



WEDGWOOD[®]
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
— TRANSFORMING LIVES —

The **IMPACT** *Braille Spaces*



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



Post-COVID statistics have confirmed our fears of an increase in depression, anxiety and eating disorders among today's youth. We're also learning that a greater number of children than ever before are considering suicide, and *one in ten high school kids are attempting to take their own life.*

That's devastating.

But while the statistics look grim and seem to get worse with every new study, **we have to stop focusing on the numbers, and look directly at the children in our own lives.** We have to see this as an opportunity, to make a conscious and deliberate effort to connect with each and every one of them.

Every child deserves a space – a Brave Space – where they can connect and share without fear. Where people listen without shame or judgment, and hear both their joy and their struggles. Not to 'fix' them, but to truly 'hear' the burden they might be carrying.

We live in a busy world and these brave spaces take effort, and intention, and work. But our lives should never be so busy that children become a part of our to-do list. Because the potential rewards that result from the times we are truly present are limitless.

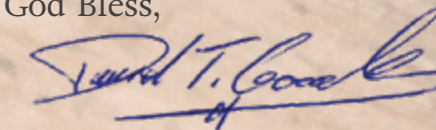
Here at Wedgwood Christian Services, we provide all sorts of ways for children, teens, families, and adults to be brave. To ask for help and do the hard work of creating brighter futures.

A future where we can identify behavioral and mental health issues early on; where children can get the help they need before they experience failure and rejection that will only compound their existing issues. **If we can stop the generational cycle, then children who have experienced trauma will learn how to cope and manage their mental health, instead of creating a similar bad situation for their own kids.**

Every single one of our children was made in the image of God. **We owe it to them to find a better way – to create a brave space for stories, and joy and tears, and heartache and laughter to flow.** That is how we connect. That is how we heal.

As you read this issue of The IMPACT, I encourage each of you to consider how you can work towards creating brave spaces for the children in your lives as well. 🌟

God Bless,




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

Stepping into a Brave Space

Tamra Pell, LMSW | COUNSELING@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Outpatient Therapist



When clients take the step towards healing through therapy at Wedgwood's Bouma Counseling Center, they step into a brave space.

The journey of healing requires courage. The experience of counseling is both transformative and difficult. Hurts and traumas can be overwhelming to openly face, defenses may feel unsafe to lay down, learned behaviors take discipline to reshape, and healing relationships involve risk.

As an outpatient therapist at Wedgwood, I have the privilege of walking alongside the individuals and families that bravely enter these spaces. I have seen lives transformed beyond anxiety, depression, loss, trauma, unexpected changes, psychosis, broken relationships, and much more. Over the years, I have had moments where I wondered what the outcome would be or felt concern that the mountain of pain and work facing a client was too great.

But time and time again — *God shows up*. After all, where does our help come from? We know the path to wholeness is laid by the One who made us. He provides the courage, the strength, and oftentimes the words, when they are needed. At Wedgwood, we have the opportunity to invite people to enter and begin a transformation because He provides the brave spaces. 🌱



Prioritize Your Mental Health



COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES for children, teens, families, & adults



Immediate Openings!

WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/COUNSELING

Whenever life finds you, Wedgwood is here to help!

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



SCAN ME

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

Where You Can Learn & Grow



Danielle Godwin, MMS, PA-C
 DGODWIN@WEDGWOOD.ORG | Physician's Assistant



Wedgwood is a safe and brave space for everyone, as it allows for full expression of their needs, personalities, and cultures. We act in the ways of Jesus and our doors are open to all. Growth can be scary, and Wedgwood and our Bouma Counseling Center team strive to provide a place and space for children, teens, and adults to be brave enough to try, and grow.

Spaces to be brave and vulnerable lead to growth. Without these safe spaces, people might not take the opportunity to learn about themselves, about their pain and their joys, or to rest and reflect - which leads to true communication and growth to flourish. Additionally, having a place to openly express faith (or not) facilitates a deeper safety, true acceptance — without feeling judgment, shame, or guilt.

Wedgwood's Bouma Counseling Center and our Psychiatry Services create brave spaces by being open to all. We allow everyone to be themselves, meet them where they are, and come alongside to discover ways to help rather, than dictate change — which leads to rediscovering hope. A hope that they are accepted, safe, and not defined by their challenges. A hope that promotes healing which flourishes in a safe environment, and in turn

cultivates more hope. A cycle of hope instigated by Wedgwood Christian Services' commitment to loving like Jesus.

