



# Planting *Seeds*



**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.



FROM THE  
*President's Desk*



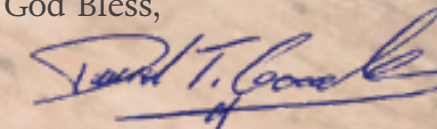
**T**oday, we have lots of reasons to be hopeful. For the first time in two years, we are in an optimistic position with the pandemic, signaling that normalcy may finally be within reach. Cases are down from an all-time peak, vaccinations and treatment are at our disposal, and we are heading into Spring where we can spend more time outdoors, reducing transmission and infection.

As we look around, we see God's amazing plan at work. Trees, plants, and flowers are preparing to explode with buds and once again come alive after a dark and dreary winter. We start to tend to our gardens, cleaning up debris and planting seeds so that they can prosper with beautiful blooms, fruits, or vegetables later in the season. The same is true here at Wedgwood. Our staff does an incredible job of recognizing the potential within the people we serve, and providing the right amount of care and support to help them thrive. **I'm so grateful to all of our employees, whose commitment and dedication continued to shine** despite all of the challenges the last couple of years has brought us.

We are also looking ahead at how we can cultivate programs to better meet the needs of our community. One primary area of need is the mental health and well-being of young people. The *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* and *Children's Hospital Association* have declared a national emergency in children's mental health, citing the serious toll of the pandemic on top of existing challenges. In some ways we're moving from a pandemic of physical health to one of mental health, and the children in our community **desperately need the expertise, compassion, and dedication that Wedgwood is known for.**

I'm grateful that in the midst of everything we've been through, we have continued to produce wonderful stories of hope and inspiration. **I hope you have a chance to sit back, and enjoy the stories we've compiled in this edition of The IMPACT.** As you'll see, we have an incredibly talented team, whose dedication and compassion provide fruitful conditions to help those we serve thrive. ✝

God Bless,




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



# Room For All



Rev. LeRae Kuperus | LKUPERUS@WEDGWOOD.ORG  
Chief Officer of Mission Integration and Spiritual Formation



## The Nagel Chapel is a special place.

It is the epicenter of activities and geographically the central hub of our campus.

On the back wall of the chapel sanctuary hangs a painting by Joel Schoon-Tanis titled "The Kingdom of Heaven has Room for You." Upon close inspection, one can see birds of all species, colors, and sizes perched and resting in a flourishing, life-giving tree. In the left bottom corner a hand holds out a mustard seed and directly above a dove hovers over the tree. Art is left to one's interpretation, but one can't help parse out themes of growth, inclusion, hospitality, and life in abundance. For our Wedgwood kids who are desperate for the experience of belonging, safety, and acceptance, God's generous statement — "I have room for you" — though unfamiliar, is an invitation from an extravagant host to just hang out and stay awhile.

### Space is important for seed planting.

Doug and Lois Nagel have been part of Wedgwood for more than 50 years and were instrumental in creating this life-giving space where our children and teens can come as they are, relax and have fun, and hear the good news of Jesus' over-the-top, unrestrained love for them. From the Chapel's inception, Doug's business



"The Kingdom of Heaven has Room for You" Mural

mindset and local connections played an integral role in the construction of the building. In the last 20 years, Doug and Lois gave generous gifts financing room renovation costs for the Coffee House and Kid's Club, spaces created purposely for enjoyment and frequented by the kids who call Wedgwood home. The Nagels set up an endowing gift specifically for the Nagel Chapel to ensure its continued service to the ministry and spiritual well-being of those who enter in and desire rest. Often, Doug would call for updates, ask about our kids and whether we had adequate resources. Lois, always with words of praise and a pat on the hand, expresses her confidence in the work being done through Wedgwood's Chaplaincy and Young Life programs. With Doug's passing in December, we reflect on, and are immensely grateful for the Nagel's relentless investment of their hearts, counsel and resources - which are invaluable to the mission of transforming lives and will continue to produce fruit for years to come.



