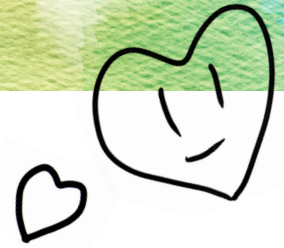


PUBLISHED SINCE 1963

# threshold



## The Magical World of MAZIE

Mazie is a young girl on a mission to get things done. Petite with short brown hair and sparkling green eyes, Mazie is sure of herself in a way that goes beyond her 10 years. Bright and witty, Mazie isn't afraid to ask questions when she is having an "I have no clue" moment. In fact, her curiosity only lends to her already infectious charm.

Even on days when her "brain will not tell" her "any reasons why," Mazie is eager and aware of how to calm herself by practicing the self-regulation skills she has learned at home and in partnership with her CITE Skill Assessment Specialist, Alicia Whitsett. Using coping strategies that stimulate the senses, Mazie is able to redirect, helping her to make appropriate choices.

"It is hard to calm myself down immediately," says Mazie. Self-aware, Mazie knows that even though it may not be easy, she has the tools she needs to do it, including an incredible support system that includes Alicia and Stephanie, Mazie's mom. Whenever Mazie needs some extra guidance, she can count on Alicia and Stephanie to remind her what she is capable of. "You know how to calm yourself down," says Alicia. Adds mom, "you handle it very well."

Once Mazie is settled, she starts to talk about her favorite things, which includes her two pet cats. "They are my babies," says Mazie. Thirsty for knowledge, Mazie bombards Alicia with questions ("What's compromise mean?") that Alicia answers easily and honestly as the two of them sit next to each other on the couch. Says Alicia, "Mazie knows what she needs and who she can ask. She asks questions so she can better understand things."



Mazie asking questions.

## In This Issue...

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF MAZIE .....	1-2
IN MEMORIAM .....	3
MEET LEATRICE SMITH .....	4-5
ENVISION EVENTS .....	6-7
PIGGEST RAFFLE EVER .....	8

## Donate:

Scan the QR code to donate or visit  
[envisionohio.org/donate](https://envisionohio.org/donate)

To donate by check, please make  
payable to Envision and mail to:

3030 West Fork Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45211





One of Mazie's designs.

"I make the designs, but it takes a while to make them."

– Mazie

Mazie proudly displaying one of her designs.



"She (Alicia) is teaching me how to work with Mazie so she can blossom out in the world."

– Stephanie,  
Mazie's mom



Alicia and Mazie engaged in a session.

Alicia goes on to talk about Mazie's gift for art and how it has led to a business idea. After seeing some of Mazie's drawings, Alicia encouraged Mazie to "dream and think about having a goal." After some thought, Mazie decided that she would like to put her art onto shirts that she can sell and her business "The Magical World of Mazie" was soon born.

Working with Alicia and her mom, they quickly put a plan into place, conceiving of ways to turn her dream into reality. And while Mazie knows that it will be fun, she also knows it will also take hard work to make her dreams come true. Says Mazie, "I make the designs, but it takes a while to make them."

In addition to helping her become a young entrepreneur, Mazie's love of art has also helped her to ground herself. "Drawing is a really effective coping strategy for her," says Alicia. "Not only is this new business a good opportunity for Mazie, but it is also another tool for helping her learn how to problem solve. Mazie has learned how to be kind and self-sufficient, and her new business is just another way for her to demonstrate that."

Overall, it is clear that Mazie has a bright future ahead of her. With a brain that "works in a beautiful way," Alicia knows that Mazie is "capable of so much." And working with Envision has served to create even more possibilities, not only for Mazie, but her family as well. Says mom Stephanie, "working with Envision has been really amazing. It has been a game changer. She (Alicia) is teaching me how to work with Mazie so she can blossom out in the world. It gives me hope that she'll be fine when she's an adult. That kid is going places!"

