid roles such as a volunteer position or internship.

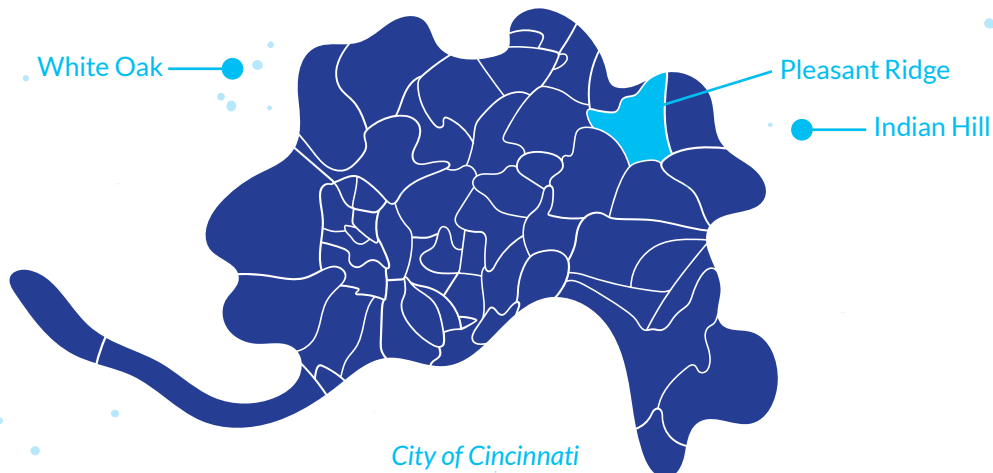
HOW TO:

Download our eBook, *6 Proven Steps for the Jobseeker with Disabilities*, from our Story Series on “Work” here: starfirecincy.org/learn

Donate to Community Participation Fund. Starfire allocates \$250 per person with a developmental disability per year to explore, make connections, and discover the way their gifts can enrich the community. To show your support, please visit starfirecincy.org/donate

Community Activation

We think outside the box. (In fact we think the ‘disability box’ is part of the problem). By activating neighbors and neighborhoods, we know we can do more for people’s lives and our communities.





Michelle

Write Me, I'm Yours, Monthly Writing Circle (White Oak)

For the past 4 years, Michelle has been meeting with a group of writers at a local coffee shop. The project began in 2013 when Michelle decided she wanted to engage writers across the city by setting out journals at local coffee shops and inviting people to contribute. She got other writers to sign on to the idea, and they called the project "Write Me, I'm Yours" which is now also the name of their monthly writing group.

"I like the people, the high energy. People in this group are easy-going and great. In the-'nonjudgmental'-great."
-Michelle Dunford,
Write Me, I'm Yours co-founder.

"Michelle is the glue that keeps the group together. Michelle is the core and things don't feel right when she's not there. There is no difference in how we conduct the circle. We don't censor or adjust the agenda. She's an integral part of the group."
-Eva Lewandowski,
Write Me, I'm Yours co-founder.

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/michelle

Grace

Church History, A Project in the Works (Indian Hill)

Grace wanted to get to know more people where she goes to church. So she contacted her local coffee shop and began hosting monthly potlucks to bring people together more often.

Grace is now working on a project with her church to tell the history of the neighborhood. Stay tuned to our social media to watch the progress of the project unfold.

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/grace

Kourtney

Community Coffee Roast, A Project in the Works (Pleasant Ridge)

Kourtney had his first sip of coffee on a camping trip when he was in high school. He has a great interest in the growing, harvesting, and roasting process and is partnering with RedTree and La Terza to plan a community coffee roast this fall. Their idea is to host something outside where people can spend the day together learning and roasting. They might even have enough beans roasted to donate them to the local food pantry in Kourtney's neighborhood.

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/kourtney

Stay tuned to our social media to watch the progress of this project as it unfolds.
[@StarfireCincy](https://twitter.com/StarfireCincy)

LEARN FROM US:

Learn about "Taking a Risk" to start a neighborhood project in your community by downloading our eBook! starfirecincy.org/learn

Starfire has powered over 94 creative projects led by people with disabilities and citizens in over 32 Cincinnati neighborhoods, activating 706 people to build more inclusive, fun places to live since 2012.

