



Top Talent Award for OhioGuidestone

We often share our client's successes in this publication; all of them harvested out of the quiet dedication of the staff at OhioGuidestone.

This time the spotlight is on us, with an award that recognizes the exceptional people who make up our agency. OhioGuidestone has been named a top talent workplace, winning a 2023 NorthCoast 99 award.

The award is presented by The Employers Resource Council (ERC) to honor 99 Northeast Ohio workplaces for top talent and a positive employee experience rating.

OhioGuidestone President and CEO, Brant Russell said, "The NorthCoast 99 Award is a tremendous recognition for our entire agency. It applies to OhioGuidestone statewide as the quality of the service we provide is the same and directly tied to our well-being as individuals." He said, "Compassion

and respect guide our interactions with each other and with our clients."

Brant added that the award is also a great reflection of the hard work and creativity of OhioGuidestone's Human Resource team who finds, recruits, and keeps the top talent who work here.

Vice President of Human Resources, Patricia Stumpp said, "We pride ourselves in offering a flexible, supportive employee experience that allows our team members to do meaningful, impactful work in the community."

A rigorous application process required detailed information on numerous topics including how OhioGuidestone attracts, develops, and retains top-performers, and specific onboarding policies; benefits; employee well-being programs; employee engagement measures and rewards. Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) are also

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message

FROM THE CEO

Happy Fall!

So many terrific things are happening at OhioGuidestone! Many of them you will read more about in this issue, but I need to first offer my congratulations.

OhioGuidestone has been honored with the NorthCoast 99 award for Top Talent and I could not be prouder. The award was officially announced on September 1st by the Employers Resource Council. We are committed to hiring the best employees and ensuring that we support them as they advance in their careers because a great culture is the foundation of any successful organization.

Another big win as we enter the fall season is our incredible Evolution Gala which raised over \$600,000 for general operating funds. To see all the support at Cleveland's historic Public Auditorium on September 23rd was overwhelming.

We continually celebrate growth in our agency. In our central region, we were selected to provide mental health care at the Starlight Center. This is in addition to the SUD services we will be providing when Starlight opens later this year.

As you begin this colorful season, I hope you also celebrate 'wins' as you and your families get back into the routines of fall with school, sports and activities.

Go Browns!



Brant Russell,
President and CEO

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considered.

Over the summer, Patricia, Brant and other OhioGuidestone leaders celebrated employee accomplishments with recognition parties in each of OhioGuidestone's regions. OhioGuidestone staff celebrated with indoor and outdoor games and picnic style lunches of favorite seasonal food.

Employee awards are presented to the top performers of the year at an official employee appreciation ceremony this month.

The NorthCoast 99 annual awards program started in 1998 to help make the region a long-term destination of choice for companies and high-performing individuals. Since then, it has become a helpful tool to share strategy and ideas on creating and maintaining a workplace that attracts top talent like OhioGuidestone's 1,000 plus employees across Ohio.



Our employees cited flexibility, continuing education, and positive recognition as their top rewards working at OhioGuidestone.

DEIB Assistant Vice President Ryan Clopton-Zymler calls it a culture of belonging. He said, "We're building a psychologically safe environment to grow and try new ideas, where there is no fear of failure."

OhioGuidestone and the other NorthCoast 99 winners were featured in the September issue of Cleveland Magazine.



OhioGuidestone leaders at the NorthCoast 99 celebration

2023 Gala — a Roaring Success!

Evolution Gala 2023 is in the books. Nearly 400 OhioGuidestone supporters gathered at Cleveland’s historic Public Auditorium to celebrate and raise funds for our organization.

The roaring 20’s theme was a popular choice for attire. Sparkling flapper-style dresses with fringe, headbands, and fascinators adorned many female guests, while men chose dark suits with an occasional fedora, newsboy cap, pipe, and spats. One clever guest dressed in a 1920’s bathing suit.