# IN MEMORIAM



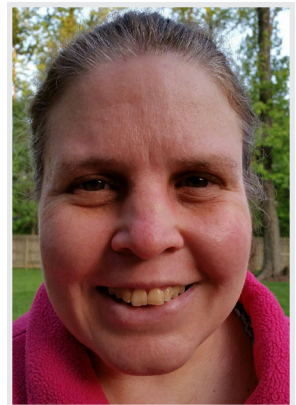
## Stuart Warshauer

In April of 2023, Envision mourned the loss of Stuart Warshauer, one of our founding members and former president of The Resident Home (currently Envision).

Stu was a tireless advocate for people with developmental disabilities and spent many years serving people in Cincinnati. His contributions to the developmental disabilities community here will always be remembered with fondness and care.

Stu's selflessness and commitment to disabilities advocacy never wavered, shown not only in his commitment to advocating for disabilities rights, but also in his bequeathment of a generous donation to Envision that will ensure the important work he started here will live on.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of his passing, we honor Stu and thank him not only for his generosity, but for the difference he made in the lives of others. He will forever be an important part of the Envision story.



## Jennifer Will

In May of 2023, Envision also said goodbye to Jennifer Will, a longtime resident of Bayberry, an Envision group home. Jenny was full of life and was always outspoken. She loved clothing, shopping, and perhaps most of all, shoes!

Jenny first came to Envision (known then as The Resident Home), in 1976 at the age of 6, where she participated in the campus school training program during the week. In 1990, she moved into the Conlan Group Home on Erie Avenue, and later moved to Envision's Bayberry location.

Jenny is deeply missed by Envision staff, including multiple generations of care partners. Her presence and light will be remembered fondly at Envision for many years to come.



“There is good communication, and my supervisor is hands on. It’s just good to work here.”

– Leatrice Smith

Leatrice and Antonio.

## Meet Leatrice Smith.

Leatrice is a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at Envision. Leatrice’s career as a DSP started when she began working with a person with complex medical needs. In order to meet the needs of the person she supported, Leatrice was required to attend Gastrostomy (G-tube) training to make sure she could safely administer medicine and proper nutrition. It was during this experience that Leatrice realized she really “enjoyed” the work, sparking a career that would lead her to Envision.

Today, Leatrice works with two people who partner with Envision through a variety of services, including our Supported Living Program, and Envision Day, Envision’s day program for adults with developmental disabilities. Leatrice spends time Monday through Friday supporting and guiding Antonio, who is 52 and Roz, 53, both of whom have been engaged in services with Envision for many years.

Leatrice is an advocate for Antonio and Roz, making sure that they always have what they need. “I don’t care if I have to stay late or come early,” says Leatrice. “I make sure that I work on the holidays, so they have what they need. We do everything together.”



Leatrice and Roz.

**"She [Leatrice] is a wonderful reminder to me that the main scope of our work here at Envision is to enrich people's lives."**

**– Jodi Creighton,**  
Family Supports Supervisor

Leatrice knows that being present for Antonio and Roz gives them both "a sense of stability" and the security that comes with knowing you have someone in your life you can count on. And count on Leatrice they can – she has been their DSP for eight of the 15 years she has been at Envision. Together, they engage in a variety of activities, including visiting the library, traveling, and cooking meals.

Most recently, Leatrice created an opportunity for Antonio and Roz to cook dinner together. With Leatrice's support, Antonio and Roz cooked an Italian feast that included their favorite food: spaghetti. And although the food was delicious, the company was even better. "They love each other," says Leatrice. "They eat together, cook a meal together and they feel secure when they're with each other." When they are together, they "have somebody to relate to."

Although spending time with Antonio and Roz is at the heart of her role with Envision, Leatrice also appreciates the agency as a whole. Says Leatrice, "I love my job based on the things I do with the individuals and the supervision. There is good communication, and my supervisor is hands on. It's just good to work here."

Jodi Creighton, Family Supports Supervisor shares, "Leatrice holds many titles to the individuals supported: educator, chef, secretary, hair stylist, barber, first aid administrator, taxi driver, music therapist, dietician, and job coach. Leatrice is a hard worker, outgoing, loves to help people, and always gets the job done meeting high standards. She is a wonderful reminder to me that the main scope of our work here at Envision is to enrich people's lives".