Donate to Starfire's Project Activation Fund and support more projects in our city.
starfirecincy.org/donate

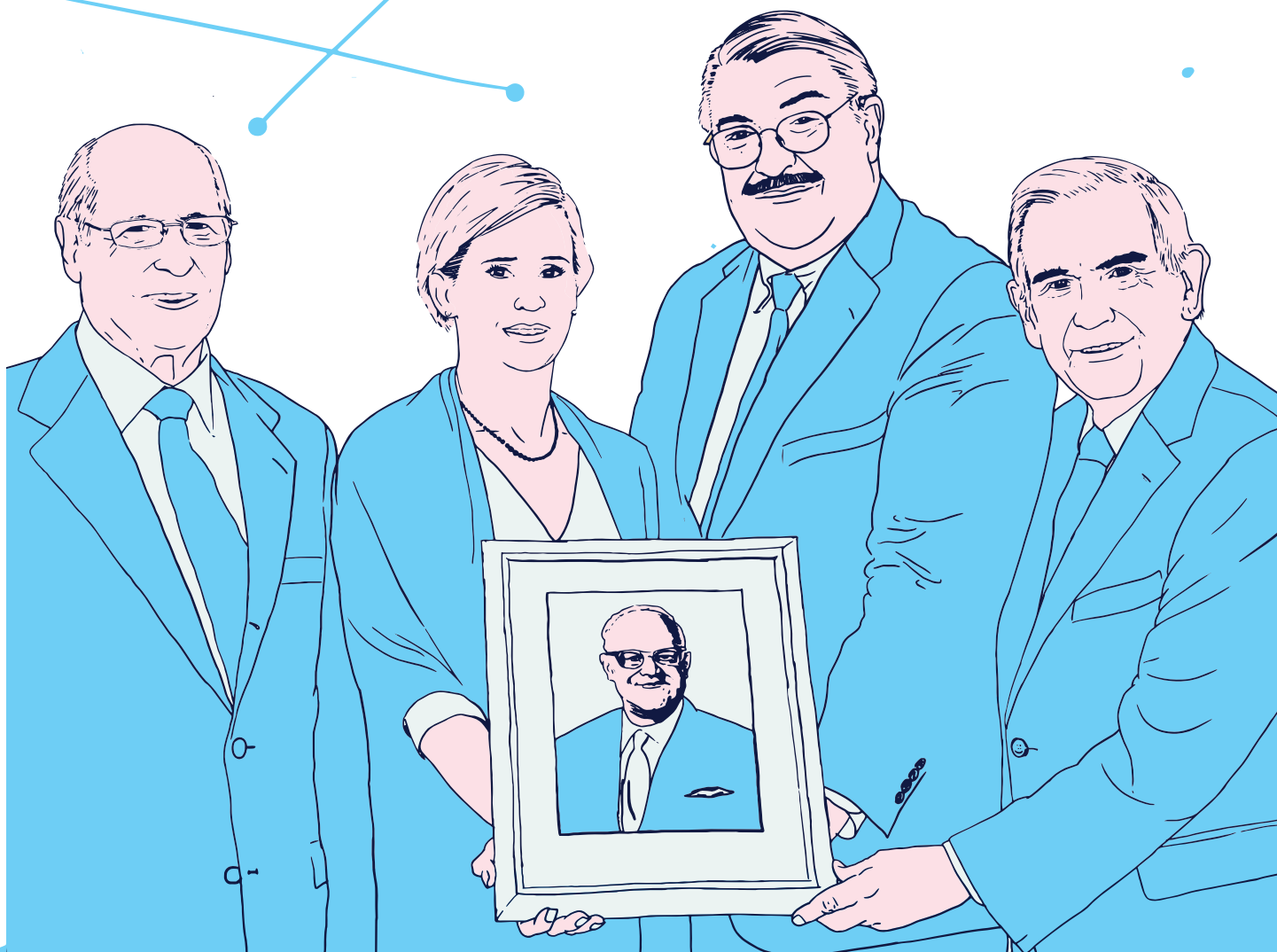
A Good Life

As the saying goes, *'a ship in the harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.'* We want to see where we can belong, where we can be loved, and who is going to know us for the wonderful people we are. That's what life is for. We were meant to experience freedom and the joy of spontaneity. To be known by our personality and our strengths. We were meant to have laughter in our lives, to have our days filled with meaning and purpose. A good life is about sharing places in our community, ordinary places like coffee shops, and community gardens, rec centers, and church. A good life makes space for new experiences



and adventures. A good life let's us take risks and experience failure and still be okay (because people still like you). A good life has a variety of relationships which help keep us safe and secure. When we're able to make contributions doing what we love and make choices supported by people who care enough about us, and respect us enough to give us advice and guidance, we're living a good life. A good life is having an imagination for our life and a positive sense of future. A good life is one in which we are loved, exactly as we are, in the unique and wonderful way each of us show up in the world.





For 30 years, the Charles H. Dater Foundation has supported Starfire's work to connect people with disabilities to community relationships and experiences. We are so grateful for all the work they do to make a meaningful and lasting impact on our city.

"The Dater Foundation is proud to have been an early supporter of Starfire back in 1988 and to have continued that support over the years. Starfire has helped so many young people expand their horizons and increase their self-esteem through community service and social interaction. And now it is exciting to see Starfire pursuing new initiatives that will have an even deeper impact on the individuals the organization serves as well as the community at large."