While a primary function of our Psychiatry Services is to prescribe and manage medications, we help people holistically — by exploring and supporting all areas of a person's physical health and life in addition to mental health concerns. Part of creating a space to be brave is ensuring all who enter feel heard, validated, and cared for at every visit.

Wedgwood is providing desperately needed services to our community in the midst of a mental health crisis impacting the nation. We are able to provide unique, comprehensive services to children (as young as 5 years old), teens, and adults — services that while in high-demand can be difficult to find. **When people feel overlooked, alone, at a loss for what to do next, Wedgwood offers a space for them to feel seen, supported, and encouraged.**

Wedgwood's Psychiatry Services have immediate openings! Learn more: www.wedgwood.org/psych-services

Wedgwood's Psychiatry Services and Beth Oman (Physician's Assistant) were recognized as a Top Mental Health Services Provider by GR Kids!



GENUINE Connection

We recently sat down with Amy Knapp, a Therapist with Wedgwood's Recovery Services to talk about what it means to provide and be a Brave Space for our community and those dealing with substance use disorders.

Amy Knapp LPC, DP-CAADC
 AKNAPP@WEDGWOOD.ORG | Recovery Services Therapist

What does a "Brave Space" mean to you?

It is a place of trust. A place to cry and laugh. To heal and grow. A place where someone's true authentic self is allowed to come out.

How does having a space to be brave and vulnerable impact a person's well-being?

A brave space allows for a person to feel a genuine connection. It allows them a place to be vulnerable to share their dreams and desires, along with their hurts and pain.

How does Wedgwood create spaces and environments to be brave, discover (or re-discover) hope, and work toward healing?

Wedgwood creates a safe space for the individuals that come to us for support by first creating that space for employees. As a therapist, the non-judgmental support I have received from my team is invaluable. I can then, in turn, extend that to the people I work with!

What do you think makes Wedgwood a special place?

Wedgwood is a safe place for growth - personally and professionally. Our teams are supportive and caring, and feel more like an extended family than coworkers. Honestly, if I needed recovery services, I would want to come to Wedgwood. It's warm and inviting. Phone calls are answered by genuine, caring people, and not machines. I think I'm most proud of how our team truly takes the time to get to know each client - who they are and what they need as individuals. The Wedgwood team truly strives to provide excellent services to people across West Michigan.

Learn more about Wedgwood's Recovery Services for teens and adults across West Michigan: www.wedgwood.org/substance-use

BE BOLD SO THEY CAN BE BRAVE



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



The Bible is filled with everyday folks called by God to do extraordinary things. "Here I am Lord, send me" says the faithful when called to His service.

The staff at Wedgwood are asked to report to work each day ready to not only carry their own burdens, but to come alongside others who are hurting and for a little while, help them shoulder their burdens as well.

There are certainly other jobs which ask less of us. Each day my hope is renewed when I see the transformative impacts of our direct care staff who make this work their passion. The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few. Without the support of the clinical and direct staff here at Wedgwood who choose to **be bold** in this important work, our mission would surely fail.

Our world is filled with so many who are hurting. "Why Me, Lord?" we cry when faced with difficulties, challenges, and overwhelming odds. Many of the obstacles our clients face are unimaginable to us and not of their own design. Our staff create spaces to allow rest for the weary, safety for the afraid, and the love of Jesus at a time when it is needed most. It is only then that our clients are able to **be brave** enough to believe in their hearts that they are meant for more. ✠

