

WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division - Child & Adolescent Services Branch

SEPTEMBER

2017



Celebrating Success!

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



Shared by Alternatives

Janice

Through a set of trauma-forming circumstances, resulting in separation from family, Janice* began her Wraparound Process towards increased resiliency in 2012. As an eleven year old child she enjoyed going to school, participating in art class and forming friendships. She was also protective in nature toward her family, and understandably struggled with her emotions while her mother went through the loss of her parental rights. Prior to her enrollment, she had been in three foster homes and would eventually go through the experience of her siblings being adopted by one of those homes, while she remained in care. These experiences culminated into behavioral expressions of depression, and attachment difficulties as she coped with being apart from family in an unfamiliar setting. As a result of these challenges, she ended up transitioning to an institutional setting.

Through the process of pre-placements, Team Meetings, letters of support, and a lot of persistence her Child and Family Team located an adoptive family home setting that could begin to help Janice feel safe, supported and loved. Team members were proud of the 3.8 GPA Janice was able to achieve during this time. During this time, there was also attempts made to have Janice maintain communication with her biological mother, with supervision, but team members were not able to achieve this to their disappointment. Janice and her foster parent continued to work on their relationship and move toward adoption with the support of their team consisting of a therapist, school personnel, respite providers, crisis workers, care coordinator and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Service (DMCPS) worker.

However, over the next few months, the relationship within the home had changed, and team members were forced to look for alternative settings. This transition was challenging for Janice, as she had to move to yet another home environment while coping with a fresh loss. After moving to the next foster home, Janice ran away a short time later and was gone. Out of genuine concern, her team members spent countless hours looking for her and posting missing persons flyers in attempts to locate her. Team members were scared, as this was the first time Janice's whereabouts were unknown; it was impossible to tell if she was safe or what may be happening to her. Through a miraculous act of community awareness and responsibility, Janice was spotted by a previous foster parent's acquaintance at a park. The team was relieved to learn she was safe, as it had been four long months of worry.

After her return, an emergency foster home placement was located, which the team was happy to see transpire into an amazing relationship. Janice grew extremely close to the family and her team quickly reconvened to support Janice and her placement in this home, especially as it was an adoptive resource. Over the next six months, the team remain committed to meeting as often as needed to support the family and encourage Janice's continued successes in school and home. As the adoptive home had many natural supports, such as friends and family, the team was able to build on these individuals to help Janice in feeling safe, loved, and cared for. The formal supports on her team, which consisted of a crisis worker, foster parent, care coordinator, and DMCPS worker, made a point to not to disrupt the dynamic of the home, and encourage normalization, as it was evident Janice had found her family. On the day of her adoption, family supports filled the courtroom and not a dry eye was observed. While there were many intricate trials and tribulations to her four and half year journey, in the end, she is now with a safe and loving family forever.

**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 McGeedy*



Jordan Koconis-O'Malley—CSSW

Nominated by Lindsey Capasso, Alternatives

Jordan continues to go above and beyond with our team that we on together. Jordan steps out of her role and uses problem solving skills to help meet the unique needs of the family. Jordan communicates effectively with all team members with a positive and realistic perspective and is doing everything in her power to ensure this family is successful. We are very lucky to have her on our team!

Elizabeth Klahr—Lad Lake, St. Rose

Nominated by Natalie Zanoni

Liz Klahr has worked as a Substance Abuse Counselor at Lad Lake for over 10 year. During her time here, she has developed the reputation within the agency and as well as with partnering agencies including Wraparound as the "go to" AODA counselor. She is often sought out and requested by name due to her experience, dedication, and compassion for the clients she works with. Liz has worked with countless youth, adults, and families in Milwaukee area providing therapy, support, and advocacy. She always goes above and beyond to provide the support her clients need and deserve. The impact Liz has had with Milwaukee youth and families is beyond measure.

Yadira Lopez—La Causa

Nominated by Yolonda Davis

Yadira (Yadi) is very hard working. She goes above and beyond what is expected of her. She has welcomed me as a new CC with open arms. She's been a "go to" person since I started. She's always willing to help or offer her knowledge to anyone who ask. She's outstanding and such a great asset to the team!

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

**Names/Initials changed to protect confidentiality.*

Upcoming Events & Community Highlights:

Learn How to Be Your Child's Champion

Wednesday, October 18th, Sojourner Family Peace Center

9:00am-12:00pm OR 1:00pm-4:00pm

FBA, IEP, BIP...Do you ever wonder what all those letters mean? Do you want to know how to talk to principals and teachers about your child's needs in school? Do you want to know more about special education laws? Are you interested in learning about your rights as a parent and your child's rights as a student?

Register with Leanne Delsart at leanne.delsart@milwaukeecountywi.gov or (414) 257-5855

Featured Community Resource: Milwaukee County Libraries

Get connected! Computer classes! Education/Outreach! ESL! Job Seeking! Tutoring!

<https://www.mpl.org/services/events/>

September's Exhibit: Yesterday's Negro League Baseball Players .

<https://www.mpl.org/services/events/?eid=72282>

Mental Illness Help: Reducing Stigma and Promoting Recovery

https://www.mpl.org/special_events_and_programs/mental_illness_stigma_reduction_coalition__community_resources.php

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.

