

WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES





FAITH IN OUR FUTURE



The **IMPACT** | FALL 2019 | VOL. 34 | NO. 2

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OUR MISSION

Wedgwood Christian Services extends God's love to youth, adults, and families through professional counseling and educational services.



INTEGRITY | COMPASSION | EXCELLENCE | DIVERSITY





for Wedgwood's current Capital Campaign, does not feel that way. And that is just the point. thoughtfully designed to enhance wellness, Confidence is a feeling. Assurance is a feeling. nutrition, occupational therapy, counseling space, Feelings we cannot adequately control. Faith is

technological efficiencies, and therapeutic living space. There is good reason for this title redundancy. We seek to ground Wedgwood's future with both spiritual and financial security.



Faith In Our Future comes from

faith in our past, sixty years worth of lessons learned from doing the right things for the right reasons and anticipating that the Almighty will continue to reward faithfulness with faithfulness. I suppose some might view that as a wishful, superstitious worldview. We view it as a covenant, an acknowledgment that the Almighty is both powerful and good. And, it is an expectation that various threats cannot thwart the ultimate goodness of God. If this is not the case, there really is no reason for promoting justice, for showing mercy, for acknowledging the existence

of good or the source of goodness.

better described as a verb and not a noun, an action and not a feeling. Faith is trust, obedience to a calling, continuance in doing right.

Wedgwood will continue to faithfully do the right things for the right reasons. Wedgwood staff

will continue to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Wedgwood will continue to harness the resources of faithful partners to assure futuristic operation from a position of financial security and sound strategy. We feel that every one of our clients is a child who is irresistible to God. We thank you for your Faith In Our Future!



Randy Zylstra | President/CEO | RZYLSTRA@WEDGWOOD.ORG

WITH WEDGWOOD BOARD MEMBERS





Executive Board of Directors

IOHN DYKSTRA Wedawood Foundation Board

How and when did you get connected to Wedgwood?

Andrew Norden: A few years ago I was invited to a breakfast on campus by current Board Member, Matt McGowan.

Jennifer Greenop: I became acquainted with Wedgwood about 7 years ago when a co-worker made me aware of the organization and its mission and asked me to consider getting involved.

John Dkystra: About 6 years ago, a coworker was on the board and told me about Wedgwood beginning a NextGen board and that was the first I was made aware of the organization.



Jennifer Greenop at Wedgwood's Board Social

How do you describe Wedgwood to friends?



Andrew Norden making encouragement cards for kids in our care at a NextGen meeting

AN: Wedgwood is a fierce advocate for children and families, always willing to step into difficult situations with grace and perseverance.

JG: I describe Wedgwood as the premier organization in our state for helping children and their families at some of the most difficult times in their lives. They provide care for the children where they are in their journey and do so with a distinctively Christian focus. Wedgwood is well-known in our community for its residential services, but many people are surprised to hear how vast the different programs are and the many different ways in which Wedgwood helps support children and their families.

Why We Support Wedgwood

"When I think of Wedgwood Christian Services, I think of an organization that surrounds our community's hurting youth with God's love. With the wonderful programs that are offered, Wedgwood continues to make a difference in the lives of the surrounding community."



D: I describe it as a Christian-based, ever-evolving organization that serves and treats children and adults in our community. The heart of Wedgwood is to help as many people as possible, so they are always looking at how they can make the biggest impact with their resources.

What has become clear to you about Wedgwood during your time on the board?

AN: Wedgwood is the best organization I am aware of at identifying challenges within the community and taking action to meet those needs. It has become clear to me that Wedgwood is intentionally agile in order to best serve the community in a number of unique ways, and that this is only possible because of the passionate and dedicated staff.

JG: It has become clear to me that the need for the services Wedgwood provides has never been greater. There is suffering all around within our own community and our surrounding area. Unfortunately Wedgwood will always be needed to support and heal children. Thankfully, Wedgwood is here to support the children both professionally and spiritually. It is also clear that the support of the community for Wedgwood is tremendous and critical to the mission of the organization. We are blessed to have so many supporters around us and engaged with our mission.

