



WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

The **IMPACT**



HEALING HEARTS

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Start with the Heart

At a recent meeting of Wedgwood volunteer leaders, one of those leaders made a profound comment. “What we are doing here,” he mused, “is acknowledging that for us the privileged, the well-resourced, the well-connected, this is not just coincidence. This is our calling.” That calling is to address **hearts** that need **healing**.

We all seek meaning and significance in life. We crave joy and contentment. But achievements and possessions cannot deliver these. Relationships direct the pathway to significance. Psychologists and theologians agree that joy comes through giving. I cannot recall the source, but someone once said that, “My primary emotional task is to *learn to be somebody so that I am prepared to become nobody so that I can again be somebody whose recognized purpose is to be everybody.*” Ultimately, I am not my own. I am one somebody among several every-bodies. But every child is a **SOME**-body!

Our context here assumes that the “heart” is really housed somewhere in the brain. The word brain usually connotes a focus on the executive and thinking centers of the brain. One part manages the organs, muscles, nerves, and sensory actions/reactions. Another part manages the memory, the cognitive and the correlative functions. We tend to measure our individual and societal value here — how well can we reason, articulate, accumulate, and achieve.

But the “heart” is different. Feelings, loyalties, and values are the relational

connectors that define our humanity. We are created in the image of God. Like our Creator, we are highly relational beings. We are designed to use intelligence to form values and collaborative rules of engagement. We construct contracts, covenants, treaties and laws, all of which support divine principles of fairness, mutuality, and love. These spiritual or relational realms frame our heart and soul identities, our **significance**. Every person is a child of God and an equal to every other. If this is the Creator’s blueprint, then we **start with the heart**. The proper sequence of intervention is *Belong, Behave, Believe* and *not Believe, Behave, Belong*. Researchers consistently affirm this blueprint. Successful transformation correlates more reliably with emotional bonding than with behavioral compliance or “correct” information-uploading, both of which are second-stage tasks.

So we all wonder what significance we have in life. It is NOT tied to fame. Can you really distinguish one Caesar or Pharaoh or King from another? But principles of the heart — forgiveness, sacrifice, humility, love — live on and on. No wonder the legacies of Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, St. Francis of Assisi, Jesus of Nazareth have such staying-power. Way down deep, we all realize this is **the way it was intended to be**. Healing hearts, restoring dignity, recreating somebodies. This is the name of the game.

This agency thrives because a multitude of staff, advisors, volunteers, and donors discover the joy of giving while healing the hearts of others. For that, we are profoundly thankful! 🇺🇸



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

Q & A WITH WEDGWOOD BOARD MEMBERS



ROCHELLE ROSKAM
NextGen Board



WOODY VANDENBOSCH
Executive Board of Directors



SHARON DYKHOUSE
Wedgwood Foundation Board

How and when did you get connected to Wedgwood?

Rochelle Roskam: Several years ago a long-time Wedgwood volunteer invited me to get involved in a 5K race Wedgwood was planning.

Woody VandenBosch: My first direct connection with Wedgwood was about eight years ago when I joined the Wedgwood Foundation Board.

Sharon Dykhouse: I was first introduced to Wedgwood in the 1980's when a college roommate worked at one of the Wedgwood group homes. I was then reconnected with Wedgwood about 4-5 years ago when I was asked to consider serving on the Foundation Board.

How do you describe Wedgwood to friends?

RR: Wedgwood helps children and families in difficult situations. Wedgwood shares Christ's message and love in their programs and services to create an environment where healing is possible.

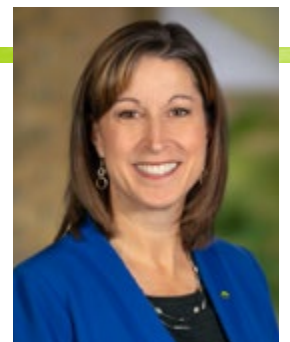
WV: I used to describe Wedgwood by just describing its programs. More recently I also point out that Wedgwood is a ministry which is close to the heart of our Lord inasmuch as it is a place of love and justice to the least and the forgotten.

SD: I describe Wedgwood as an incredible Christian organization that helps at-risk kids and their families in

Why We Support Wedgwood

Chemical Bank actively invests in our communities, because we understand the success of our neighbors is paramount to our own success. We are inspired by the dreams of the youth served by Wedgwood Christian Services! They are future contributors to our communities, and we are proud to support the great work Wedgwood continues to achieve.

— *Krista Flynn, Chemical Bank, Regional President - West*



group homes, but also with at home and at school services. When I speak of Wedgwood, people are amazed at how many different services are provided. Most are familiar with the group homes and the charter schools, but it is exciting to share with them all of the services – the Autism Center, Prevention Services, Sex Trafficking, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and the list goes on.

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

RR: Wedgwood is committed to its mission of extending God’s love to children and families in our communities. It also has an amazing team of dedicated and passionate employees who care about people.

