



*Growth*

**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*



The last few years have not been easy for anyone. I like to think that a season of struggle is not about how difficult the challenge was, but how we coped with it.

As I reflect on what we've been through with the COVID-19 pandemic, **I can't help but think about how much we've grown** — as a team, as an organization, and the potential we now have going forward.

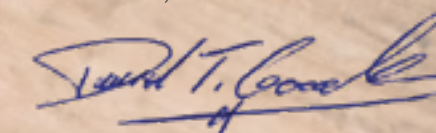
I'm grateful for the faithfulness that surrounds us here at Wedgwood. Over the last few years, I saw staff work long hours covering for sick colleagues; I saw them put the needs of our clients above their own; and I saw each one of them have the courage to keep pressing on when the end was nowhere in sight. **These were continuous reminders of how our team evolved and worked together to demonstrate their strength, resilience and courage.**

As we start to put the challenges of the pandemic behind us, Wedgwood is now positioning for renewed growth. We are so grateful and proud of our two Boards for unanimously approving a \$1.3M Residential Stabilization Plan earlier this summer to help put Wedgwood on a path towards pre-pandemic levels. This plan has already helped us scale up our workforce with some of the best and brightest applicants, reduced our turnover, and increased our resident count so that we can serve more individuals in the community. It is, by far, **the boldest move we have taken to demonstrate our commitment to quality care.**

As children across the state, and country, face a mental health crisis, **our talent, ability and dedication are needed now more than ever.** As we look to the future, we will continue to identify ways to expand our services in order to help more children, adults, and families in our community.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our mission. It is my hope that as you read the stories we've compiled in this edition of THE IMPACT, you'll see God's grace and hope shine through their words. 🌟

God Bless,




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

# Upward Progress

We recently sat down for a conversation about growth with Kali Jackson. As the Residential Therapist for our [Cook Claus Residential Treatment Program](#), Kali provides individual and group therapy, case management, and after care services. She also serves on Wedgwood's Strategic Directions team, and provides community presentations and trainings about [Human Trafficking prevention and advocacy](#).

KALI JACKSON, LMSW-C, CAADC-DP | [KJACKSON2@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:KJACKSON2@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Residential Therapist, Cook Claus Program



## Can you describe the teens you work with in our Cook Claus program?

I work with young women ages 12-18 who are survivors of Human Trafficking and/or severe sexual assault or abuse. These young women typically struggle with co-occurring disorders such as mental health diagnoses and substance abuse disorders. The girls may have no contact with their biological family, may be working on reunification with their biological family, or preparing for independent living environments.

## In terms of your work and the work of the Residential team, what does “Growth” mean to you?

Growth to me means always making upward progress. It is all about the little wins. It doesn't have to be something huge. The little wins fuel some of my greatest success stories.

## How do you see kids grow throughout their time in Wedgwood's Residential Care?

In my position at Wedgwood, I have the privilege of watching kids grow in many different ways. It begins upon admission. I must build trust and develop a rapport with each girl before any true healing can begin. By the time a girl discharges from our program, they are willing and able to build and maintain new healthy relationships with both peers and adults. Kids also grow in their problem solving and independent living skills. The growth that kids make at Wedgwood is just the beginning. Our amazing treatment team plants the seeds that continue to grow with our residents long after they leave Wedgwood.

## Do you have any meaningful stories of kids growing and thriving?

I have seen many success stories during my time here at Wedgwood. These successes can be as small as getting a good grade on an assignment or learning a new coping skill. These successes can be as big as securing their first job or going to court and facing their perpetrator. One specific example of a resident growing and truly thriving while here at Wedgwood is a girl who turned 18 while in our program and was faced with the reality of aging out of the system with nowhere to go. Through our ongoing therapy and her work at our [Employment Training Program](#) she was able to gain the necessary skills to be eligible for off-campus employment. Being able to secure this employment assisted her with being accepted into an independent living home. Through the consistent support, advocacy, and opportunity the treatment team provided this young lady was able to successfully discharge. She's also been able to maintain and is continuing to show growth by keeping employment, managing finances, and successfully living independently.

