



OhioGuidestone
SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
& COMMUNITIES

SEEDS

of Hope

Agency Newsletter
Summer 2019

A Foundation for Student Success

Elementary school students leaning forward in their desks to watch a science experiment, guessing what comes next. High school students in their civics classroom learning about their rights as a citizen, engaged in their teacher’s lesson. When classrooms function correctly, they are a place for students to immerse themselves in their education, and to begin to see what their path in life will be. Yet, the students’ home lives can’t be left at the door. When they’re experiencing behavior or mental health problems, they disrupt their education and potentially the entire classroom experience.

OhioGuidestone began providing School Services, in-school therapy and counseling, for students in Ohio more than 25 years ago. As the need

for these services has grown, so has the program. OhioGuidestone currently provides School Services in more than 230 schools, with nearly 100 staff members working with thousands of students every school year. Our expertise is built on key staff like Andy Cooper, Vice President of Community Counseling, who is now recognized as an expert across the state.

Recently, Andy gave testimony to the Ohio Senate at the invitation of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, of which OhioGuidestone is a key member. There, he co-presented on the importance of the funding, which keeps School Services accessible for schools, and how agencies like OhioGuidestone can use



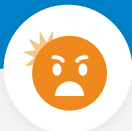
Andy Cooper, Vice President
of Community Counseling

this funding as a foothold to provide our full continuum of services to families across the state.

“Few practices can have as much of an impact as School Services,” said Andy. “A wide range of therapeutic,

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Our students, upon program completion with OhioGuidestone, report improved anger, depression and anxiety symptoms.



50% of students reported no longer experiencing severe levels of anger.



50% of students reported no longer experiencing severe levels of depression.



50% of students reported no longer experiencing severe levels of anxiety.

Message from the President



Richard R. Frank,
President and CEO

As we begin our next fiscal year, we look to what we have learned this past year and how we can move forward to provide better futures for the individuals we serve. One of our proudest achievements has been our new outcomes, both how they are measured and what they show. Last fiscal year, OhioGuidestone began using the Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs), a methodology that tracks parent-reported measures on their child’s improvements, as well as self-reported measures for youth and adults in our services.

With this new data, we can confidently claim statistically significant outcomes for individuals using OhioGuidestone programs, and the effectiveness of these programs, after at least ten sessions. When they reach program completion, individuals report lower levels of anger, depression and anxiety—the three presenting symptoms for most of the behavioral and mental health concerns we address. Monitoring and tracking client progress, both on the individual level and program level, allows us to course correct over time and to continue providing the best services possible in our communities.

After at least 10 sessions with OhioGuidestone:

- 60% of youth and 65% of adults** no longer reported experiencing severe levels of anger.
- 65% of youth and 71% of adults** no longer reported experiencing severe levels of depression.
- 71% of youth and 71% of adults** no longer reported experiencing severe levels of anxiety.

A Foundation for Student Success, continued from page 1

social-emotional and educational needs can be met with original and comprehensive treatment approaches.”

OhioGuidestone’s School Services outcomes prove the positive impact we’re having on children. With our Patient Recorded Outcome Measures (PROMs), OhioGuidestone can confidently claim a

positive impact on each student’s anxiety, anger and depression symptoms after completing ten sessions or closing out the program completely.

As OhioGuidestone looks to the future of School Services, even as soon as the 2020-2021 school year, we hope to find ways to continue expanding and innovating our therapy and counseling services.

Licenses and Certifications

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services | Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Approved Health & Welfare Organization of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church



Celebrating Every Child

Imagine a child not receiving a cake or present on their birthday. This is often the experience for children entering OhioGuidestone's Residential Treatment Center. "That shouldn't happen," said Katie Eichenauer, Executive Director of Believe in Dreams. "They need and deserve to have the exact same experience as any other kid." With help from Believe in Dreams and Baldwin Wallace University (BW), children at OhioGuidestone's Residential Treatment Center celebrate their birthdays as they should—with cake and presents.

When volunteering with OhioGuidestone in 2011, Therese O'Donnell, OhioGuidestone Board Member, saw the need for a birthday program, so she created Birthday Buddies. In the early stages of the program, Therese would buy gifts and her mother would make a cake for Therese to deliver to the birthday child. "The most rewarding part has always been delivering the gifts," said Therese. "I had a young boy tell me, 'This is the first birthday gift I've gotten in a really long time.'" In 2016,



Believe in Dreams and Baldwin Wallace University have formed an amazing partnership to benefit the children at OhioGuidestone's Residential Treatment Center.

Believe in Dreams began funding the program, allowing BW to bake the cakes. "This funding was such a blessing, as it was getting difficult for my mom to make all those cakes," said Therese. "Baldwin Wallace's cakes are so professional and beautiful!"

To ensure no birthday is missed, generic birthday cakes are kept on hand. "If a child came through intake last night, it's a little late to say, 'I need one today,'" said

Richard Lynch, OhioGuidestone Cottage Liaison. "This way, they still get something."