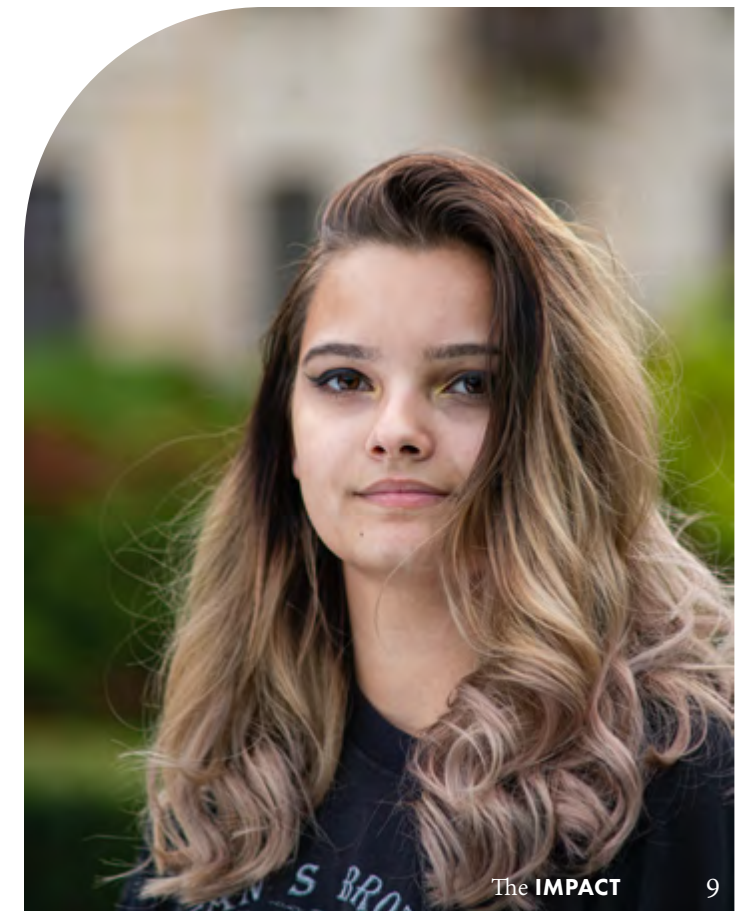
Wedgwood Names Dave Gorman Vice President of Youth Development

Dave Gorman has a passion for transforming lives through grace-filled care and is thrilled to come to Wedgwood Christian Services. To his role as VP of Youth Development, he brings a wealth of experience spanning multiple states but rooted in a heart for West Michigan. He has a strong history of leading systemic change in nonprofits to solve large-scale challenges, with a core focus on improving access to care and building sustainable models of service. He looks forward to growing teams at Wedgwood to serve more youth and working alongside Wedgwood's exceptional leadership team. In this newly created role, Dave will envision, create and lead program and staff development initiatives to improve youth and family outcomes. He will work to identify barriers and advocate for resources and support at the local and state level to develop a broader, more comprehensive continuum of care. We are excited to welcome him to the team!



"Wedgwood
honestly saved
my life."

— 'REBEKAH', AGE 20, FORMER WEDGWOOD RESIDENT



Helpful & hopeful conversations with people who work at, and grow through Wedgwood.



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WEDGWOOD Way Makers

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF MONTHLY GIVERS.
MEND HEARTS, TURN LIVES AROUND, AND EXTEND GOD'S LOVE.



"Keep supporting Wedgwood because it really matters. Kids like me who were here need people to care about us. We need to feel it."

Jimaine, Former Wedgwood Resident

www.wedgwood.org/waymakers

CHAPLAINCY + DIVERSITY

Bravely Believe



Rev. Arlan Palamer, M.Div | APALMER@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Chaplain & Diversity Coordinator

Matthew 25:40 — *If you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me.*

I have been at Wedgwood for 37 years and my passion never dies for giving hope to the kids we serve at Wedgwood. They have been through so much trauma and hurt from those who were supposed to care for them.

Young people come through our doors for many different reasons. Our agency is the first stop for some kids, while it is the last stop for others. In my first meeting with a resident I ask them in their words what brings them to Wedgwood. I always assure them that they don't have to talk to me or share any information with me - it's totally up to them. I acknowledge that it is okay if they might not want to be here, and that being in a residential placement is certainly no substitution for family. These kids need a brave space to be honest and able to say, "I don't like my situation" and "I don't want to be here." It takes a lot of courage to live in a residential treatment facility, and we regularly tell kids how proud we are of them for being here and choosing to work on some of difficult issues that they are facing.

With God's help and grace, our Chaplaincy team creates many spaces that show kids that **God has not given up on them, and neither shall we!** They are loved with God's everlasting love. We can demonstrate this commitment and love simply by showing up — on walks, going to basketball games, watching the Super Bowl together, hosting various groups, providing devotions

and bible study times, and now with our extra-special youth group, called LOVED, that is tailor-made to give our kids **a space to bravely believe they are loved by God (and Wedgwood!)**



Pastor Arlan with staff members Lizzy (HR) & Bri (Residential) at LOVED!