WV: These things: (a) I have been involved with many organizations, but I don’t recall any of them facing changes which are as frequent and as drastic as those faced by Wedgwood. Programs which didn’t exist a few years ago now play a central role. (b) I am impressed by the commitment of Wedgwood’s leadership and staff to excellence and to its distinctive Christian mission under difficult circumstances, in a culture which is sometime indifferent or even hostile to that mission. (c) I am impressed by the heart and commitment of those who faithfully support Wedgwood through their gifts and other means. (d) The children, families and others served by Wedgwood do not represent a powerful political constituency, and government support sometimes reflects this. Nevertheless, the ministry of Wedgwood will always be essential to the mission of the church.

SD: I hate to admit that I did not realize the deep need in the Grand Rapids area for the services Wedgwood provides. There are so many kids and families struggling right now who need a place or people to turn to that will help them with life. Wedgwood is that place, providing the help with a Christian perspective. I have been blown away by the staff – their dedication and determination to help those in need not only warms my heart, but inspires me to do more.

How has your relationship with Wedgwood impacted your faith?

RR: Wedgwood is one of the ways God reminds me to focus on the big picture. It reminds me to think about how I am serving and loving others. The stories of people impacted by Wedgwood are inspiring and demonstrate God’s faithfulness, hope, and love.

WV: The parable of the Good Samaritan is a favorite. Beaten and left for dead on the road to Jericho, a traveler is found by a Samaritan who tends to the traveler’s wounds, takes him to an inn, and essentially gives the innkeeper a blank check to provide for the traveler’s recovery. Christ asked who was a neighbor to this traveler. Whose neighbor am I? Wedgwood regularly reminds me that we are to love in obedience to the command of our Lord, and that I am to be a neighbor to those who have a need which I am able to meet.

SD: My faith has grown substantially since I have been involved with Wedgwood. To see how much work is being done at Wedgwood and hearing the success stories of “graduates,” shows me God is at work – through Wedgwood and through all of us. I am reminded that without Him, we have nothing and that He will carry us when we can’t do it ourselves. 🌈

Encour-Wedg-ment Cards

Looking for a way to get involved and let a Wedgwood kid know how much they are loved? You can make a positive impact on the lives of the kids and teens in Wedgwood’s Residential Program simply by writing them a note and decorating an Encour-Wedg-ment Card.

If you are interested in providing some encouragement and making cards, please email HELLO@WEDGWOOD.ORG



There Your Heart Will Be Also

“Where your pleasure is,
There is your treasure;
Where your treasure,
There your heart;
Where your heart,
There your happiness.”

— St. Augustine

When Jesus spoke about the heart He said: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34). We tend to switch it around and think our treasure will follow our heart, but Jesus said the opposite. I have often written that giving and stewardship are issues of the heart. Good stewardship of our treasure is a heart matter. Leaving a legacy upon our departure from this life is a way our gifts can produce good returns for God’s Kingdom after we have moved on to our eternal rewards. Leaving a charitable legacy is a type of tithing at death.



Gary Raterink | Planned Giving Officer | GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG

Everyone is advised to make a will, yet the fact is that less than 50% of individuals take this action. A psychiatrist, in examining this matter, felt to make a will one has to come to grips with the idea that death and dying are real possibilities and this produces anxiety and procrastination. While it is true we don’t know the future, we do know who holds the future so we can with confidence make a will and will changes with a biblical perspective.

On the assumption that each of you have a will in place, across the page are seven reasons you should review your will. Answering these questions from the Barnabas Foundation may point out the need for you to make changes to your documents at this time.

If you have already included Wedgwood in your will or trust documents and have not informed us of this event, we would be pleased to know that so we can adequately thank you. We have established the **Wedgwood Legacy Society** to acknowledge those individuals who have left a Legacy gift to Wedgwood.

If we can be of assistance in your planning, please call 616-831-5623 or send an email to graterink@wedgwood.org.

Why We Work at Wedgwood



“In my role as Human Resources Associate, recruiting for programming, I love meeting and communicating with others through interviewing and love the feeling of offering someone a new position with the agency. I cherish the continued relationships that I have with the residential supervisors where I can offer coaching tips to them as they continue to serve the employees in our Residential Program. I have been with the agency for almost 19 years, so I have long standing relationships with many of the employees here, which gives a sense of community and a family-feel environment.”

— Bryan Lowe, Human Resources Specialist

7 REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL

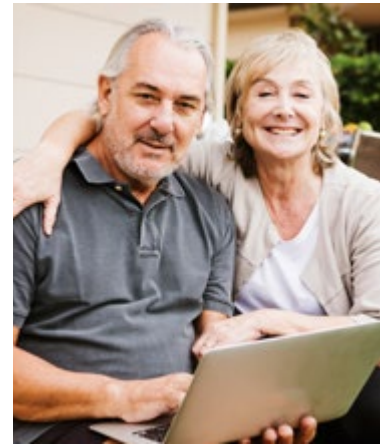


Life changes—and your will should, too. As your situation and goals change, your estate plan should evolve to reflect your needs.

