Inclusivity Movement Progress

This past year our Supervisor team dove into an experiential learning experience in our advancement of our Inclusivity Movement. The Supervisor team, read a chapter a week of “So you want to Talk About Race?” and then processed the chapter in the Supervisor cohort.

The Supervisor team committed itself to having difficult conversations, leaning into the uncomfortable moments and learning how to be more Inclusive. Their next task is to lead the teams that were assigned to them at our Annual Staff Appreciation event to help create an agency Inclusivity Statement.

Step One: Agency wide, Supervisor led teams will create five bullet points that they want to be considered for the agency wide Inclusivity Statement

Step Two: Leadership team will take all of the bullets from Step One and condense into five bullets.

Step Three: Management team will take the five bullets and create one cohesive Inclusivity Statement.

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Our Offices Have Reopened!

All clinical sites have reopened their waiting rooms for clients effective June 7th with temperature checks no longer required. Chairs have been marked off to create distance and all small toys and books have been removed from waiting rooms.

Staff that are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear a mask at work. For those that are not vaccinated, masks are still required. Signs have been hung at all service sites to inform clients that, if they are fully vaccinated, they do not have to wear masks into our buildings. If you are fully vaccinated and feel more comfortable continuing wearing a mask, please feel free to do so. As an agency we operate on strong ethics and integrity, thus will not be requiring anyone show proof of vaccination. We trust that those who are not vaccinated will continue to wear a mask.

The Little House Next Door Child Development Center has also opened to parents. Parents may enter the building, front office, and hallways. They are not yet permitted to enter classrooms. The CDC has specific guidelines for child development centers. Until those guidelines change, masks are still required at this location.

*Note fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days after receiving the second Moderna or Pfizer shot, or 14 days after receiving the Johnson & Johnson shot.

2021 Staff Appreciation Event!

After over a year our staff were finally able to get together in person at the beautiful Brannon Center in New Smyrna Beach for a well deserved staff appreciation event!
Both of our Boards were able to get together at the wonderful Venue 142 in DeLand to get to know each other and celebrate what our Boards and Staff have been able to accomplish this past year!

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to Dorothy’s Florist, Dottie’s Florist, Floral Boutique, and Impekable Flowers for donating centerpieces to our Annual Board Luncheon!
Annual Employee Awards

The Ella Bryan HND Values Award was created this year to recognize and celebrate a staff member who demonstrates our values. The recipient of the Ella Bryan HND Values Award must have demonstrated the following values: Family is the foundation, advocated for change, made a difference, instilled hope, listened with compassion, inspired growth, empowered our community and showed strength in diversity. Our recipient this year exemplifies the qualities of the Ella Bryan award in their caring, empathic interactions with staff. They listen with their heart and always goes the extra mile to support staff. Much like Ella Bryan, this employee is humble and works diligently to support our staff in making positive change in our community. This employee is passionate about the agency and the work we do, compassionate with us when we make mistakes or make their job a bit more challenging and helps set the workplace culture so that we can live by our values everyday. Please join me in congratulating our 20/21 Ella Bryan HND Values Award winner Dana Braun.

The Cynthia Blomquist Quality Client Care Award was created this year to recognize and celebrate a staff member who has gone above and beyond to provide high quality care to our clients. The recipient of the Cynthia Blomquist Quality Client Care Award must have demonstrated throughout the past year, dedication to providing high quality care, embraced meeting the client where they are, and helped the client decrease risk factors while increasing protective factors, combined with providing HND level of high standard of care. This year’s recipient is a shining example of quality client care. Their clients come from a population that have more than their share of hurdles to overcome. They graciously and respectfully assist each client in completing required paperwork. This employee continuously meets and exceeds HND standard of high-quality client care. Please join us in congratulating our 20/21 Cynthia Blomquist Quality Client Care Award winner Mary Thierry.

Our Employee of the Year for 2020/2021 is certainly an agent of The House Next Door, not just their specific department. In their current role they take very seriously being a positive gateway to access services for our clients and community at large. Never willing to shy away from a challenge, our Employee of the Year takes on new tasks with a smile and never complains about the time it takes to complete. They make sure that they are available for all staff, not just the staff within their specific department. Thinking not just of themself, this individual works tirelessly to make sure that our community has access and availability to the services that can best fit their needs, going as far as assisting clients in obtaining referrals outside of our agency. This individual goes above and beyond to make sure that they are present and willing to assist everyone within the department. During a very challenging year this employee went above and beyond during the holidays to make sure that all staff felt included by crocheting a handmade ornament for all staff in the agency. Please join us in congratulating our 20/21 Ann Grell Employee of the Year Joyce Cox.
Annual Intern and Board Awards

The Dr. George and Mary Hood Intern of the Year Award was created in honor of the late Mary and Dr. Hood for their creation of the Stetson and HND intern program. At the heart of Dr. and Mrs. Hood’s work was the client’s well-being and the sanctity of the family unit. This year, we present our Dr. George and Mary Hood Intern of the Year Award to an intern that excelled at promoting a positive environment for both their clients and staff. This intern has worked to ensure that their clients build new skill sets to enhance their coping skills outside of therapy. This intern has worked to make sure that they are available and flexible to both their clients and other staff at the site in which they completed their internship program. All of this was done, and done well, during a time our world was in a pandemic. Due to their professionalism and outstanding work with our clients, this intern has been hired on as staff. Please join us in congratulating our 2020/2021 Dr. George and Mary Hood Intern of the Year, Kimberly Alden.

This year’s Outstanding Volunteer Award Winner goes to Board Member Jacob Wilkerson. Jacob is always willing to help, and really went above and beyond helping The House Next Door this year.

When we encountered a problem while moving our statue from our old DeLand Service location at 121 W Pennsylvania to our Administrative Office at 804 N Woodland, Jacob stepped in and helped get our statue moved. He was also able to get landscaping donated to the area surrounding the statue at the new location. Please join us in congratulating our 20/21 Outstanding Volunteer Award Winner, Jacob Wilkerson.

We asked for our Boards to reach out to their contacts and try to get the most new sponsors for our annual 5K Fundraising event this year and Cynthia Blomquist got out and spread the word to her fellow State Farm agents about The House Next Door and the work that we do. She convinced eight other agents to join her in sponsoring our virtual event.

She did such a great job talking about The HND and our programs that Kathy Napier, who hadn’t even heard of The House Next Door before, signed up for a $500 sponsorship. Please join us in congratulating our 20/21 Top Fundraiser Award Winner Cynthia Blomquist.
Our Free Homework Club Summer Camp is happening June 7th through August 13th.

This program serves elementary students in the DeLand area 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch are provided and there are fun educational enrichment activities each week including music, art, technology, gardening/farming, photography, life skills, sports, dancing, culinary, and DeLand History.

Our Summer Camp students are having fun learning lots of new things!
The House Next Door Social Media!

The House Next Door has five social media channels. You can connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube!

Follow The House Next Door on all of our social media channels to keep up to date with everything that’s going on at The House Next Door, and to get useful information about mental health and related issues. Please also like, subscribe, and share our content!

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Be a part of ensuring a healthy future for our community.

We accept gifts of:
- Cash or Stocks
- Real or Tangible Property
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Life Insurance, Trusts, Wills

Contact Tom Robertson, Foundation President, at tomrobertsonrai@gmail.com

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