

# Cincinnati Children's Connects

A Newsletter for our Neighbors in AVONDALE

This is Cincinnati Children's quarterly newsletter to highlight our partnerships, upcoming events, opportunities and ways to get involved.

Issue 9, November 2019

## Vision Care, Right Here in Avondale

Since the August opening of the Pearle Vision eye care center in Avondale, business has been steady and is picking up week by week. As part of a collaboration with Cincinnati Children's, the eye care center offers eye exams.



Michael and Courtney Jones live in Clifton, their son Luke needed help with his eyesight and luckily for them the vision center was a short distance away. "Luke already gets services at Children's Hospital, so to be able to come here to get his eyes checked is very convenient," said Jones.

Tanisha Turney also stopped in for an appointment with her four children for exams and glasses. "This (center) benefits everyone in the neighborhood. You can get a referral from Children's to the eye doctor right here. This is an easy option," said Tanisha.



**Location:** Cincinnati Herald Building, 3440 Burnet Avenue  
**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm  
Most insurance plans accepted, including EyeMed and Spectera.

## The Critical Care Building: working in his own backyard



Simeon Finnell gives a whole new meaning to working from home. While most construction workers have to travel many miles to the job site, Simeon can get to work in less than 5 minutes. He lives on Fred Shuttlesworth Drive in Avondale, just a few blocks from where Cincinnati Children's new Critical Care Building is being constructed.

Simeon, at age 23 is working as a journeyman for Messer Construction. He is responsible for a variety of duties including, demolition, pouring concrete and finish work.

"It feels good to drive past the construction site. I show my friends and family what I've worked on. I have the top floor apartment, so when I'm at home I can actually see the cranes from my window. It's an awesome feeling," Simeon said.

The pride Simeon feels isn't just about the buildings he's helping to construct. The feeling extends to his own life that he says turned around when he learned about Easter Seals and attended their Youth Build and Building Value job training programs. "I was hanging with the wrong crowd and going down the wrong road. I decided I wanted more for myself and signed up," said Simeon. He trained for two years before landing a job with Messer Construction. "It's one of the best decisions I could have made," Simeon said.

Stanley Warrenhuffman of Easter Seals helps connect young men and women with career opportunities in construction. It's an industry he says is booming in the Uptown area.

"All the construction absolutely means more opportunity for young people. It's 100 percent intended to be just that. It's an

## Critical Care Building Beam Signing



Beyond beams, glass and concrete, the Critical Care Building represents the collaboration of hundreds of staff, patients and families and community partners to transform how families will experience care at Cincinnati Children's. That's why when the opportunity to sign a piece of the building—a 250lb steel beam—hundreds came out to be a part of history.

Life-long resident of North Avondale and Cincinnati Children's team member, Megan Harris was part of a special signing event on October 24 at Cincinnati Children's Welcome Center. Megan is member of Carmel Presbyterian Church in Avondale, where she is a ruling elder. For her, signing the beam is a chance to be part of the history of her community. "The medical center has come a long way since I was growing up, as has their commitment to caring for children and families in Avondale and the Greater Cincinnati community. Because of that, it was important to my daughter and me to sign our names to the beam."

opportunity not only to earn a paycheck and real-time experience, but also helps you to learn about yourself," said Warrenhuffman.

**For more information on construction training programs in the Uptown area, contact Stanley Warrenhuffman at 513-532-5165 or [swarrenhuffman@eastersealsgc.org](mailto:swarrenhuffman@eastersealsgc.org).**

## Critical Care Building: doing the math on economic inclusion

Leaders of Messer Construction and Cincinnati Children's say they are excited about *what* is being done in Avondale and also *how* it's being done—with a focus on increasing diverse hiring and supporting diverse businesses in Greater Cincinnati. As announced in a news conference on October 4, the Critical Care Building has:

- Surpassed diversity goals for on-the-job personnel with a total of 27 percent; our goal was 25 percent
- Spent 32 percent of the overall contracts with diverse businesses; our goal was 30 percent
- Hired 24 residents of the Uptown area for full-time careers; 12 additional participants have enrolled in and are on track to complete the workforce development program

Community leaders say the numbers are good news. "Diversity strengthens our innovative capacity, which will directly affect the potential to improve our community. It represents a clear path to GROWING Avondale, and all Cincinnati neighborhoods," said Russell Hairston, Avondale Development Corporation.

## Avondale voices and vision showcased in new video

Cincinnati Children's partnerships and investments come to life in a new video produced by Pierce Media. The video highlights community collaborations that are making an impact in the areas of housing, early childhood education, job training and internet expansion. Go to Cincinnati Children's YouTube channel and search for the "Avondale Partnership and Investment" video.

"We are very excited for the opportunity to work with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, with their reputation as a world-class medical and research facility and their top-notch talented staff of doctors and support staff. We welcome the association and credibility that it adds to our brand and look forward to a long-lasting partnership," said Tony Pierce.



Pierce Media is led by Tony Pierce along with videographer Jason Young (pictured). The diverse supplier specializes in corporate and online videos as well as social media.



**We want your ideas!**

Are there stories you would like to see in this newsletter? Please let us know! **Call 513-636-9327 or email [communityrelations@cchmc.org](mailto:communityrelations@cchmc.org)**

## Fifth annual First Ladies Family Health Day: Rockdale Academy, Rocks it

A "great success", is how organizers of First Ladies Family Health Day describe this year's event, held at 12 locations across Greater Cincinnati. The one-day health fair brought out more than 1,000 families on Sunday, October 13.

The host site in Avondale was Rockdale Academy. Site leaders say they saw a steady flow of families getting a variety of screenings and flu shots. The crowd included New Beginnings Pastor, Ennis Tate (pictured) and Cincinnati Children's President and CEO Michael Fisher.

"Many people received a flu shot for the first time," said Barbara Lynch, Co-chair and First Lady of New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Over 400 adults and 200 children received flu shots with Cincinnati Children's providing vaccines for kids and Kroger pharmacists providing for the adults.

In its fifth year, the event delivers health screenings and helpful information to churches and community centers across the

Greater Cincinnati area. In addition, Family Health Day brings together more than 30 health organizations to promote health and wellness in underserved communities—all at no charge.

One of the more popular screenings this year was the vascular ultrasound, which is able to help detect blockages in major arteries. Other screenings included blood pressure, blood glucose, prostate, HIV and body mass index.

"We have a great appreciation for those that support us each year. We could not be this successful without partners, like Children's Hospital, Kroger and UC Health," said Dena Cranley, First Ladies for Health co-chair and First Lady of Cincinnati.