Doug & Lois Nagel at a Wedgwood Legacy Society Event

My office is in the Nagel Chapel. I witness up close, front and center, what happens in this space. There are so many holy moments. A resounding "Thank you!" to the Nagels who accepted God's invitation to join in becoming extravagant hosts and help to expand Jesus' Kingdom. While this invitation is extended to all of us, so too are His life-giving words, **"The Kingdom of Heaven has room for you."**



Because of the space the Nagel Chapel provides, fun events, such as Life-Sized Candy Land, Start of Summer Sno-Cone celebrations, and Music Therapy Performances and Talent Shows, are possible!

Want to know more about how our Chaplaincy services are transforming lives? Check out this episode of **WEDGWOOD'S COFFEE BREAK CONVERSATIONS!**

<https://bit.ly/Chaplaincy-Podcast>



SCAN ME



# Meaningful, Purposeful Work

Michael Voss | [MVOSS@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:MVOSS@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Residential Program Manager



For Michael Voss, Wedgwood's Residential Program Manager, working at Wedgwood Christian Services is so much more than a job. It's a calling.

For the last 24 years, working for a distinctively Christian, professionally excellent organization and helping people make changes to turn their lives around has been – and continues to be – crucial, meaningful work for Michael.

Wedgwood's team is full of people who have answered God's call to use their skills, talents, and passions to extend God's love to children, teens, families, and adults in West Michigan. Having worked in a variety of roles in Wedgwood's Residential Program, and in other capacities in the criminal justice and social work fields, Michael has a unique perspective on answering the call to serve others.

**Here are 5 thoughts from Michael on working with a calling and purpose:**

## Remember who you are working with

Wedgwood's Residential Program provides care and treatment for children and teens who have tumultuous, trauma-filled pasts. What they have experienced results in serious mental, emotional, and behavioral health challenges.

"Despite all they have endured," Michael said, "they are still just kids."

Kids who are excited about things like roller coasters, telling someone they did well on a test, and having mac n' cheese for lunch.

Each child, teen, and adult that relies on Wedgwood's grace-filled care is a person who has immense value, and is someone that Jesus loves so dearly that he'd give his all for them. Each person is unique, precious, and important.

## Keep yourself educated on the issues

Michael was once given this advice from a supervisor: "You know what the answer to the problem is, you need to learn more about the problem." Meaning: **we know that God's love and grace, and the compassion of the Wedgwood team are key in the healing process.**

## Comfort others with the comfort we've received

When we learn exciting news or a helpful piece of advice, we want to share it with others. We want to help people as much as we can.

Michael refers to 2 Corinthians 1:4 which reminds us that **we are called to extend to others the same love, grace, and comfort that God has shown us.** For Wedgwood, this is the core of our mission: extending God's love to youth, adults, and families through professional counseling and educational support.

## Planting and watering seeds

Transforming lives is not always a quick process. In fact, it rarely is. It can be helpful to think about it like planting and watering seeds.

"Sometimes we don't see the fruits of our labor in the way we want it or when we want it," said Michael. "But we have to trust God in the process."

Patience, while not always easy, is key. Just like plant varieties sprout, grow, and bloom at different rates, people understand, grow, heal, and change at their own pace. Sometimes that means we can see some of the impact we are making, sometimes that means we are planting a seed to prepare them for the growth that's to come.

## Leave each day with no regrets

Michael's personal motto is to leave work each day with no regrets – knowing that he did all he could do with his day.

"I strive to be in step with what God is leading me to do," he said.

Whether it's sharing the encouragement with a coworker, taking the extra time to hear about a kid's day, or being intentional about following up on paperwork – **do all that you can within your role to make a difference.** 🌱

Want to know more about how our Residential Treatment services are transforming lives? Check out this episode of **WEDGWOOD'S COFFEE BREAK CONVERSATIONS!**

<https://bit.ly/Residential-Podcast>



SCAN ME



# Growing & Thriving

Jami Weller is a Recovery Support Specialist within Wedgwood's Substance Use Disorder treatment services. For the last 7 years, she has walked alongside mothers in Muskegon County in their recovery journeys providing them coaching and support, setting them up for success in preventing relapse, and moving into long-term recovery and a healthier life-style. We sat down with Jami to talk about how taking steps in recovery can help people grow and thrive!