The theme honored the one hundred years of Cleveland’s Public Auditorium, which was built in the 1920’s. WKYC Chief Meteorologist and News Anchor, Betsy Kling led the gala as emcee and detailed the numerous music icons who made history on that very stage.

The Gala, auction, raffle, and fund-a-need donations raised over \$600,000 for the individuals, families, and communities who need OhioGuidestone’s person-centered behavioral health care.

Blue Technologies founder and CEO Paul Hanna received the OhioGuidestone Corporate Sponsor award for his many decades supporting OhioGuidestone, including the 2023 Gala itself.

Kristin Warzocha, CEO of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, received the Community Partner Award for her support and partnership with OhioGuidestone.

The Gala also highlighted achievements by OhioGuidestone client Isaiah Campbell, who put himself on a healthy productive path through Workforce 360° and several other OhioGuidestone programs. Isaiah recognized and brought along his OhioGuidestone mentors Jennifer Cholley, and Brenin Davidson of Workforce 360°.

The evening wrapped up on the dance floor with WKYC’s Monica Robins and her band The Whiskey Kings providing the entertainment.

Some of the other generous sponsors of the 2023 Evolution Gala included Kichler, Fifth Third Bank, CFNA, Sherwin Williams, Deloitte, Crossroads Asphalt Recycling, DLL Financial, and Sue & Jeff Hastings.



Dads Have Dreams Too

“What I learned from my dad was not to leave my children without one,” said Don Thompson matter-of-factly about his father. Despite their now amicable relationship, Don grew up without his father and doesn’t want his own children to grow up the way he did.

“I am committed to being there every step of the way for them” he says about his 2-year-old twin sons, his “gifts from God.”

Don volunteered for a social media campaign called “Dads Do Dream” led by OhioGuidestone’s Brittany Pope and the Institute of Family and Community Impact (IFCI) to explore ways of strengthening father-child bonds.

Brittany says society has traditionally been more focused on maternal health, leaving fathers out of the parent/child conversation. “Pediatricians will ask the mother how she is feeling,” said Brittany, “but rarely does a dad get asked the same question.”



Brittany named the campaign “Dads Do Dream” because she discovered that men dream of becoming a parent just as women do, but

society doesn’t validate father’s feelings in the same manner as mothers.

“Dad’s Do Dream” is part of a larger initiative called the “Father’s Feelings Project” which provides clinical depression screening, and evidence-based practices like coaching and intervention for fathers.

Don hopes his part in the “Dads Do Dream” campaign will guide other fathers to embrace parenthood. He said, “even when it’s difficult, it is still beautiful and worth it.” Brittany says society recognizing paternal health will help create more thriving, healthy families.

Looking Back on Year One of OhioRISE

This summer marked one-year of a first-ever highly specialized program in Ohio, and OhioGuidestone’s participation in it.

OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) chose OhioGuidestone to provide care coordination for youth with complex behavioral issues in western Cuyahoga County. So far, over 650 young people are enrolled.

With a staff of 19, led by Andrea O’Brien, Director of Care Coordination, OhioGuidestone has helped build wrap-around teams to improve and streamline care. The team of formal and informal support can include representatives from Juvenile Court, Child Welfare, Board of Development Disabilities, schools, counselors, psychiatrists, primary care doctors,

coaches, ministers, neighbors, and relatives.

Andrea said a team approach to care is better for the whole family, and care coordination makes the team approach possible.

“Families shouldn’t have to piece together their child’s care,” she said. “Before OhioRise families would have to manage overlapping appointments and arrange transportation to see specialists who might be in another part of the state. That creates unnecessary stress and doesn’t allow easy communication within the multiple systems.”

Already, 23-thousand youth have enrolled in the OhioRise program, with care coordination from 18 entities, including OhioGuidestone.

Finding a Path Home

OhioGuidestone and the Medina County ADAMH board helped pave the way home for Kristy Ferguson, a Texas native who landed in the Medina County Jail after a traffic stop turned into a jail sentence for drug possession. She had been on her way home from Buffalo, New York, but it would be two years before she would get there, and she would be a different person when she did.

