



# in focus

FALL 2022

- 2 Accredited Teaching Family Association Agency
- 3 Celebrating 10 Years of Hope and Healing
- 4 Student Success Store
- 6 Meet Dea Dea
- 7 Foster Care Advocates

Josiah  
**white's** thoughtful ingenuity.

.....

# Josiah white's ACHIEVES

## TFA ACCREDITATION

.....



Josiah White's is thrilled to announce that we recently became an accredited Teaching Family Association agency.

Teaching Family Association is the accrediting agency of Teaching Family Model (TFM), a relational, evidenced-based, trauma-informed model of care focused on increasing life skill development in children and teens. Adopting this model ensures that we are able to provide the most effective training for our ministry staff and foster parents, and the best possible outcomes for the children, teens, and families we serve.

"This accreditation emphasizes our commitment to have the best people using the best practices for the best result," said Ron Evans, President and CEO. "As a distinctively Christian mission organization, it is imperative we do all things with excellence as a reflection of Christ's love for all."

The accreditation process has taken almost two and a half years. Josiah White's is grateful to Methodist Home for Children (MHC) in North Carolina, who mentored us through the process of training and

implementing the model. MHC staff visited our campus monthly and also helped our regional offices provide training to our foster parents.

"Becoming an accredited agency has probably been the most challenging project we have invested in during my nearly 30 years at Josiah White's, and it has been the most transformational as well!" said Tracey Riggle, Program Director for Foster Care. "It is truly rewarding to see staff and foster parents who want to have tangible goals and skills to work on with their children ultimately see the positive behavior changes. When people truly invest in the Teaching Family Model, it works!"

When using the TFM, caregivers engage in daily teaching interactions to help children and teens learn social and relationship skills. The skills children and youth learn through the model will then translate to better parent-child interaction, improved school behavior following placement, and increased work readiness.

"At some level, TFM should impact every area of our organization to

some extent," said Josh Bowyer, Vice President and Executive Director of Residential Services. "The spirit of the Teaching Family Model is that it becomes who we are, not what we do. For our direct care staff, we completely rewrote the script on what it meant to do that job with excellence, and the majority responded by exceeding the expectations."

"Being accredited by TFA assures students, parents, referral sources, and other constituents that they can trust that our services for students and families are at the highest standard. Those who refer teens to Compass Rose can be assured that teens in our care will be in a trauma-informed environment that consistently provides emotional and physical safety, nurture, and structure," said Mike Haarer, Vice President and Executive Director of Compass Rose Academy.

Josiah White's is honored to be an accredited TFA agency and is excited for what this accreditation will mean for our future as an organization.



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Compass Rose Academy



# Celebrating 10 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING

When I pause for just a moment to reflect on the 10-year anniversary of Compass Rose Academy, I'm flooded with a sea of faces. First, I see the faces of the students and families who have enrolled. They have become a part of the Compass Rose story and we, a part of theirs. A mix of desperation and hope on admission day turns to celebration and nervous excitement on graduation day. Tears of exasperation turn to tears of joy and thanks. The heartbreak and pain that leads families to our doors is overwhelming at times, but so is the privilege of being let into the sacredness of their journey of healing and redemption.

Next, I see the faces of the many supporters who have contributed to Compass Rose throughout the past ten years. Board members and leadership who had a vision and were willing to step into a different kind of service and programming. Donors who believed in the mission and gave sacrificially to launch the program and later build a beautiful, state-of-the-art campus. Early team members who invested time and energy and love above the call of duty to learn, grow, and develop something new. Dr. Townsend, who agreed to meet with us and imagine what it would be like to build a residential treatment program for teen girls around his clinical growth model.

Finally, I see the team members that walk alongside me every day to offer teen girls and their families a place to heal and grow. The ministry of being a helper comes with its share of trials, disappointments, and heartaches along the road to freedom. It takes such grit to press on through the dark days, holding onto the belief that each girl is precious to God and the hope that they will one day grab a hold of the peace and rest that He willingly extends to them. These team members and their patient offering of grace and truth are the reason that our girls choose to stay in touch and return for alumni events. They make Compass Rose not just an organization but a community and a ministry.

