WEDGWOOD®
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

FISCAL YEAR 2026

iMPACT HiGHLiGHTS



WEDGWOOD LEADERSHIP

LISTED AS CURRENT FOR 2026

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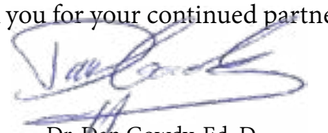
*In special honor of ***Jeff Vander Weele*** and ***Sandy Boyer*** who both served Wedgwood faithfully and went home to Jesus in 2026.

The report reflects Wedgwood Christian Services' Fiscal Year 2026 (April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026)

Fiscal Year 2026 was a year of meaningful growth at Wedgwood Christian Services - not growth for its own sake, but growth in response to young people, families, and communities asking for more.

In the articles that follow, you will see staff from every corner of our organization demonstrate their deep commitment to the success of each youth at Wedgwood. As you read through this report, I hope you, too, are inspired by the hope and excitement that has become an undercurrent at Wedgwood. An energy that fuels each of us to forge forward to better serve the children and families in our community. We will continue to face challenges, but with our mission on our heart, God at the forefront, and partners like you walking with us, the future for Michigan children and families is bright.

Thank you for your continued partnership.



Dr. Dan Gowdy, Ed. D.
President/CEO

TOP RATED PURPOSE & VALUES
TOP RATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TOP RATED WORK-LIFE FLEXIBILITY
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ACCREDITED
BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN WELLNESS WINNER 2025
TOP RATED
BEST AND BRIGHTEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR IN THE NATION WINNER 2024
WEST MICHIGAN'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR WINNER 2024



WHERE HEALING BEGINS
SINCE 1960

OUR MISSION

Extending God's love to youth, adults, and families through professional counseling and educational services.

OUR VISION

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

OUR VALUES

LIVE OUR COMMITMENTS
SERVE GOD'S CALLING
PURSUE EXCELLENCE DAILY

WHAT WE ARE FACING



83% of caregivers believe the mental health of US kids is declining

UP TO **1 IN 5** children ages *3 - 17* have a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavior disorder

40% *of students ages 12-17* had persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness,

1 IN 3 young adults 18-25 have a mental illness

OVER **40,000** children in Michigan have an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis

THERE ARE ABOUT **10,000** children in Michigan's child welfare system

4,000 children are expected to enter the system each year

THERE ARE UNDER **400** RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT BEDS AVAILABLE IN MICHIGAN. Down from 1,200 in 2020

WHAT WE ARE DOING

13,000+

INDIVIDUALS – LIKE IVY – IMPACTED THROUGH WEDGWOOD'S 33 SERVICES



'Ivy', former Wedgwood Resident

WATCH: ***Ivy's Story***
bit.ly/WWStory-Ivy







EACH ONE, A CHILD OF GOD

Every number in this report represents a person and their story.

A child who finally felt safe.
A teen who found hope for a future they couldn't event imagine yet.
A family who found support in the one of their hardest seasons.
A young person who realized their story does not define who they are.
And behind every one of these stories is **you**.

The impact highlighted throughout these pages is possible ***because of people like you who choose to step into this work with us.*** You pray, volunteer, give, advocate, open doors, share our mission, and remind children, teens, and families throughout our community that they are not alone.

Your support does more than fund a program or provide a service. Your support creates possibilities - life-changing opportunities like:

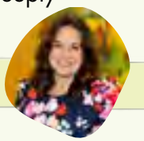
A therapist to sit with a person who needs someone to listen.
A residential staff being consistent for youth who has only known instability.
A young child with autism developing a way to communicate their needs.
A student learning how to make healthy choices.
A teen hearing for the first time that God's not angry at them, but instead deeply loves them.

That is the power of your partnership!

As you read the stories, review the outcomes, and celebrate the milestones in this ministry update, we hope that you see more than what Wedgwood was able to provide to thousands of children and families. We hope that you see what ***you*** helped accomplished.

Thank you for believing that every child is worth showing up for. That every family deserves hope. And that every story holds the possibility of a better future.

We could not do this work without you. *Thank you!* We are deeply grateful for your faithfulness and your heart of compassion.