# Envision Events

**Now – May 4**

**The Piggest Raffle Ever**

**July 7**

**Abilities at Bat**

**September 28**

**Envision's Go the Extra Mile Walk –  
presented by USI**

**November 7**

**Drink for a Cause tap night**

Check the events tab on our website. More to be added soon!



2023 Go the Extra Mile Walk.



Enjoying the therapy mini horses at the Walk.

## 2023 Go the Extra Mile Walk Recap

Saturday, September 30 2023 was the 4th annual Go the Extra Mile Walk – and it was a great day!

Participants enjoyed wonderful weather, games, activities, raffles, music, vendors, inflatables, lunch by Outback Steakhouse, and a visit from mini therapy horses. It was a great time to catch up with friends and make some new ones.

Most importantly, the 2023 walk raised over \$40,000 to help fund support services for kids and adults in 2024.

A huge thank you to our sponsors, vendors, and all the participants who helped fundraise. Individuals and families in our community are benefitting from your support!

**SAVE  
— THE —  
DATE**



## The Piggest Raffle Ever

**Now – May 4**

Select Envision as your charity of choice, purchase raffle tickets for \$5 each, and the you could win up to \$10,000! Envision receives a donation of the full \$5 from every ticket sold.

Visit [piggestraffleever.com](http://piggestraffleever.com) to adopt your pigs today!



## Abilities at Bat

**Sunday, July 7**

Join us for Abilities at Bat on Sunday, July 7th with the Cincinnati Reds.

Abilities at Bat is designed to raise awareness and celebrate people of all abilities, and the organizations that support them. This year's game will feature several fun new additions - including new giveaways and a parade on the field that you can be a part of!

See the events tab on our website for more details and for a link to ticket sales starting soon: [envisionohio.org/events](http://envisionohio.org/events)



## 2024 Go the Extra Mile Walk

**Saturday, September 28, 2024**

Don't forget to Save the Date for the 2024 Go the Extra Mile Walk – Presented by USI! This year's walk will be Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10-1 at Winton Woods. We will have all the great features that you have come to expect from our fall walk, and are working on some fun new additions.

Registration opens in July, and we are currently signing on sponsors and collecting raffle items. If you know a company that could partner with Envision in the 2024 year, or donate to the raffle, please contact Krista at [kh@envisionohio.org](mailto:kh@envisionohio.org). Every walk gets bigger and better, and we are expecting the best one yet!

3030 West Fork Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45211

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Susan Pahner**  
Board Chair

**Scott Nekolny**  
Vice Chair

**Chris Bohn**  
Treasurer

**Rebecca Hemsink**  
Secretary

**Alen Amini**

**Amy Auberger**

**Juan Cortes**

**Amanda Frietsch**

**Tracy Hemsink**

**Michael Kelley**

**Mandy Moorman**

**La Donna Morales**

**Matt Spinelli**

**Ann Stowe**

**Steve Zitelli**

**Jim Steffey**  
President & CEO

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CINCINNATI, OH  
PERMIT #5998

## Adopt a Pig. Support Envision.

**Buy your tickets to The Piggest Raffle Ever!**  
**You could win \$5000 cash!**

Select Envision as your charity of choice, purchase raffle tickets for \$5 each, and the you could win up to \$10,000! Envision receives a donation of the full \$5 from every ticket sold.

**Grand Prize: \$10,000 cash**

(\$5000 for you and \$5000 for Envision)

**Second Prize: \$5,000 cash**

(\$2,500 for you and \$2,500 for Envision)

**Third Prize: Cincinnati Get-Away Experience**

(\$1,500 in Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. vouchers)

Winners will be drawn by Flying Pig officials on May 4th, 2024.  
Need not be present to win.

**ADOPT YOUR PIGS TODAY!**

Scan the QR code or visit [piggestraffleevery.com](http://piggestraffleevery.com)



presented by:

**Stock  
Yards®**  
Bank & Trust  
SINCE 1904

