

WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division - Child & Adolescent Services Branch

MAY 2017



Celebrating Success!

Success Stories: *"Teamwork makes the dream work." -Bang Gae*



Shared by Willowglen

James

James* is an eleven year old boy who I've had the privilege of serving as his Wraparound Care Coordinator for almost three years, before his very successful disenrollment from the program in December of 2016. James is a very strong, resilient child that has many talents and strengths. He enjoys fishing, playing video games, building with Legos and spending time with both his biological and adoptive family. James has made many positive changes since I began working with him in January of 2014. His biggest support has been and continues to be his adoptive mother, Ms. Laya* who provides him with unconditional love and encouragement. James was placed as a treatment foster care child in Ms. Laya's home in June of 2016 after a series of placements (other treatment foster care homes and one residential treatment center) that were not an appropriate fit for him. He and Ms. Laya developed a very special bond and share a mutual respect and love for one another. James' negative behaviors at home and school significantly decreased since he moved into Ms. Laya's home. It was evident that James felt safe and comfortable and this should be his forever home. Ms. Laya worked diligently on rules and expectations in her home and ensured that James received all mental health treatment appropriate. James was adopted by Ms. Laya on August 15, 2016 and legally made a part of her family. James has transitioned significantly well to his life with Ms. Laya and is now able to have a permanent place to call home. Ms. Laya keeps in constant contact with James' biological family, who she supports him in seeing regularly. James' Wraparound Team is very proud of all of the progress he has made and is extremely optimistic about his future.

John

John* was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee in the summer of 2014. At that time he had multiple Delinquency charges and had just been adjudicated of a Robbery. He also struggled with the use of drugs and alcohol. One week into his Wraparound enrollment he was involved in a car theft and placed in Detention. Due to these additional charges, he was court-ordered to a Residential Treatment Center. He had difficulty adjusting at the Residential Treatment Center and was not participating in the therapeutic process, as he was having negative interactions with peers and staff. However, the team noticed he did have successful overnight home passes with his family. The team worked very hard to assist John and his family so he would be able to return home, as this seemed to be the setting he did best in. Due the team centering their hard work on him returning to the community, John was allowed to return home and was able to be a positive member of his family's community. After transitioning home, John struggled with the transition to a traditional High School; his attendance was very poor and he was falling behind. Another incident then occurred at school and he was once again ordered to a Residential Treatment Center in spring 2016. Due to his drive to return home again, he participated more in the therapeutic process and increased positive interactions with peers and staff. He was enrolled in High School while at the Residential Treatment Center where was passing and attending all of his classes. During this time, he had many successful home passes and was not utilizing drugs or alcohol. John worked extremely hard with the support of the team and was able to complete all of the necessary course work to earn his High School Diploma from the Residential Treatment Center on the day he was discharged. John's team and family were able to see him accomplish something that he was not sure he would ever succeed at - he was able to walk across the stage and receive his High School Diploma with his entire team present. This meant that John would not have to return to an MPS school and graduated a year early. He would now be able to transition into the community with a High School Diploma and gain job experience. Upon his return home, the team enrolled him in programming via The Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative, where he was able to gain community employment. He is currently working, not utilizing drugs and alcohol, getting along with his family and was recently able to successfully disenroll from Wraparound programming.

**Names changed to protect confidentiality.*

Positive Recognition: *"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life." - Mary Rose McGeady*



Anna Van Hoof—Southwest Key Programs, Inc.

Nominated by Jessica Hurlebaus—SaintA, Inc.

Annie has been such a phenomenal support for JT*. She has really embraced the family and team's approach and has been such a consistent and reliable provider. She is very open to feedback and has been very helpful in identifying new and creative strategies. She has been able to build a positive rapport with JT and his family and is a great team player. I really enjoy having Annie on one of my teams, and wish I could have her on many more :) Thank you for all you do Annie!

Stuart Halstead—La Causa, Inc.

Nominated by A Family

Ms. B* told me that her son's father was killed last year and that's when Stewart came into their lives. She said at first, her son pushed Stewart away but Stewart assured mom that he was going to be there as long as they needed him. Ms. B also said that she appreciates that Stewart stops in at school, always keeps appointments, and asks her child personally how he is doing, not just asks mom how her child is doing. Ms. B she sees her son improving and is very grateful for the services from Wraparound, especially Stewart.

Kelly Pankiewicz—St. Charles Youth and Family Services

Nominated by Anonymous

Kelly has been working with a young man since December of 2015. After trying to figure out why he was not eligible for insurance, it was discovered that his citizenship expired several years prior. The family was missing majority of the paperwork and documents needed and the application process for citizenship needed to start over. Kelley advocated for the family and sought out resources in the community to help with the process. It is a lengthy and expensive process and she able to help the family obtain free or low cost services to accomplish this. We are pleased to announce that his application for certificate of citizenship has been accepted and he will be completing his oath ceremony to February. Thank you Kelly for all your hard work and for advocating to make sure this was possible!

Sean Crossman—Integrity Family Services, LLC

Nominated by Jessica Hurlebaus—SaintA, Inc.

Sean goes above and beyond his role as a crisis stabilizer. He is so reliable and consistent. You can tell he truly and genuinely cares about the work he does and it shows! Thank you for all you do Sean! You truly are making a difference.

Parent

Nominated by Anonymous

Ms. C* has been an incredible parent to work with. She has been so completely open to the Wraparound REACH process and goes above and beyond. I was so impressed that she would offer to have meetings on her lunch break instead of Saturdays! She makes working with her and her family so enjoyable, it's a privilege to be the care coordinator for this family. She truly goes above and beyond in her role as a mother and it is so amazing to see! She is such an amazing person, not only to work with, but to just simply know. Thank you!

Want to recognize someone for their great work? Submit a Positive Recognition Form, so we can give them a shout out!

**Names/Initials changed to protect confidentiality.*

Care Coordinator of the Month: Melinda Blake, AJA

Thank you to Melinda for your continued commitment to children and families! Honorable mention goes to Brandon Dorsey of Willowglen.

Upcoming Events & Community Highlights:

Wraparound Art/Talent Show—Wednesday, May 17th, 2017

Join us for a night of talent at Pulaski High School as youth and young adults share their artistic passions with the community. The Art Show will begin at 4:30pm, with art available for purchase. All proceeds go directly to the youth artists. At 5:30pm the Talent Show portion will begin!

Urban Ecology Center

Website: <http://urbanecologycenter.org/our-branches/riverside-park.html>

Overview: Environmental education and exploration by way of tapping maple trees, ice skating in Washington Park's lagoon, and paddling along Milwaukee's waterways. There are staff and volunteers that serve as mentors to those that are exploring their outdoor laboratories—potential informal supports! In addition, their volunteer opportunities are great options for those in need of community service hours. Their summer camps are featured at <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs/2017-summer-camps.html>

Wraparound Milwaukee Vision:

To help build healthy and strong communities by enhancing children and families' ability to meet life's challenges and to foster resiliency and hope for a better future.