## Why do you love your job and working at Wedgwood?

I love my job because it allows me to have a positive impact on survivors of Human Trafficking and their future path to higher education, employment, and recovery. I not only provide clinical support, but I also provide a safe space for healing, advocacy, and faith-based care. Many times, I am the first and only advocate these girls have had in their lives so far. Seeing their trauma turn into success can be life-changing (not only for the girls, but also for me!) I love being able to provide support, encouragement, and education in an environment where I can see the benefit of my work. Beyond my passion for helping survivors, I also love being a catalyst for advocacy and change within the professional mental health community through presentations and networking with community workers.

## What do you think makes Wedgwood a special place?

Wedgwood is a special place to work because of our holistic approach to care and our willingness to meet clients where they are at. We must get creative with many different treatment modalities since there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to therapy. Each girls' story is unique, as is their treatment plan and road to success. Wedgwood is able to provide opportunities to teens that not only enhance their treatment but allow them to feel like kids again. Wedgwood provides on and off campus activities to allow kids to have fun again. Life, trauma, treatment, it can all be extremely stressful. Wedgwood takes the time to validate the feelings of stress and provide a space to unwind in creative ways.

## What do you want our community to know about the growth Wedgwood helps people work toward every day?

I want Wedgwood's supporters to know how greatly impactful and appreciated they are by our kids and our residential therapy team. With their continued support we are able to provide new creative therapy modalities and opportunities that our kids may otherwise never experience. Growth looks different for every person and should be recognized every step of the way. With more celebration comes more growth. Healing is a lifelong journey that anyone can succeed as long as you lift as you climb. 🌱



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

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



SCAN ME

# WHERE THERE IS *Understanding & Guidance*

ARYMIS STEVENSON, LLMSW | [ASTEVENSON@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:ASTEVENSON@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Outpatient Therapist



Wedgwood's traditional outpatient therapy works with people, wherever they find themselves in life, who are facing a variety of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, and even past trauma. A huge part of the role of an outpatient therapist is to be supportive, creating a safe place for people — adults, teens, children, and families — to process thoughts, emotions, and behaviors without judgment. Being supportive often means, simply being present and actively engaged through listening and offering hope.

Weekly sessions allows the therapist to provide psychoeducation, which helps clients and their families better understand and cope with their concerns and diagnosis. Psychoeducation offers validation and

normalizes what individuals may be experiencing. It is amazing to see clients and families ready to move into action with understanding and validation. When there is understanding and guidance, there is growth. Knowing "the why" leads to a desire to learn how to improve. There is no specific time expectation for growth in outpatient therapy. Sometimes there are 'dips' in progress along the way. But, together with their therapist, clients and families can learn how to cope with the 'dips' by utilizing positive coping skills such as cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness. It is a joy and honor to witness the growth in understanding within my clients. Seeing meaningful growth is why we continue offering hope and support through outpatient therapy. 🌱

## PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

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

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



SCAN ME

**Immediate openings for children, teens, & adults!**  
INSURANCE ACCEPTED.

[WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/PSYCH-SERVICES](http://WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/PSYCH-SERVICES)

Wedgwood is a special place because of all the services we offer the community including substance abuse counseling, group therapy, mental health counseling, psychiatric care, residential care, and it's for all ages.

We help people work toward their ideal selves each day. The process is slow and setbacks are part of recovery, but that does not indicate failure.

It's not too late to ask for help. **Acknowledging there is a problem is not a sign of weakness, it is the beginning of growth.** Accepting help is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. Addiction is not a battle that needs to be fought alone.

I love what I do because I feel like I am helping people and making a positive difference in their lives. I think of myself as a mirror; sometimes people lose sight of their strengths and goals, and part of my job is reminding them what they are capable of. 🌱



CHRIS MOON, MA, LLPC, DP-CAADC | [CMOON@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:CMOON@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Clinician, Recovery Services

*Get connected to Recovery Services*

616.930.5004 | 616.240.0612  
[SUDReferral@wedgwood.org](mailto:SUDReferral@wedgwood.org)

INSURANCE ACCEPTED.