Jami Weller | JWELLER@WEDGWOOD.ORG  
Recovery Support Specialist

## When you start working with people, what needs do they have?

Often we see women who have some of even the most basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. Once these needs are met, we are able to focus on their recovery needs, things ranging from starting medicated assisted treatment to finding inpatient care, to meeting with them multiple times a week to help achieve stability. **A recovery journey looks different for each person.** Sometimes they need to detox before they can do the hard work, other times just having a person to talk with is what they need to get started.

## In terms of your work, what does Planting Seeds mean to you?

It means to have understanding that you are not always going to see changes, or to see the difference you make in someone's life but every move we make helps support them in their growth. I have hope that the things we talk about in session are things they will take with them and remember later, or share with someone else down the road. I see seeds planted daily in watching people **growing and thriving in simply knowing they are not alone in their path to recovery.**

## How have you seen people grow in our Recovery Services?

When people leave services there isn't always a guarantee that they are okay, but recently I've run into two different clients in the community after they were discharged from our services. One woman had reached 18 months sober, and she looked incredible; the physical signs of use were gone, and she was doing well in life. Another woman I ran into at a garage sale, and that's not something you do when you're using. **It's encouraging to see these women thriving after leaving our services.**

## What do you want our readers to know about the 'Seed Planting' work that you and your team do every day?

We may not see client's bloom to their full potential in that moment but the work we do is really important. The work we do saves lives. Harm reduction saves lives. Working with people with addictions can be a very thankless job, long hours, and stressful situations, but we are making a difference. Can you imagine how someone would feel battling a disease like addiction alone? They wouldn't stand a chance. **Thank you for giving people a chance.** Thank you for helping make recovery possible. We are the seeds in helping to make recovery possible. 🌱

Learn more about Wedgwood's Recovery Services: [www.wedgwood.org/substance-use](http://www.wedgwood.org/substance-use)



Brina Tiemeyer | BTIEMEYER@WEDGWOOD.ORG  
Community Mental Health Clinical Supervisor



It is a daily honor to be invited into the hearts of children and families whom are hurting so deeply and instilling hope when they feel hopeless. I love walking alongside of each and every one of them, empowering them to be all that they are capable of being. I believe in taking a collaborative approach to helping clients reach their full potential; that is, planting seeds while watching each individual client and family bloom within themselves. It is my belief that clients are the experts in their own lives and by blending our areas of expertise together, we can become a team to help the client reach their desired goals and their full potential. A team is a relationship, a continuing and committed partnership between two or more people that allow influence on not only one's actions but also their thoughts and feelings. Reflection of your daily interactions and the ability to empower others to be the best they can be builds not only an open, honest connection but also promotes a bond towards a common goal; in other words, creates a team. Through this camaraderie, we are able to plant the seeds necessary to help promote long term resiliency in those we serve. We are able to provide therapy based on clients' beliefs, strengths, and unique story. These individuals, these kiddos, are so resilient, and they deserve a team working together towards a healthy outcome. They deserve to blossom, and know they are capable. 🌱

Learn more about Wedgwood's Counseling & Mental Health Services: [www.wedgwood.org/counseling](http://www.wedgwood.org/counseling)



## Wedgwood Names Chris Rivera Vice President of Clinical Services

With the continued and amplified needs for comprehensive mental and behavioral health services in West Michigan, Wedgwood is growing our integrated approach to outpatient and outreach counseling and recovery services. Chris Rivera has been promoted to Vice President of Clinical Services to lead these critical services.

Integrating our outreach and outpatient community treatment programs supports the growing needs, and embraces the full spectrum of treatment needs, in the communities that we serve. This model gives our therapists exposure to more diverse treatment modalities and caseloads, which provides a more well-rounded clinical experience. There is strength in the ability to serve "anyone who comes in the door," from a clinical standpoint, and those seeking services will benefit from working with therapists who have multidisciplinary treatment strengths. Wedgwood remains committed to providing individualized and effective counseling and recovery services for children, teens, adults, and families in a grace-filled, compassionate environment.