1. Family

YES

- Have you or your children recently married, remarried, or divorced?
- Have you gained family members either through birth, adoption, or marriage?
- Do you need to determine a trusted guardian for your children?
- Have you experienced the death of someone dear to you?
- Have you or your loved ones experienced a significant injury or life-altering illness?
- Are you concerned about the financial maturity of your heirs?



2. Charitable Relationships

- Have you become more involved in your church or a particular ministry?
- Does your will reflect your Christian values and priorities?

3. Career

- Has your employer or income level changed?
- Do you have new business ventures?
- Have you recently retired or are you planning to retire soon?

4. Assets

- Has your estate experienced a significant increase or decrease in value?
- Have you bought, sold, or moved a business?
- Have you bought or sold property?
- Have you changed the beneficiaries on your insurance policies or retirement assets?

5. Location

- Have you or those listed in your will moved?

6. Tax Law

- Have state or federal tax laws changed since you last reviewed your will?

7. Time

- Has it been more than three years since you last reviewed your will?

Talk with a Planner

Through our partnership with **Barnabas Foundation**, you have access to complimentary will planning services with someone who understands tax-wise charitable planning from a biblical perspective. They will help you review your will and make important, God-honoring decisions in an atmosphere of complete confidence and trust.



**Start your conversation
by calling Wedgwood
Christian Services today!**

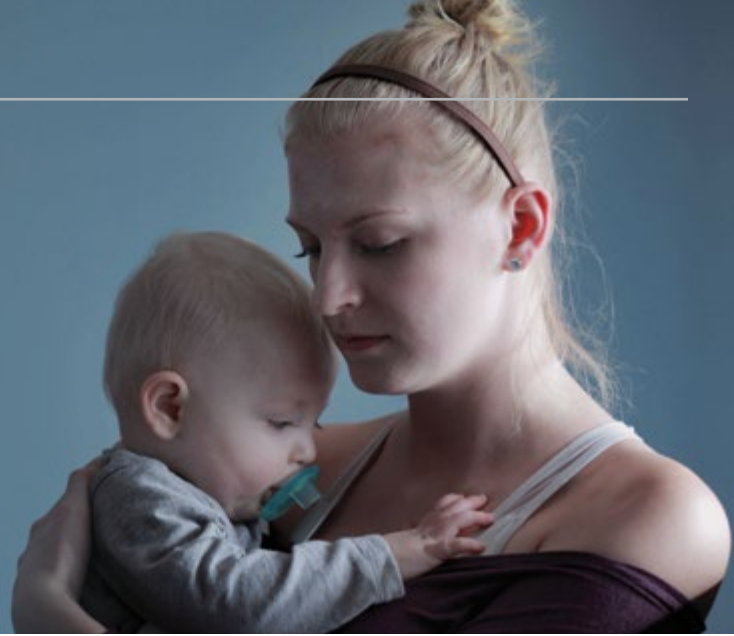
Gary Raterink
Planned Giving Officer

graterink@wedgwood.org
(616) 831-5623

If you answered 'YES' to any of these questions, it's time to review your will!

(616) 942-2110 • 3300 36TH Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 • WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG

Grace & Healing



I work as a case manager in Wedgwood's Family Engagement Therapy (FET) program in Muskegon County. FET is a program for moms who are struggling with substance use. Our team consists of three roles; the clinician works to address the cause of a person's substance use, the recovery coach offers a unique perspective due to their lived experience with addiction and recovery, and my role, as a case manager, is to work with clients on getting their physical needs met (housing, employment, transportation, etc.) Clients come to us from a variety of backgrounds, with a variety of needs and we walk alongside them and partner with them on their road to healing, for themselves and their families. Some moms are active in their recovery, some are not sure how they will get through the day without using their drug of choice. But each mom that we work with is trying to make a better life for herself and in turn, for her kids.

One mom who has been a part of our FET program ran away from home and started using drugs when she was 14 years old. She was homeless for a few years, actively using drugs, and engaging in extremely risky behavior. Three of her children were removed by CPS because



Kari Schulte | Case Manager | KSCHULTE@WEDGWOOD.ORG

of her drug use and were eventually adopted by another family. This mom experienced extreme brokenness and hurt. She stopped using drugs four years ago and has been working hard to maintain her sobriety. She recently had another baby and is doing everything in her power to keep her new daughter. We answered the call to support her in being the mother this child needs. It's been amazing to get to witness this mom, and all the other women we work with, persist in their endeavor to break the cycle of addiction and create healing in themselves.