—Bruce A. Krone, President of the **Charles H. Dater Foundation**

daterfoundation.org/

Thank You

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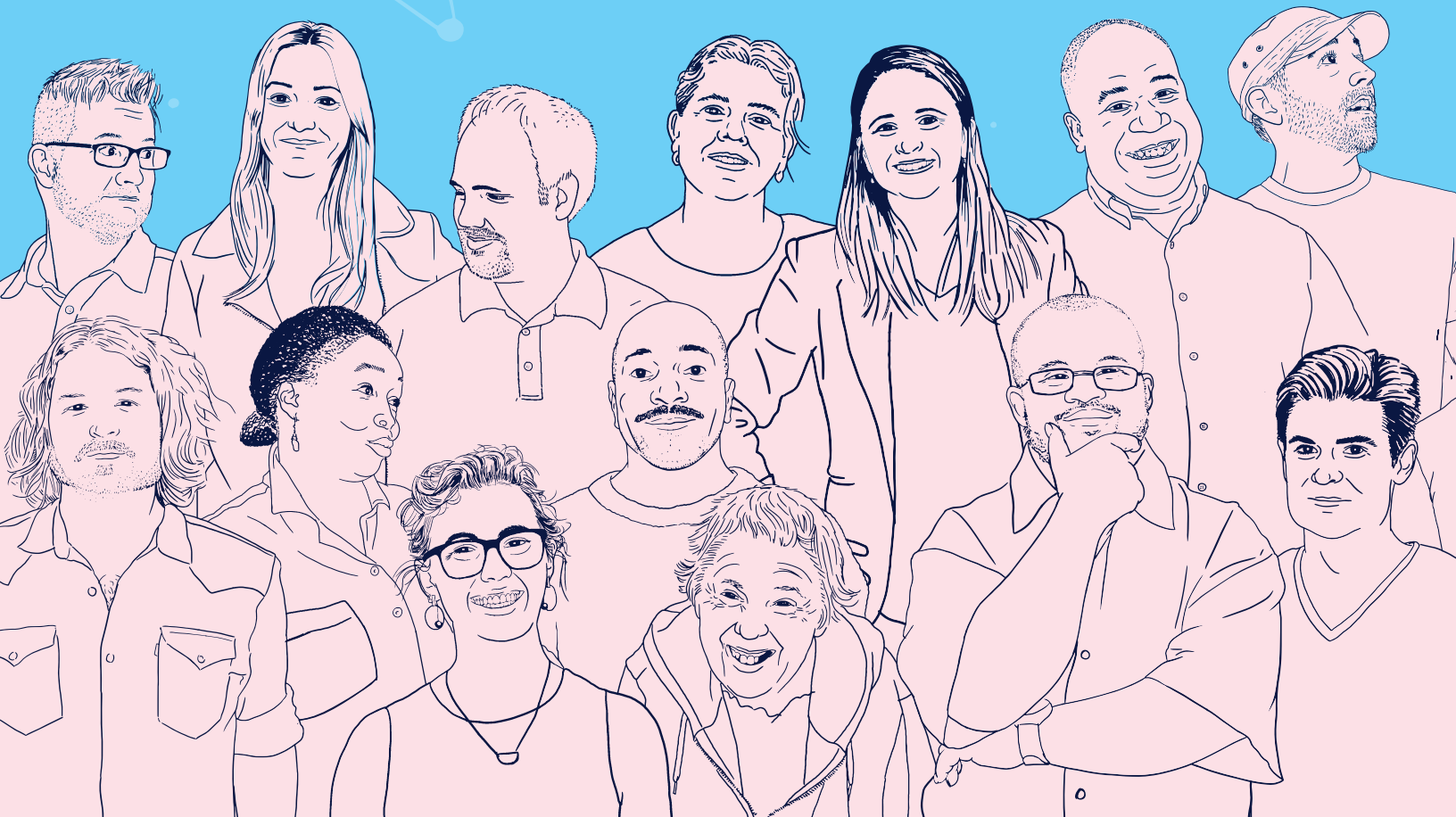
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Meet Our Team

**Our team models
what it looks like
to live in a society that
says all people
belong, all people
have value and
something to add to
the conversation.**



“We are lifting up people by showing their value. Other people gravitate toward that sense of equality. –Stefan

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Shawn Bracken Community Builder
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Olivia Cook Events
Justin Dunn Community Builder
Michelle Eikenbary Community Builder
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Richard James Community Builder
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“Starfire is an awesome organization and I’m blessed to serve on their board.”
– Sean McCosh,
Board Member

“I’m happy to be part of Starfire, where love is such an important part of the work.”
–Bridget



Family Leadership

Starfire provided 11 families with a budget to launch a project in their community as a way to connect their family and their child with developmental disabilities to more people.