[www.wedgwood.org/substance-use](http://www.wedgwood.org/substance-use)

## RECOVERY SERVICES

# NO WAITLIST

**Wedgwood's Counseling Services have no wait list for adults or children! Get connected to mental health support today.**

INSURANCE ACCEPTED.

[COUNSELING@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:COUNSELING@WEDGWOOD.ORG) | 616.742.7294

# Extravagant Growth & Love

I've been in church and parachurch youth ministry for a lot of years. Growth is talked about a lot. It's called outreach. In that context, growth is mainly talked about in numbers. A numerically growing youth group is talked about as being a healthy ministry. A healthy growing youth ministry usually means more families attending church. Which is a good thing.

Ministry at Wedgwood is a unique ministry opportunity. In the Chaplaincy Department we keep track of numbers to track how many kids are coming. But growth is talked about in different ways. We have the kids we have. And the kids we have are carrying memories and stories of trauma. Some of it is almost too hard to think or talk about.

When you get the privilege of ministering to kids who have experienced trauma, **growth means a kid is trusting you**. Trust has been broken, often many times, in their lives. If a kid here can trust that you have the best intentions for them and want them to succeed, that's growth. **Growth is a kid starting to believe they are loved** — by the caring adults here, and by God.

Growth is a conversation about life and faith, growth is a prayer request shared, **growth is a kid letting their walls down enough to have fun, laugh, sing, listen.**

This summer we had a Chapel Activity where we talked about the Lord's Prayer and the significance of it. After all Jesus said, "This then is how we should pray..." The Lord's Prayer has five sections: giving God praise, expressing hopes and prayers for a better world, asking for our daily needs to be met, requesting help with forgiveness, and calling for guidance to avoid temptation.

For each section, we asked the kids what words they would use, how they would say it.

Growth is uttering the words, "Our heavenly father, you are awesome and extravagant with your love."

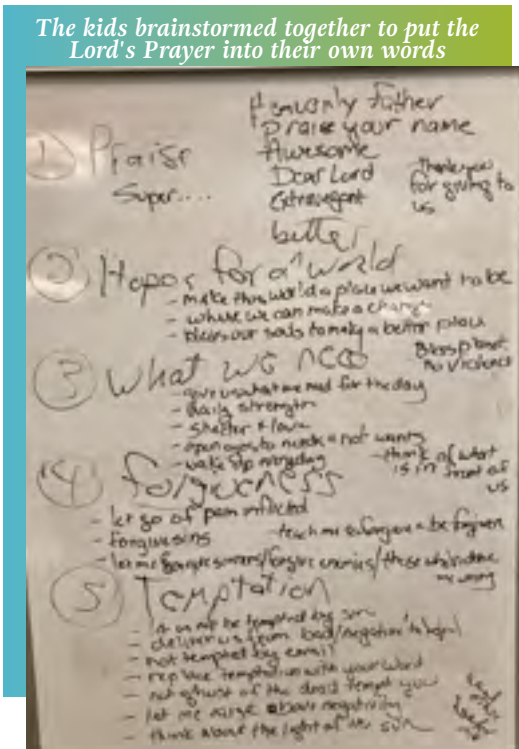
Growth is praying for a better world. "Bless this planet to be a place where there is no hate, violence, or hunger like you place in heaven."

Growth is asking God for *what you need over what you want*.

Growth is a kid who says, "Teach us to forgive and be forgiven," when people in their lives have really, really hurt them.

Growth is asking God to help them make good decisions: "Help us to rise above negativity and stay away from actions that hurt us and others."

Growth is running out of time in this activity because *kids had so much to say, so much to give.*

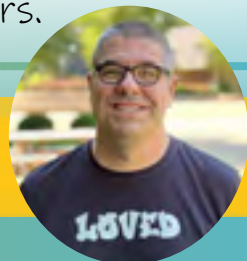


This is the Lord's Prayer in these beautiful kids' words:

Our Heavenly Father

You are *Awesome* and are *extravagant with your love*. Bless our planet to be a place where there is no hate, violence or hunger *like your place in heaven*. Give us *what we need over what we want*. *Teach us* to forgive and be forgiven. Help us to *rise above negativity* and *stay away from actions that hurt us and others*.