On August 15th, 2022, Kristy was released from the Medina County jail - with no money, no way to get home, nowhere to stay, and no one to call for help. She remembered a visitor who had left her phone number.

Rebecca Emery, a Peer Recovery Supporter from OhioGuidestone came to the jail to talk about substance use disorder and the help that's available for people who want to recover from substance use.

Substance use had cost more than just her freedom, Kristy lost jobs and relationships, including her family. "I wanted to be a better mother, a better friend, and a trustworthy employee, but I didn't have the right tools to get there," she said.

"We had one open bed, and we were able to get Kristy in," said Caroline Healey, manager of OhioGuidestone's Discovery Recovery House, a recovery house for women in Medina. "Kristy understood and accepted that we have strict house requirements, and she would stay there to receive treatment and would follow our guidance to get better."

Kristy embraced the Discovery Recovery community and the resources provided by Medina ADAMH board, which owns the Discovery Recovery House.

"We connected her as fast as possible to all our services; Assessment, IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program), peer support, Workforce 360°, and counseling" Caroline said, citing OhioGuidestone's whole person approach to care by removing barriers



Kristy Ferguson in front of her support team at Discovery Recovery House

that can get in the way of recovery.

Kristy quickly found a job and a sponsor and became a role model for the women around her.

Now, nearly 2 years after her arrest, and with approval from the court and her parole officer, Kristy is returning home to Texas. She said she has learned new tools that will stay with her long after her time at the Discovery Recovery House.

Kristy is most excited to reunite with her two daughters and for her family to meet the person she has become; empowered and healthy with a great desire to work hard and help others.

"When I gave my 2 weeks' notice at my job in Ohio, I realized that's the first time I've ever left a job in a respectable way," she said.

"Addiction took every single thing from Kristy," Caroline says, "but she picked herself up and became grateful for all that was placed in front of her."

A new job and a supportive community are in place for Kristy in Texas. She eventually would like to develop a recovery center in her hometown so she can help other women by sharing what OhioGuidestone gave to her. Ohio might not be home for Kristy, but it is where her new path was born, and where her OhioGuidestone friends and support are always available.

New Stark County Office

Our new Stark County location opened in August offering the local community even better access to help. The new location is 4579 Everhard Road NW, Suite A in North Canton.

We showed off our new offices with tours and an open house open to the public. The facilities will be able to provide all the same services as in the original location, but now with a new, more beautiful space.



"We are so excited about our new Stark County Office!" says Monica Mlinac, Regional Director for Stark and Summit Counties. "This new location is more convenient for our clients and family, with plenty of free, adjacent parking and expanded space for office-based treatment. Please stop by and see us for a tour and to learn more about the specialized services that we offer."

Joining us for the grand opening was the Stark County Health Department's Mobile Care Unit, a powerful mobile tool in bringing overdose education to the community that provides free rescue kits which includes the life-saving drug naloxone.

Men's Stillwater Groundbreaking

The ADAMHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties was joined by members of OhioGuidestone in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new substance use disorder (SUD) residential treatment center for men. The goal of residential treatment is to provide intensive intervention as a first step in starting the path towards long-term recovery.

The new Stillwater Crossing Center is owned by the ADAMHS Board and OhioGuidestone will provide

SUD treatment services and operate the facility. The center will house up to 16 men. Services will include medication, groups, individual therapy, case management and peer support services.

Brant Russell, President and CEO of OhioGuidestone, and Pamela Trimmer, Vice President of Regional Operations, met with members of the ADAMHS Board in Dennison, OH, for the groundbreaking ceremony.



Mission Of Hope Brings New Look to Residential Cottages

Barrett-Forest Cottage on our Berea campus has a fresh look thanks to a ministry of St. Joseph's Parish in Strongsville.

"Mission of Hope" volunteers painted the cottage interior, updated the electrical and plumbing systems, and sanded and refinished the dressers in the cottage bedrooms.