There are so many stories in the Bible of Jesus healing people, one in particular where He heals a heart. In John 4, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well. A woman who had been rejected by society and yet, Jesus still offers her grace and healing. In the FET program, and all Wedgwood's programs, we offer grace and healing to our clients. People who, many times, have been deemed a problem and have been rejected by the world around them. As a team, we offer clients time, energy, and resources to help them find and maintain their sense of worth. The heart of the FET program is centered around extending grace and offering a path to healing for women who Jesus has named "worthy." 🌈

Why We Work at Wedgwood



"The reason I love working at Wedgwood is because there has never been a day where I have walked into work and not seen a broken child become stronger. The genuine love and care the staff show not only each other, but our clients, is what God teaches us as his disciples, to be God-centered and not self-centered."

— Nicole Bates-Phillipi, Youth Treatment Specialist

AT THE DEEPEST LEVEL

When people come to Wedgwood for community-based services they are usually asking for “therapy” or “counseling” or sometimes just “HELP.” I don’t think I’ve ever had a new client or parent ask for services to “heal their heart.” What does one have to do to heal a heart? It seems like an impossible task – too much to take on. And it’s true – it IS too much to take on simply as a clinician and helper alone. I can attempt to change the thinking of a client from irrational or hopeless into more positive and healthy thinking, in hopes that it will improve their mood and functioning. I can help them communicate their needs and concerns better in therapy and with other supportive people in their life to improve stability and relationships. But, I alone, can’t heal their hearts. Healing a heart is much deeper than a change in thinking, improved self-care, or better communication. It requires a change at the level of the soul. A shift in the way someone understands themselves, the suffering they’ve experienced, and how God and others might truly view them. How can I possibly do all that in therapy sessions?

In my opinion and experience, there are two foundations for helping to heal hearts –

First, building a relationship with a person to the point that they trust you with their deepest and most broken self. This requires the person in need to fully trust you – to be certain that you have their best interests in mind. It requires a non-judgmental stance by the helper so that the client can feel free to express what’s truly upsetting them and has damaged their heart at the deepest level. It also requires the person in need to feel understood – to believe that you fully understand what they are (or have been) going through. This might take 2 or 3 meetings, or it might take 20 or 30. It simply depends how badly their heart has been hurt and how many walls there are around it. Walls they’ve constructed to keep themselves safe



Jason Boeve | Clinical Supervisor & Therapist | JBOEVE@WEDGWOOD.ORG



that eventually become their own prison. The helper creates a safe enough environment that the person in need eventually feels comfortable enough to “show all their cards” – even the ones that make them feel ashamed, scared, hopeless, or enraged. Only then can the person begin to heal at that heart level.

Secondly, healing hearts at a soul level requires an ingredient that helpers and clinicians have very little control over. It’s God working within the therapeutic relationship to create real and lasting change in a client. The hardest part as a clinician is when you realize that you don’t have as much control over the change in a person’s life as you would like to think. Real lasting change comes from God’s intervention in a human heart to create a shift in their very identity. At times, when I’m trying too hard to control, or feel like I’m “coming up empty” when meeting with a client, I send up a prayer to God that goes something like this:

“I can’t do this alone, God. I need your help here. Guide my words and the direction of this session because I’m not sure how to best help this person right now.”

And God delivers – whether it’s in 2 minutes, or 2 weeks, or 2 months. When the helper leans on God and not solely on their own understanding, there is more opportunity for God to enter that relationship and work those minor (and sometimes major) miracles in the lives of the people we serve.

With the true Counselor at our side, we can begin to heal hearts and create *lasting* change. 🌈

Learn more about Wedgwood’s community and counseling services —
WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG or call (616) 942-7294



I HEAR THESE KIDS

Kat Debraux has been with Wedgwood Christian Services Residential Programs for five years. In that time, Kat has worked in the [Cook Claus Home](#), the [Van Andel-Summit Home](#) and now serves as the [Riebel Home Supervisor](#).

We sat down recently to talk about her role in the lives of the young people who call Wedgwood home.

Vivian TerMaat: What can you tell us about the kids in Wedgwood's Residential Program?

Kat Debraux: I can tell you that just about every single kid we see has experienced abuse and neglect. They come to us with broken hearts, no trust, no belief in good, and are so full of fear. They are devastated, feel unloved and unwanted by the people who were supposed to take care of them and keep them safe. We need to have real empathy for all of the kids in our care. When you look into the background of these kids and you know what they've seen and been told and how they've been treated, you can start to understand their behaviors. Most of their stories break my heart.



Kat Debraux,
Residential Home Supervisor

VT: Can they be helped after such trauma?

KD: Most definitely they can! They need to know that even if they make a mistake we are here for them and that God loves them. No matter the mistake.

VT: What happens during their time at Wedgwood?