Amen ✝️



STEVE CARIGON | SCARIGON@WEDGWOOD.ORG  
Youth Ministry Leader

# Positive YOUTH Development

This summer, Wedgwood's Positive Youth Development (PYD) team was actively involved in many community events! Along with the PYD team, students from our Teen CHARGE leadership group helped promote a positive message surrounding healthy choices and relationships at events like the Comstock Park Mill Creek Days Movie in the Park and the Empowering Youth Today (EYT) THRIVE Conference.

Engagement within the community is an integral part of PYD's work to educate and encourage youth, educators, and parents on relationships and decisions that empower students to grow into who they were created to be! 🌟

[www.wedgwood.org/positive-youth-development](http://www.wedgwood.org/positive-youth-development)

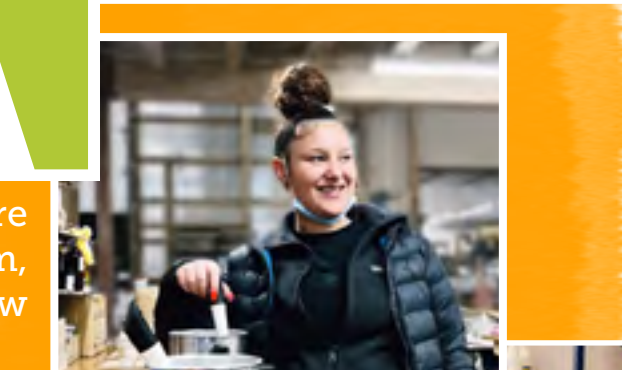
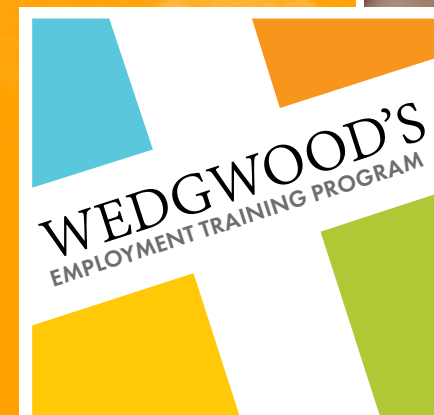


In Wedgwood's Employment Training Program, kids have the opportunity to learn vital life- and job-skills in an environment that empowers learning and growth.

Through handcrafting products in the wood shop, making candles, sewing and upholstery projects, lawn care, and car detailing, our Employment Training Team is able to teach kids more than just trade skills. Kids learn how to work on a team, how to handle constructive feedback, how to interview for a job, and how to grow as a leader.

Check out our website for more information, or our Etsy Shop to purchase products — they make great gifts! ✝️

[WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/EMPLOYMENT-TRAINING](http://WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/EMPLOYMENT-TRAINING)



# Baby Steps TO **BIG LEAPS**

*"Bella, I heard that something exciting is coming up for you. What's happening next week?" "I'm going to a new school!" "Yes, you are! What are you going to do at your new school?" "Play with new friends and learn lots." "Are you excited?" [jumping up and down] "Yes, yes, yes!!! I'm going to have FUN!"*

Bella's parents had concerns about her development from an early age. She didn't have any functional communication and would often cry or bang her head to make her needs known. She also pulled out her hair at bedtime, resulting in bald patches on her scalp. Her parents knew that early intervention would give her the best chance to gain the skills she would need to live an independent, happier life. Bella started therapy at Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development (ACCD) just before she turned two years old. She wasn't vocalizing, so her therapists taught her to use a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in which she would give a small picture to the therapist to ask for what she wanted. For example, if she wanted the barn with horse figurines, she would give a picture of that toy to her



therapist. When she had a way to ask for what she wanted and have her needs met, Bella stopped banging her head. Her tantrums decreased, and she stopped pulling out her hair. Bella used the picture system for nearly a year. Then, she started talking more and more, and, with a lot of practice and coaching, her speech became clearer and easier to understand. Her hair grew long and she learned to brush it, tolerate having it styled, and tell us how she wanted it done. She learned to dress herself, feed herself, use the bathroom independently, play with other children, follow instructions given by a personal therapist and then in a group teaching format, express herself and her creativity, and all the other skills that children learn in their preschool years. Last month, Bella graduated from Wedgwood's ACCD. She is headed to school, where she was placed in a general education classroom with her neurotypical peers!

