

CONNECTIONS

ORCHARD PLACE | SPRING/SUMMER 2026



FUELING OUR MISSION

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD



As President of the Foundation Board of Directors, I am deeply inspired by the transformative work happening every day at Orchard Place. This May, as we observe *Mental Health Awareness Month*, I'm reminded of the profound difference a caring community can make in the lives of young people. At Orchard Place, every day is a testament to what's possible when compassion drives action and hope is shared.

Our mission is powered by so many hands and hearts, therapists who listen, staff who guide, and supporters who believe in brighter futures for our youth. These efforts, woven together, create a safety net for children and families facing mental and behavioral health challenges.

Right now, we have a clear and achievable goal: together, we're aiming to raise \$25,000 in celebration of Mental Health Awareness Month.

Imagine if everyone reading this contributed the price of a cup of coffee, we'd reach our goal in no time. It's not about how much you give, but about coming together for a cause that matters deeply.

Every contribution helps provide vital care, stability, and encouragement to young people on their path to healing. Your support, whether through a donation, spreading the word, or rallying others helps ensure that no child feels alone in their struggle.

Let's be the community that stands up for youth mental health, not just this month, but every day.

Thank you for believing in the power of collective kindness and for helping Orchard Place be a source of hope and healing for all who need it.

DRBrandt

Dawn Brandt
President
Foundation Board of Directors



Coffee money = life changing support!
Consider giving today!

CELEBRATING 140 YEARS

HONORING OUR PAST. STRENGTHENING FUTURES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

For 140 years, Orchard Place has stood beside Iowa's children and families through moments of hardship, healing, and hope. What began in 1886 as an orphanage has evolved into a leader in mental health care and support services across the state. While our programs have grown and changed over time, our purpose remains unchanged: *helping children build resilience, overcome adversity, and Develop Strong Futures for generations to come.*



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN

Orchard Place Rooted in Resilience

Mental Health Awareness Luncheon

Presented by:



Rooted in Resilience was a powerful reminder that when a community comes together, hope grows stronger for children and families across Iowa. Because of the generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, community partners, and every person who attended, we raised \$87,297 to support life-changing mental health services at Orchard Place.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor, Nationwide, for helping make this inaugural event possible and for standing beside us in support of youth mental health.

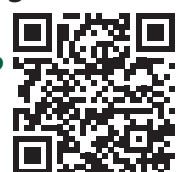


Orchard Place
Rooted in Resilience



As we reflect on the incredible momentum from Rooted in Resilience, our work continues. During Mental Health Awareness Month, Orchard Place is working to raise \$25,000 to ensure more children and families have access to the care, support, and hope they deserve. Every conversation, every shared story, and every gift helps *Develop Strong Futures*.

Will you help us meet our Mental Health Awareness Campaign goal?



AWARENESS MONTH

MAY . . . AND EVERY DAY!

mental
health
BEGINS
WITH
ME.

Featured on our cover, this design is inspired by a simple truth: mental health starts with 'me.' Real change begins when we take that first step, asking for help, accepting support, and being open to growth.

T-shirt designed by Alisha Reynolds, School Based Therapist

Wear the message.

Scan the QR code to purchase your shirt.

*A portion of the proceeds will benefit Orchard Place



At 13, Norah was struggling with her mental health, leaving her family feeling overwhelmed and alone.

"Trying to parent a child through mental health challenges is extremely lonely and difficult," her mom Amanda shared.

After receiving care at Orchard Place, everything began to change. Over six months, Norah gained the tools she needed to manage her struggles, and her family found support and a sense of community.

*Today, at 18, Norah is in college
and living life more fully.*

"There's no easy button," said her dad Randy, "but because of the care she received, she now has the tools to move forward."

For the Wanke family, the message is simple: you are not alone, and there is hope.

To read Norah's full story, scan the QR code on the Mission Impact page.



WHY IT MATTERS

EARLY SUPPORT. LIFELONG IMPACT.

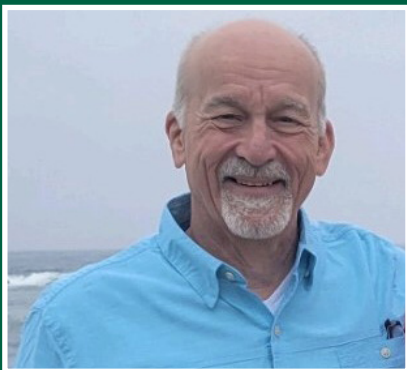


"If we don't help children thrive now, we risk what comes next."

Nicole Boyington, Orchard Place Foundation Board Member, has seen what happens when children do not receive the support they need, and what is possible when they do. What began as a simple volunteer day at Orchard Place became something more. Watching youth laugh, connect, and simply be themselves showed her what the right care can do.

Today, she is helping build a community where children can heal, grow, and move forward with confidence. She believes change starts by bringing people together. When people understand the need, they are inspired to step in and help meet it.

"You see the smoke. I want to focus on the fire."



After a lifetime of giving back, Mike chose to invest in the future of children through Orchard Place. His legacy helps ensure more youth receive support before challenges become lifelong struggles.

Through planned giving and opportunities like the Orchard Place Giving Campaign, he is helping create lasting change for generations to come.

To read Nicole & Mike's story, scan the QR code on the Mission Impact page.

*Join our monthly Giving Campaign and
help ensure children receive support when it matters most.*



MISSION IMPACT

LINDSAY PORTER: GROWING LEADERSHIP, STRENGTHENING OUTCOMES

At Orchard Place, mission impact is driven by people who lead with purpose. Lindsay Porter is one of those people.

Lindsay began her career as a Milieu Treatment Counselor and advanced to Milieu Treatment Coordinator at the Orchard Place Residential Campus. After some time away, she returned as an intern at the PACE Center. Today, she serves as the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Supervisor at the Child Guidance Center.

FFT is a short-term, evidence-based program that supports youth ages 11 to 18 and their families. By helping families identify patterns, build skills, and strengthen relationships, FFT reduces the likelihood of involvement with systems such as Juvenile Court Services and the Department of Health and Human Services. Families leave with tools that support lasting stability.

As a supervisor, Lindsay leads her team in delivering this critical work while ensuring families receive thoughtful, effective care.

She has also stepped into leadership roles supporting the Trauma Informed Care Conference and community engagement efforts.

During Mental Health Awareness Month, Lindsay's work reflects how strong families and compassionate care can change the trajectory of a child's life.

To read Lindsay's full story, scan the QR code below.



Want to learn more about the stories featured in Connections? Scan the QR code.



CONNECTIONS

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To make a meaningful gift or schedule a personal tour of Orchard Place, connect with our Foundation team.

FoundationTeam@orchardplace.org
515-287-9645



SAVE THE DATE

BE A PART OF DEVELOPING STRONG FUTURES.

Moonlight Classic - July 11th, 2026

Gear Up for Fall - June 2026

A new name for our School Supply Drive & Keep Kids Warm Drive

Holiday Drive - October 2026

World Mental Health Day - October 10, 2026

Scan to Learn More