KD: They come to Wedgwood with nothing so we work hard to create new traditions for them. Things that help the kids feel like this is a good place. Christmas is a big deal at Wedgwood. I really like to work on Christmas because we can make it special for the kids with a big breakfast and gifts. I will ask if I can pray for them and most of the time they want to pray together. Eventually, they realize that the hurt from their trauma will always be there but that

it's not the end. They learn that God is not punishing them and that they are loved no matter what. Our job while they're here is to pour into them and let them know that God is real, love is real, and that there is hope for them. We talk a lot about what it's going to take to be successful in life and how they can make it happen. We work on building character and trust and helping them make new positive connections that they can use out in the world.

VT: Do you ever hear from former clients after they've been discharged?

KD: Once they leave Wedgwood they realize what we were trying to teach them. We can make a difference in the lives of these kids. I've seen it happen. Since I've been here I've heard from 3 former clients who've reached out to say thank you and to say that they miss us. Some of them even want to come back. We become their family.

VT: What surprises the kids?

KD: They can't believe it when they challenge me and I tell them that they can't run me out of their lives. I'm not going anywhere no matter how they behave. Everyone else has left them so they feel scared and alone. I tell them that they are safe and that's how we build trust and a solid relationship.

VT: You clearly have a passion for what you do.

KD: I love the clients. You know what? We all have a story and need to be heard and I hear these kids.

VT: Thank you so much for all the good work you do. 🌟

WEDGWOOD'S Manasseh Project
FOCUS UP
living my best life

Wedgwood's Manasseh Project hosted "Focus Up: Living My Best Life" as part of our commitment to two of our program's pillars — Awareness and Education. Over 60 youth and parents gathered to discuss human trafficking, and more specifically the issues that surround human trafficking and exploitation. The Interactive "Think Fast" Game Show educated teens and parents on various issues including substance abuse, media, and music culture. Parents were troubled as we talked about the ways in which exploiters target our vulnerable youth, and challenged to open the communication portal to decrease vulnerability. Students were empowered as we discussed the importance of personal character, healthy boundaries, self-esteem, and healthy relationships. All listened intently as we heard from a survivor of human trafficking right in our back yard: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We were intentional about addressing the behaviors, attitudes, and systems that contribute to hurting hearts — manipulation, broken systems, and societal dysfunction. This event gave Wedgwood's Manasseh Project the opportunity to engage in difficult conversations while offering a fun, safe space and tools that equip parents and youth to ultimately change the trajectory of their lives and increase opportunities for healed hearts! 🌈



Nikeidra DeBarge | Wedgwood's Manasseh Project | NDEBARGE@WEDGWOOD.ORG



Pure Passion for Fashion (P2) is now



Teen CHARGE is a student leadership group comprised of area middle and high school students that promotes the overall health of a person and positive messaging, regarding substance use, mental health, and healthy relationships, through public speaking presentations, video PSAs, blogs, and a strong social media presence.

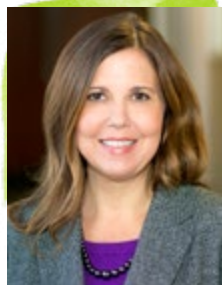
Learn more at WWW.TEENCHARGE.ORG

THE ONE I WON'T FORGET

Twenty years ago Pastor LeRae Kuperus joined the Chaplaincy team at Wedgwood Christian Services. Since then, she's seen thousands of kids come & go. Recently, we sat down to talk about one she'll never forget.

Vivian TerMaat: What were your initial impressions of Wedgwood when you arrived?

LeRae Kuperus: I came to Wedgwood from a hospital where I had served as a chaplain. I recall being struck by the level of diversity among the staff which was an accurate representation of the kids in our care. It was much more diverse than the hospital at that time. I also really appreciated the faith practices, like prayers before meetings, that were commonplace throughout the agency.



Rev. LeRae Kuperus,
Dir. of Spiritual Formation

VT: Of all the kids you've met here at Wedgwood, is there one that stands out? Why?

LK: Oh goodness. I have to say, there is one girl who I can recall very clearly. Her name was "Jennifer" and she arrived at Wedgwood when she was 13 and was here for 3 years. She was raised in an abusive home along with her baby sister. One day, for the first time, the abuse was directed towards her sister. At that moment 8-year-old "Jennifer" knew she had to escape with her sister to protect them both. I still get emotional thinking about her situation at such a young age.

When "Jennifer" arrived at Wedgwood she was very serious and seemed much older than her years. You could look into her eyes and really see the depth of her

sadness. She was broken-hearted. Over time she was able to develop trust in the staff here at Wedgwood and eventually I would see her playing games and laughing. It was such a transformation to see her in a healthy, age appropriate scenario. "Jennifer" didn't give up. She had a fight to survive and wanted to be open to God, who she understood to be good despite everything she'd experienced.

VT: How have the clients who come to Wedgwood changed over the years?