BROOKE JEVICKS | *VP OF ADVANCEMENT*



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

24/7 specialized care and treatment for kids to heal from the trauma of severe abuse & neglect, exploitation, and substance use

93% SUCCESS RATE

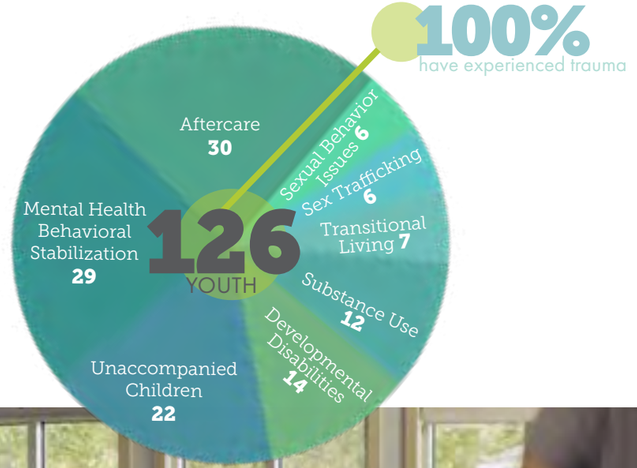
Youth maintained 'open' community placement & Aftercare for 12 months after discharge

82% maintained behavioral stabilization in care

59% made substantial progress toward treatment goals

77% PLANNED DISCHARGE TO LESS RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT

which is up to 29% higher than national averages





www.wedgwood.org/residential

FEELING SAFE IS THE FIRST STEP OF A LONG JOURNEY

For kids at Wedgwood, their young lives have been filled with abuse or neglect — in many cases, both. Most kids are very afraid and nervous when they first arrive; some just sit and cry. They'd rather be in the dangerous but familiar environment they came from, than this new place they don't know. They averaged over a dozen out-of-home placements, and no longer see a point in getting close to anyone.

The most important thing our kids need to know is that ***we aren't going to give up on them***. Whatever might have led to them being removed from their previous placements, isn't going to get them kicked out here. But before we can help them with therapy or treatment, they need to know they are ***safe*** in their new environment.

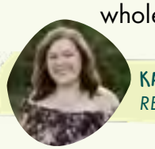
We had a young lady who had *over twenty* placements before coming to Wedgwood. When she arrived, she pushed people away, and didn't unpack her things because she was convinced she'd be moved again. We didn't give up on her. After six months she finally unpacked her things and that's when we started to see her flourish. Now she is building attachments, learning, and taking chances because she's not worried about being up-rooted again.

We have an incredibly talented, and collaborative team that is patient, passionate, and predictable.

Our team works tirelessly to prove to kids they are safe and loved. With the intense trauma, big emotions, and behavior challenges our kids face, our team often finds themselves on the receiving end of verbal and physical outbursts. But, ***we don't give up on them.*** We come back the next day with smiles on our faces, showing our kids that, 'I care about you, I'm here for you.'

This consistency, steadiness, and grace shows kids they aren't alone. ***That sense of safety, that feeling of being loved and cared for is the biggest catalyst to seeing progress*** and a real decrease in challenging behaviors here in residential.

Kids come to Wedgwood knowing a lot of uncertainty and unpredictability, but they leave knowing they have a whole community in their corner helping them discover who they were created to be.



KAYLIN TIMMERMAN, MA, BCBA, LBA I
RESIDENTIAL BEHAVIOR ANALYST

JUSTIN MALCOLM | *RESIDENTIAL HOME SUPERVISOR*



COUNSELING SERVICES

Outpatient mental health & substance use counseling services for youth, adults, & families

1,126
CLIENTS SERVED

95%
of responding clients were SATISFIED WITH SERVICES

"WEDGWOOD LISTENS WELL TO UNDERSTAND EACH CLIENT'S NEEDS. I DO NOT FEEL PART OF A GENERIC, ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL PROGRAM OR EXPERIENCE."

"THE STAFF IS ALWAYS HELPFUL, RESPECTFUL, PROFESSIONAL, AND WITH THE BEST ATMOSPHERE, IT IS THE BEST OFFICE WE EVER ENCOUNTERED. AMAZING JOB AND THANK GOD FOR YOU."