JD: The facility and staff are what makes Wedgwood great. Their heart for the people that Wedgwood serves is what sets Wedgwood apart from other treatment facilities.

How has your relationship with Wedgwood impacted your faith?

AN: The default position of my faith is too often academic. Wedgwood provides a consistent witness to the power of leading with love and faithful action that challenges me to do the same; See a need and respond.

JG: Coming to know Wedgwood and hearing the stories of success in the children served has been a blessing to me over the years. Each of the stories is challenging and you see how God brings these children to Wedgwood to put them in the right place and with the right people to heal them, including spiritually. It deepens and refreshes my faith and brings great perspective to me as I navigate my own world and challenge where I can do more of what my faith is calling me to do.

JD: My service at Wedgwood has opened my eyes to the people



right here in Grand Rapids that need to know God's love for John Dykstra is a thumb war champion at Lunch Buddies them. This requires more than just a gift of money. It requires you to slow down and spend some time with them to allow God to use you even if you don't know what to say or how to say it. For me, this has

grown my faith that God can use you even if you have no idea how or where to begin.

Why We Support Wedgwood

"Rockford is proud to support Wedgwood Christian Service's mission of strengthening communities through fearless leadership and thoughtful action. Leading with inclusion, compassion and excellence, Wedgwood builds foundations of support and care that equip those they serve to reach their highest potential as individuals and members of their communities. At Rockford, we believe that these values of hope and transformation make the difference between a place and a place with soul.



- Mike Van Gessel, Founder & CEO of Rockford Construction Vicky Ludema www.wedgwood.org



Retirement accounts, like IRA accounts, are an excellent way to have an impact on Wedgwood now, and in the future. Amounts rolled over from your IRA, also called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) can reduce your taxable income and save on income taxes. You must be 701/2 or older at the date you make the gift or rollover, and they can only be made from an IRA. Please consider this year-end strategy.



Gifts in Memory are placed in the Wedgwood Living Memorial Fund which is a part of the Wedgwood Foundation. This Living Memorial Fund is a permanent fund, and the earnings are used for the care of the children and teens at Wedgwood. These gifts help make it possible for Wedgwood to provide for young people for many years to come.

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GIFTS RECEIVED 4/1/19-9/18/19

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES RECEIVE FIXED PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

With the uncertainty in today's stock market, many are looking for a more stable and certain source of annual income. A charitable gift annuity purchased through Wedgwood can provide some stability to your income. In exchange for your gift of cash or stock, Wedgwood makes regular fixed payments to you for life.

Some national statistics show the average age of annuitants is 75 years with women constituting 57% of gift recipients. Gift annuities can be purchased for a single life or two lives. Currently 70% of annuities are for the life of one person, and 30% for two lives. The rates used by Wedgwood for charitable gift annuities are those recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

Below are some current rates, effective July 1, 2018:

SINGLE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
70	5.6%	70	5.2%
75	6.2%	75	5.5%
80	7.3%	80	6.2%
85	8.3%	85	7.3%
90	9.5%	90	9.1%

These numbers assume both annuitants are the same age. Tables for age differences are available. 🥇





For further information or questions, please give me a call or email me.

Gary Raterink | Planned Giving Officer GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG | (616) 831-5623

For more information: advancement@wedgwood.org or (616) 942-2392



Inspiring and promoting physical & emotional well-being

Children and teens entering Wedgwood's Residential Program have greater physical and emotional needs than ever before. Wellness and wholeness is vital to finding hope and healing.

In response to this need we are working to raise \$6.5 million to improve our services to effectively meet the challenges of our kids, rehab aging facilities to ensure a safe environment for our kids, and secure our future so we can provide love and care to future generations. Through this effort, and in partnership with our community, Wedgwood Christian Services will become even more effective at protecting children in our region while instilling them with the confidence that God loves them, knows them, and has a plan for their future.



The Challenge.

- At this time there is a substantial waiting list to receive our professionally excellent and compassionate counseling services due to maximum utilization of therapeutic counseling spaces.
- A safe, comfortable environment, and balanced, healthy foundation are essential for these kids to be able to fully receive and benefit from the treatment needed to address the trauma they have experienced.
- Direct additional effort and resources to recruit and retain top-level direct care staff members who view their work as a calling rather than just a job to provide consistent, high-quality care.