*"It's my graduation day!" Bella exclaimed, bouncing up and down happily. Her therapist handed her a graduation gown and helped her put on the matching mortarboard cap and adjust the tassel. Bella ran to hug her parents and siblings when she saw them arrive for her ceremony. She posed for lovely photos with her family and then took silly ones with her favorite therapists. Everyone cheered as she ran through the tunnel of peers and therapists to celebrate. 🎉*



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

At Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development (ACCD), we help kids take baby steps that lead to their big leaps. We provide comprehensive early intensive behavioral intervention to young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and focused behavioral intervention to school-age children. Wedgwood's ACCD uses the principles of applied behavior analysis, 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](http://www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter) or call 616-965-3492.**

# Leaving a Legacy

## UP CLOSE

Earlier this year, Wedgwood lost a consistent contributor to The IMPACT and a incredibly valuable member of its team—Gary Raterink went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 16, 2022. After working a full 30-year career as a CPA and business owner, Gary spent his “retirement” serving as the CFO, then Planned Giving Officer at Wedgwood, a second and third career spanning another 30 years. In his time at Wedgwood Gary established the Wedgwood Foundation and Legacy Society, which are dedicated to

supporting the longevity of Wedgwood’s impact. He was faithful to God’s calling on his life and to Wedgwood’s mission. He was tireless in his efforts and always full of wisdom and joy. Gary was an exceptional man of God and blessed Wedgwood beyond measure through his work.

In each issue of The IMPACT, Gary wrote a beautiful article, encouraging readers to consider how God called them to steward their gifts. At Gary’s memorial service, his son Jim read the following article Gary wrote in 2014, following the passing of his wife Neda, about leaving a legacy. We hope his words encourage you to consider your own legacy and how God might use you to further his Kingdom in partnership with Wedgwood.

### LEAVING A LEGACY UP CLOSE

Gary Raterink, Fall 2014

I have written in past articles and mailings about leaving a legacy. Each of us will leave a legacy when we depart this life. What it will be or look like is determined by our actions now and our days and years on earth.

My writings have most often focused on legacies of money and tangible assets. My thoughts on legacies have been widely expanded during the past two years. Due to my wife’s promotion to heaven, I have seen up close her legacies through many people she encouraged and inspired. There is, for example, the Navaho high school student in New Mexico who considered Neda a valuable part of her life and she couldn’t believe that one under hospice care would even think to send her a Christmas gift. There is the young medical student who through her work in the hospital felt so inspired and encouraged by

this patient’s words that upon her medical school graduation invited Neda’s sister and myself to her graduation and open house. A young high school granddaughter who for an assignment wrote about the glimpses of God she saw in her grandmother. There are many more people who expressed thoughts that showed me what legacies she left when heaven called her home.

I now know first-hand that legacies take many forms and I have experienced this in many wonderful ways. It has truly been a harvest of hope lived out in a time of sorrow turned to joy. That is what Wedgwood’s harvest is all about also, creating hope because what we do, and leave behind, will have an eternal impact. Please join with us in changing young lives. What a legacy to leave now while time permits! ✝



## Gifts in Memory

GIFTS RECEIVED 3/1/22–9/30/22

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.