Whatever part you play in this ministry, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Through your involvement with Compass Rose, you touch many lives and share in the joy and celebration of teens and their families experiencing growth and healing through Jesus Christ.



**MIKE HAARER**  
Vice President and Executive Director  
of Compass Rose Academy



## STUDENT SUCCESS STORE

In an effort to provide graduates of our residential program with the best chance at success, Josiah White's recently established the Student Success Store as a result of a grant from the Don Wood Foundation. This is the second grant the Foundation has provided to the organization to support their efforts in getting underserved youths an opportunity for gainful employment, primarily in the manufacturing sector.

Several months ago, members of the Don Wood Foundation met with Josiah White's residential staff and asked the team what would be helpful to Josiah White's students as they transition back into their home communities to work. Josiah White's presented the idea for a fund that could be used to buy graduating students the clothing or equipment they might need to acquire and accept a job in their chosen field.

Towards the end of their time at Josiah White's, students in the residential program complete an aftercare plan with their case manager. The student and case manager then determine what equipment the student might need to get a job, and the case manager takes the student out shopping to get what they need.

The grant has already reaped rewards for Josiah White's clients. Within one week of being awarded the Don Wood Foundation grant, a student took advantage of the funds, leading to his success. This student had turned eighteen during his two years at Josiah White's and had received extensive workforce readiness skills in Josiah White's vocational and workforce development program, Growing Teens for Life. However, he did not have the financial support to purchase the proper clothes and shoes for a job interview. Utilizing these new funds, a Josiah White's staff member was able to buy this young man several pairs of dress khakis, shirts, and shoes for the first job interviews of his young life. Ultimately, the student was offered two of the three jobs he interviewed for due, at least partly, to the fact that he could present himself professionally by wearing suitable clothing.

Josiah White's is incredibly grateful to the Don Wood Foundation for their thoughtfulness and trust in the success of the Growing Teens for Life program.

# MEET DEA DEA.

Dea Dea is a 6-month-old golden retriever that serves as a therapy dog for Josiah White's Recovery Services program. She and her sister, Ruby, joined Josiah White's back in May of 2021, with Ruby serving at Compass Rose Academy.

Good Shepherd Goldens donated Dea Dea to Josiah White's Recovery Services, as she was born with a shortened tail and a problem with her right eye. After undergoing surgeries to correct these medical issues, she and Ruby went to training at Special O.P.S. K-9 Academy Inc.

Dea Dea is named after the late Larry Deane Shepard who was the father of Krista Seeds, a faithful supporter of Josiah White's. Krista gave a donation to provide a therapy animal for the youth in either Residential or Recovery Services, and her donation funded Dea Dea's surgeries and training.

Dea Dea lives with Matt Riggle, Vice President & Executive Director of Recovery Services, and his wife, Tracey, who also works at Josiah White's as the Program Director for Foster Care.

"Dea Dea seems to be able to tell which kids are in distress," said Riggle. "She often will go up to kids and just love on them, and it seems she knows what kids need her time."

In group therapy, Dea Dea's physical obstacles have been used to illustrate no one is perfect and how our struggles can lead us toward our meaning and purpose. Helping others, avoiding resentment, and having gratitude even through difficult circumstances are all important components of the recovery process.

We are so excited and grateful to have Dea Dea as a part of the Recovery Services team!



# FOSTER CARE ADVOCATES



**DANIKA BROLIN**  
South Bend



**MICHELLE JACKSON**  
Wabash



**NICOLE ROBERTS**  
Fort Wayne



**RACHEL REAMES**  
Indianapolis and Greenwood



**TAWNYA GREGORY**  
Merrillville

Josiah White's recently added a new position to all six of their regional offices! Josiah White's Foster Care Advocates engage with their local communities throughout the state to raise awareness about foster care as a ministry opportunity.