LK: Our kids today seem to have the same questions about God, faith, and suffering but these questions are not as big of barriers to them. They sincerely want to participate in worship and Young Life Club. So many of them have few positive role models, and for some, family is completely absent in their lives. Many want to lead in worship by singing, sharing poetry, and some even testify to how God is working in their lives. They are huge encouragers of each other and often name staff who have helped them grow in their faith. One thing that has not changed is that kids continue to arrive with broken hearts due to trauma and neglect. Staff here at Wedgwood are dedicated to working with our clients to develop a healthy relationship built on trust. I believe that God's grace and healthy relationships can mend those broken hearts. That's why Wedgwood exists.

VT: Thank you for sharing. 🌟



After months of discussion, reflection and consideration by Wedgwood’s leadership team, our Board of Directors recently approved updates to our Mission and Vision Statements. For decades, these statements have served as important guides in setting priorities, making decisions and maintaining focus on the purposes that inspired the founders of our agency.

As Wedgwood’s array of services expands and diversifies, it becomes necessary every so often to go back to these statements to see if any revisions are called for. We always seek the most effective way to communicate our values in the contemporary context.

Such considerations initiated a process that began in the summer of 2018, when it was brought up at a senior leadership meeting that Wedgwood now serves a significant and growing number of clients who don’t neatly fit the description of either “youth” or “families.” Our Outpatient, Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorder treatment services provide invaluable support to adults with a wide range of treatment concerns. We believe that it’s important to ensure that all recipients of services feel fully welcomed and included, however they come into contact with Wedgwood’s care providers.

As we went through this process of reviewing the statements, we saw an opportunity to clarify and strengthen the impact of our Vision Statement. We retained the familiar, beloved statements of remaining “distinctively Christian and professionally excellent” that have been used for decades to describe Wedgwood’s defining characteristics. The new Vision Statement provides a more definitive aspiration, of a community “transformed and equipped” as a result of the services we offer. The changes may seem minor, even merely semantic, but the debates and discussions that took place to arrive at this conclusion served a constructive and inspiring purpose. We are pleased to share this new expression of Wedgwood’s guiding principles with our friends and supporters! 🎉

MISSION

OLD: *Extending God’s love to youth and families through professional counseling and educational services*

NEW: **Extending God’s love to youth, adults, and families through professional counseling and educational services**

VISION

OLD: *Provide Distinctively Christian, Professionally Excellent and Financially Sustainable services for high-risk Youth*

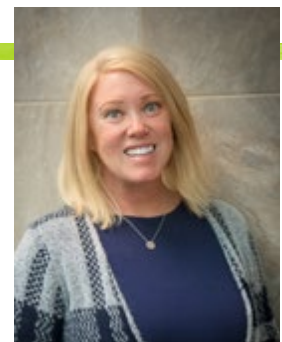
NEW: **We envision our community transformed and equipped to reach its full potential by the distinctively Christian, professionally excellent, and financially sustainable behavioral health services we provide.**



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

Why We Support Wedgwood

“When I think of Wedgwood Christian Services, the image of Christ surrounded by children comes to my mind. The way the staff cares for those in their care reflects this image to me and it challenges my heart and my soul to do better for my community. Wedgwood is making a difference for our future, they are challenging and disrupting the status quo so that even “the forgotten” will never be. And for this they will forever have an impact on my heart and soul.”



— Jenn Groendyke, **Lacks Enterprises, Inc.**
Manager of Public Relations, Communications, and Wellness

IMPORTANT WORK

My experiences as an Education Specialist and RTA (Responsible Thinking Advisor) at Wedgwood Christian Services have taught me the importance of the strong partnerships that empower students to achieve and to be successful.

Our job is to teach the youth in our care the ability to create a spiritual connection within themselves. Many of our teens come to Wedgwood without hope for their future and with no spiritual direction. We try to redirect their thought processes through an enlightened way of thinking including self-love and positive affirmations. Students achieve positive mental health practices through educational and recreational activities such as nature walks, yoga, music, basketball, softball, hip hop, and meditation.

I like to use things that students may enjoy to open the door to introduce mental health and spiritual wellness. We use hip-hop as a vehicle to promote positive social change. Through this high-interest area we are able to engage with and build upon the positive messages within hip hop, and introduce new ways for the students to express themselves. In Walking Club, we hike through local trails and help our teens develop a positive self-image and discuss how to establish healthy relationships, while exploring the wonders of nature that can help heal their hearts.

The most important thing we do to work towards healing is **focus on the entire kid**; acknowledging their past, present, and future, while promoting a positive learning environment where students can grow and learn how to be the best version of themselves. 🌈




Kendrick Cummings | Education Specialist | KCUMMINGS@WEDGWOOD.ORG

Why We Work at Wedgwood



“Science has proven that early invention is key to developmental success in children; I believe that children are a joy and deserve all of the tools I have to give. I love being a part of a team that assists children to grow individually, giving them tools in communication, socialization, and personal care that will grow them into adults.”