Want to know more about how our Recovery Services are transforming lives? Check out this episode of **WEDGWOOD'S COFFEE BREAK CONVERSATIONS!**

<https://bit.ly/Recovery-Podcast>



SCAN ME





## PLANTING Foundational SEEDS

"Look at this rock!" "Bug!" "It's an ant!"

*I recently overheard a group of children who are receiving therapy at [Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development](#) exploring one of the flower beds outside the center. While their parents were chatting, these kids were having fun pointing out what they found amongst the plants and wood chips.*

*For kids, who at the start of the treatment, didn't notice or care to interact with other children, this experience shows how much they can blossom with the right support and care. Their interaction was not only fun exploration of nature, but learning from each other, demonstrating communication skills, and making friends!*

Seed planting is really at the core of what Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development does.

Young kids with autism spectrum disorders come to our a center with a variety of needs and challenges - lack of effective communication, difficult behaviors and safety concerns, and delays in social and personal skill development. Our team of highly-trained and incredibly caring professionals work with each child and family to build those foundational skills that kids need to blossom on their own.



DR. CANDICE LAKE, PHD, BCBA-D, LBA, LLP  
Director of Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development  
[AUTISMCENTER@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:AUTISMCENTER@WEDGWOOD.ORG)



When we can teach a child to communicate and give them the tools to express their needs and wants - everything changes. When we can teach them how to observe and imitate others, it opens up a whole new way for them to learn. These seeds of new opportunity, with the care and cultivation from our team, sprout into skills that are foundational for everything else in children's lives. Like our friends exploring the flower bed — practicing safety outside, making friends, communicating with others, and learning from the natural environment are all vital to a child's success in school, which can lead to success in many key areas in a child's life.

In therapy, our team focuses on setting kids and families up for success in their 'real-lives', outside the center. At the center we are planting the seeds of valuable skills, and then we teach families how to best water and tend to their little 'sprout'. We go in to their homes and help caregivers understand and implement therapy practices, and empower families with the tools and skills to teach their children, and advocate for them.

As a community, we can remember that our 'little sprouts' and their caretakers need support from everywhere - sun and water from their surrounding environment. It can be as simple as extending grace and understanding to kids and families you come across — because you never know what is going on below the soil.

Interested in how Wedgwood's Autism Center is helping young kids with autism spectrum disorders establish their roots and blossom through comprehensive early intensive behavioral intervention and the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), an empirically supported treatment? To learn how our team provides comprehensive, individualized therapy that encompasses all areas affected by the child's autism spectrum disorder with fun and life-changing services, please visit [www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter](http://www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter) or call us at 616-965-3492. 🌱

Want to know more about how our Autism Center is transforming lives? Check out this episode of **WEDGWOOD'S COFFEE BREAK CONVERSATIONS!**

<https://bit.ly/Autism-Podcast>





# Learn to Earn

AFTER SCHOOL JOB SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM



Wedgwood's Employment Training Program (ETP) gives teens in our Residential Treatment Program an opportunity to learn and develop crucial job and life skills. Recently, through a Positive Youth Development Grant, Wedgwood has made it possible for **teens from throughout the Grand Rapids community to access these valuable workforce development services** with a program called Learn to Earn.

In this 8-week program students come to Wedgwood's Employment Training Center twice a week for a lesson pertaining to employability - covering things such as filling out an application, interviewing, common paperwork and forms, and resume building - followed by hands on work experience in woodworking, sewing and upholstery, screen printing, candle making and/or lawn care. Wedgwood's ETP team builds mentor relationships and helps kids process what they are learning during the meals and transportation that are provided. In addition to learning these valuable skills, kids leave with references, a stipend, and bonuses earned through attendance and participation.

It has become clear in our work with teens in Wedgwood's Residential Care and within the larger community that many are **severely lacking in positive role models and examples**. Most have no idea on how to get a job, keep a job, and even how to leave a job without ruining their employment reputation. Kids are also dealing with low self-esteem, poor relationships, lack of adult support, and poor decision making. Our team steps up to teach them how to be a good employee which can help them gain their own independence as they enter adulthood.