### Melissa Boelkins

Thomas Bales  
Chris & Julie Barney  
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Henderika Elsinga  
Lillian Elsinga  
Fritz & Sandra Esch  
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### Doris Troll

Jim & Carlee Koessel

### John & Anne Vander Ark

Condon & Mary Ann Vander Ark

### Joyce Vander Sloot

William Boorsma

For more information about leaving a legacy through Planned Gifts:  
(616) 942-2392 or [ADVANCEMENT@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:ADVANCEMENT@WEDGWOOD.ORG)

For more information about Gifts in Memory contact Wedgwood's Advancement Team at  
(616) 942-2392 or [ADVANCEMENT@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:ADVANCEMENT@WEDGWOOD.ORG)

Wedgwood's mission statement is to extend God's love to children, adults, and families through our Residential Care, Counseling Services, and Community Programs. To extend God's love is a very big commitment. God's love is so perfect. His love is sacrificial, selfless, and unconditional. But He asks that we all love one another as He loves us. What a gift to invite you to join us in loving the people we serve!

Recently we received prayer requests from several teens currently receiving treatment and care with us in our residential program. Many kids asked for the same prayer:

*Please pray that God gives me a family and that they love me.*

When you pray for Wedgwood, when you tell your friends about the important work we are doing, when you share our posts on social media, when you volunteer your time, when you support Wedgwood, you are extending God's extravagant love to His children. You are allowing God to love through you.

If you've never had the chance to visit our campus, or it's been a while, we would love to invite you to a Snacks, Facts, & Impact and show you the impact grace-filled, loving care and support has on the lives of those who depend on Wedgwood. Invite your friends, family, co-workers, church groups, and neighbors! You can see upcoming dates and register at [www.wedgwood.org/snacks-facts-impact](http://www.wedgwood.org/snacks-facts-impact).

Thank you doesn't seem sufficient. Please know that we cannot express our gratitude enough. Thank you from all of us at Wedgwood for your love and support. It is a privilege to serve with you!

Brooke Jevicks | [BJEVICKS@WEDGWOOD.ORG](mailto:BJEVICKS@WEDGWOOD.ORG)  
Chief Advancement Officer



## Wedgwood's Advancement Team

Kori Thompson (Advancement Officer) | Marah Bowser (Advancement Coordinator) | Amy Buxton (Database Coordinator)  
Josh Manuel (Digital Content Coordinator) | Alison Lisiak (Advancement Coordinator)  
Hillary Kirkendall (Marketing & Communications Coordinator) | Brooke Jevicks (Chief Advancement Officer)

Connect with the Advancement Team at [advancement@wedgwood.org](mailto:advancement@wedgwood.org) or 616.942.2392

# WEDGWOOD Way Makers

Join our community of monthly donors who make a consistent, meaningful impact in the lives of kids & families who rely on Wedgwood!

Your monthly gift not only makes hope and healing possible for kids and families, WEDGWOOD Way Makers will also receive these special perks:

- > Discounts on Wedgwood Event Registration
- > Invitation to a special Wedgwood Way Maker Luncheon
- > Exclusive Wedgwood Way Maker 1-year Anniversary T-shirt

Become a Way Maker Today

[WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/WAYMAKERS](http://WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/WAYMAKERS)



SCAN ME

## WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES State of the Child



A panel conversation about the toughest challenges facing kids today, and how to best support children, teens, and families.

**MARCH 21, 2023**

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Tickets starting at \$15 for students, \$25 general admission

Panel of Community Experts.  
Insights from Local Teens.  
Focused Breakout Sessions.

[WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/SOTC](http://WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/SOTC)