These past few months, I have led several groups with kids focusing on Diversity, Inclusion, and Racism, and how these big topics impact their mental health and care. I am always amazed at the depth of our discussions and how these issues are very much a part of their stories. In these groups, we create space for them to share their experiences and how stereotypes are impacting them. Participating in these groups - like therapy - takes a lot of courage to be vulnerable and honest with others. **But these kids are brave.** Recently one teen spoke up during a group. She made a commitment to stand up for others even if they are different from her, because, (like we always assure them) every person we meet, including ourselves, are precious in God's sight, created in His image, and deserve a space to feel safe and brave.



SCAN ME

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

<https://bit.ly/Celebrating-Diversity-Podcast>

Practicing BRAVERY

"Look!" exclaimed Ethan, grinning to show off two small gaps in his mouth. "I did it!"
Ethan's mom explained that the dentist was able to pull two teeth at his appointment, which they had tried previously to do but had been unsuccessful.
"I know it's because he's been practicing here," Ethan's mom said.
"We're just so proud of him!"

We usually think about "being brave" as something you either are – or aren't; most of us don't think about practicing bravery. But that's what kids do at Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development (ACCD). Because of the sensory and communication challenges that can come with autism spectrum disorders, the children we work with often have a tough time with medical appointments – especially visiting the dentist. We have a dentist's chair, bibs, goggles, and dental tools, and we practice going to the dentist – all in a familiar, safe space with therapists the children trust. After they become comfortable practicing here, kids show off their bravery in their real dental and medical visits out in the community – and we couldn't be prouder.



At Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development, we provide comprehensive *early intensive behavioral intervention to young children* diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and *focused behavioral intervention to school-age children*. We use the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), an empirically supported treatment, to provide comprehensive, individualized therapy. 🌟

Learn more about our fun and life-changing services at Wedgwood's Autism Center for Child Development: www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter or (616) 965-3492



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

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

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



SCAN ME

 WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES®
 presents

BRAVE SPACES

a documentary series exploring mental health in West Michigan

WWW.WEDGWOOD.ORG/BRAVESPACES

BUILD Brave Spaces FOR THE FUTURE

Wedgwood's purpose with the children, teens, adults, and families we serve is to give them a space where they can pursue hope and healing. The Wedgwood Foundation exists to provide long-term stability to Wedgwood's mission for years to come — places, spaces, and people committed to extending God's love. Your faithful support as we offer these spaces of discovery and healing 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. They are able to assist you with a variety of smart and powerful giving options that can help you support ministries important to you - and build brave spaces for the future.

Gifts that pay income — such as **charitable gift annuities** — are a smart and powerful giving option for supporters who would love to give more but are concerned about having enough income for life.

Through a charitable gift annuity, **you can support Wedgwood Christian Services** and the brave spaces we create **AND receive steady income payments for life.**

Now, thanks to an increase in annuity rates as of January 1, 2023, any new charitable gift annuities that you establish will result in even higher payments! Plus, new tax laws may allow you to fund these smart gifts from your IRA!

You can establish a charitable gift annuity by giving from your IRA or with cash, stock or other appreciated assets. In exchange, you'll receive fixed lifetime payments for you or your loved ones.

How much would your payments be? Do you qualify for these giving options? We would love to show you through a personalized proposal based on the increased rates.

Thank you for joining us in helping children, teens, adults, and families discover who God created them to be. 🌱

Brooke Jevicks | BJEVICKS@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Vice President of Advancement



For more information contact (616) 942-2392 or advancement@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.

Anonymous Friends (10)
Don Beukema*
John* & Judy* Bielema
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R. Charles Boelkins*
John & Janice Borst
Henry* & Carolyn Bouma
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Ray & Phyllis Vander Weele
Don Ver Hage*
Philip & Audrey Wiltjer
Casey* & Vivian* Wondergem
Dave* & Bea Zylstra
Randy & Beth Zylstra
*deceased

Gifts in Memory

GIFTS RECEIVED 9/30/22 - 3/1/23

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.

Jack Bloem
Guy & Christine Suchecki

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James Sterrett
Dave & Margaret Boelkins
Dona & Douglas Boyink
James & Martha Bultman
Scott Crickmore
Wilma Elsinga
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Clarine Lanting
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Ted Pasma

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Ruth Penning

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Gert & George VanderLaan
Gene & Gennie McClelland

Richard Vanderzyden
James W Doezema
Arthur & Marilyn Kraai
Jane Schaafsma
Brian Vandommelen
William & Pat Waanders

Don & Marge Volkers
Hank Sterk

David Wiermerslage
Myrna Buchholz

† - gifts made in memory of Doug Nagel are placed in the Nagel Chapel Endowment Fund • - gifts made in memory of Gary Raterink are placed in the Gary Raterink Employee Development 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, relationships, and what adults need to know. Two rounds of breakout sessions allowed attendees to dive deeper in to mental health, the role of faith, anxiety, and the impact of trauma, and parenting.