Each day within Wedgwood's Employment Training and Learn to Earn Program, we are planting seeds, often without them even noticing how much they are truly learning and growing. When the first sprouts of success start appearing and students see what they are capable of, that's when they really start investing in and cultivating their own growth. They will learn that growth can be a lot of work, but the fruits of their labor have a sweet pay-off. Realistically many of these students are not college-bound, so it's our job - our mission - to ensure that they are ready to be capable members of our community and that they **know their life and what they can offer to the world is valuable and important**. Through our work we are able to empower the next generation not to settle, and to create their own future full of hope and possibilities!



SCAN ME

CHECK OUT THIS TV SEGMENT with WOODTV8's Maranda about Wedgwood's Learn to Earn

<https://bit.ly/Learn-to-Earn-Story>

Learn more: [www.wedgwood.org/employment-training](http://www.wedgwood.org/employment-training)

Jackie Brewster | [JBREWSTER@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:JBREWSTER@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Employment Training Program Manager



# Where Success Grows

Wedgwood's Positive Youth Development (PYD) Team works within local schools to provide empowering prevention programs for middle and high school students. They cover everything - healthy relationships, how to date (and break up!), how the choices you make can impact future goals, risk avoidance, substance use prevention, and leadership skills. In having a presence within the schools and teaching important curriculum in classrooms, the PYD team is in a unique position to not only plant the seeds of positive development through instruction, but to also help cultivate growth in students through establishing relationships. With in-school curriculum, summer programming, and community events the PYD team gives kids, and families, the skills, support, and encouragement they need to thrive — and safe place where success can grow.



"It's a type of mission work. We are going out in the community, bringing this message, encouraging, and hopefully changing lives for the better in the work that we do."

Cathy Racalla, Prevention Services Team Lead



"For me, it's about letting kids know that they are not alone. We can be a trusted adult that reminds them of their worth and that they are loved."

Mike Steffes, Group Specialist



"This is where my heart is. It feels easy to do this work because I love the kids."

Heather Stimson, Group Specialist



"Planting seeds is an act of faith. We are called to plant the seed, the same way God plants seeds in us, even though we may not see it sprout and bloom. And that's where our faith kicks in. We know it works and we have faith God will do it again."

Derek Hernandez, PYD Administrative Assistant



"There is so much power in a caring adult continuing to show up. We prove to them that we care by showing up. In our consistency is where we begin to see the growth."

Steve Carigon, Group Specialist



"Having a student tell me that he knew I was a person he could trust was a great reminder that even if they aren't participating in the lesson, they are still listening, and taking note of who we are and what we do."

Gina Boscarino, Group Specialist

Want to know more about how our Prevention Services are transforming lives? Check out this episode of **WEDGWOOD'S COFFEE BREAK CONVERSATIONS!**

<https://bit.ly/PYD-Podcast>



SCAN ME





# LIKE A Mustard Seed

**“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”**  
*// Robert Lewis Stevenson*

Wedgwood is in the seed planting business every day. The Bible gives extraordinary insights about seed planting. II Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Wedgwood's purpose with the children, teens, adults, and families we serve is to plant healthy seeds, and then nurture them to be a fine harvest of changed lives, seeking to honor their Creator. The purpose of the Wedgwood Foundation is to provide deep-rooted, long-term stability to Wedgwood's mission for years to come — like a mustard seed, the smallest of the seeds, planted in a field, grows into the largest tree in the garden, providing a safe place for the birds of the air to come perch in it's branches.

**“We have made at least a start in discerning the meaning of human life when we plant shade trees under which we know well we would never sit.”**  
*// D. Elton Trublood*

Your faithful support as we plant seeds is vital to our purpose. Please let us know how we can assist you in the process of planning gifts or deciding which financial options are best for you and your desires to leave a meaningful legacy. We can also connect you with Christian-focused financial planners through our partnership with Barnabas Foundation, at no cost to you. Thank you for joining us in helping children, teens, adults, and families grow, blossom, and thrive. 🌱

Gary Raterink, CPA | [GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:GRATERINK@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
 Planned Giving Officer



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

## WEDGWOOD FOUNDATION Legacy Society

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.