Our Solutions.

- Renovate the Bouma Counseling Center to create several additional counseling spaces to meet the increased demand for services
- >>> Establish a professional-grade kitchen and centralized campus cafeteria, which would elevate food service, and allow direct care staff to spend more quality, treatment-centered time with clients.
- >>> Create a state-of-the-art Occupational Therapy (OT) space to enable OT staff to provide more comprehensive services.
- >>> Update aging facilities to ensure spaces that encourage kids to heal, learn, and grow.
- >>> Eliminate remaining balance of a pension obligation which would result in additional funding that could be designated to staff retention and recruitment.
- Upgrade agency electronic infrastructure

The Numbers.



- >> Give online at www.wedgwood.org/faith-in-our-future
- » Connect with us about giving opportunities by calling (616) 942-2392
- >> Vivian TerMaat, Chief Advancement Officer, VTERMAAT@WEDGWOOD.ORG

Why We Support Wedgwood

"I was introduced to Wedgwood Christian Services over 22 years ago and it has been my privilege to support Wedgwood and watch this organization serve "at risk" youth. They are exemplary in their efforts to show Christ's love to the most vulnerable young people in Michigan. I have had the opportunity to work directly with some of their youth and have seen firsthand the difference Wedgwood is making in the lives of children and families."



— Mick McGraw CEO, Eastbrook Homes

Grand Changes





Ashley Havemeier | Occupational Therapy & Activity Treatment Coordinator

Tere at Wedgwood, our Occupational Therapy Program focuses on holistic wellness as ■ It relates to each client's individual level of functional independence. We enjoy working alongside the other therapy teams to provide well-rounded interventions and support to each client — mind, body, and soul.

In Occupational Therapy (OT) our clients work on everything from hygiene skills to gaining employment, sensory regulation to making friends through appropriate social skills, and much more. Our clients are seen for sessions in a variety of places to ensure we are attending to each of their daily tasks. Sometimes sessions occur on the units to clean their bedrooms, participate in group activities, and eat meals with their peers. Sessions may occur outside to learn about our senses and get out that extra energy. Some sessions occur in the OT provider's office to work on computer skills and begin the research and job application process.

> Space at Wedgwood

The majority of our sessions, however, occur in our Occupational Therapy Sensory Room. This space provides a safe environment for clients to meet their sensory needs and regulate their emotions. While our current room has been an amazing asset to our program, it has also come with barriers and difficulties.



The room is far removed from other residential treatment areas and the walk through office spaces can be overwhelming and confusing to some of our clients. This rough transition can cause dysregulation and create difficulty for the client to attend to tasks once in the OT room. The room is also small which inhibits us from doing more than one session in the same space due to privacy concerns. With four Occupational Therapy providers running services most days, lack of space can become a barrier to thorough treatment.

The Occupational Therapy Team, and Wedgwood as a whole, is so excited about the ways our new space will eliminate these issues. The new OT room will be right in the center of the residential treatment spaces. Being attached to the gym with an exit towards two of our residential housing buildings will be a great benefit to any client that struggles with transitions. The room will also be spacious, allowing more than one OT provider to work in the space at the same time while maintaining the client's privacy. Offering well-rounded, holistic services will be much easier with these simple, yet grand changes. We are incredibly grateful and eager to use this new space.

Distinctively Christian, PROFESSIONALLY EXCELLENT

Every four years, Wedgwood goes through of excellence regarding professional ethics, a rigorous, formal review of our policies, procedures, and practices in all programs and support services. This process involves months of internal work and preparation for a fourday site visit from a team commissioned by the Council on Accreditation (COA). This group, which consists of professionals with years of experience in human services, examine our clinical and operational records, interview board members, employees, volunteers and clients, and inspect the various facilities in which we provide our services.