The staff takes great care to make each child feel celebrated on their birthday. "It makes me feel good that they feel special," said Constance Roberts, OhioGuidestone Social Services Assistant. "I want them to know they're important because a lot of these kids don't feel special." Constance also mails gifts to the children who exit the facility before their birthday.

"Letting them know that they're valued, that they're believed in, that their community wants them here and that we're glad they were born," said Katie, "We hope they feel that."

Birthday Buddies is special to OhioGuidestone, as Therese sees with each delivery, "I can remember a young boy telling me he would be leaving OhioGuidestone. He asked me, 'Can I have a birthday gift early? I'm afraid where I'm going they might not know it's my birthday.'" This small gesture of love and kindness shows these children that their community supports them and is willing to help them on their life journeys.

Getting Ahead While Getting Out

OhioGuidestone Workforce 360°, in conjunction with A Second Chance Inc., celebrated the first graduating class of the Getting Ahead While Getting Out program for adjudicated youth in the nation at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility using funding from a Google Impact grant awarded earlier this year.

A New Opportunity

There are countless programs for youth populations in correctional facilities. But Skip Hill, Founder and CEO at A Second Chance Inc. and an ex-convict, never saw one that he knew would make a difference—until he met OhioGuidestone Program Manager Jennifer Hedinger, who introduced him to the Getting Ahead While Getting Out program, which is written based on the Bridges out of Poverty philosophy.

Skip immediately knew that Getting Ahead While Getting Out was different. “Being an ex-con myself, and having participated in programs that were supposed to do what this program actually does do, this is the first time I’ve actually read a program that I thought was going to be not only effectual, but accepting,” he said. “It’s one thing to have a program. It’s another thing to have a program accepted by the people that you want to help.”

Thanks to a Google Grant awarded to OhioGuidestone in 2018, Skip and Rebecca Coiner, OhioGuidestone Community Engagement Specialist, co-facilitated the first-ever youth cohort for Getting Ahead While Getting Out in 2019.

Why It Works

There’s no overstating the importance of the genuine, personal relationships Skip, Rebecca and Jennifer built with the



From Left to Right: Rebecca Coiner, OhioGuidestone Community Engagement Specialist, Skip Hill, Founder and CEO at A Second Chance Inc., and Jennifer Hedinger, OhioGuidestone Program Manager.

youth in the program. They will be the first to tell you the first class wasn’t attended because the youth thought it would change their lives. It was a chance for snacks and a break from the noisy monotony of their day.

Once the youth came and listened, they realized that this was a classroom where they were understood and supported. It wasn’t about the snacks or the break. For these youth, Getting Ahead While Getting Out became an island of calm amidst a

sea of chaos. “They tell me all the time ‘This is our time, and we feel so much better when we leave,’” said Rebecca.

A Fair Chance

For 14 weeks, three times a week, youth ambled into their classroom. The first activity to any class was to go around the room, facilitators and all, and share how they were feeling. As is the universal experience with any teenager, in any environment, sometimes they were frustrated. Bored. Often they’d say, “I’m just here.”

“By the time they left, they were, ‘Pumped. Stoked’. During class, you watch them come together and be so full of life,” said Rebecca. Yet the program wasn’t only social. During class, youth prompted discussions based on their workbooks. They led their activities and were ultimately responsible for teaching each other. They learned about hidden rules, language issues and resources—each important parts of navigating a world that they’ve never been properly introduced to. It’s a fair chance at lifelong success, once they’re released.

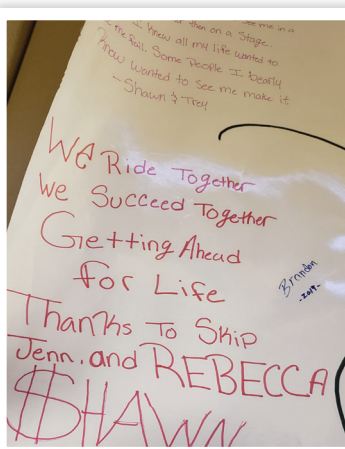
“We’re helping [them] repair, and reshape for what’s next,” said Skip. By introducing youth to possibilities, Skip hopes that they discover their journey to maturity, ultimately helping them function as responsible citizens in their community upon reentry working to reduce recidivism.

A Reason to have Hope

The success of Getting Ahead While Getting Out isn’t only measured in the number of graduates. It’s in each optional check-in graduates have with Skip and Rebecca. It’s 19-year-old Shawn, who was released shortly after graduation, earning an internship, planning on going back to school



Shawn is a graduate from the Getting Ahead Program and an intern at Cleveland Water. When he was in the program, Shawn said that for those few hours a week, “I forgot where I was at. I felt like I was at home.”



A banner made and signed by each graduate, filled with words of gratitude and inspiration.

and working to do his mother proud each day. It’s the fact that weeks after the program has ended, youth are reaching out to each other and maintaining the team they built.