— Hannah Collins, Applied Behavior Technician

Wedgwood Institute: Preparing for Healing

Like many child caring institutions, trainings and compliance are a vital component of what we do here at Wedgwood. Since its inception in 2007 the Wedgwood Institute has been offering trainings for direct care staff to Masters-level clinicians, for both Wedgwood employees and to professionals from our community and beyond. Trainings range from those designed to fulfill state requirements, to re-certifying long-time professionals, to learning the basics of job responsibilities.

But what is the motivation behind these different offerings? What are we trying to accomplish through the trainings that are being offered at Wedgwood?

First and foremost, we strive to help staff to see each person that we serve as a beloved child of God — someone who has worth and value no matter what their history may be. Understanding that each individual has a need to belong, to be loved, to be cared for.

We do this by helping staff to see things from the perspective of those we serve — understanding that because of their history, story, and trauma they see the world through a lens. This theme gets woven into many of the trainings that we offer such as *Becoming Trauma Sensitive*, *Professional Boundaries*, *Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Intervention*, *Diversity Awareness*, and *Crisis Prevention/ Intervention and De-escalation* along with several others.



Secondly, we understand that if we want our staff to be at their best then we need to make sure that they have the right tools. Often times that means ensuring that staff are able to take good care of each other and themselves. We train our staff in *Compassion Fatigue and Satisfaction*, *Working in a Team*, and work through *self-care plans* with all supervisors and staff.

Our goal through the Wedgwood Institute is to create a culture that is centered in God’s love and Grace— in the way that we care for children, teens, adults, and families and how we take care of each other. 🌈



Jeff Walters | Wedgwood Institute Coordinator | JWALTERS@WEDGWOOD.ORG



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.

Upcoming Courses

Human Trafficking \$30 + \$10 for 3.0 CEU's	May. 24	9:00am - 12:00pm
First Aid & CPR \$30	Jun. 11	1:00pm - 5:00pm
Becoming Trauma Sensitive \$20 + \$10 for 2.5 CE's	Jul. 10	9:00am - 11:30am
Adolescent Suicide Prevention/Intervention \$20 + \$10 for 2.0 CEU's	Jul. 18	9:00am - 11:00am
Co-occurring Disorders \$20	Jul. 31	9:00am - 11:00am

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



NextGen Board

@ WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

This year, we are celebrating the 7th anniversary of Wedgwood’s NextGen Board. This volunteer group is comprised of rising, community leaders who have a heart for the work being done at Wedgwood, and who help to advance our mission of *extending God’s love to youth, adults and families through professional counseling and educational services.*

Advocacy: We invite our members to serve as ambassadors for Wedgwood by sharing their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the agency with people they know and meet. Research shows that a personal recommendation from a trusted source who is not employed by a non-profit is the most effective way to get new donors and volunteers to support an organization. The results of these endorsements have been invitations for Wedgwood staff to speak at churches and businesses, new volunteers, and new donors — all of which are essential for the advancement of our mission.



At our first meeting of 2019 we welcomed Rochelle Roskam and Andrew Norden as our new co-chairs replacing Guillermo Cisneros and Mike McGraw. Our goal is to connect with young professionals who are interested in learning

more about the work being done at Wedgwood so that they can serve as ambassadors in their communities. This is done through:

Education: At each board meeting a Wedgwood staffer presents on a different facet of the organization which is essential to educating the board on the work being done at Wedgwood. It also offers an understanding of changing dynamics and how they all fit within our agency mission.

Engagement: We invite all NextGen board members to all of our events to gain a first-person view of the clients, staff, and donor base of Wedgwood. Members spend time on campus with the residential clients and staff and at core events with existing and prospective donors.

We are deeply grateful for the time and energy our NextGen Board members graciously give to Wedgwood. They are some of our most engaged volunteers who make time in their hectic schedules to regularly serve in a variety of ways. We look forward to another year of transforming lives alongside our NextGen friends. 🌈



Vivian TerMaat | Chief Advancement Officer | VTERMAAT@WEDGWOOD.ORG

Why We Work at Wedgwood



“I LOVE working at Wedgwood’s Autism Center for Child Development! I feel fulfilled knowing I’m serving God while I’m at work and caring for his precious children. There is so much joy in being with the kids each day, and I’m privileged to see firsthand the incredible steps they take towards their goals. Knowing that God entrusted me to serve them makes even the most challenging days totally worth it.”

— *Suzy Delacour, Applied Behavior Technician*

Save the Dates!

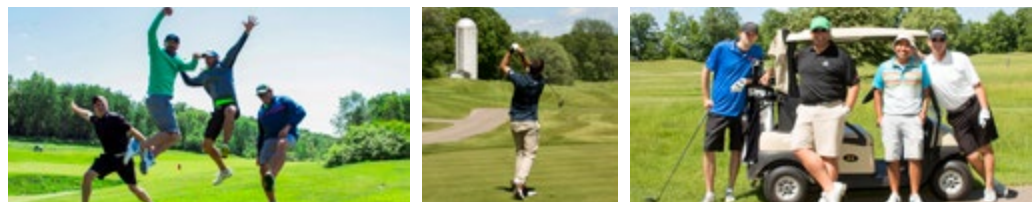
Join us for these upcoming events which support Wedgwood's 100% donor-funded Transforming Services!