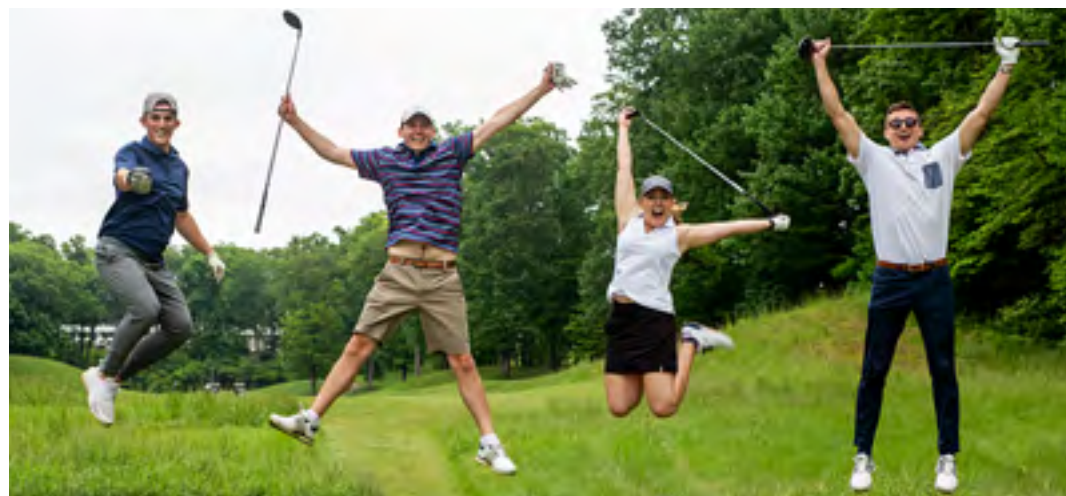
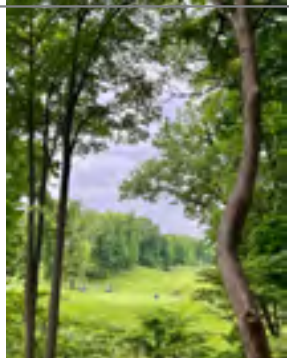




Monday, June 6 was a lovely day at Egypt Valley Country Club for Wedgwood's 37th Annual Charity Golf Classic! **332 golfers** played a round (or two!) and raised over **\$183,000** for our **100% donor-funded Transforming Services**, which help children, teens, families, and adults discover hope and healing and grow into who God created them to be! **We are grateful to each golfer, and sponsor who joined us to #GolfForTheGood** of those who rely on Wedgwood's grace-filled care. 🏌️‍♂️



**SAVE THE DATE | Monday, June 5, 2023 | WEDGWOOD'S 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**



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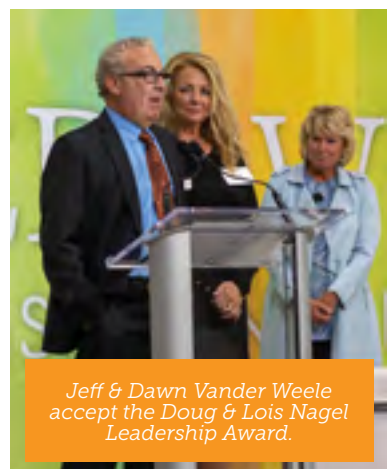


Former Wedgwood Resident, Jimaine Wilson, talks with Maranda about the impact Wedgwood had on his life.

What a spectacular evening at the Amway Hangar celebrating **62 years of lives transformed through Wedgwood's programs and services!** The event featured an **art installation** featuring pieces made by the kids in Wedgwood's care and local artist Joel Schoon-Tanis, awards presentation, and a **conversation with former Wedgwood Resident, Jimaine Wilson.** **The generosity of our sponsors and 300 guests raised over \$295,000** for Wedgwood's Children's Hope Annual Fund and the newly established *Gary Raterink Employee Development Fund!* These funds support the kids, adults, and families that rely on Wedgwood, and the incredible people who provide life-changing grace-filled care, as they grow into who God created them to be! 🌱



Jenn Groendyke, recipient of Molly Guillaume Volunteer of the Year Award, with Molly Guillaume.



Jeff & Dawn Vander Weele accept the Doug & Lois Nagel Leadership Award.



Gary Raterink was honored posthumously with the inaugural Gary Raterink Employee of the Year Award. His son Jim & daughter-in-law Tammy accepted the award.



Joel Schoon-Tanis with the piece he created in collaboration with those in Wedgwood's care, "Watch Me Grow."



WATCH THE CELEBRATION  
<https://bit.ly/watch-62celebration>

# WEDGWOOD'S Anniversary Celebration

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\* passed away in September 2022



WEDGWOOD  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES  
3300 36<sup>TH</sup> STREET SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI, 49512



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