"We created this position because we believe in the power of personal relationships," said Kurt Gard, Vice President and Executive Director of Family Services. "Our Foster Care Advocates are focused on creating and nurturing relationships with those who can help us engage the faith community. It is important to have one in each office because relationships are best built locally."

Josiah White's Foster Care Advocates equip and encourage the local church to get involved in foster care in several ways.

"As Foster Care Advocates, we serve as a resource to local churches to answer questions about Josiah White's foster care ministry and to help those who are feeling called to foster get started on their first initial steps," said Rachel Reames, Foster Care Advocate for the Indianapolis office. "Our goal is to build the bridge of connection between the church and children in foster care."

Josiah White's regional managers have seen Foster Care Advocates' efforts reach beyond the local churches and into the community.

"The Foster Care Advocate position has been valuable because we now have staff that can specifically focus on engaging not only with churches in our region but with the community as a whole," said David Kristofzki, Regional Manager for Josiah White's Merrillville office. "The Merrillville office's Foster Care Advocate, Tawnya Gregory, has not only attended and spoke at church events but has also visited health fairs, various community events, DCS sponsored provider fairs, and even local tractor shows in an effort to not only locate good Christian homes but to make people more aware of Josiah White's and our mission."

We are so grateful for those that have stepped into this role to lead others in creating new possibilities for children in foster care!



## PROVIDING HEALTHY SECOND CHANCES

Josiah White's Family Preservation Services recently provided Kevin\* and Kyra\*, a couple dealing with substance abuse, a healthy second chance.

After their baby was born with meth in her system, the Department of Child Services (DCS) became involved and referred their family to Josiah White's Family Preservation Services. For almost a year, the Josiah White's Family Preservation team provided treatment to Kevin and Kyra. During this time, the two of them continued to fail drug screens, despite Kyra's insistence that she was not using. The Josiah White's team continued to believe in them for almost a year. Eventually, however, DCS told the treatment team that they were planning to close the case unsuccessfully in a month or two. The treatment team relayed this information to the couple, and surprisingly, the couple became transparent about their substance use and decided to separate. They then began separate journeys of recovery, which would not have been possible while they were still together.

Months later, DCS closed the case successfully after both Kevin and Kyra had completed over 90 days of sobriety. The Josiah White's Family Preservation team is grateful to God for the way He worked in Kevin and Kyra's lives!

\*Names changed for anonymity.

# Josiah white's

5233 South 50 East  
Wabash, Indiana 46992  
260-563-1158  
www.josiahwhites.org  
www.compassroseacademy.org

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 147  
MAILED FROM 46580

## REGIONAL OFFICES

FORT WAYNE  
11809 Lima Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

GREENWOOD  
39 South Park Boulevard, Building 1  
Greenwood, IN 46143

INDIANAPOLIS  
9850 Westpoint Drive, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

MERRILLVILLE  
8915 Broadway  
Merrillville, IN 46410

SOUTH BEND  
21571 Ireland Road  
South Bend, IN 46614

## BEST CHRISTIAN WORKPLACE



Josiah White's is pleased to announce that we were recently recertified as a Best Christian Workplace through the Best Christian Workplaces Institute.

Best Christian Workplaces Institute is an employee engagement ministry dedicated to helping Christian leaders and organizations achieve their full potential by creating flourishing staff workplaces.

“In my role as CEO I believe the health of our organization and the engagement of our employees has to be among my highest priorities,” said Ron Evans, President and CEO. “We have participated in the Best Christian Workplace every year to measure both our health and engagement. That we have been certified as a Best Christian Workplace for the second year in a row sends a clear message to our current and prospective employees that this is a great place to work and that we desire to do everything for the glory of God while we receive the joy!”

Josiah White's is honored to once again be certified as a Best Christian Workplace and looks forward to continuing our efforts to improve our workplace culture.