

CONNECTIONS

ORCHARD PLACE • SPRING/SUMMER 2024 ISSUE





ADVOCACY WITH ANNE

It's our mission to provide prevention and intervention mental health care services for our clients. Last year, we provided care to 6,895 youth and their families. We know that mental health therapy works. Because of this, we are brainstorming new ideas to provide you with updates as to how we are advocating for Iowa children.

Orchard Place is excited to announce a new way **YOU** can connect with our efforts to provide the best mental health resources. Follow along with **Advocacy With Anne** for video updates and social media content that will give you the latest details on how Orchard Place therapists and advocates are fighting for better access to children's mental health services.

Some of the topics you'll see discussed are how we're working with our representatives to change legislation, gain additional funding into mental health services, and holding additional trainings for our staff and volunteers on how to be prepared to advocate for our youth.

We could not move forward with our efforts to provide mental healthcare resources to children and families without YOU! Thank you for supporting Orchard Place in **Developing Strong Futures.**

Sanctuary on!

Anne Starr, M.S.W.
Orchard Place CEO



ADVOCACY WITH ANNIE







GRATEFUL FAMILY

Ashley was 15 years old when she came to Orchard Place. Now, as an adult, she occasionally likes to rewind the clock and reminisce about the growth she experienced.

Ashley navigated through social hiccups, battled emotional rollercoasters, and experienced anxiety. But stepping into Aliber House felt like walking into a warm hug, with staff taking the time to help her mental health needs. "Sending a child to a Treatment Center can be difficult, but I want to assure you, this program made me a better person emotionally, psychologically, and academically," said Ashley. "I came from a very unstable background and needed guidance to become a healthier being."

From a young age, Ashley explained she was physically and mentally abused before coming to Orchard Place. She wore an invisible badge that labeled herself as a "threat" in her own home. "I struggled with social skills. I needed help getting my emotions in check and I didn't know how to cope in a healthy way." Ashley's strained relationship with her parents made her have feelings of depression and anxiety, that eventually led to stealing, running away, and a suicide attempt.

With the support of her therapist and Orchard Place staff, Ashley says her experience on campus was life changing.

“THEY LET ME UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES AND THAT IN LIFE IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT OR START OVER.”

Orchard Place allowed Ashley to:

1. Focus on herself
2. Feel comforted when she was scared or sad
3. Explore her emotional intelligence
4. Focus on school
5. Live in a healthy environment

Ashley, now rocking the "mom of three" badge and married with a human resources degree, credits Orchard Place for enabling her personal growth and teaching her valuable life skills. "I went from an immature teenager to a well-behaved young adult. But more importantly, I use the knowledge I obtained from Orchard Place to this day."





WHY I SERVE...

Carrie Clogg is excited to join the Board of Directors at Orchard Place after almost twenty years of a relationship with us. Carrie started out as a volunteer and has stayed in touch with us ever since.

When her first son was born in 2007, her journey with Orchard Place became personal as he started to struggle with his mental health.

Carrie has been an advocate for her son throughout his journey and is determined to help find solutions for children needing mental health services and support for their parents. She is excited to be part of Orchard Place on a deeper level now and wants to assist the Board with fundraising, advocacy and programming.

CARRIE CLOGG

Orchard Place Operating Board

CAYLA WALSH JOINS ORCHARD PLACE AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING & MAJOR GIFTS

Cayla Walsh joins Orchard Place as the Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts. She has been in the nonprofit space for over eight years, focusing on fundraising, communications and special events.

"I love helping donors discover their passion, and aligning that passion to make real, meaningful change. I am excited to not only have the opportunity to share the success stories of the children we serve, but of our donors who make this great work possible."



PACE CENTER GETS NEW VICE PRESIDENT



James Bustamante moved to Iowa in 1997 from El Paso, Texas. He graduated from Cathedral High School, Park College with a B.S. in Social Psychology, and a Masters in Counseling from Webster University. He has been in the human services delivery field for more than 30 years. His career began as a group facilitator for youth with various mental health diagnosis and has since worked in various positions working with youth, families, and adults with various mental health needs both in the El Paso community and in the Des Moines area. Most recently, James did work in the insurance field focusing on behavioral health needs of insurance members in over 20 states. He also has worked in public policy at the state level within state work groups, various community organizations, and state level efforts focusing on Latino youth and families. His passion continues to be working with youth and families within central Iowa.

FALL CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

“WE ALL WEAR DIFFERENT HATS, PLAY DIFFERENT ROLES, AND HOLD ONTO THE HOPE AND OPTIMISM FOR OUR YOUTH THAT THEY WILL KNOW A STRONG FUTURE WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY.”

