



The
IMPACT

Resilience



WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL, OUTPATIENT, COMMUNITY SERVICES  SPRING 2021 | VOL 36 | NO. 1

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

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INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • EXCELLENCE • DIVERSITY

OUR VISION

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



Strength & Resilience

"...CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY." // COLOSSIANS 1:27B

As we approach a full year of the pandemic in our midst, there's no doubt of the damage it left in its path, some of which will take months, even years, to fully grasp and overcome. The loss that our neighbors, our friends, and our community has experienced is difficult to quantify and we have a long road ahead of us. *However, as God's people, we are resilient.*

It is in the darkest of night that God's light shines the brightest.

Perhaps the most telling example of God's strength and power is in the kids and teens we serve. They have walked an unimaginable path to arrive at our doorstep, but they demonstrate a resilience that humbles and inspires us. We see Christ at work in them every day as they find grace: The grace to overcome where they've been; the grace to forgive the people who wronged them; and the grace to carry on. They emulate the 'hope of glory'.

As we navigate out of this storm in the coming weeks and months, we hope and pray that you,

too, can find God at work all around you. Find strength in Him, and actively practice steps to support your own resilience. Here are a few suggestions that may help you in your journey:

- ▶ **Foster Wellness** by taking care of yourself.
- ▶ **Find Purpose** in helping others and moving towards your goals.
- ▶ **Embrace Healthy Thoughts** and recognize that we all lived through this together.
- ▶ **Ask for Help** when you need it.¹

We look ahead, feeling optimistic. While there are some aspects where only time can provide clarity and focus, one thing is clear: Our work at Wedgwood will become even more relevant in our community as we support the mental, emotional, and behavioral health of children, teens, families, and adults.

We are grateful to all of you for your support of our staff, our programs, and the people we serve, and pray that you, too, will find Christ alive and well within you. ✝



DR. DAN GOWDY, Ed.D., CFRE | President/CEO
DGOWDY@WEDGWOOD.ORG

¹ - American Psychological Association, www.apa.org/topics/resilience

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.

Thank you!

We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support and generosity we received this past year! So many wonderful people stepped forward to ensure that, despite all of the challenges experienced in 2020, the kids in Wedgwood's care felt extra special. We say thank you on their behalf. 🙏

"I love volunteering at Wedgwood because Wedgwood truly makes an impact on our community. Wedgwood volunteers not only help the organization, but we provide a huge network of support for those in Wedgwood's care."

— Emily Quellet, Wedgwood NextGen Board Member

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For more information about Gifts in Memory contact Wedgwood's Advancement Team at **(616) 942-2392** or advancement@wedgwood.org



A Stewardship Journey

In 1994, the Wedgwood Foundation made its first distribution of \$21,461 to Wedgwood Christian Services. That annual payment has risen steadily, passing the \$100,000 level in 2006 when \$102,380 was paid to Wedgwood. In 2020, the Foundation made its largest disbursement ever of \$225,131. With the 2020 payment, the total disbursed to Wedgwood from the Foundation reached \$3,243,450.

Many wonderful individuals have given to the Foundation during their lifetimes as well as through bequests upon their death. We are grateful for each one and for the loyalty and trust they placed in this Agency and its mission to save hurting kids and families.

“IN ANY MOMENT OF DECISION, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS THE RIGHT THING, THE NEXT BEST THING IS THE WRONG THING, AND THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS NOTHING.”
// THEODORE ROOSEVELT

We encourage individuals to plan wisely with their earthly assets as God has blessed them. Many individuals use charitable gift annuities to provide an annual income and

upon death to provide a gift to Wedgwood. Others use no longer needed life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts and appreciated securities as well as retirement funds to benefit our work. By far the largest source of Foundation revenue comes from bequests through estates and trusts as individuals plan gifts upon their departure to a heavenly home.

If you have decided to leave a legacy from your earthly assets to Wedgwood, we would be pleased to know of your decision so that we can express our thanks to you. Everything we have is a gift from God. If we are grateful Christians, we will be giving Christians. Someone once wrote, “You can give without being thankful (for instance guilt), but you cannot be thankful without giving.” Or as Proverbs 11:28 says, “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”



Gary Raterink, CPA
Planned Giving Officer
GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG

For more information contact Gary Raterink at (616) 831-5623 or graterink@wedgwood.org



The Wedgwood Foundation Legacy Society is open to anyone who is passionate about helping vulnerable children and families served by Wedgwood Christian Services now and in the future, and has informed us of their commitment to do this through an estate gift.

