

# in focus



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Josiah  
**white's** mission-driven.

## Meet The Man Behind The Mission

# MATTHEW PURKEY



In a significant transition at Josiah White's, the organization recently welcomed Matthew Purkey as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. Matthew succeeds Ron Evans, who retired after nearly six years of service to the organization.

Matthew would be the first to tell you that his high school teachers back in Dayton, Ohio, might be surprised to see him in this position – yet they were a part of helping him get here. His English teacher once told him, “There’s no doubt you are going to lead, now whether that is a fortune 500 or cell block D is totally up to you.”

“Because of several key people pouring into, and praying for me, I am now honored and able to be the President and CEO of Josiah White's,” said Matthew. “Looking back, I can see the sovereign, all-mighty hand of God orchestrating people, places, and opportunities in my life. My path was intentionally designed to bring me right here, right now.”

Like most 18-year-olds, Matthew was unsure what he wanted to do with his life after graduating high school. He went from college to college without a clear sense of direction. After getting into some trouble, he made a pivotal decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, which he considers to be one of the best decisions he's ever made. The Marine Corps provided him with the structure he needed to realize his potential and laid the foundation for Matthew's commitment to serving others.

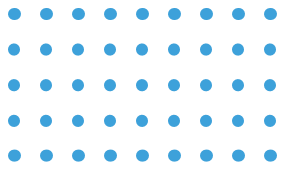
While enlisted, Matthew pursued his education, completing a bachelor's and a master's degree, both in human services. During a deployment to

Haiti immediately following the earthquake in 2010, Matthew served alongside civilian volunteers, which opened his eyes to the possibilities that awaited him beyond the military. In 2011, Purkey was awarded an honorable discharge and began his work in the non-profit sector.

Throughout his career, Matthew's approach to leadership has involved simplifying complex systems and aligning people towards a common mission. When Matthew's pastor at Pathway Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. first told him about the President and CEO role at Josiah White's, he didn't know much about the organization or its history. However, the more he learned about Josiah White's, the more he fell in love with the ministry.

“I want to be visible. I want to be present. I want not only our students and participants in our programs, but the staff to know that I'm here to serve them,” said Matthew. “I want to empower and resource the entire team to accomplish our mission. Everything I do will be ran through a lens of, ‘How is this taking us closer to fulfilling our mission?’”

With his faith, commitment to service, and passion for the mission of Josiah White's, Matthew brings a unique perspective to his new role. We look forward to what God will do through Matthew's leadership at Josiah White's!



# Passion and Purpose

## STAFF ANSWER “WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?”



“After 16 years, I can say I love working at Josiah White’s because I am encouraged to grow my relationship with Jesus Christ with weekly prayer time, monthly chapel, scripture memorization challenges, Bible studies, and Christian community.”

**Susan Artherhults**  
Insurance & Medicaid Billing Specialist



“I love working for Josiah White’s because the work we do here changed my life when I fostered and adopted my own daughter through foster care. I got to work alongside the most passionate people that truly cared for me and my children through that process. Their passion for this ministry and the children we serve was inspiring, and I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself.”

**Nicole Roberts**  
Foster Care Advocate



“I was led to Josiah White’s because I needed a change in atmosphere and a Christian setting. I wanted to be able to make a difference in other peoples’ lives through the talents that were given to me through Christ. I am happy to say that Christ helped me make the right decision.”

**Jay Lynn**  
Maintenance/Grounds Senior Manager



“How many places can you go to work in this world where you are encouraged to share your testimony of Christ’s love and salvation with others? I have the privilege of being a co-worker with young women and men as we tend garden beds on campus, literally cultivating the grounds where young people have been able to grow in the hope and restoration of Jesus for nearly 175 years. I am grateful to share a small part in the legacy of this purpose-built place.”

**Wendele Mealy**  
Growing Teens for Life Intern Mentor



“I like working at Josiah White’s because it allows me to incorporate my faith into helping others in a way I probably could not elsewhere.”