An Interview with The Melnyk Clement Family

Clifton now has a Pop Up Puppy Party (PUPP) each month at a privately owned lot on Ludlow Ave. It's built around community and being good neighbors. Cassandra, Nestor, Troy and Sophia are a close-knit family whose initial goal was to do something cool in their neighborhood. Through mentorship and a grant from Starfire, they took steps as a family throughout the next year to collaborate with neighbors and bring this project to life. Here's our conversation with the parents, as they reflect back on their progress and how it has shifted their mindsets to want more community in their life.

Nestor: What made the PUPP happen was the idea, the spark; It got people to rally behind some thing. Clifton has a lot of dogs, but no dog park. Then it was all the other people who really organized it and put it together. It was a way to find what gifts others had, and what their passions were, and everyone contributed in that way.

Cassandra: The neighbors are talking about it, the neighbors heard about it, the people involved are excited about it. The hardest thing is opening your heart and asking for help and explaining your vision. With this project, we always say it's not about Troy. It's allowing Troy to be a part of a community. Expressing that is tough.

N: I think that it's finding the balance and having Troy be a part of PUPP versus it being about Troy. This is a park that is inclusive, but we're not doing an "inclusive park." I think that emphasis was a little bit of a challenge.

C: And it's so much more personal. The dog park isn't emotional, but trying to have my son be a part of the community is emotional. Having him be somebody that people want to give a high five, or say hi to, or just know that they can say hi to him—people don't know that. He can't talk, so right away you think, "Oh maybe he's less than." They just don't know and we're opening up and saying, "Here's a man that's different than you. We want you to know that he's important."

For me, it's like something has changed. We were told *no* Troy's entire life. We were told *no* by a lot of disability services. We kind of withdrew and became isolated. But I think, maybe that was the wrong way to approach things anyway. Maybe we should have always been thinking about, "This is where we live, in Clifton. How should we be including Troy in Clifton?" Looking to the neighborhood for support instead of looking to disability services for support.

"I think we've been happier here in this last year than ever and it's because we included our neighbors..."

We're finding we need our neighbors. We need our community to have a good life and to be happy. I think we've been happier here in this last year than ever and it's because we included our neighbors in our lives, and our lives include Troy. He's part of it and if you get us you also get him. And people are cool with it we're finding out.

I don't really know what exactly will come of this (PUPP) but I hope people care about him more and want to be in his life in some way... somebody to come over and sit in the rocker on the porch with him or watch a short video or something like that. If I really think about it, Troy will need help all his life. I don't think I would expect any of my neighbors to be that help. What I would hope is just people being good loving neighbors. Neighbors who would want to visit Troy. Who would tell me "I saw Troy at the market and something didn't seem right." What I want is neighbors helping me help him be happy. That's what I'm thinking of right now. My son's 19. I wish we would have thought about this earlier, but I feel like it's never too late. He has a long life to live and we want it to be a good life.

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/melnyk-clement

TIMELINE:

Day 1

Family is granted project budget from Starfire and begins monthly meetings with Starfire's Tim Vogt to learn how to build community (Aug 2017)

Day 31

Monthly mentorship meeting with Starfire

Day 68

John McKnight, author of Asset Based Community Development, visits town and encourages families to begin asking their neighbors about their Talents, Interests, Passions, and Skills

Day 99

Monthly mentorship meeting with Starfire

Day 121

First conversation with neighbor

Day 135

Continue to meet with neighbors

"We put our feelers out to see who all was interested, and then we set a date to meet."

Day 156

Monthly mentorship meeting with Starfire

Day 168

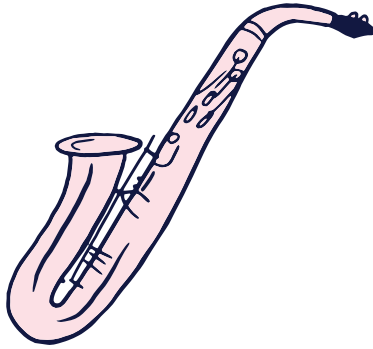
First meeting with committee at neighbor's house

"This idea for a pop-up dog park naturally came out during the conversation. At the end of the night one of our neighbors opened her calendar and said the first one should be at the end of the month. We said, 'Oh my gosh it's three weeks away!'"

Day 189

The first night of the PUPP (March 2018)

“These families are the visionaries, they are making the path by walking it. If people don’t recognize how important what they’re doing is—I want to assure you, they are rebuilding America.”
–John McKnight



Walkers

Mt Healthy

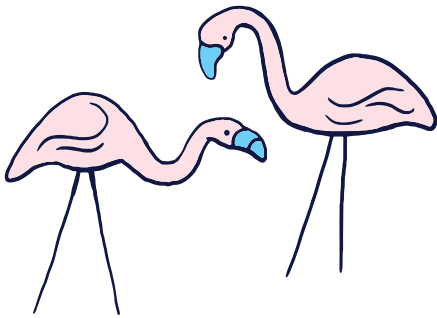
“We decided to host an afternoon of jazz and barbecue in our community park.”