The end result of all this effort is that Wedgwood receives the status of an accredited organization, a distinction we've maintained since 1990. Beyond a mere "seal of approval", COA accreditation love into the lives of indicates that an agency has made and kept the the children, adults and

commitment to provide services of families we serve. highest quality that meet standards

financial stewardship, therapeutic expertise and best practices established in the treatment and prevention programs we offer to recipients in our community.

Our most recent review concluded on October 2. The review team expressed strong appreciation for the transparency, integrity, and dedication to our mission at every level of the organization. While we have not yet received the final report

as of this writing, we very encouraged and blessed to have received their feedback and endorsement of our efforts to extend God's



David Blakeslee | Associate Director of Quality Assurance | DBLAKESLEE@WEDGWOOD.ORG

www.wedgwood.org



I watched from the window as children arrived for therapy. Many walked purposefully, wearing their backpacks, holding their parents' hands. They walked confidently into the building, greeted their friends, and sat patiently in the waiting room. These are our 2nd- and 3rd-year students, those who have been coming to the Autism Center for Child Development for a while. Our newer clients, unaccustomed to the routine, arrived in a less orderly fashion. One child darted from his dad as soon as he was released from his car seat and ran into the parking lot. Another was carried in by a mom with her arms more than full, toting the child's backpack and younger sibling as well. A little girl didn't want to wear the closed-toe shoes required for therapy and kicked them off on the sidewalk. Despite initial hesitation, when their therapists came to get them, the children approached happily, eager to begin the fun activities in store for them today.

In my last article in this series, I talked about our recent thought about the promise of these young lives and the graduating class, the first cohort of children to graduate from the Autism Center for Child Development (ACCD) and transition to school. I reflected on their time with us and the incredible growth they all demonstrated here. Today, I observed a new class of children in their first days of therapy. I pondered the challenges they are facing now and the strain of those challenges on their families. Then, I imagined them at their graduations from the ACCD, handing out cupcakes, talking with their friends about their new schools, walking proudly down the hallway as everyone cheers for them, and taking photos in their caps and gowns. As I watched them come into the center today,

I didn't think about the work ahead; I

potential they hold for the future, and about how blessed I am to get to help them realize it.

At Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development, we provide comprehensive early intensive behavioral intervention to young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The ACCD uses the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), an empirically supported treatment for ASD, to provide comprehensive therapy that encompasses all areas affected by the child's ASD. To learn more about our fun and life-changing services, please visit www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter or call us at **616-965-3492**

Dr. Candice Lake, PhD, BCBA-D, LBP, LLP | <u>CLAKE@WEDGWOOD.ORG</u> Director of Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development

Why We Support Wedgwood

"Visiting one of the residential homes poignantly depicted for us what Wedgwood does—it fills the devastating void many "at risk" children face, not only with physical safety but, most importantly, with the transforming love of Christ to heal broken lives. The work of the Cross, through the hands of Wedgwood's committed staff, will transform each child's world."



- Shane & Ann Hansen

SAFE PEOPLE

No two stories are the same. Yet the responses are almost always the same: fear, guilt, a sense of defilement, shame, and endless post-traumatic stress. The road of recovery is long and hard.

Sex trafficking is defined as an act of recruiting, transporting, harboring or receiving a person through force or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It is a heinous enterprise that preys on the weak and vulnerable and it is a form of modern-day slavery.

While exploitation is not limited to gender, race or socioeconomics, traffickers look for specific vulnerabilities in children and teens: runaways, homeless and foster care children, and socially isolated teens. An exploiter might begin by demonstrating affirming and sometimes romantic feelings towards their victim, often showering them with gifts. The victim initially feels protected, loved and important so an exploiter can ask and demand almost anything. Forced drug use strengthens the dependency.

In 2012, Wedgwood Christian Services opened a specialized residential treatment program for sexually exploited girls ages 12 to 17. Also, Wedgwood's Manasseh <u>Project</u> was developed to educate the community, specifically counselors, educators, medical staff, and members of the judicial and legal system, and collaborate with churches, local social groups, institutions of higher learning and businesses to raise awareness and to find solutions for our community. This program, combined with God's grace, makes it possible for Wedgwood to transform lives.

