

Bellefaire JCB

Behavioral Health Respite Expansion in Northeast Ohio



“Tina is a 10-year-old youth who has only recently started participating in BH Respite programming, following her caretaker’s prolonged illness that saw her intake delayed by approximately 2 months. Tina was referred for respite services to provide a break for the family, to provide positive, structured involvement in the community, and safe time away from her home environment.

Tina experiences bullying at school, has difficulty self-regulating, and exhibits physical and verbal aggression in day-to-day interactions. In her short time in Bellefaire’s respite program, she has jumped right in, she is having positive interaction with her peers, has started conversations with peers about common struggles and coping mechanisms, is observed with a joyful demeanor, is engaged in all activities, and appears poised to thrive in this environment.

These types of behaviors, interactions, positive functioning can be hard to quantify but are demonstrative of the power of respite services both for families who need a break and youth who are experiencing difficulty in daily life – a place to come to separate from those things, to create their own safe spaces for peer supports and connections, and to prove to themselves and others that their difficulties do not define them and do not need to limit them.”

– Bellefaire JCB Respite Team