Anonymous Friends (10)  
 Don Beukema\*  
 John\* & Judy\* Bielema  
 Jack & Dora\* Bloem  
 Jim & Barb Boelkins  
 R Charles Boelkins\*  
 John & Janice Borst  
 Henry\* & Carolyn Bouma  
 Lois Bouma  
 Rick & Carla Capotosto  
 Ross & Heidi Cate  
 Carol Boven Fitzgerald\*  
 Tom & Joan De Fouw  
 Bill & Carol Dearinger  
 Vern & Linda De Weerd  
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 Lucille Doorn\*  
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Gordon\* & Ginny Geldof  
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 John\* & Carole Hoffman  
 Robert Hoover\*  
 Donald\* & Frances\* Johns  
 Willard & Mary\* Kingma  
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 Arnold\* & Peg Knoll  
 Robert & Ruth Knoll  
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 Julie Nagel  
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 Philip & Audrey Wiltjer  
 Casey\* & Vivian\* Wondergem  
 Dave\* & Bea Zylstra  
 Randy & Beth Zylstra  
 \*deceased

## Gifts in Memory

GIFTS RECEIVED 9/30/21-3/1/22

Gifts in Memory are placed in the Wedgwood Living Memorial Fund which is a part of the Wedgwood Foundation. This is a permanent fund, and the earnings are used for the care of the people who rely on Wedgwood for many years to come.

Clayton Brummel  
 Terry & Jan Brummel

Terry Chamberlain  
 Tait Chamberlain

Bud & Ella Decker  
 Gert Nieboer

Gerrit Egedy  
 Arlene Egedy

Devi Fongers  
 Sandy & Vern Bareman  
 Kyle Cooper

Douglas Daining  
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† - gifts made in memory of Doug Nagel are placed in the Nagel Chapel Endowment Fund



WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

# State of the Child

A panel conversation about the toughest challenges facing kids today.

Over 160 professionals and community members joined together at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park for a panel conversation and breakout sessions addressing the toughest challenges facing kids today. Led by a conversation with local teens, our panel of community experts discussed mental health, trauma, substance use, life online, and relationships. The new additions of breakout sessions allowed attendees to dive deeper in to mental health & substance use, positive youth development, and human trafficking prevention.



Panelists L to R: Kali Jackson, Kari Schulte, Dr. Lisa Lowery, Chris Becker, Kevin Polston, Maranda

STATE OF THE CHILD PANEL OF EXPERTS

- ▶ Kali Jackson | Wedgwood Residential Treatment Therapist
- ▶ Kari Schulte | Wedgwood Substance Use Disorder Clinical Supervisor

- ▶ Dr. Lisa Lowery | Spectrum Health Section Chief of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine
- ▶ Chris Becker | Kent County Prosecuting Attorney
- ▶ Kevin Polston | Kentwood Public Schools Superintendent
- ▶ Moderated by Maranda of ABC 4 West Michigan

WATCH THE CONVERSATIONS | [www.wedgwood.org/sotc](http://www.wedgwood.org/sotc)



Wedgwood's CEO, Dr. Dan Gowdy shares opening remarks



Teen panelists with Maranda

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MONDAY, JUNE 6 | EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

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Golf FOR THE good

Wedgwood's 37th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, June 6, 2022, at Egypt Valley Country Club supports our 100% donor-funded Transforming Services, which help kids, adults, and families 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.