MEMBERS

- | | | |
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Faith

IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



Jason Lheureux, LPC | JLHEUREUX@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Associate Director of Residential Services



“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
– Hebrews 11:1

What better words could define the concept of Resiliency than this well-known verse from Hebrews. It is an understatement to say that as a people, we have had a very difficult year since COVID-19 became a daily part of our lives.

It is hard to believe that it has been an entire year since Wedgwood Leadership sent an organization-wide email effectively closing down most of our campus. Since that time, we have adapted to change after change. It is hard to imagine how organizations without Christ at the center have weathered this storm. There were many moments in which a sense of powerlessness weighed upon us that made turning our eyes to Him through prayer, the only choice.

Even amid the storm we found peaceful moments. We learned to celebrate even the smallest of victories. We worked hard, we worked together, we learned to communicate in new ways and to trust in each other. Resiliency in this past year meant believing that God is so much bigger than the tiny organisms that afflict us. **His plan is meant to prosper us and not to harm us and even in the darkest moments there is evidence of hope and of a future.**

Through positive role modeling, unwavering dedication, and sometimes-brutal honesty, our Residential team grew closer together. It has been uplifting to see the kids encouraging one another, reminding each other that “the pandemic isn’t the staff’s fault” and roll with change after change along with staff. The kids who call Wedgwood home kept busy, maintained their spaces and when times got tough, came together to talk about it as a home. We found new ways to maintain family relationships, made ‘Zoom’ an official part of the team and when in-person school shut down each staff member became a personal in-home tutor.

We are by no means done. But I truly believe that the pandemic was a time to both test us and to temper our resolve. It’s been a time for us to learn and to grow and to become stronger. **This spring we have renewed hope and we must not overlook the lessons that God has to teach us and when he calls out to us may we ever answer confidently “I am here Lord, send me.”**

For more about Wedgwood's Residential Care:
www.wedgwood.org/residential-care

CELEBRATING DREAMS, PEACE, & DIVERSITY

Each year in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Wedgwood's Diversity Council and Chaplaincy Team host an engaging educational event for the kids in Wedgwood's Residential Program to teach them about the life and legacy of Dr. King. This year kids made posters depicting peace, hopes, and dreams, and played games of bingo that helped them learn more about the history of the civil rights movement.



“I am thankful for a second chance - a chance for me to change my life. God showed me that someone really does care for me.”

– “Elaina”, age 15, Wedgwood Resident



CULTIVATING INNER STRENGTH

A central theme in the recovery community is resilience. This internal force is not readily visible to others and often individuals may not even be aware of their own strength and fortitude until someone else sheds light on their grit.

To say that the teens and families Wedgwood serves display resilience would be an understatement. We have witnessed the community come together, embrace the collective adversity, and fully embody the spirit of resilience.

The Substance Use Treatment Services team continues to instill hope and encourage individuals who are struggling with an addiction. Living with an addiction in your formative years is a daunting task for a young person, and that anxiety has inevitably increased during a global pandemic. Our team is committed to providing the highest quality treatment services. We extend grace and acceptance while planting seeds of hope, illuminating alternative paths for teens and adults to cope and process the crisis they have endured. Their worlds have been turned upside down, and our goal is to be there for them in support and engagement.

Through our various community outreach programs our treatment professionals are able to work with teens and their families in order to promote healing and growth. We understand that it is crucial to not only address the individuals' problem with addiction, but also help them overcome the barriers and obstacles that keep them stuck in a cyclical state of mind and behavior patterns that don't allow for growth and resilience.

Resilience comes from one's ability to cope and overcome emotional, psychological, and behavioral adversities. We take pride in our thoughtful and effective services and our ability to prepare, educate, and equip individuals to embrace their inner resilience and bounce back from addictive behaviors to sober lifestyles in which they can truly thrive. 🌱

Chris Rivera, LMSW, CAADC | CRIVERA@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Director of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services



Wedgwood's Substance Use Treatment Services AVAILABLE FOR TEENS & ADULTS IN 9 WEST MICHIGAN COUNTIES!