8 SPECIALIZED SERVICES OFFERED

- Mental Health Outpatient Counseling
- Substance Use Outpatient Counseling
- Adolescent Substance Use Intensive Outpatient Program
- Recovery Coaching & Case Management
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Trauma-Informed Parenting
- Wraparound & Care Management
- Psychiatry Services

"WEDGWOOD IS DOING AN AMAZING JOB WITH HELPING CHILDREN HEAL FROM THE INSIDE OUT. BEING HEARD IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN AND TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SERVICES THAT COULD HELP WITH DEVELOPMENT MENTALLY, AND FEEL SAFE IS AN A+"

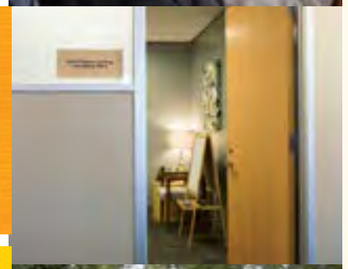
Y'ALL ARE DOING A GREAT JOB! THE LEVEL OF CARE IS OUTSTANDING! OUR THERAPIST IS AN ABSOLUTE PERFECT MATCH FOR MY DAUGHTER'S PERSONALITY AND HER NEEDS. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!

www.wedgwood.org/counseling











LOOKING FOR CALM IN THE CHAOS

The world we live in is filled with uncertainty and instability, add in our own struggles and it can feel like we're surrounded by chaos.

While those are all normal feelings to have, the key to maintaining good mental health is to be able to separate our control of unhelpful thoughts and increasing our observation skills. In other words: ***focus on the here and now.***

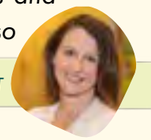
Professionally, *we've seen a clear uptick* in anxiety and depression in recent years, as well as increased feelings of loneliness. Our continued reliance in technology and social media is reinforcing a false sense of connection, reducing our communication skills and tolerance of tense relationships. Online interactions are teaching us it's easier to scroll past something difficult or unfriend someone with a click than talking through challenges or disagreements.

To help us feel more connected, we should increase our in-person interactions and identify activities that bring us joy. It might start with the grocery store clerk and small interactions, but evolve into finding a hobby that brings us joy. Personally, I decided to join my church choir. While singing is what brought me to that group, it's the people I see on a weekly basis and relationships I've formed that keep me grounded and coming back.

Regardless of what brings people to Wedgwood Christian Services, our counseling team uses a holistic evidence-based approach by considering each person's symptoms, their environment and their experiences to identify a plan forward. ***Each person is unique in their experiences and so is each individual treatment plan.***

Our goal in counseling is to help each person i***ncrease*** *their self-awareness and understand the connection between their thoughts, behaviors and emotions so they can fuel positive life changes.*

MICHELLE ROBERTS, LMSW, CAADC-DP | *THERAPIST*



AUTISM CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(ACCD) Early Intensive Behavioral intervention and focused skill building for children with autism spectrum disorders

"WEDGWOOD DOES WELL IN HELPING OUR CHILD MEET GOALS, LISTENING TO OUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS, COMMUNICATION IS GREAT, WE FEEL WELCOMED, OVERALL SERVICES ARE GREAT. THANK YOU!"

71 children enrolled in services

75% behavior challenges manageable at discharge

100% improved functional communication

100% of caregivers participated in trainings & support programs

100% of caregivers satisfied with services







www.wedgwood.org/autismcenter

SMALL MOMENTS LIFELONG SKILLS

From the day a child is born they're learning and absorbing information from the people and environment around them. However, kids on the autism spectrum aren't born with that ability to observe and imitate so learning new skills becomes a more intentional and difficult process.

Sensory thresholds and ability can vary greatly among kids on the autism spectrum and for some, simple daily activities like wearing clothes or brushing their teeth can become a lengthy and difficult task. At Wedgwood's autism program we start based on the needs of the children and priorities of the parents to determine the next best step.

For a child who can't brush his teeth, it's possible that the sensation of a toothbrush in his mouth bothers him or maybe he wants to swallow the toothpaste as soon as it hits his mouth. Our therapy begins where their comfort level ends and starts with small incremental steps we repeat until they're comfortable both in therapy and at home with their parents.

"As an early childhood educator, I understood the difference between a challenging behavior and lacking a skill. Our group helps parents of kids on the spectrum understand that our children aren't being difficult, we just have to figure out how to teach them skills to help them make the connection. It's a neurological thing."
– JAYNE

"Celebrating those tiny little things, the difficult things, they are so important for the parent's mindset. It gives us hope. Those skills and knowledge they're gaining will allow them to have an awesome ordinary life." – JAYNE

Every skill leads to another and becomes a building block for their future. Even children who are non-verbal and making noises, are expressing elements of pre-communication. When parents repeat the same work we're doing in therapy, those sounds and gestures ultimately form communication. When they actually do say one word, we celebrate that moment and their hard work.

