





clifford  
beers

MOVING FORWARD

## IMPACT

Within the first two years, Marne Street Clinic has developed an integrated care model that serves individuals with various needs, secured six new clinicians to meet the demand, and expanded into Applied Behavior Analysis\* services to help individuals in their homes.

# A Man on a Mission: David Berkowitz



David Berkowitz (left) with his two children and wife Anne (right).

David Berkowitz's family has a long history of giving. Years ago, this family of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe established their name in the paper industry. They put their vision of a family working together to support important work by creating the *Helen and William Mazer Foundation*. The foundation supports improving human health and wellness.

"We support approaches benefiting children, their families, and the community at large," says David.

Through the *Helen and William Mazer Foundation*, David's philanthropic efforts include investing in urban parks, planting trees, activating green spaces, and facilitating cycling as a viable means of urban transportation.

"Healthy cities mean healthy people," says David. When David learned about Clifford Beers back in 2014, he was intrigued by the unique approach to mental health care and support.

"Supporting Clifford Beers in the quest to improve community mental health is a concrete way to improve the quality of life for New Haven residents," says David.

**"Where can I invest in improving the quality of life in this city?"**

- David Berkowitz

"Clifford Beers doesn't offer your traditional one-on-one mental health therapy; services are in clinics, schools, and homes and offered in a variety of ways."

David agrees that when children and families need mental health care, they need it right away, in an easy to access environment. Families also need and deserve culturally competent care.

"Organizations like Clifford Beers work in response to expressed community need, and I wanted to support that approach," says David. "I always ask myself, *where can I invest in improving the quality of life in this city?*"

Thank you David, for your kind words, your passion, and your commitment to our community. We cannot do what we do without people like YOU!

## What's Happening at Mid-Fairfield?

In a past newsletter, we announced that Clifford Beers and the Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County (Mid-Fairfield) joined forces to expand community access to high-quality, affordable, behavioral health services. We also told you we would let you know of some of the great work being done down at their end of the state!

- Mid-Fairfield was the 2019 Fairfield County 5K Corporate FunRun Charity Partner. Staff and board chair **Ricci Cummings** joined 1000+ runners to raise money for children's mental health.
- In partnership with Weston-based *Play Ball for All*, Mid-Fairfield recently hosted 25+ children and families for their annual summer baseball clinic and barbecue at the Moorehouse Field in Weston.
- Mid-Fairfield was awarded a \$5,000 grant from First County Bank Foundation. This grant will be used to preserve and enhance community access to services offered within its outpatient children's services.

You can learn more about Mid-Fairfield by visiting their website: [www.childguidancemfct.org](http://www.childguidancemfct.org).



**Meet Gail.**  
Gail Melanson, PhD is the Executive Director. Gail is always a team player when it comes to the community. She has what it takes to get the job done!



**Meet Marissa.**  
Marissa Mangone is the Director of Business Development. She is responsible for fundraising, grants and communication efforts for Mid-Fairfield. You are amazing Marissa!



**That's Segundo.**  
Segundo Ruiz is the Director of Facilities & Admin. Segundo is the MAN to know about everything and anything. He is super helpful and always willing to go the distance.



## Meet Micah: MSC is his one-stop-shop!

Your beautiful little boy recently turned two years old, and you expect him to start saying words like “mama” or “dada.” Another year goes by, and you don’t hear any developed words. You are concerned. You visit the doctor, and they send you to a specialist who diagnoses your son with autism.

The diagnosis can be intimidating, and parents are sometimes unsure of where to turn for help or what to do.

However, because of YOU Marne Street Clinic (MSC) continues to expand exponentially and serve individuals with autism/ intellectual and developmental disabilities, including this little guy, **Micah** (pictured right).

Micah’s mom first heard about MSC during the grand opening back in 2017. “My son’s grandmother gave me a copy of the announcement in the newspaper.

We had nothing to lose, considering I had tried every possible service in the community. I decided to make an appointment, and it was the best decision I ever made,” says Mom.

Micah started with outpatient therapy once a week. Mom explains it was hard at first because Micah was nonverbal, still in diapers, and the sessions did not quite fit their schedule. Nevertheless, they kept going.

As MSC started adding services, Micah and his mom took full advantage of all that MSC had to offer. Micah has utilized the nutritionist, pediatrician and now in-home therapy called Applied Behavior Analysis.\*

“It truly is a one-stop-shop for Micah and me!” says Mom. “While my son has a “regular” pediatrician, she is not well-versed in autism. When we had concerns such as stimming or behavioral challenges, it was great to confer with someone more familiar with this behavior.”



**Micah and his mom are matching quite nicely in this picture. #TeamMicah**

With YOUR generosity, even collaboration is possible with Micah’s MSC team and his outside speech pathologist! “The collaboration with the speech pathologist is fantastic and super helpful,” says **Eileen Rosario**, MSC care navigator.

**“MSC is truly a one-stop-shop for Micah and me!”**

- Mom

Micah has shown significant improvement by being able to say his name, ask for his clinicians, and respond “yes” and “no.” To top it all off he now sings “Let It Go” from his favorite movie “Frozen”! Your kindness and compassion have made that possible.

Micah’s mom says, “We still have our struggles, but he’s come a long way, and I am forever hopeful for what my little Micah will learn next.”

\*Applied Behavior Analysis is a technique based on the principles of learning to change behavior.

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## Create Your Legacy Today!

A simple, life-affirming gift through your will or estate will set a lifetime course of health and wellness for a child and their family.

Your decisions now can change a life. Become a legacy donor.

Contact: Jennifer Cretella  
(203) 777-8648 x.2208 or  
[jcretella@cliffordbeers.org](mailto:jcretella@cliffordbeers.org)



Alice shares with you a great photo of her support system, her kids!

Hello, Friends --

WOW! Can you believe that Marne Street Clinic has been open for almost two years?! And, let's talk about how it has been one whole year since Clifford Beers and Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County joined forces. Time flies!

This newsletter has magnificent stories on expansion, continued support, and family. Make sure to read about **Micah**, a little guy with a mom who makes sure her son never misses an appointment. You can also read about **David Berkowitz**, a man who continues his family legacy and shares his passion everywhere he goes.

As you know, YOUR support makes it possible for Clifford Beers to expand in innovative and effective ways that genuinely benefit children and their families.

I can think of so many great examples of what you've done to allow expansion. It's exciting to see how your kindness can reach so many individuals every day. Thank you.

I wish you a happy, healthy and fun-filled summer!

Warmly,

# SAVE THE DATE!



GREATER NEW HAVEN 5K  
**CORPORATE FUN RUN**  
**Sept. 10, 2019**

- Benefits Clifford Beers
- Jimmie's of Savin Rock, 5 Rock Street, West Haven, CT
- 5:00PM: registration/packet pick-up
- 6:30PM: 5k start run/walk
- [www.corporatefunrun.com](http://www.corporatefunrun.com) > events > new haven 5k

## Let's Get Packing!



Help collect school supplies for the annual Clifford Beers backpack drive. Children in our care will receive backpacks and supplies.

You can:

- Collect and donate school supplies
- Host a school supplies drive
- Volunteer to pack backpacks

Drop off location:  
5 Science Park, 2nd Floor  
New Haven, CT 06511.

**Collection will take place from  
July 10 to August 12.**

Questions? Jennifer Cretella  
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[jcretella@cliffordbeers.org](mailto:jcretella@cliffordbeers.org)



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