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SPRING / SUMMER
2026

NEW LEAF CENTER

CLINIC FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

CONNECTIONS

Board of Directors

Atlee Raber, Berlin

Brian Kempf, Dalton

Gary Yoder, Dundee

James J. Miller, Sugarcreek

Jason Miller, Millersburg

Jerry Yoder, Apple Creek

Margaret McBride, Oberlin

Matt Troyer, Berlin

Bishop Advisory and Medical Advisory Committees also provide oversight.

Dear Friends of New Leaf Center,

We want to share an important update regarding the leadership of New Leaf Center.

Dr. Olivia Wenger will be stepping down from her role as Medical Director and leaving the clinic. Since the founding of New Leaf Center, Dr. Wenger has played a vital role in shaping the clinic and serving children and families in our community with exceptional care and compassion. We are deeply grateful for her leadership, her vision, and the lasting impact she has made.

This transition follows a period of thoughtful discussion, prayer, and planning to best support the long-term needs of the clinic and the families we serve. Dr. Wenger's final day seeing patients in the clinic will be June 30. We are working closely together to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. Beginning July 1, Dr. Scott will serve as Interim Medical Director, providing continuity in both care and leadership as we thoughtfully plan for the next season of the clinic.

New Leaf Center remains firmly committed to its mission of providing high-quality, compassionate care to children and families. Our team continues to serve with the same dedication and purpose that has defined the clinic since its beginning. We are sincerely grateful for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers. Your partnership has made it possible for New Leaf Center to serve families in a meaningful way, and we are thankful for the role you play in sustaining this mission.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors

Thank you to every New Leaf family, patient, and supporter.
Thank you, Dr. Scott, for your heart of service.
I will miss the view through my office window at New Leaf Center.
I will miss seeing the countless ways New Leaf staff advocate for patients each day.
You've each taught me so much about genuine, sacrificial love.
While I'm looking forward to a respite from leadership, I know I will miss being your children's doctor very much.
I hope I can come back to New Leaf some day.

- Olivia Wenger, Medical Director

Since the beginning of New Leaf Center, Dr. Olivia Wenger has been an important part of the work here. She has cared for many children and families with kindness, patience, and skill.

Many of you have sat with her in the clinic, talked through concerns, and trusted her with your children's care. Those moments have meant a great deal to the families she has served.

Dr. Wenger has also helped build New Leaf into what it is today—a place where families are cared for and supported. Her work has made a lasting difference in this community. We are thankful for the gifts God has given her and for how she has used them to serve others. We are grateful for her years of work and care at New Leaf.

- Karla Hershberger, Executive Director

Annual Fundraiser Dinner

Community, collaboration, and care are the words that come to my mind when I think of the New Leaf Center annual fundraiser dinner.

Looking across the audience and seeing many familiar faces along with a few new faces was such a blessing. We welcomed families, bishops, church contact couples, friends, and colleagues.

It was a time of gathering together for a common purpose - the care of our special children and adults. For those whose families have been impacted by inherited genetic conditions, having a place dedicated to the care of our loved ones means more than some will ever know.

This work would not be possible without the caring support of the community. Purposeful work does not just happen, rather it is curated with thoughtful care, collaborative teams, and a community sense of belonging. New Leaf strives to be a place where complex medical care is provided with quality, compassion, and cultural sensitivity.

We were honored to have Dr. Emma Baple from Exeter, England as our featured speaker at the dinner. Her story of how she struggled with a medical condition as a teenager spoke to how she was inspired to dedicate her life's work to becoming a medical doctor who does research and identifies rare genetic conditions. Her work through the Windows of Hope project has impacted many lives around the world, including here in Amish Country, Ohio. New Leaf Center has been blessed with the collaboration she and her colleagues have provided for our team and patient population here.

The evening included a few auction items. We are grateful for the individuals who donated and purchased items. It was a fun addition to the evening!

- *Karla Hershberger,* Executive Director

Special Speaker *Emma Baple*, Exeter, England

Auction Items crafted by *Wayne & Kris Fleck*

Midwive's Meeting

A midwives meeting was held at the New Leaf Center Community Room on Friday, May 1st.

This was a meaningful day of collaboration and learning together with our team at New Leaf, area midwives, and the Akron Children's Hospital simulation team. The day focused on newborn resuscitation skills and each midwife in attendance was gifted a resuscitation kit.

Annual Bishop Advisory and Church Contact Meeting

In early spring, the annual gathering of the bishop advisory committee, church contacts, and board members was hosted at the New Leaf Center Community Room. It was a meaningful evening together sharing about the work of the clinic. The ten Amish Bishops who serve on the committee provide valuable support. The thirty-six couples serving as church contacts represent New Leaf to the Amish churches and have a major impact on the funding received from the churches. Among the information shared that evening were messages from several staff members reflecting on what makes their work at New Leaf meaningful. Their messages, shared below, offer a look into the dedication and purpose that guide their work each day.

My work at New Leaf Center is meaningful when I recognize that a family trusts the staff with the care of their child or children.

When the relationship between the parents and the staff or providers at New Leaf is open to allowing trust to be built, we witness and acknowledge better outcomes for the health of our special children. It is meaningful to know that, for many families, New Leaf Center is a place where parents feel comfortable bringing their children.

It is purposeful that parents use the clinic as a valuable resource in the community for those who rely on us for visits when their child is not feeling well, is not eating well, or is having increased seizure activity. It is heartwarming to know that parents view the clinic as a place where they feel welcome, heard, and respected.

- Jennifer Hershberger, Patient Services Coordinator

My work at New Leaf Center is meaningful when I feel that we have offered hope. I attempt to give direction and encouragement to families who are confused, concerned, stressed, and often frightened when they receive an abnormal newborn screen, when their child is not developing appropriately, or when they have a medical concern.

I have the opportunity to welcome them and show them compassion as I speak to them over the phone or check them in for their first clinic visit.

I introduce them to the staff members who are available to assist them with whatever needs may arise.

Often, their faces show less stress and maybe even a smile as they leave the office after the visit. This gives me joy and a reason to return to the clinic each day.

- Janice Rufener, Front Desk Manager

New Leaf Center

CLINIC FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

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Web: www.newleafclinic.org

Office Hours: M-F, 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
After Hours Phone: (330)263-8500

Our Mission

New Leaf Center strives to improve quality of life for people with special needs caused by inherited disorders through cost-effective medical care, education, research, and advocacy.

Holiday Hours

Observance of Independence Day
Friday, July 3 - *Closed*
Labor Day
Monday, September 7 - *Closed*

Important Patient Notices

Please note that preparing medication refills may take some time. It is best to allow at least 24 hours' notice for refill requests to be processed and sent to the pharmacy.

Recently, some patients have arrived at the clinic without an appointment. To help us give you the best care and allow our staff to prepare for your visit, we kindly ask that you contact the clinic in advance to schedule an appointment before arriving.

Team Members

Karla Hershberger, MSN, MBA, RN, CPN
Executive Director
Olivia Wenger, MD
Medical Director
Ethan Scott, MD
Pediatrician
Brandi Haston, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Nurse Manager
Amy Ixos, BSN, RN
Clinic Nurse
Angela Zuercher, BSN, RN
Clinic Nurse
Janice Rufener, RN
Front Desk Manager
Rose Lehman
Front Desk Assistant
Jennifer Hershberger
Patient Services Coordinator
Sally Phillips, RD
Registered Dietitian
Valerie Schaffter
Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper
Joy Kern
Custodian/Grounds Care

New Leaf Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit clinic. We depend on the assistance from businesses, churches, hospitals, and friends in the community.