**OUR STORY – EXPANDING THE VISION**

Brightway's leadership team forged ahead to make Kara's vision a reality. Brightway Center sits on 177 acres in rural Rayland, Ohio, so the first priority was to get the property ready. Renovations began in 2009 with the Bright family home and finished in 2012 with the state-of-the-art activity center. Youth programming at Brightway began a year later. That same year the community sent out a cry for help in response to a crisis and Brightway responded by developing training focused on teen ethical standards. In 2013 we began presenting in-school character education training to… **READ MORE**

the districts of Jefferson County, Ohio. The response was overwhelming and when the state offered funding for youth organizations partnering with schools, we were ready. As a grant recipient, we expanded our course offerings and hundreds of 7th -12th graders throughout the county came to Brightway for training on leadership, conflict resolution, dealing with adversity and more and we officially launched our mentor program. Five years later many of the same students are still participating in the mentor program. In 2018 we introduced online life skills courses through the Jefferson County Virtual Learning Academy (VLA). Today students can attend programs at Brightway, in school as well as online. Each year thousands of students participate in our programs and that number continues to grow.