**Greg Hobson**  
Senior Residential Therapist



“I chose to work at Compass Rose Academy because it ‘felt right.’ I enjoy teenagers, and I had peace that this was the place I could serve teens and families alongside like-minded people. I choose to keep working at CRA because I truly love it. I believe in its mission to serve and impact others. I get to partner with incredible people and ultimately with Christ to make strides toward healing. This is certainly not always easy, but it is surely worth it.”

**Marissa Pollard**  
Compass Rose Academy Therapist

# DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FAMILY TEACHER

Family Teachers at Josiah White's and Compass Rose are a critical component of our residential treatment programs. By example and teaching, primarily using the Teaching Family Model (TFM) modality, Family Teachers can offer healthy values, a safe, secure, and structured environment, and opportunities for relationship building. Read on to learn more about what it's truly like to be a Family Teacher from Makayla Cano (Recovery Services), Jean Ann Lauer (Compass Rose Academy), and Caleb Snyder (Residential Services).



**Makayla Cano**  
Recovery Services



**Jean Ann Lauer**  
Compass Rose Academy



**Caleb Snyder**  
Residential Services

## How would you describe your job to someone who has never heard of Josiah White's?

**M:** I'm a direct care staff for teens at risk who live at a residential facility because they were placed there by the court. Beyond being a caregiver, I am an encourager, a cheerleader, a life-skills coach, a referee, a listener, a giver of advice, and an authority figure who will keep on trying to help them see their potential.

## What about working with teens resonates with you?

**M:** When I was a teen, I did a 6-month treatment program at a residential facility based out of Louisiana. My time there changed my life! Since graduating in 2015, I always knew that I wanted to give back and make a difference in a teen's life the same way the staff at my facility did for me. Because of my time there, I feel as if I can relate to these teens on a different level.

## What does a typical day look like as a Family Teacher at Josiah White's?

**J:** My days begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. We work on a two week rotation. We start by getting breakfast ready and administering morning medications, eating breakfast, getting ready for school, cleaning our home and then taking the girls to school. If we have staff meetings, we attend those while the girls are in school. Otherwise, we get some much needed downtime which often includes a trip to our on-campus cafe. We pick the girls up after school, then we serve a snack, have recreation, take the girls to Wabash to work, help prepare dinner, eat dinner, do evening chores, have a little downtime for TV with the girls, pick up workers in town, have another snack and then it's bedtime.

## What motivates you to come to work everyday?

**J:** Absolutely the girls and mission 100%! It is the most exhausting job I have ever had but by far the most rewarding! When you leave at the end of the day and know you helped someone, it is the greatest feeling in the world!

## What's the most challenging part of your job?

**M:** One word: teenagers. It can be exhausting to pour into them and love them and believe in who they can become, but have no control over the choices they ultimately make. We want nothing more than for them to succeed, but we can't do the work for them. The best thing we can do is to love them and show them that there is someone in their corner rooting for them.

## What's the most rewarding part of your job?

**C:** The most rewarding part is being able to legitimately see how a student grows and understands what we are trying to help them learn. It doesn't always show right away, but it is an incredible feeling when it does show.

## Do you have a favorite moment with a student you would like to share?

**C:** I recently had a moment where a student realized on his own he was not treating a fellow student very well and asked us as staff how he can repair the relationship with his peer. He has since then tried helping the other student with practicing basketball and is continuing to watch how he treats others.



# ENHANCING RECOVERY

## Through Intensive Outpatient Treatment

Josiah White's is continually seeking new ways to meet the needs of the students we serve, demonstrating our commitment to thoughtful ingenuity. In light of this, we have recently begun introducing Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) in our Teaching Recovery, Empowering Change (TREC) program, which serves teens with moderate to severe substance use disorders under the umbrella of Residential Services.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment consists of three hour segments of holistic treatment three days per week. Students currently participate in IOT for a total 16 weeks during their time at Josiah White's.

This programming seeks to prepare students to continue attending a 12-step program after they leave while also emphasizing the integration of all aspects of Josiah White's Residential Services, from clinical to recreational. IOT also allows the students' therapists to spend additional time with the students in different contexts, strengthening the relationships between them.