One of the most important skills we work on is helping kids learn from others and their natural environment. It's not something kids on the spectrum are able to do naturally, but with that skill, they will learn long after we stop teaching them.



JAYNE JOHNSON | *PARENT*
ORGANIZER OF PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

DR. CANDICE LAKE, PHD, BCBA-D, LBA, LLP
AUTISM CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

(PYD) provides prevention & empowerment to students through in-school and community-based curriculum and events

"[THE CURRICULUM] PERTAINS TO STUDENTS' LIVES – REAL ISSUES THEY ENCOUNTER AND KNOWLEDGE THEY NEED TO KNOW."

– MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

88%
students indicated they learned & have the skills needed to make good decisions

94%
students indicated they learned & have the skills needed to resist negative peer pressure

11,743
youth & families impacted

1,930
students in area schools

9,813
individuals at community events

9
school & classroom settings

95
1:1 student meetings







www.wedgwood.org/pyd







CONNECTING WITH KIDS FOR BETTER DECISION MAKING

It can be hard to make good decisions as a teen – navigating peer pressures and a need to fit in, all while their brains are still developing and learning to understand consequences. That's where we come in. **Wedgwood's Positive Youth Development (PYD)** team works with kids on our campus, in schools and across our community to encourage healthy choices and good decision making.

We work through the types of pressures teens encounter on a regular basis: substance abuse, vaping, relationships, and mental health. We talk about building skills for academic success, using technology appropriately, and avoiding drama.

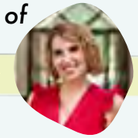
Understanding and thinking through consequences can be a learned skill. We help teens talk through what might happen based on the actions they might take. Vaping is a serious problem among teens. They don't believe it's harmful and think 'everyone' is vaping. When we tell them that kids get addicted much more quickly than adults, that it changes their brain chemistry, and that, in reality, 90% of teens are NOT vaping it reduces peer pressure for them and helps support their good choices.

Mental health also carries a lot of misunderstanding for teens. Social media influencers, who teens watch and follow, talk frequently about their mental health issues. The fact that these conversations are normalizing is great. However, many teens are jumping from normal feelings of sadness and anxiety to believing they have a clinical diagnosis that restricts them. We talk through understanding the difference and normalizing those emotions to help them grow as an individual.

Helping kids own their decisions and their futures is incredibly rewarding. ***A teenage girl I worked with thought getting pregnant in high school was supposed to happen and the normal course her life would take, because that was true for all the women in her family.*** As I worked with her, she started to realize **she had a choice and it was incredibly eye opening for her to recognize she could make decisions about what her future would look like.**

In PYD, everything we do is **rooted in building competence, confidence, connection, character, and caring**. We're always evolving our lessons to ensure they are tailored to what kids are going through and our response ***surveys show 88% of teens report having better decision-making skills as a result of our program.***

GINA BOSCARINO | *GROUP SPECIALIST*



Helping Kids Connect 'IRL'

While online friendships can provide support, they cannot replace healthy offline friendships, which are critical for helping teens develop empathy and communication skills. Here are 5 ways to help your teen make connections IRL (in real life).

TALK ABOUT ONLINE VS. IN-PERSON FRIENDSHIPS

- Validate & acknowledge the importance of their online friendships.
- Ask what they like about online friends - you may discover there are reasons they prefer online socializing!
- Talk about importance of in-person connection, and brainstorm steps they can take to build more offline friendships

SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS

- Make it easy for kids to make new friendships by offering to provide transportation, hang out space, snacks, and other things that could be potential barriers to in-person hangouts.
- If your teen is part of a group, connect with another parent *(you may want to ask your teen first)* and offer to carpool to meetings. The kids just might bond in the backseat over your "cringey" 90s playlist!

ENCOURAGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

- Group activities give teens opportunity to expand their social circle.
- Groups that emphasize working together and have clear meeting objectives provide low pressure way to get to know others while working toward a common goal.
- Wedgwood offers a great one - check out teencharge.org!

