

PHriends Member Spotlight – Sarah Ezzie Haines

Sarah has been a member of the Providence House Associate Board (“PHAB”) since 2019.

Sarah was born and raised in Cleveland. She grew up in Bay Village, went to John Carroll University, and has lived on the east side since. Sarah currently lives in Shaker Heights with her children Isaiah, Aaliyah, and Grace, her husband, Darin, and puppy, Milo.



What do you do for work?

I am the senior wellness manager for SITE Centers based out of Beachwood and have been there since 2009. I manage the wellness center and all wellness programming via Human Resources. I am a personal trainer and yoga instructor and enjoy teaching yoga to everyone from beginners to athletes, as well as taking classes at Cleveland Yoga.

What are you doing when you aren't working or volunteering?

I love gardening and tend to go a little crazy with pots in the summer. I planted a perennial garden at my home in 2016 and it's filling in nicely. It keeps me from adding more :) I am a diehard CAVS fan and Anderson Vaerjao has always been my favorite, so it was quite the treat to see him surprisingly return this season! I enjoy outdoor stair climbing and running and hit the trails of Cuyahoga Valley National Park more often due to gym and studio closures during COVID-19. I don't like wearing headphones and enjoy taking nature in! I prefer to be outdoors whenever I can. I have a side photography business which brings me so much joy! Considering my son Isaiah was a senior this year, I was busy with senior portrait shoots. I never thought I'd get into senior photos as much as I have, but I love it.

There are so many great nonprofits in Cleveland. How did you choose Providence House?

I was a single mom for many years and was left in a crisis situation. Thankfully, I had supportive neighbors, family and friends that stepped up to help me. It certainly takes a village; I don't take their love and support for granted. I recall neighbors taking my children for holiday breaks during the day so I could work. I don't know how I would have done it without their help. Serving the mission of Providence House Crisis Nursery is my way of giving back. I admire Providence House so much and can feel a sense of relief for these families. The fact that their main mission is to keep families together and strengthen their chances by providing resources makes it that much more meaningful. I can't think of a better organization to donate my time and abilities to.

I came across Providence House when my employer brought a volunteer opportunity to us. After we sorted clothes donations, Kayla Webb gave us a tour and I just knew I had to be involved more. I was worried that I might be too busy with the kid's activities to join, but I've made an impact when and where I can. I am so grateful to be a part of spreading the mission of Providence House.

Favorite thing about / memory from PHAB so far?

I've enjoyed raffling photo shoots, doing yoga events to benefit PH and absolutely adore the PHriends Associate Board members and PH staff. I've become particularly close with Katie Eurich and we plan to tag team on a sunrise yoga event to benefit Providence House on her birthday in July! Furthermore, I call myself the "grandma" of the group and have no problem accessing the relationships I've built over the years to help us plan pARTy With PHriends. I'm so grateful to my friends for donating their time, talents and goods to raise money and awareness for PH.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering, but is hesitant because of time-commitment or they are unsure what to expect?

For anyone that is looking to give back to the community, I can't think of a better way than to join PHriends. The group is unbelievably fun, and the energy is supportive and quite frankly not stiff. Let's face it, if you're going to choose where to spend your precious time - it's best to spend it where you will feel uplifted and happy. The group can always use more young professionals looking to make a difference in the lives of these families who need us now.