Personalized treatment is built upon four pillars: trauma informed counseling services, experiential learning and education, independent

living skills, and employment training. Listening is key! Our clients initially may not see themselves as victims and might even return to their trafficker. With education and therapy, our clients begin to understand their victimization. A victim's brain is impacted by trauma, rewired to remain in a fight-or-flight state. Brains can eventually regulate themselves, and our clients can then touch on their stories without reliving the trauma every time.

In our pastoral care and spiritual activities, we move slowly and carefully, mindful of these psychological byproducts. The traumatized brain is fragile, so trust is absent. Spiritual authority may be threatening, so our presence must be calming, consistent, and caring. Guilt is overwhelming. Explaining God's forgiveness and love as something that is

free, no strings attached, is our daily mantra. These girls identify with a suffering Christ, one who was innocent and violated, one who identifies with their pain and brokenness. In time, hope, self-affirmation, and a new identity in Christ eventually replace shame.

Victims of sex-trafficking need the Christian community. As one of our clients said, "You surround yourself with people that love Him



and want you to love Him. And then surround yourself with safe people who care about you and want what's best for you and surround yourself with people who love Jesus too, then you can't help but love Jesus. With all the things I've been through, I'm living, breathing proof that there is a

You can help by becoming educated and partnering with organizations like Wedgwood's Manasseh Project. We are truly helpful when we listen a lot and lecture very little. In doing so, we carve out space for transformation.



The goal of the **Wedgwood Institute** is to equip individuals with the knowledge, attitude, and skills, to bring wholeness and healing to those we serve.

> Visit WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/TRAINING for details Email INSTITUTE@WEDGWOOD.ORG to register

The **IMPACT** www.wedgwood.org



Monday, June 3rd was another gorgeous day at Egypt Valley Country Club for Wedgwood's 34th Annual Charity Golf Classic. Hundreds of golfers enjoyed a lovely, summer day on the course followed by a wonderful meal in the EVCC Club House. Through the generous support of sponsors and golfers, we were able to raise \$170,000. Proceeds from this annual event support our Transforming Services. These services are the vital and life-changing aspects of treatment provided at Wedgwood Christian Services that, combined with God's grace, make it possible for us to transform lives. We are deeply grateful to and proud to partner with our title sponsor Chemical Bank. Their support of this event is a blessing to the many children and families whose lives are impacted by Wedgwood every day. Thanks to all who made time to Golf For The Good! We appreciate each of you.







SAVE THE DATE | WEDGWOOD'S 35th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC | MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020

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TRANSFORMING LIVES

www.wedgwood.org



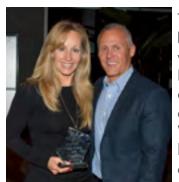
Wedgwood's 59th Anniversary Celebration was a moving and engaging experience for the donors, volunteers and advocates who attended the event on Thursday October 3rd at Frederik Meijer Gardens. The evening was full of wonderful food, a beautiful environment and a powerful interview led by Maranda of WOODTV/WOTV. Over 300 guests heard directly from Peri Stitzel, who spent four years of her childhood in Wedgwood's care as well as from Molly Guillaume, who was a Wedgwood case worker at the time. Their shared experience was an inspiring example of the transformative impact Wedgwood's grace-filled care has on the lives of countless children and teens. It was an honor to hear from both Peri and Molly. Over \$225,000 was raised through this illuminating event to support the transforming services that provide life-changing opportunities and are donor-funded. These services are focused on being distinctively Christian and professionally excellent.







"Wedgwood is in my DNA, it's who I am, they saved my life." - Peri Stitzel



The 2019 Doug and Lois Nagel Leadership Award was presented to Tripp and Kelli Corl in appreciation of many years of dedicated and heartfelt commitment to Wedgwood. Tripp and Kelli have served as donors, capital campaign co-chairs, board members and trusted advisors.

They are exceptional ambassadors for Wedgwood. Tripp and Kelli are a profound blessing to the entire Wedgwood community.



The 2019 Molly Guillaume Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Pat Hamilton. For the past 10 years, Pat has been making weekly visits to Wedgwood to read with the youngest boys in our residential program. She helps the kids improve their reading skills which is a tremendous boost to

their confidence. We are blessed to count Pat Hamilton as a volunteer and friend.