ENCOURAGE SHARED VALUES

- It's natural for kids to gravitate toward those who share their interests. But shared values can also provide a basis for long and healthy friendships.
  - *Do they care about faith, family, or specific cause? Are they interested in volunteering?*

MODEL HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

- Make a point to host or visit friends & family.
- Start conversations with your peers while teens are around.
- Demonstrate how to make plans by inviting acquaintances like new neighbors or people from church over for dinner.

Remember, building friendships IRL takes time. Continue to encourage your teen, ask questions, and listen when they share. In doing so, you will help them develop the skills they need to have healthy friendships on and offline.

www.wedgwood.org/tip-sheets

WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES SELF CARE WORKBOOK

It's no secret that maintaining good mental health can be a challenge. Finding ways to care for your mental well-being is more important than ever, but with some many things competing for your attention - it can be difficult to determine where and how to start.

PRIORITIZING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DAUNTING.

Wedgwood designed a guide to help you - at your own pace - better understand your mental well-being and build up your toolkit, create a routine, set goal, and prepare for success. This workbook will help you develop practical insights and strategies to effectively integrate self-care into your life.



How were your energy levels this week?

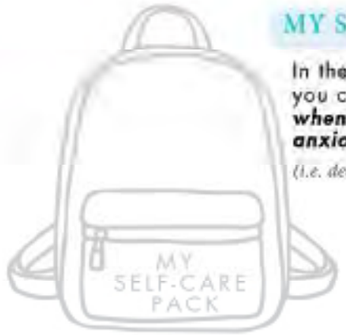
Things that gave me energy this week:

Things that drained me this week:

What didn't make the list for this week, but generally help me feel energized?

Go back through these lists. Star the items you can do more of, underline the items you can do less of, and circle the items that won't/can't change much.

MY SELF-CARE TOOL KIT



In the backpack, list all the things you can do to help yourself ***when you are feeling stressed, anxious, or overwhelmed:***

(i.e. deep breaths, call a friend, take a walk)



In the toolbox, list all the things that you can do to ***maintain your well-being and support self-care in the long-term.***

(i.e. prioritize sleep, therapy, routines)

Download the full, free SELF CARE WORKBOOK
canva.link/ww-selfcare-workbook

CHAPLAINCY & YOUTH MINISTRY

Chaplaincy & Youth Ministry programming offers *(optional)* spiritual support for residents and staff.

90% YOUTH PARTICIPATION

15 team debriefings & facilitated conversations

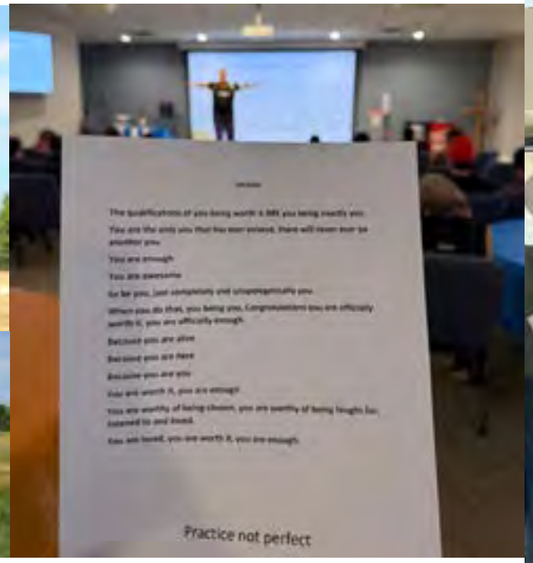
24 facilitated spiritual & diversity small groups

70+ responses for care for the caregiver support requests

100+ spiritual materials given







LOVED

Wedgwood's specially designed, fun, and encouraging youth ministry for residents

26 GATHERINGS

8 RESIDENTS SHARED poetry, music, & writing

200+ LOVED shirts gifted to youth & staff

37 STAFF VOLUNTEERS helped host **Camp LOVED**

*On average, 10 staff stay **after** their shift to volunteer at LOVED!*









STEPPING INTO LOVE



Many of the kids who come to Wedgwood Christian Services have never experienced love, and don't believe they can be loved. When residents with a history of trauma and abuse first arrive, they hardly speak. They act protective and isolated. As Chaplains, one of the most important beliefs we try to instill on them is the concept of love – a love of self, love of others, and love of God.

The more we talk to them about that love, the more we see them come out of their shell and start to flourish. They start to make more of an effort to share what happened to them that day or maybe news they received about their future. That shows a closeness we want to encourage.