Combs

Hamilton

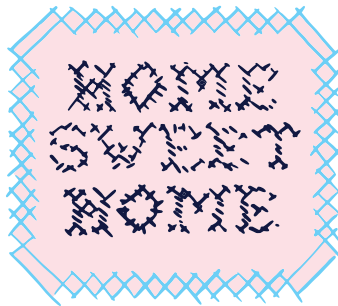
“Our family is learning to sew and crowdsourcing a community quilt along the way!”



Brackens

Madisonville

“We are activating the front lawns on our street by hosting a neighborhood ‘Last Day of School’ Party with our friends and neighbors.”



LeNoirs

Bellevue

“We are learning about the unique ‘family mission statements’ of our friends and creating artistic expressions for them to hang in their home.”



Clincys

Evanston

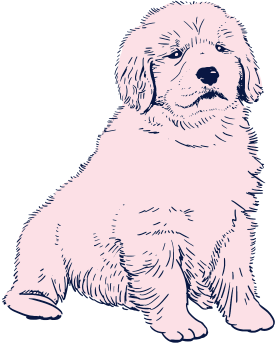
“Our family decided to host pop-up events to help people discover their own creativity in our community”



Harts

Goshen

“Our family planted Christmas Trees with our neighbors and host an annual party to decorate them together.”



Melnyks

Clifton

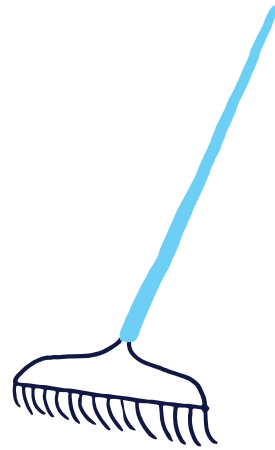
"We hosted Pop-Up Puppy Parties with our neighbors to try and get a permanent dog park in our neighborhood!"



Covingtons

Price Hill

"We held a garden party in our community garden with performances by local musicians."



Lees

Clifton

"We turned the overgrown lot next to our house into a community garden and greenspace so that neighbors can connect."

"We would never have done anything like this without Tim & the Starfire grant. We might have gone on some Audubon hikes, but we would have never dug this deeply into the birding world."

-the Staubers

Donate to the Family Leadership Fund: Your dollars will go directly to granting each family a project budget that builds community in their life and the life of their child with developmental disabilities

Show your support by going to starfirecincy.org/donate



Meehans

Hamilton

"We hosted a 'Welcome to the school party' for all the incoming freshmen at our son's high school."



Staubers

West Chester

"We hosted a weekend retreat for fellow birders at a local nature preserve—it was our first time doing anything like this, but we 'winged it!'"

A Round Up of the Year

Look back on the stories we're proud of from the past year.

JANUARY 2017

Starfire completes one full year of fully integrated supports—outside of any congregated or facility-based programming.

MARCH 2017

- Starfire publishes a toolkit that outlines how we transitioned out of congregated services into fully one-on-one community model. For more information, check out starfirecincy.org/learn

- Starfire is selected as a “Subject Matter Expert” by the State of Ohio to assist other agencies to cultivate a deeper understanding of different ideas, strategies, possibilities, and opportunities they can pursue, develop, or replicate within their own agency and work towards full integration of people with development disabilities in our communities across the state of Ohio.

“Others in my profession, think it’s about fixing. And I’ve never thought that. And sometimes, that makes me a bit of an outsider.” –Betsy Zenk Nuseibeh, Executive Director Melodic Connections on her training from Starfire.

APRIL 2017

- Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Kahn, leaders in the person-centered planning movement, travel to Cincinnati to learn alongside us.

MAY 2017

- Board Member Kathleen Cail and family leader Nestor Melnyk launch Access Cincinnati, a People’s Liberty project. accesscincinnati.org



John O'Brien

- John O'Brien visits and hosts 2 days with families and service providers of people with developmental disabilities about building social networks. *“We have falsely adopted the horrible fiction, that ‘person’ is singular. That ‘person’ in person-centered means alone.”*—John O'Brien



Spencer with co-worker

- Starfire supports Spencer Duncan in landing a job at Holtman’s Donuts *“I’m ready to move into a community job. I feel pretty happy about leaving the workshop. I’m ready to go out into the community, and prove to them that I can go out in the community. I can make more money, work more hours,*

have much more fun, I love that. I’m excited I get to work with good people, and bring my food work ethic and enthusiasm to the table. It’s who I am. I get to show them what I’m made of.” starfirecincy.org/spencer

JUNE 2017

- Starfire board and staff complete strategic planning led by Design Impact; focusing our next 5 years on: family leadership, curriculum and training, community building work, and evolving our building into a nonprofit hub.

- Starfire’s program data is published in the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation as guidance for disability providers seeking to support people in competitive, integrated employment and community opportunities. starfirecincy.org/learn

- Students from Mount St Joe, Miami University, Xavier University, UC DAAP, and DePaul Cristo Rey High School intern with us to learn about Starfire’s work.