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17

The IMPACT

-WHY WE WORK AT— WEDGWOOD :-



"There are so many reasons why I love working at Wedgwood! But the main reason; teaching our clients about the love of Jesus and letting them know they are valued, loved, safe and most of all, appreciated!"

-Tracy Moody, Assistant Supervisor, VanderArk Home

"I enjoy working at Wedgwood because at the heart of our work is our mission; extending God's healing power to our clientele, and for me that's what it's all about — offering our clients hope and possibilities!"

- Jason Olvera, SUD Outpatient & Outreach Clinician



"I love having the opportunity to see growth and change in the individuals I work with here at Wedgwood. I really enjoy seeing kids learn to trust, and learn to express themselves, and feel like others will be there to receive what they have to say. I see the realest examples of resiliency every day, and although many days come with pain and sadness, there are many personal triumphs and growths."

- Cory Hanrahan, Clinician, Riebel Home

"It is really wonderful watching the clients grow emotionally and in their faith. I love our kids and think the agency is blessed with many talented people whom I enjoy to work with!"

- Nicole Betterly, Assistant Supervisor, Antonini Home





With the help of friends like you, we pray the Wedgwood Legacy Society will continue to have significant Kingdom impact for many years to come. As we enter our sixtieth year of ministry, we are thankful for abundant blessings received. About 14 years ago we established the Wedgwood Legacy Society as a way to recognize those who plan to leave a gift in their will or other legacy gift to Wedgwood. Each year we hold a luncheon and program to thank and recognize our members. Below is a list of individuals who have told us of their plans to bless Wedgwood, even beyond their lifetimes. This list includes those who have gone on to receive their eternal rewards, as well as those who have currently informed us of a potential future gift. Please don't hesitate to reach out to learn more about making a legacy gift or if you have any questions!

Anonymous Friends (9) Don Beukema* John & Judy* Bielema Jack & Dora* Bloem Iim & Barb Boelkins R Charles Boelkins* John & Janice Borst Henry* & Carolyn Bouma Lois Bouma Ross & Heidi Cate Carol Boven Fitzgerald* Tom & Joan De Fouw Vern & Linda De Weerd Bill* & Phyllis Ditmar Frank & Kerrie Doezema Lucille Doorn* **Ieanet Ebels** Jim & Nancy Engen Gordon* & Ginny Geldhof Richard D & Nancy Gritter Louis* & Harriet* Guikema Norm & Molly Guillaume Earl* & Berneda* Hart Bob & Harriet Hasper Bill & Marybeth Haverkamp

John & Joyce Heetderks Karen Helder Don* & Mae* Hendricks John & Carole Hoffman Donald* & Frances* Johns Willard & Mary* Kingma Raymond & Barbara Klaassen Arnold* & Peg Knoll Robert & Ruth Knoll David & Jane Krombeen Hildegard Krusch Ronald & Anne Kunnen Alvin* & Marilyn Lobbes Peter & Jan Malek Ted* & Peggy Myslenski Doug & Lois Nagel Cal* & Elaine* Nagel Jim & Debra Nagel Julie Nagel Tom & Marcia Nobel Lester* & Marilyn* Oosterbaan Henry & Sharon Ottens Peter Overbeek* Betsy Prose Carla Capotosto

Gary & Neda* Raterink Robert & Barbara Roskamp Paul* & Thelma* Schutt Raymon Schutt Charles* & Jessie Seven Herbert* & Florence* Soodsma Tom & Mary Stuit Ed & Joan Stuursma Dale & Louise* Snyder Agnes Timmerman* Ron & Carol Van Antwerp Kornelius* & Madeline* Van Goor Wes & Muriel Van Houten Henry VanSledright Gord & Skip Van Tuinen Fred & Carol Vanden Bosch Jerry & Jessica Vander Wall Don Ver Hage* Dan & Elizabeth Wierenga Philip & Audrey Wiltjer Casey* & Vivian* Wondergem Dave & Bea Zylstra Randy & Beth Zylstra

* deceased

FOR MORE INFORMATION GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG OR (616) 831-5623



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