They may come to LOVED, our youth ministry program which resembles the youth group you might find at your church. We play games with energy, have fun with staff and each other, and there's always so much laughter. As they become more comfortable at LOVED, their confidence grows and they participate more by reading poems or singing songs.

We had a resident from one of our homes who really struggled to be around people - crowds were very overstimulating for her. It would make her anxious and she rarely attended LOVED. A few weeks before she was discharged, she asked to participate and shared some of her journal entries. She called her anxiety a barrier and described it as her cage, but once she began to read, the words just flowed from her mouth and it was life-giving. It was wonderful to see that ***through the tools she received at Wedgwood, she was not only able to overcome her fears but wanted to encourage others, too***.

Another girl told us at her discharge party that she was able to let go of the belief that God was the author of her suffering. Something happened while she was here that brought God into her corner. What a significant shift for a young person!

When residents leave us, I always tell them they will be remembered because that solidifies *this experience mattered, and we matter to God.* It's not about what we *do for* them, but ***how we make them feel*** while they are with us that's important. We want them to feel loved and share God's unchanging love for them, so they will carry that into their future long after they leave here.

REV. LERAE KUPERUS, M.DIV. | *DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION*



EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Wedgwood's Employment Training Program (ETP) provides youth with a hands-on, workplace environment to learn and practice crucial employability and job skills.

13,096
HOURS OF PARTICIPATION

82
YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

36
Residential Care Youth

46
Community Based Youth

5 SECURED COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

"PARTICIPATING IN ETP HAS HELPED ME LEARN SKILLS I PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE LEARNED OTHERWISE, AND IT HAS HELPED ME LEARN THAT IF I PUT EFFORT INTO A JOB, IT'S NOT AS HARD AS IT SOUNDS! I'VE MADE GREAT CONNECTIONS WHILE HERE AS WELL AND HONESTLY, I ENJOY ETP! THE STAFF IS GREAT AS WELL AS FRIENDLY AND IT'S OVERALL A GREAT FIRST WORK EXPERIENCE FOR ME!"



25 YOUTH COMPLETED Financial Literacy Class

6 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION TOURS

"ETP CHANGED MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER. AT A TIME I HAD NO WORK ETHIC, SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY OR GOALS. BEING A PART OF ETP TAUGHT ME HOW TO HAVE THOSE THINGS AND HOW TO USE THEM. NOW I AM CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO WORK HARD AND MAKE SURE THE JOB IS DONE CORRECTLY."

www.wedgwood.org/employment-training

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

The kids who participate in Wedgwood's Employment Training Program (ETP) are looking for usable skills to help them find a job in the community, but they walk away with so much more.

The kids we serve don't know what it feels like to succeed at something, so we provide opportunities to try new things and explore a variety of skills. Our program includes janitorial and food service, lawn care, car detailing, woodworking, sewing, even upholstery repairs. The day they knock at my door with a big smile on their face, is usually the day they found a good match.

More important than the job skills, are the soft skills they gain from participating: how to talk on the phone, have a conversation with colleagues, resolve conflict, or go to an interview. ***We teach them a lot about relationships and being a part of a team; skills that don't come natural for young people that have experience significant trauma***. But after a few weeks, they are working and helping each other side by side.

We work hard to engage the kids we serve and maintain open communication, because for many we might be the first safe adult they've encountered. When they ask me how I'm doing, I don't sugar coat it. Sometimes I respond with, "I'm struggling today, but I'm here and I'm going to keep going'. And they'll respond with 'I'm going to keep going, too'. We want them to understand that they're not alone in their struggles, and model what it looks like to manage our struggles and persevere in a healthy way.

Our kids' lives have been filled with so much hurt and disappointment. In ETP they learn skills, give their hands something to do, keep their minds busy, **build their confidence, and experience success.** They love being active, having a "job", and don't realize that this actually another therapeutic part of their treatment, too. Shifting their mind to work helps them forget, even if just for a moment, what they've been through.