Learn more about Wedgwood's Substance Use Treatment Services: www.wedgwood.org/substance-use



"Since starting substance use treatment at Wedgwood, I've been able to get, and hold a job. And because teletherapy is available, I can continue my therapy without having to fit getting to the therapy office into my new work schedule."

— "Joe", Wedgwood's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services Client

Adapting:

KIDS LEADING THE WAY



CANDICE LAKE, PHD, BCBA-D, LBA, LLP
 Director of Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development
 AUTISMCENTER@WEDGWOOD.ORG

"Which mask do you want?" the therapist asked, holding up a yellow patterned child's mask and a green one with the Incredible Hulk's face on it. "This one!" her 4-year-old client said, pointing at the Hulk mask. He took the mask, looped the straps over his ears, and adjusted the front to cover his nose. Then he ran to catch up with his friends, following the arrows indicating which way to travel in the hallway as they made their way to the classroom. There were no tantrums when the children passed the temporarily-closed indoor playground, and they kept their distance from one another while they walked together in the wide hallway.

Change is hard; especially so for individuals with autism who thrive on routine and structure. Needless to say, I was apprehensive when we reopened the center in the midst of the pandemic with all of our new policies and procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. So much had to be different than what the children were used to! We went from having eight kids per classroom to three, traveling only one way in the hallways, having lunch in classrooms instead of the kitchen, and temporarily canceling all group activities. The indoor and outdoor playgrounds were closed, we stopped using the lockers, and blocked off the waiting room. Kids were no longer able to take wagon rides together, share toys, or give high fives. Staff had to figure out how to teach appropriate interaction and play skills while socially distanced. Everyone had to learn to wear a mask. The changes were overwhelming for people who have difficulty being flexible.

As they've done countless times before, the children impressed me. Within a few days, everyone traversed the hallways according to the directional arrows. They stopped attempting to go into group play spaces that were no longer available. They waited patiently for the toys they wanted to be sanitized. They took turns in the wagons or chose a bike or scooter instead. They held still to have their temperatures taken. They kept their distance from other people, and they learned to wear their masks. It was incredible! Then, they began using these new skills in the community. One child began transitioning to school this spring, and his teacher reported that he is the best mask-wearer in the class! Once again, the children have taught me an important lesson: **if we give them the right supports, they will exceed our expectations.**



At Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development (ACCD), we provide comprehensive early intensive behavioral intervention to young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Wedgwood's ACCD uses the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), an empirically supported treatment for ASD, to provide comprehensive, individualized 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. 🌈



"This program has been life-changing for our family. I pray often and thank God for blessing us with this fabulous program right here in Grand Rapids."

— "Ashley", Parent of Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development Client



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

When the pandemic started, it was definitely a shock to the system. Most of us felt that if we could weather the initial storm, we would be back to normal within a few months. Over a year later, we still aren't back to "normal" and it's hard to say how long it will take to get there.



At first, most of the children and families we serve reacted like everyone else. We hunkered down in crisis mode and powered through. We all started home schooling – even when we didn't really have the skills or time. We stayed at home and started to get cabin fever but did the best we could. We assumed that once summer came and we had done our best to keep the virus from spreading, we would be out and about in the sunshine and back with friends and family, businesses back open, and restarting jobs. But as the months dragged on, our adrenaline from the initial crisis started to fade. This new "normal" wasn't supposed to get to the point of being...normal.

As school began in the fall, many schools were still virtual or a hybrid form of learning. Many of the children and teens we work with, although amazing at adjusting to so many changes, started to fade academically. Staring

at a screen all day rather than being in school, around friends, chatting in the hallways, going to physical education class, having school and home environments separated – they began losing motivation. The parents that initially pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and took on home schooling on top of stay-at-home parenting or working from home – they too were wearing down.

As Wedgwood therapists, we saw the resilience in our clients and their families being stretched beyond what they might have initially thought they could ever handle. However, we also saw kids, parents, teachers, therapists, and employers adapt to find creative ways to keep afloat. We started thinking creatively about ways to get out and about as families, to keep jobs going, to keep online learning interesting, to get kids back into school if possible, and to help clients even if it had to be through a screen. At Wedgwood, we very suddenly, shifted to teletherapy, something we'd never offered before. We honored our commitment to provide vital services to children, adults, and families with emotional, behavioral and mental struggles. We adapted – and although a bit battered and bruised from the last year – we persevered and found out that we had more resilience than we ever would have imagined. That we all could use our creativity, our faith, and a never quite depleted hope that all of this would be worth it. We would get through this together, as long as it takes. And we would be stronger and more grateful than ever before because of it. 🌈



For more information about Wedgwood's Counseling Services: www.wedgwood.org/counseling



Jason Boeve, MA, LPC, CAADC | COUNSELING@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Therapist and Clinical Supervisor



"Life changing - for the better! Counseling taught both our child, and us, skills to grow and improve upon towards helping our daughter embrace her future."