- Candice Jones Peelman becomes Executive Director of Starfire.

JULY 2017

- Jeffrey Cail is featured in the Cincinnati Business Courier and gives Starfire a shout out. *“Starfire is a local organization trying to make a difference in the life of people with disabilities. Their leaders have real courage and are trying to forge a new path in terms of social inclusion for people with disabilities. Starfire’s opted to make a bold change to their strategy and break with the past to have the*

best chance at making a big impact in people's lives. I couldn't admire a group of people more."

SEPTEMBER 2017

• Starfire Community Builder Jill Cleary is awarded a People's Liberty grant "Our main goal is to create an inviting and inclusive space for community members to come in and own it."



Janet Klees

• Starfire, in collaboration with Good Life Networks, hosts "Growing a Good Life" a conversation with Janet Klees, the Executive Director of the Durham Association for Family Respite Services, an organization in Ontario that provides a range of resources and support to families as they plan and develop individualized lifestyle arrangements in community for and with their family members.

• Jo Masserelli, Director of the SRV Implementation Project hosts a two-day intensive at Starfire on valued social roles, devaluation, and what we can do about it; Over 75 human service professionals and families participate in two-day training.

OCTOBER 2017

• Starfire is invited to participate in Greater Cincinnati Foundation's "Innovation Toward Inclusion Cohort."



Bridget Vogt

NOVEMBER 2017

• Bridget Vogt is awarded the Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award from the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, a state-wide recognition for her work alongside people with disabilities.

• Students from The Summit Country Day School spend the day learning with Starfire. "I never thought of it before as a problem, that

people would be separate and not part of the community, I just thought it was the only way to do things."

• Andrew and GERALYN's friendship that formed through Starfire is featured in the publication, RISE. "Geraldyn and I did not know each other before I went to prison. Geraldyn could have chosen the story of 'mistake' and I could have done the same." -Andrew Stanton riseupnews.org/riseblog/andrew



John McKnight

DECEMBER 2017

• John McKnight hosts "Families at the Creative Center of Community" conversation at Starfire showcasing the work of family lead community building and placemaking projects in their neighborhoods in Cincinnati.

JANUARY 2018

• City Beat publishes article on our work. citybeat.com

FEBRUARY 2018

• Movers and Makers features Starfire event committee members. "I just made an effort to be involved with their mission of inclusion and community-building. The idea of inclusion for everyone I think is really cool. It was an easy cause to get behind and there continues to be lots of opportunities to help." -Justin Kormelink moversmakers.org



Cormac Russell

MARCH 2018

• Director of Asset Based Community Development Europe, and faculty member of Asset-Based Community Development Institute Cormac Russell hosts two-day training at Starfire "from what's wrong to what's strong."

APRIL 2018

• Tim Vogt leads a full day training on service innovation at the State of Ohio's "Transformation Summit."

• BeSpoken Live and Rebel Pilgrim Creative Agency partner with Community Builder Pair Beth Frame and Justin Dunn on their 4 Part "Streetcar Stories" funded by the Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation. [Find them on facebook.](#)

• Christopher Kubik authored Starfire's eBook *6 Proven Steps for the Jobseeker with Disabilities* that goes beyond the trap of mock interviews and 'job training' programs. starfirecincy.org/learn

• Candice Jones Peelman is interviewed on Q102 Person of Interest about the work of Starfire. Q102.com

MAY 2018

• Lower Price Hill Artist Collective featured in Cincy Stories podcast.

• Starfire visits Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy at their Annual Covered Dish Supper to learn along side 40 year veteran of citizen advocacy work, Tom Kohler and his team.

We supported 94 people with developmental disabilities over the last year, completing 12,000 hours of one-on-one direct support. Our work happens 100% in the community and has led to over 100 valued roles at 84 businesses and non-profits. Last year we connected to over 993 citizens. 80% of the people with disabilities we support saw an increase in their social network.

How We Utilize Funding

Community Participation Fund

Help a person connect to roles and relationships

Community Activation Fund

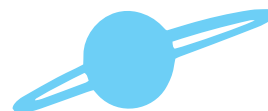
Support a project led by a person with disabilities

Family Leadership Fund

Give year-long mentorship from Starfire and help launch a family project

Sustaining Connections Fund

Deepen and sustaining existing connections over the long haul



Financials

Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati raised an outstanding amount of funds in 2017 through a braided fundraising strategy that brought in \$1,358,000.* This strategy includes support from local and national foundations and trusts, being a partner with United Way, special events, corporate sponsorships, rental income, maximizing Medicaid dollars, individual donors, endowment fund, and training and consulting.