Many don't fully understand how important what they're learning is until they've left. Kids will reach out to tell us, years later, that being a part of ETP was a meaningful experience! ***While our ultimate goal is helping them find employment in the community, we believe that the real success is giving them the confidence to navigate life.***











JACKIE BREWSTER | *EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM MANAGER*

OCCUPATIONAL & RECREATION THERAPIES

Wedgwood's Occupational Therapy (OT) and Recreation Therapy (RT) provides structured therapeutic interventions and experiential activities for youth to develop emotional regulation, social interaction, independent living skills, leisure exploration, and community engagement.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

EMOTIONAL REGULATION
- SENSORY PROCESSING & PREFERENCES
- COPING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION
- IMPULSE CONTROL SKILLS
- TRIGGERS & EMOTIONAL RESPONSES

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS
- SAFETY AWARENESS
- MONEY MANAGEMENT
- HEALTHY MEAL PLANNING
- EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING
- CAREER PLANNING & VOCATIONAL EXPLORATION

SOCIAL SKILLS
- SELF-ADVOCACY
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS

84 RESIDENTS RECEIVED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

1,898 individual sessions

100% OF KIDS SAW IMPROVEMENTS

63% OF YOUTH MET THEIR GOALS



RECREATION THERAPY

100% RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN RECREATIONAL THERAPY

22 CAMPUS-WIDE ACTIVITIES

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WELLNESS
KICKBALL | SLIP N SLIDE | 3-MILE PROJECT | WEDGWOOD RUN CLUB

SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
SNOW CONE + ICE CREAM SOCIALS | PICNIC IN THE PARK | YARD GAMES

LEISURE EXPLORATION
MICHIGAN'S ADVENTURE | LEWIS FAMILY FARMS | MOVIE NIGHTS | DANCE + MUSIC GROUPS

COMMUNITY BUILDING & SPECIAL EVENTS
EASTER EGG HUNT + BRUNCH | SUMMER COOKOUT | CHRISTMAS PARTY + BINGO | TRUNK-OR-TREAT | TURKEY TROT | FIELD DAY

TALENT EXPRESSION & CREATIVITY
TALENT SHOW | TIE-DYE EVENT

EMOTIONAL REGULATION
MINI GAMES | SELF-CARE PLANNING | COPING SKILLS PRACTICE





Kids in Wedgwood's care have significant mental and behavioral health challenges caused by the abuse or neglect they've experienced. They didn't learn the important skills or lessons that 'normal' childhood activities naturally cultivate - like taking turns, being a good friend, or fine motor skills. ***Our kids often haven't learned basic life skills that come with growing up in a stable environment*** such as taking care of their room, cooking, or cleaning up after themselves. At Wedgwood, we provide recreational and occupational therapies to teach them what they lost out on in childhood.

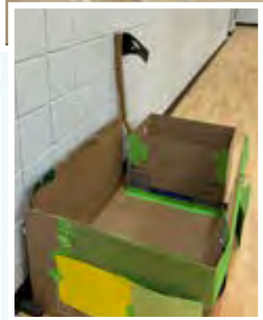
We start where kids are at, and use games and activities to work on emotional self-regulation. Our goal is to take their feelings from an imaginary 'light switch' when a small thing might cause them to flip into an extreme response, to a 'dimmer switch' when they learn to *sense their emotions rising and have coping mechanisms to deescalate.*

FUN & GAMES AND SO MUCH MORE!

We hosted a multi-week, live action battleship tournament. From a therapeutic perspective, this activity checked all the boxes!







Kids worked as partners, built their own battleships out of cardboard, and were able to express their creativity. We set up brackets on a whiteboard and the kids tracked the hits and misses. When their battleship was defeated, they had the fun of destroying it with their partner. Residents who have been in our care longer were modeling participation, helping our newer kids get into it. We layered in opportunities for collaboration, teamwork, as well as working through disagreements with their partner. Since kids were having fun, it was easier to work through those challenges and help them resolve their own problems.

Activities like battleship also engage staff. Kids who come to Wedgwood frequently see adults as scary, authoritative, or bossy. We want to show them that adults are there to help, and can have fun, too. ***Games like this really help break down those barriers.***

Providing fun (and therapeutic) activities for kids who have experienced trauma can make a lifelong difference. We've seen kids who were skeptical of others and didn't trust adults, blossom into individuals who can ask for and accept help. We've seen kids transition into independent living where they have dreams and a future to look forward to. ***It's really cool to see kids learn who they are, identify areas of growth, and be able to envision a better future.***

JENNIFER TORNGA, OTD, OTR/L, CADC |
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST & MANAGER OF SPECIALTY INTERVENTIONS



MANASSEH PROJECT

Wedgwood's Manasseh Project is committed to ending exploitation and trafficking in West Michigan through awareness, education, prevention, advocacy, and treatment efforts.