REGISTER TODAY | [www.wedgwood.org/golf](http://www.wedgwood.org/golf)



SAVE THE DATE | October 6, 2022 | AMWAY HANGAR @ GERALD R. FORD AIRPORT

A spectacular evening, celebrating 62 years of 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 a former Wedgwood resident
- ▶ CEO Update
- ▶ 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**



**MARIE BROWN**  
(Residential)



**DEB KNOTT**  
(Food Services)

**30 YEARS**

**CHRIS WARECK**  
(Finance)

**20 YEARS**

**MARY MONSMA**  
(Admissions)

**15 YEARS**

**SANDY BOYER**  
(Human Resources)  
**BILL EVERETT**  
(Training Institute)  
**JAMES HORRELL**  
(Employment Training)  
**TAB JOHNSON**  
(Employment Training)

**10 YEARS**

**GINA BOSCARINO**  
(Prevention)

**SHAWN JACKSON**  
(Residential)

**TAMRA PELL**  
(Counseling)

**COLETTE WALMA**  
(Information Services)

**ALICIA GOMEZ**  
(Wraparound)

**JASON LHEUREUX**  
(Residential Admin)

**LATESA THOMAS**  
(Training Institute)

**5 YEARS**

**COURTNEY BIESIADA**  
(Recovery Services)

**SOPHIA DE LAND DYKSTRA**  
(Counseling)

**AARON MASTENBROOK**  
(Autism Center)

**PHIL SLACHTER**  
(Admissions)

**PAUL BREITHAAPT**  
(Counseling)

**BRIANNE GARDNER**  
(Residential)

**ALLISON OPPENNEER**  
(Residential)

**CHRISTINE STEHLIK**  
(Residential)

**SHAWN BUGGS**  
(Residential)

**ABBY HARTGER**  
(Counseling)

**HANNAH REED**  
(Recovery Services)

**JENNIFER TORNGA**  
(Recovery Services)

**VALERIE LASTER**  
(Counseling)

**KELLEY ROEST**  
(Facilitator)

**SHAWNA WALKER**  
(Residential)

"I am so grateful for all the people I have met here and for those precious moments when I truly feel I made a difference with a kid. I feel that Wedgwood's mission and values are not something you just find anywhere and I have always been thankful for the life that working here has helped me create for myself and my family. A lot of special work goes on here and most of it happens outside of the limelight, but I have never doubted that Wedgwood is Transforming Lives!

— Jason Lheureux, Associate Director of Residential Care



Know someone who wants to make a difference in the lives of kids, adults, and families in West Michigan? Wedgwood is looking to add dedicated, compassionate individuals to our team! As an organization that is committed to both extending God's love and providing excellent care, Wedgwood is great place to pursue your calling, grow professionally, and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Plant seeds of hope! See all openings & apply at [www.wedgwood.org/join-our-team](http://www.wedgwood.org/join-our-team)

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### Agency Recognition

Top-Rated Nonprofit (GreatNonprofits) | Best & Brightest in Wellness | Top-Rated Recovery Services (Help.org) | Reader's Choice for Mental Health (West Michigan Woman) | Best Car Detailing Service (GRKids)

### Employee & Board Member Recognition

- **West Michigan Woman's Brilliance Awards Finalists**
  - 2021: **Brina Tiemeyer**, Clinical Supervisor (Team Player Award)
  - 2022: **Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge**, Wedgwood's Manasseh Project (Tenacity Award), **Gary Raterink**, Planned Giving Officer (Best Supporting Man), **Emily Quellet**, NextGen Board Co-Chair (Emerging Leader)
- **Grand Rapids Business Journal's 40 Under 40**
  - **Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge** (Wedgwood's Manasseh Project), **Aleka Thrash** (NextGen Board Member), **Matt Baxter** (NextGen Board Member), **Alexa Kramer** (NextGen Board Member)
- **LINC UP's Community Spirit Award Finalist**
  - **Dr. Candice Lake** (Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development)
- **ATHENA Award Recipient**
  - **Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge** (Wedgwood's Manasseh Project)
- **Grand Rapids Business Journal's 50 Most Influential Women**
  - **Dr. Candice Lake** (Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development), **Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge** (Wedgwood's Manasseh Project), **Dr. Lisa Lowery** (Board of Directors), **Aleka Thrash** (NextGen Board)
- **Grand Rapids Young Professionals Young Professional Awards**
  - **Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge** (Wedgwood's Manasseh Project), **Taylor Walburg** (NextGen Board)







WEDGWOOD  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES  
3300 36<sup>TH</sup> STREET SE  
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