- ANNE STARR, CEO

This past November, Orchard Place employees and community members gathered at Campus to enjoy the Annual Fall Celebration Luncheon. It was a celebration in more ways than one, as it marked the return of the event being held in-person since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It also recognized the accomplishments Orchard Place staff and community advocates are doing to provide Iowa children with the mental health care and resources they need. Five staff members and two mental health advocates, from the Des Moines community, received awards for their outstanding work. Thank you to our award winners for their dedication to **Developing Strong Futures!**

A special thank you to Jenna Turner, the former Director of Individual & Corporate Giving, for her hard work at organizing the event, to our volunteers for the number of hours they spent decorating and day of duties, to Jeff Ferden for gathering and setting up tables and chairs, and Syd's for their fabulous catering.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR EVENTS! SCAN THE QR CODE TODAY.



JOHN J. HANSELL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO CHILDREN: KELSEY WALKUP AND CHLOE BREITSPRECHER.



VOICE FOR CHILDREN'S AWARD: KATIE MILLER



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ADVOCATE AWARD: ZACH SHEELEY



2023 DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARD: STACI MEASE



MICHELE A. MOORE AWARD: STEPHANIE REINHARDT



2023 MARGARET SWANSON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: BOB DAHLBERG



2023 HOLIDAY DRIVE SERVES RECORD NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Thank **YOU** to our donors and volunteers for making spirits bright during the 2023 holiday season! A total of 1,080 youth were served during our annual Holiday Drive. Each child received three gifts that consisted of two needed items and one want. This is the largest number of children Orchard Place has provided gifts to during the Holiday Drive, highlighting the growing demand for mental health support. We'd like to thank Scheels for giving Orchard Place over \$13,000 worth of merchandise to be handed out among the children.

"I GOT A PAIR OF SHOES THAT I NEEDED REALLY BAD. WHEN I GOT SOME FROM SCHEELS, IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY!"
- ORCHARD PLACE CAMPUS RESIDENT

You can make a difference all year by donating or taking the time to volunteer. For more information, contact Brandie Broadhead, Director of Volunteers & Special Events, at bbroadhead@orchardplace.org or at (515) 287-9621.



PACE CENTER GETS UPGRADES

For four decades, PACE Center has been a cozy place for youngsters and families. That's a whole lot of time dedicated to Developing Strong Futures! As time ticked on, the building started showing its age. Thanks to some generous donors, we spruced things up with fresh carpets and a splash of paint, creating a sanctuary for our amazing clients to thrive in. A huge shoutout to all of you who back the incredible transformations happening at PACE and the life-changing work we do!



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

The 21st Annual Orchard Place Spelling Bee, presented by Nationwide, was a BUZZ-ing success! A huge shoutout to our sponsors, teams, generous donors, and volunteers! Together, we raised \$65,197 to support the care of Orchard Place youth. Let's spell out a big "THANK YOU" in giant letters!



A **BIG** thank you to EMC Insurance Foundation, the Polk County Board of Supervisors, and Prairie Meadows for their charitable contributions to improve the front area of our campus and playground. We will be making upgrades for a winding sidewalk with handrails that will improve accessibility to the lower levels of our campus for family therapy sessions and events. We are also able to replace the outdoor basketball court for our youth recreational activities.



ORCHARD PLACE RECEIVES GRANT FOR NEW SECURITY CAMERAS

Providing care for our youth and family clients will now be made easier with a new video surveillance security system for our school buildings and administrative building at Orchard Place Campus. With these improvements, families can trust that the youth we serve will be provided with a safe environment. Thank you, Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, for being an advocate for children's mental health by generously granting Orchard Place with approximately \$161,000 for the security system. This grant will provide our youth additional protection, that will allow them to focus on their treatment and goals of **Develop Strong Futures**.



OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

We have been transforming lives for 138 years. When you choose to include Orchard Place in your estate plans, you can ensure Iowa youth are supported now and well into the future. Contact Cayla Walsh, Director of Planned Giving & Major Gifts at cwalsh@orchardplace.org or 515-287-9648 to learn how you can leave a legacy with Orchard Place. Already include OP in your plans? Let us know to be included in our Legacy Society!

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YOU CAN HELP DEVELOP STRONG FUTURES

To make a gift to Orchard Place or schedule a personal tour, please contact:



Cayla Walsh
Director of Planned Giving &
Major Gifts

925 SW Porter Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Phone: 515.287.9648
cwalsh@orchardplace.org



ORCHARDPLACE.ORG



JULY 13 – 7:30 PM



The school bells are about to ring and kids without the necessary supplies might feel a tad blue. Join our School Supply Drive to put a smile on the faces of Orchard Place youth as they kickstart the school year! Just \$30 can gift a student a backpack and all the essentials they need.

BE A HERO AND SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