IOT includes treatment in a variety of areas, such as:

- Seeking Safety: a therapist-led group that combines skills for trauma and addiction
- Independent Living: a group led by Independent Living Coordinator Grace Wedekind that teaches students about budgeting, interviewing for jobs, searching for an apartment, etc.
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy: a 12-step group designed to improve moral reasoning

- Presentations: a time for students to work on the 8 presentations they complete during their time at Josiah White's, all of which highlight the main points of their treatment work and how it applies to them personally
- Matrix (informed): a therapist-led substance abuse curriculum
- Integrating Dialectical Behavior Therapy with the Twelve Steps (DBT): a therapist-led group that combines DBT skills with the 12 steps of recovery
- 12 Steps: a group led by Student Chaplain Shane Chellis regarding AA/NA and working through the 12 steps of recovery
- Horticulture Therapy: a group where Kenny Harvey, Director of Experiential Learning and a certified horticulture therapist leads students in hands-on activities involving analogies from horticulture and applies them to life
- Recreation: a group that gives students an opportunity to work on their physical health as it relates to their mental health using breathing and grounding techniques

When speaking on his experience of leading the 12-step group, Pastor Shane said, "I think the main issue is that we are diving into the heart of broken lives. We are seeking to create a context where they can see their own lives, and process things like fear, bitterness and resentment, guilt and shame honestly with where they are."

We are grateful for the ways IOT has already positively impacted our students and look forward to continuing to see it make a difference in the future.



# FROM INSECURITY TO A SECURE IDENTITY

Before coming to Compass Rose Academy (CRA), Reagan Meintel was struggling with insecurity and did not have a close relationship with her parents. Norm and Elizabeth, Reagan's parents, could tell she was frustrated with herself, but they didn't know how to help her.

The Meintel's neighbor connected Norm and Elizabeth with a friend of theirs whose daughter was at CRA. Elizabeth talked to this other mom and found that their families were experiencing similar struggles. Eventually, Norm and Elizabeth made the difficult decision to send Reagan to CRA.

At first, Reagan was hesitant about going to CRA because it was a Christian organization. She wasn't interested in a relationship with Jesus. However, after a few months, Reagan began reading the Bible,

starting with the book of Genesis. She also started paying attention in church and enjoying the worship music.

One weekend during her time at CRA, Reagan was having a particularly hard day. A staff member came on his day off to talk with her and share a devotional book he had been reading, which meant a lot to her.

As Reagan got more involved with the Spiritual Life programming at CRA, Norm and Elizabeth began noticing a difference in their phone conversations with her. The joy in her voice gave them a sense of peace that she was headed in the right direction.

"I think what was so good for me was people reaching out to me about Christ," said Reagan.

Throughout her time at CRA, Reagan continued to struggle with insecurity, but she worked on discovering her true identity in Christ with the help of supportive staff members.

Since CRA, Reagan has gone on to college at Purdue University – Fort Wayne. She is currently a sophomore and is involved in Christian campus groups and participates in the worship team at her church. Through these activities and significant relationships with Christian friends, Reagan has surrounded herself with truth, which has helped her tear down Satan's lies and replace them with reminders that she is loved and forgiven.

We are grateful for the way God has worked in Reagan's life to bring her hope and healing in Christ!



# PARTNERING TO CULTIVATE EXTRAORDINARY CARE AND COMPETENCE



Josiah White’s had the opportunity to partner with ITOWN Church in Indianapolis to sponsor a Foster Care conference in the fall of 2023. Special guest, Jamie Finn, President of Foster the Family, delivered the keynote, and several Josiah White’s staff led breakout sessions alongside Pastors Dave and Kate Sumrall of ITOWN Church and representatives from Kids Voice (CASA).

The one-day conference included sessions of encouragement, training, and support for anyone involved in serving children in need. Breakout sessions covered topics ranging from how churches and community members can support foster families to behavior techniques from a trauma-informed and strength-based holistic model of care.

Josiah White’s Foster Care Advocate Rachel Reames said of the event, “Impactful, encouraging, and always so inspiring to be in a shared space with like-minded passionate people. Our foster families’ souls were replenished, and Josiah White’s Indy/Greenwood team thoroughly enjoyed being able to be a part of this special day!”

We are grateful we had the opportunity to further our ongoing relationship with ITOWN church by collaborating on this conference!

# Josiah white's

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