We maintain low operating costs of only 7% by running a very lean business model, which allows us to put 83% of dollars raised back into directly supporting people with developmental disabilities through our Community Building work. We also have very low overhead for building expenses of only 3% because our building is owned by Starfire, debt-free. We are able to use our

building as an asset to further our message of inclusion and community building and generate revenue by hosting outside events and renting our space to other nonprofits. With only 7% of our dollars going toward special events, we have been able to host events that are highly aligned with our message and mission while still generating revenue to support Starfire.

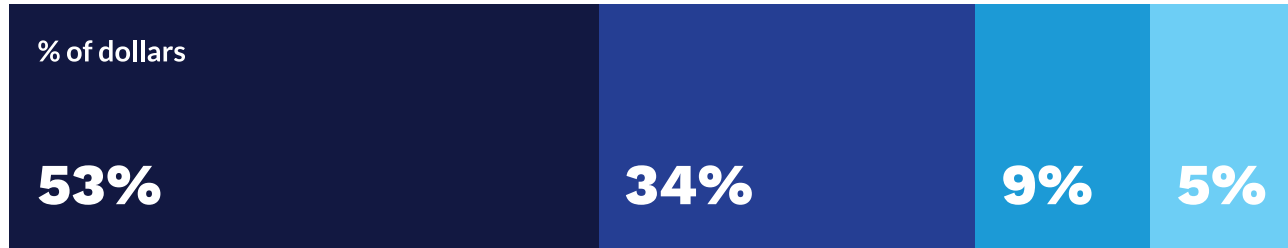
Make Every Day Count

We know the difference between 30 minutes spent at home on the couch, or 30 minutes in conversation with a neighbor. Starfire cares about maximizing the time we have to support people with disabilities to make sure it's done in relationships with others. Thanks for supporting us in making every day count.

One day is full of potential, and each day gets us closer toward the good things in life. Our work is dedicated to helping people get closer to their goals by exploring new places, meeting people through volunteering, searching for a job, or planning cool projects with neighbors. No matter what the person's goal might be, each day with Starfire leads to more possibilities, more relationships, and more meaning in a person's life.

** The financial information included is preliminary and unaudited and subject to revision upon completion of our annual audit.*

Revenue



Foundations, Special Events & Individual Contributions	\$714,000
Community Building	\$455,000
Building	\$116,000
Endowment Income	\$73,000
Total Income	\$1,358,000

Expenses



Community Building	\$1,120,000
Management	\$100,000
Development & Events	\$116,000
Building	\$40,000
Total Expenses	\$1,346,000
	Net Income \$12,000

Balance Sheet

Assets

Endowment	\$2,732,769
Land, Building, and Equipment	\$1,997,138
Cash on Hand	\$317,592
Other Assets	\$39,069
Account Receivables	\$27,700
Total Assets	\$5,114,269

Liabilities & Equity

Retained Earnings	\$4,770,776
Long Term Liabilities	\$287,928
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$39,069
Net Income	\$12,567
Accounts Payable/Current Liabilities	\$3,928
Total Liabilities	\$5,114,269

To Do

Things to Learn, Do, Share, and Attend. A list of people, ideas, and challenges to get you started on activating your own community.

Attend

Pack your bags and head to the Toronto Summer Institute hosted annually by Inclusion Network.

abilities.ca/the-toronto-summer-institute/

The Principle of Social Role Valorization by attending a workshop at Starfire.

starfirecincy.org/event

Starfire's UNconference.

starfirecincy.org/event

Weekly Community Conversations held at Starfire and open to all.

starfirecincy.org/event

Join us at Starfire every Martin Luther King Jr. Day for a reading of *Waddie Welcome* and *The Beloved Community*.

waddiewelcome.com

Share

Check out this article on happiness and the importance of spending time with people.

Share using the hashtag #bettertogether
nytimes.com/2017/10/27/opinion/sunday/happiness-is-other-people.html

Starfire reached 95.8k views with our YouTube videos in 2017. Subscribe and share Starfire's Story Series, a themed approach to sharing lessons learned through storytelling, and share using the hashtag #starfirestories

youtube.com/user/StarfireCincy

Do

Chat with a neighbor and ask them what their talents interests, passions, skills ("TIPS") are. Be curious about the people around you. Check out more on this:

abundantcommunity.com

Search locally for groups, grassroots preferably, who are starting something good in their neighborhood. Ask how you can help. Partner with businesses or groups that naturally care about the same things you do on your next community project.

Plan a simple gathering. You can invite a lot of people or a few, just make sure it will have quick results...like a neighborhood beautification project. Then plan something social after. Food is always good.

Follow Ari Ne'eman's posts on Twitter.

[@aneeman](https://twitter.com/aneeman)

Follow John O'Brien on Twitter.

[@johnwobrien](https://twitter.com/johnwobrien)

Follow Starfire on Twitter and Instagram.

[@StarFireCincy](https://twitter.com/StarFireCincy)

Learn

Why hospitality is so important to building community. Read *The Gift of Hospitality* by Mary O'Connell.

cincibility.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/community-article-mcknight-snow.pdf

Get a better grasp on the issue of social isolation by reading *Untethered* by David Hsu, "A primer on social isolation for leaders and problem-solvers thirsty for change."