Retired CEO Michael Moore and the other retired and working professionals said "Mission of Hope" is an expression of gratitude for the blessings God has given them.

Internet Safety and Sexting Diversion to Educate and Protect Juveniles and Parents

The idea that a cellphone could become a criminal tool might not cross the minds of teenagers or their parents, but it is a real possibility, and it has happened.

“We have seen real cases where children are facing felony charges for sending illicit pictures to a friend or boyfriend,” said Kathryn Adams, Assistant Director of Community Counseling at OhioGuidestone.

Kathryn hopes a new OhioGuidestone service in Cuyahoga County will educate parents and juveniles about the dangers of sending explicit images over cell phones or other electronic devices.

She says, “A sexual photo that a minor takes, even of themselves, is considered child pornography in the eyes of the law. To take it a step further, sending that photo is considered a distribution of child pornography.”

Kathryn explains that Internet Safety and Sexting Diversion services consists of six sessions for both the juvenile and the parents where they learn about the law, and about current apps and social media platforms, parental monitoring strategies, cell phone safety planning, therapy-based interventions and coping skill development.

School Pediatric Clinic Partners with OhioGuidestone

As Ohio’s top provider of school-based services, OhioGuidestone was an easy choice for a behavioral health partner at a new pediatric clinic in the Pickerington School District near Columbus.

The new Tussing Health Clinic opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August. The school-based clinic is part of Tussing Elementary School in the Pickerington School District, which is among the 300 plus Ohio schools receiving OhioGuidestone’s prevention and behavioral health counseling.

Amanda Wattenberg, Vice President of OhioGuidestone’s Central Region spoke to the ceremony attendees about OhioGuidestone’s part in the new clinic. She said the partnership between OhioGuidestone and Pediatric Associates fits perfectly with OhioGuidestone’s person-centered care approach. “We believe in treating the whole person through physical and behavioral health care,” Amanda said, “Good physical and behavioral health care will set the Tussing Elementary students on a path to a healthier future.”

New Behavioral Health Urgent Care Clinics

OhioGuidestone’s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics now offer Urgent Care services.

At OhioGuidestone, our core mission revolves around delivering accessible, high-quality care to our clients. We take great pride in offering Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), a groundbreaking approach that reshapes care.

This innovative model ensures prompt access to integrated care services encompassing mental health, substance use, and primary care screening and monitoring. It enables prompt access in that critical window when someone is able and ready to be seen.

Our CCBHCs, located in Cuyahoga and Henry Counties, are poised to expedite critical behavioral health care and eliminate barriers that previously hindered access for those in need.

“This will provide us an opportunity to be an agent of change as we decrease the burden on first responders and emergency medical services while cultivating a sense of vitality and stability in our clients and in the communities with service,” says Lorraine Stehlik, Regional Director of Adult and Recovery Services.





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Our Mission
 To provide pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success.

Our Vision
 We are the state's leader in community behavioral health.

Our Motto
 We heal the heart, soothe the soul, engage the spirit, and expand the mind.

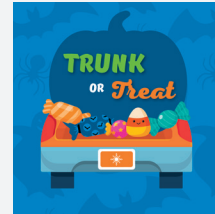
EVENTS and fundraising



Holiday Giving

In our effort to provide responsive person-centered care, OhioGuidestone maintains a Cookie Jar Client Emergency Fund to help clients respond to unexpected events and difficult circumstances. A donation of any amount to this fund will help us as we strive to provide comprehensive support to our clients and patients. Support OhioGuidestone with a tax-deductible charitable gift and invest in the lifelong success of the people we serve.

Donate to the Cookie Jar Fund at:
www.ohioguidestone.org/donate



Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 28, 2023
2:00pm-4:00pm
3500 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Join us for our second annual Trunk or Treat! Volunteer by hosting a 'trunk' or helping out at the event. If you would like to volunteer or donate candy for the event, email Ryan.CloptonZymler@OhioGuidestone.org or Tiffany.Banks@OhioGuidestone.org.

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