– "Laura", Parent of Wedgwood Outpatient Counseling Client

HELPING KIDS BUILD RESILIENCE



Wedgwood's Positive Youth Development team created a video with great tips on building skills that can help children & teens (and adults, too!) overcome life's challenges.

Go to [HTTP://BIT.LY/PYD-RESILIENCE](http://bit.ly/pyd-resilience) or open the camera on your smart phone and scan the QR code square to watch the video!



WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

State of the Child

A panel conversation about the toughest challenges facing kids today.

Since 2017, Wedgwood Christian Services has been hosting *State of the Child*, a panel conversation between local teens and area experts. Our intention is to truly listen to and learn from what young people have to say about the challenges they face. This year's panelists shared thoughtful insights and gave us a sense of hope for this generation.

- ▶ Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent of Integrity Educational Services
- ▶ Nicole Hansen, YMCA of Greater GR's District Executive Director of Community Engagement & Youth Development
- ▶ Eric Payne, Grand Rapids Chief of Police
- ▶ Chris Rivera, Director of Wedgwood's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services
- ▶ Dr. Joel Sanchez, Wedgwood Christian Services' Medical Director
- ▶ Moderated by Maranda of WOOD TV8/WOTV 4



WATCH THE FULL REPLAY OF THE EVENT | www.wedgwood.org/sotc

Special thanks to:



Spectrum Health

BRUCE & MARGIE JOHNSON



"This is a generation that will be defined, not by this last year, but how they overcome it, and how they move forward."

— Eric Payne, Grand Rapids Chief of Police, State of the Child Panelist

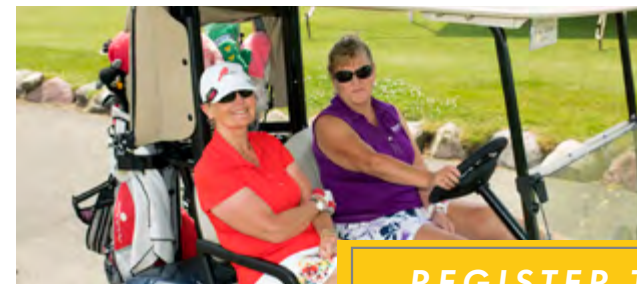


MONDAY, JUNE 7 | EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Wedgwood's 36th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, June 7, 2021, at Egypt Valley Country Club supports our 100% donor-funded Transforming Services, which help children, teens, families, and adults heal from the trauma in their pasts and move toward hopeful futures! Join us and #GolfForTheGood of those who rely on Wedgwood's grace-filled care.



TITLE SPONSORS:



REGISTER TODAY | www.wedgwood.org/golf



SAVE THE DATE | **October 21, 2021** | AMWAY HANGAR @ GERALD R. FORD AIRPORT

A spectacular evening, celebrating the 300,000+ lives transformed through Wedgwood's programs and services! At Wedgwood, we help people discover their wings so that they can soar into a future brimming with hope and possibility.

- ▶ The Doug & Lois Nagel Leadership Award
- ▶ The Molly Guillaume Volunteer of the Year Award
- ▶ Live interview with Dr. Wendi Miller; former Wedgwood resident
- ▶ CEO Update
- ▶ "Where My Wings Will Take Me" Art installation featuring original art from Wedgwood clients

Employee Accolades

Join us in celebrating the dedicated staff members who have reached milestone Team Wedgwood anniversaries!