AWARENESS & PREVENTION

21 TRAININGS

588 PARTICIPANTS



"I HAVE CONQUERED FEAR, SHAME AND GUILT AS A DIRECT RESULT OF MY THERAPY SESSIONS WITH WEDGWOOD'S MANASSEH PROJECT"



"I GOT MORE THAN A THERAPIST. SHE HAS HELPED ME FIND MY CONFIDENCE, MYSELF AND MY MOTIVATION. EVERY TIME I HAVE MY THERAPY SESSION, I FEEL BETTER THAN BEFORE"



"BECAUSE OF WEDGWOOD'S MANASSEH PROJECT I HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN MY SELF-CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, CARING AND SUPPORT FOR OTHERS!"



TREATMENT & ADVOCACY

66 COMMUNITY THERAPY CLIENTS

335 COMMUNITY THERAPY SESSIONS

www.wedgwood.org/manasseh-project

REALITIES OF TRAFFICKING

Wedgwood's Manasseh Project is dedicated to ending the sexual exploitation of men and women in West Michigan and educating our community around the facts of human trafficking. The people we serve, aren't teens who are randomly snatched off the street by a stranger. **They were manipulated, *often by a trusted person in their life.***

Sadly, in almost half the cases (40%) the trafficker is a family member – maybe a step-dad, aunt, or boyfriend of their mom – and the rest frequently are a 'romantic partner' of the teen. They're friendly, work their way into the teen's inner circle, manipulate situations to gain their trust, and slowly begin to isolate the teen from the people around them to gain control.

A national study of 500 labor and sex trafficking survivors revealed their childhood had the following commonalities – these are they types of things a trafficker might look for in a vulnerable teen:

- ***83%*** experienced poverty
- ***69%*** had run away from home
- ***96%*** had experience family or household instability
- ***96%*** had experiences some type of abuse growing up
- ***93%*** had lived with someone who had substance use abuse or mental health issues.

In some cases, survivors don't even know they're being trafficked because of the extensive manipulation, grooming, and control making them 'believe' the trafficker is the only one who cares about them. The trafficker's actions and words change their brain chemistry and create a bond that's hard to break, making it extremely difficult to leave their situation.

When these teens come to Wedgwood, we provide extensive therapy for them to cope with the experience they just left behind and help them re-enter the community safely and independently.

"Besides confidence, I have learned to stay positive and love myself!"
– MANASSEH PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

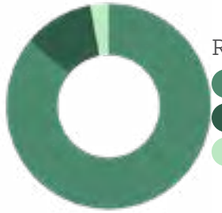
The best thing we can do to end trafficking is fill the gaps in our system that lead to people being vulnerable – poverty, abuse and family instability, reducing the reasons someone might desperately turn to ill-intentioned individuals to fulfill basic needs.



ANDREA KELLER, LPC, MA, NCC, SCL | *ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COORDINATOR*

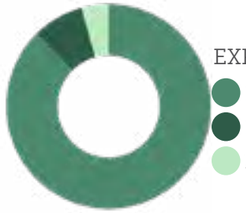
ADVANCEMENT & AGENCY

Wedgwood's detailed financial statement is available upon request - 616.831.5624 or advancement@wedgwood.org.



REVENUE: $35,11,691

- Programming — 86.1%
- Fundraising —11%
- Miscellaneous — 2.9%



EXPENDITURES: $31,352,477

- Programming — 87.6%
- Fundraising — 8.1%
- Management/General — 4.3%

$2,220,821 *RAISED*

- **$1,250,529** *DONORS*
- **$795,008** *WEDGWOOD FOUNDATION*
- **$545,958** *EVENTS*
- **$118,000** *GRANTS*
- **$31,748** *CHURCHES*

586,300+

reached through website, social media, & podcast









WEDGWOOD
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

4 WAYS YOU CAN EXTEND GOD'S LOVE

GIVE

WEDGWOOD.ORG/GIVING

PRAY

Join us in praying for those who rely on Wedgwood's care, the team that provides support, and our community.

SHARE

LISTEN

Wedgwood's Coffee Break Conversation Podcast: Helpful & hopeful chats about mental health
wedgwood.org/podcast

WEDGWOOD.ORG | 616.942.2392 | HELLO@WEDGWOOD.ORG