MONDAY, JUNE 3

EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/GOLF



Lives Transformed

59TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK | 6:30PM - 8:00PM



Wedgwood is excited to be a part of the 25th year of Maranda Park Party! She has impacted over 1 million lives and we are proud to continue to partner with Maranda to transform the lives of children, teens, and families here in West Michigan!



STAFF ACCOLADES

CELEBRATING TEAM WEDGWOOD

35
YEARS



Ruth Pohler
(Administration)

30
YEARS



David Blakeslee
(QA)



Syd Harvey
(Training, On-Call)

25
YEARS



Randy Zylstra
(President/CEO)



Mike Ison
(DeVos-Crossroads)



Brad Lancaster
(Boelkins)

20
YEARS

Juanito Moore *(VanderArk)*
Jeanna Raterink *(QA/Credentialing)*
Kathy Tyson *(DeVos-Crossroads)*

15
YEARS

Dan Aupperlee *(SUD)*
Nikeidra DeBarge *(Manasseh Project)*
Lee Huff *(Facilities)*
Jeff Walters *(Wedgwood Institute)*

5
YEARS

Catherine Davis *(Cook-Claus)*
Jeffrey Gamble *(Zondervan)*
Brea Kelly *(Cook-Claus)*
Shatoya Likely *(Cook-Claus)*
Tracy Martin *(VanderArk)*

Mark Metz *(Boelkins)*
Nick Morgan *(Riebel)*
Rhonda Pavlovic *(Finance)*
Amanda Syverson *(TF-CBT)*
Vivian TerMaat *(Advancement)*

Nicole Thompkins *(VanAndel-Summit)*
Derick Vargas *(Interpreter)*
Virgie Vinson *(Riebel)*

Why We Work at Wedgwood



“Working at Wedgwood has helped me to find God’s calling for my life. Wedgwood has provided me the opportunity to do work that I knew I wanted to do, while also giving me clarity on the service God was calling me to. Over the years of working here, my passion and goals have remained the same, but my focus has shifted a bit, which led me to pursue more leadership opportunities within the agency, and that’s a role I’ve now found myself in. I love my job and enjoy working here because - thanks to Wedgwood - I now have clarity on what I’m supposed to be doing, where I’m supposed to be, and how I can best use the gifts God has blessed me with to best serve Him and others.”

— *Mark Metz, Home Supervisor*

Gifts in Memory

Gifts in Memory are placed in the *Wedgwood Living Memorial Fund* which is a part of the *Wedgwood Foundation*. This Living Memorial Fund is quite special in that it 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.

John K. Boerema
Betty Boerema

Rev. Ralph Bronkema
Annette Cooke

Clayton and Bertha Brummel
Terry and Jan Brummel

Terry Chamberlain
Helen Chamberlain
Tait Chamberlain

Cynthia Croff
Russell and Luann Axdorff

Rebecca Croff
Russell and Luann Axdorff

Bud and Ella Decker
Monsma Marketing Corporation

Lester De Haan
Joanne De Haan

Richard Fuller
Jerry and Karen Owens

Ted Gabrielse
Kathi Gabrielse

Gary Garehan
Jean Garehan

David Grant
Marilyn Grant

Suzanne Grant
Marilyn Grant

Roger and Margorie Gritter
David Gritter

Dorothy Huizinga
Rebecca Kok

Gary Jaarsma
Beverly Jaarsma

Leah Kos
Lois Williams

Marnie Kotwick
John Kotwick
George and Judy Rowland

Alvin Lobbes
Marilyn Lobbes

Ilene Magee
Evelyn Pastoor

Doris Mull
David and Mary Van Solkema

Peter Northouse
Bert and Sally De Vries

Richard Parramore
Milton Briggs Jr.

Ethel Pasma
Ted Pasma

Robert Ritsema
Albert Ritsema

June Spitsbergen
Bill Spitsbergen

For more information about Gifts in Memory

Email: ADVANCEMENT@WEDGWOOD.ORG

Phone: (616) 942-2392



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Grand Rapids, MI, 49512-2810

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#GIVEANDTRANSFORM

Here are 3 ways you can provide hope and healing to children and families in our community:



WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/GIVING



CALL US

Call **(616) 942-2392** to learn how you can get involved



SEND A CHECK

Send checks payable to **WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES** to
3300 36TH STREET SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512

STAY CONNECTED WITH WEDGWOOD
WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG • (616) 942-2110
HELLO@WEDGWOOD.ORG