“I don’t know what it was—the hand of God, or what—that convinced these 12 kids to come, but I hope that the next 12 we receive are as open to receiving what this program has to offer,” said Skip. The future for each graduate is bright, said Jennifer, “Because when they have hope, they can move mountains.”

For more information regarding Getting Ahead While Getting Out, please contact Jennifer Hedinger at Jennifer.Hedinger@OhioGuidestone.org.

Supporting Families: Donor Q&A



Brian Souder, Managing Partner of the Modern Woodmen of America, shared his experience, thoughts and hope for the work his organization has helped OhioGuidestone accomplish over the last four years.

Q&A

What was your first impression of OhioGuidestone?

We really stopped in totally unaware of all that OhioGuidestone does. We were really blown away by our first interaction with the whole team here—everyone is so friendly.

What are Modern Woodmen of America's values and how do they fit with OhioGuidestone's?

There are so many of the values, missions and even the underlying Chris-

tian values. OhioGuidestone was founded in 1864 to serve orphans and Modern Woodmen was founded in 1883 to take care of widows and orphans—two companies founded in the 1800s that are still around, which is amazing.

OhioGuidestone started as the German Methodist Orphan Asylum and now it's more about improving the quality of life for families. Part of Modern Woodmen's mission is improving the quality of life of our clients and our communities in which we live. As we've gotten to know OhioGuidestone more, so many programs that you have are not only for children but families and adults. A big part of what we do is help that family unit. Anytime we can partner with an organization like OhioGuidestone, we want to do that because it helps the family unit and that's why we're always going to be a big supporter.

How has OhioGuidestone affected you personally?

It's opened my eyes to the overall need that there is for foster children and the overall need for that family unit in kids' lives.

What is your proudest achievement working with OhioGuidestone so far?

The YouthBuild Graduation was amazing to be a part of that and to be able to throw the pizza party for the kids

after. To see that transformation among the kids was pretty amazing. To see firsthand what OhioGuidestone does with the Workforce 360° project—it's amazing.



What are your hopes for the impact you can have in the community partnering with OhioGuidestone? What is your outlook for the future?

I'm excited because I feel like we've only scratched the surface for the overall potential for our organizations. I think the future of OhioGuidestone is good and I'm excited to see the lives impacted and if we can play a small part in what you guys do, we are humbled and honored to be able to do that.

Joyful Together[®] goes to Harvard

In June of this year, OhioGuidestone's research-based model, Joyful Together, was selected to participate in Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child Innovation in Action Workshop in Cambridge, MA. The selection process was competitive, but Joyful Together's selection is high praise of the research and development work we have accomplished, and an affirmation that OhioGuidestone's efforts are among the strongest in the nation.



The Joyful team had a great time working with the IDEAS Impact Framework on a timeline for the next implementation of home-based Joyful Together.

“Our teams are constantly presenting OhioGuidestone's expert knowledge and research around the nation,” said Dr. Ben Kearney, Chief Clinical Officer, “However, this opportunity with the Center on the Developing Child Innovation in Action Workshop goes to show that other experts recognize our work and that we are on the best path toward helping the individuals, families and children in our community.”

The workshop invitation demonstrated the strengths of Joyful Together on the national stage for the first time. Joining teams from across the country and around the world, a team from OhioGuidestone's The Institute of Family & Community Impact[™] collaborated with leading scholars

from Harvard's Center on the Developing Child, to apply the IDEAS Impact Framework. This approach, much like that of Joyful Together, is designed to achieve significantly better outcomes for children and families by increasing understanding of how interventions work, for whom and in what contexts.

Of this experience, Brittany Pope, Director of Applied Clinical Science and Research, stated, “It was cool walking into the session and seeing we've done a little of this, a little of that. It was reassuring to see that we're doing it right, we're doing well. And can build on this.”

The future of OhioGuidestone's research and development initiatives are promising and underway. Next to be published is Joyful Together – Early Care (Joyful Together EC), a program focusing on child care and pre-K development. The approach learned at the Innovation in Action Workshop will help to fully define Joyful Together EC.





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Our Vision

Future generations are educated, self reliant and contributing members of strong communities.

Our Mission

To provide pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success.

UPCOMING EVENTS



OhioGuidestone Golf & Club Classic

September 9, 2019
Columbia Hills Country Club
16200 E River Rd, Columbia Station, OH 44028

Join OhioGuidestone and title sponsor, Blue Technologies, for a day of golf followed by dinner and live auction. All proceeds will benefit the adults, children and families of OhioGuidestone. Please contact Jessica.Kanelos@ohioguidestone.org for more information.



School Supply Drive

Looking for a way to give back this summer? Help give our clients a great start to the school year by donating brand new school supplies. We will accept items for grade levels pre-k through 12, from July 1 through August 5, 2019.

To learn more or schedule a time to drop off new school supply donations, please contact Jessica Kanelos at Jessica.Kanelos@ohioguidestone.org or call 440.260.8362.

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