Dive deep into our world by learning about Asset Based Community Development and read *The Abundant Community* by John McKnight and Peter Block.

Read or listen to "Change Here Now" author Adam Brock on the approaches of social permaculture toward building better communities.

Study the *Neighborhood Playbook*, a field guide for activating spaces with the goal of spending time together and interacting socially while connecting with the natural environment.

neighborhoodplaybook.com

The documentary "Look & See" about the life and work of Wendell Berry.

lookandseefilm.com

Sign up for our newsletter and never miss an event, story, or eBook from Starfire.
starfirecincy.org

UNconference

The UNconference is an open source event that invites the community to teach and learn together. Join us Aug 9-11th with special guest, David Hsu



David Hsu, author of *Untethered* a primer on social isolation, will be in town for our UNconference held August 9th-11th. He will help us grow as a stronger more inclusive city. With your help we can build a compelling UNconference and a more connected Cincinnati.

Join Starfire as YOU help create the UNconference. This three day event will feature David Hsu from LA presenting on his book *Untethered*. Other features will be up to you to decide.

Things you don't want to miss:

Thursday night will be a covered dish supper starting at 6PM provided by attendees, and a blank calendar will be open for anyone to select a time and place to teach the topic of their choice. Everyone who attends will have a chance to put their idea for the UNconference on the schedule.

The possibilities are endless and will be created entirely by who is in the room that night.

Friday the UNconference will be hosted from 12-6PM. At 6PM, our keynote speaker David Hsu will present and we will have a crowdsourced spaghetti dinner.

Saturday the UNconference will continue from 12PM-6PM. There will be food trucks and celebrations in the parking lot. The celebration will be a time to share your stories with each other and to continue to add to art installations throughout the building.

“Inspired by the vision and leadership of @StarfireCincy. They are doing powerful work to build #socialconnection across Cincinnati and other cities should be taking notes!” –David Hsu, author of *Untethered*

Follow David Hsu @hsudavidt
readuntethered.com

Sustaining Connections

Our work to build an inclusive Cincinnati happens over many days spent together. It takes people who support our mission, *like you*, to bring more to our city. We need your help.

Our Impact:

97% of people with developmental disabilities we serve maintained connections over a period of 6 months.

Donate to Starfire's Sustaining Connections Fund and support long lasting roles and relationships for people with developmental disabilities.

Show your support by going to starfirecincy.org/donate



Becky

Green House volunteer (White Oak)

Becky has been gardening with Starfire's support since 2013. This year she landed a job at a green house, on top of her two weekly volunteer roles at gardens in the city. "I'm pretty much set." –Becky

Through this she has gotten to know people who have supported her and built relationships with her through work and a shared interest in gardening.

"Becky has grown so much on her path! She is the best asset to a team anyone could ever ask for! I'm so happy she is doing something she absolutely loves and is awesome at!"

–Michelle Breitburg, Starfire supporter and former co-worker of Becky's.

"Becky is such a skilled and dedicated worker—and an all-around incredible person."

–Katie Keller, long-time connection who met Becky through her volunteer work at Green Acres.

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/becky



Kachelle

Social Practice Art (Lower Price Hill)

Kachelle and Alicia have been friends for 2 years. The two met through their shared love of art and together have activated their neighborhood through projects that they call "social practice art." They aim to call to attention the challenges and gifts of their neighborhood while bringing other artists into their "Artist Collective" group to spend time making art together.

"I like to help people get together," said Kachelle. "And I like Starfire and working with Danyetta. I don't know what I'd do without this."

"I don't think Kachelle realizes how much she means to me," Alicia said, Community Engagement Coordinator from Community Matters. "I think she has a lot of power. I love seeing her every week. She lights up any time she comes and we're doing art together."

Watch the story: starfirecincy.org/kachelle

"What I've loved about Starfire is that they continue to push the envelope, moving to a totally inclusive model where each person becomes part of the fabric of the community as opposed to being part of an isolated group."
–Leslie Maloney, Senior Vice President of Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation



starfire
 5030 Oaklawn Dr
 Cincinnati, OH 45227

Let's connect

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

starfirecincy.org

We hope you have enjoyed reading *more*.

Please take a moment to answer the prompts on the back cover, cut them out, and mail them back to us!



starfire
 5030 Oaklawn Dr
 Cincinnati, OH 45227

Let's connect

Name: _____
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 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

starfirecincy.org

Let's connect

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

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starfire
 5030 Oaklawn Dr
 Cincinnati, OH 45227



Community Participation

Chat with a neighbor and ask them what their talents, interests, passions, skills ("TIPS") are. Send this back to us and tell us what your TIPS are!

Community Activation

Do you have an amazing dream or idea for your neighborhood? What would you do?

Family Leadership

How do you strengthen your family?

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