Panelists L to R: Scott Peterson, Hannah Reed, Marcela Moralez-Morris, Dr. Heidi Cate, Dr. Subodh Jain, Maranda

STATE OF THE CHILD PANEL OF EXPERTS

- ▶ Scott Peterson | Wedgwood Residential Treatment Clinician
- ▶ Hannah Reed | Wedgwood Mental Health & Recovery Services Therapist

- ▶ Marcela Moralez-Morris | Kent County Juvenile Services Manager
- ▶ Dr. Heidi Cate | Integrity Education Services Superintendent
- ▶ Dr. Subodh Jain | Corewell Health Division Chief, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine
- ▶ Moderated by Maranda of WOOD TV8/ABC 4 West Michigan

WATCH THE CONVERSATIONS | www.wedgwood.org/sotc

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PREMIERE SPONSORS



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MEDIA SPONSOR



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



Teen panelists with Maranda

PARTNER SPONSORS



MONDAY, JUNE 5 | EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB



TITLE SPONSORS  

Golf FOR THE good



REGISTER TODAY | www.wedgwood.org/golf

Wedgwood's 38th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, June 5, 2023, at Egypt Valley Country Club supports life-changing services which help kids, adults, and families find hope and healing! Join us and #GolfForTheGood of those who rely on Wedgwood's grace-filled care. **NEW 9-HOLE OPTION AVAILABLE!**

WEDGWOOD'S Anniversary Celebration

SAVE THE DATE | **October 5, 2023** | GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

A spectacular evening, celebrating 63 years of Wedgwood being a brave space in West Michigan for kids and families to find hope, healing, and transformation!

- ▶ The Doug & Lois Nagel Leadership Award
- ▶ The Molly Guillaume Volunteer of the Year Award
- ▶ The Gary Raterink Employee of the Year Award
- ▶ Exclusive showing of Wedgwood's Docu-series - *Brave Spaces*
- ▶ CEO Update
- ▶ After-hours access to the Grand Rapids Public Museum and Carousel!

Title Sponsor | 

SNACKS FACTS & IMPACT



Kori Thompson, MBA | KTHOMPSON@WEDGWOOD.ORG
Advancement Officer



Have you taken a tour of our campus? Do you have friends, church staff, or coworkers you want to introduce to Wedgwood? **Join us for Snacks, Facts & Impact** - lunch on us, the scoop on how Wedgwood - with your support - is transforming lives, and a tour of campus!

See available dates and reserve your spot at: www.wedgwood.org/snacks-facts-impact

WEDGWOOD RECOGNITION

Employee Accolades

Join us in celebrating the dedicated staff members who have reached milestone Team Wedgwood anniversaries! Our team is truly the heart of our mission. They extend God's love, create spaces and opportunities for people to feel heard, seen, and valued. We are so grateful for their hearts for and commitment to transforming lives!

**35
YEARS**

MICHALE ISON
(Residential)

IRMA LEDY
(Residential)

**25
YEARS**

ERNEST HOPE
(Residential)

JEANNA RATERINK
(Quality Assurance)

REV. LERAE KUPERUS
(Chaplaincy)

MICHAEL VOSS
(Residential Administration)

**30
YEARS**

SARA MURRAY
(Residential)

MICHELLE RILEY
(Residential)

**10
YEARS**

TRACY MARTIN
(Residential)

**15
YEARS**

JAMIE NELSON
(Residential)

EVANGELINA NUNEZ
(Residential)

DIANE RABE
(Finance)

**20
YEARS**

LISA DEHAAN
(Autism Center)

**CATHY
RACALLA-BLOUIN**
(Positive Youth Development)

**5
YEARS**

SAMIJO CHASSE
(Psychiatry Services)

STEPHANIE LECOMPTE
(Nursing)

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"Working at Wedgwood has always been more than a job for me; it's my ministry. My purpose is to do all that I can, whether it is in word or deed to help young people who are lost to find their direction and those who are hopeless to discover hope."

— Michael Voss, Residential Program Manager



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