35 YEARS



NANCY LAMPEN
(Advancement)



REV. ARLAN PALMER
(Diversity/Chaplaincy)

30 YEARS

DAWN HARVEY
(Residential Admin)

LUANNE NEGEN
(Human Resources)

25 YEARS

DWIGHT ARMS
(Residential)

CINDY MANNING
(Education)

SAM SANDEE
(Employment Training)

20 YEARS

BECKIE BELLIEL
(Residential)

STEPHANIE DONOVAN
(Quality Assurance)

JACKIE BREWSTER
(Employment Training)

KRISTI IPPEL
(Nursing)

15 YEARS

KENDRICK CUMMINGS
(Residential)

TROY RADDEN
(Employment Training)

SUE VACHON
(Food Services)

10 YEARS

STEVEN JORDAN
(Residential)

PATRICK MBURU
(Residential)

ELIZABETH RAESE
(Outpatient Counseling)

ALISON LISIAK
(Advancement)

STEPHANIE NELSON
(Residential)

JACKIE SNYDER
(Facilities)

5 YEARS

HALEY BLOOM
(Autism Center)

NICOLE HOWE
(Autism Center)

AMY LEE
(Residential)

MICHELLE ROBERTS
(Outpatient Counseling)

JESSICA VAN DYKE
(Autism Center)

PATRICIA DAZA
(Food Services)

CHRISTY JESSE
(Autism Center)

DONAL LYNCH
(Residential)

JENNIFER RUFFIN
(Autism Center)

CHRISTOPHER WEEMS
(Residential)

JACK HAGEDORN
(Finance)

HILLARY KIRKENDALL
(Advancement)

AUDREY PAUWELS
(Autism Center)

REBEKAH SHELL
(Residential)

JAMI WELLER
(Substance Use Treatment)

RAVEN HAYWOOD
(Residential)

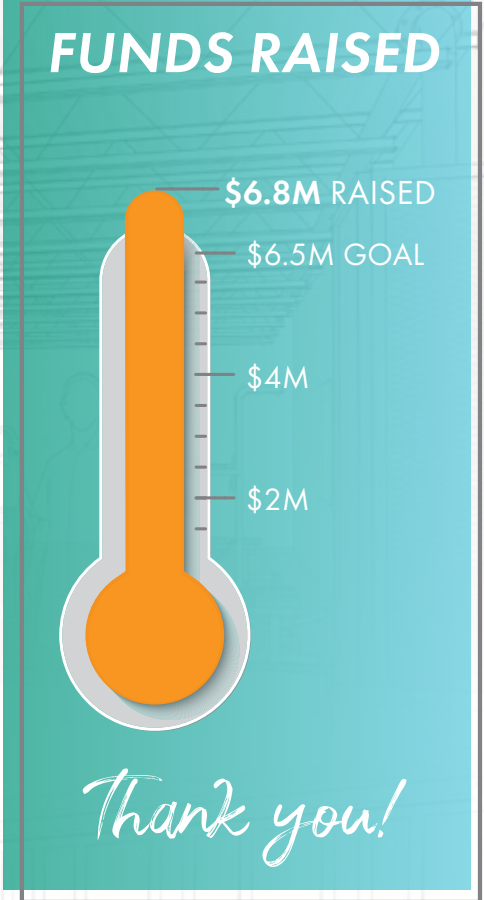
ELIZABETH KOSTER
(Autism Center)

"I have been able to see God use this agency to help lives change through sharing hope with people who have often lost their way. I also work with amazing people who are a testament to God's Love and Grace through the compassion they have for the people we serve and each other."

— Stephanie Donovan, Wedgwood's Clients Rights Advisor



You made all the difference!



The **Faith In Our Future Capital Campaign** was a resounding success, raising over \$6.8 million from many generous friends of Wedgwood. These donors support Wedgwood's mission and value the work being done to transform the lives of children, families, and adults.

We continue to utilize campaign funds to improve the lives of those who depend on Wedgwood. While COVID-19 forced many of our projects to be delayed, we were able to make much needed improvements in key areas recently. As restrictions continue to be lifted, we are hopeful that more of our projects can begin.

Thanks so much for investing in Wedgwood's grace-filled care. It makes all the difference! ✝



Vivian TerMaat, MM, CFRE | Chief Advancement Officer | VTERMAAT@WEDGWOOD.ORG



WEDGWOOD
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3 WAYS YOU CAN *Transform Lives*



SHARE

Follow Wedgwood on social media and share our posts with your networks!



ENCOURAGE

Make Encouragement Cards for the kids in our care!

Email **HELLO@WEDGWOOD.ORG** for details.



DONATE

WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/GIVE

Mail checks payable to
Wedgwood Christian Services to
3300 36th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Text **WEDGWOOD** to **41444**