



CARE Community Award of Appreciation for 2023

The Mental Health & Recovery Board received the CARE Community Award of Appreciation for 2023 from the Chemical Abuse Reduced by Education (CARE) Committee of the Six District Educational Compact. This award is presented annually to an organization, person or community agency/service for the support with the prevention/intervention efforts in the field of substance abuse, tobacco abuse, and adolescent mental health.

The Board was selected because of their funding of our prevention programs for Kent City Schools, support of a network of services for students having difficulty with alcohol and other drugs, initiatives to help young people to prevent addiction, and assistance to the Kent City School District with suicide prevention education for staff and students.



Accepting the award was Board CFO, George DeBord along with Townhall II prevention staff, Sarah McCully and Sarah Gehring.

“Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”

George Bernard Shaw



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Denim Day

Denim Day began in Italy in 1992, when an 18-year old girl was raped by the 45-year old driving instructor who was taking her on her very first driving lesson. He took her to an isolated road, pulled her out of the car, removed her jeans, and forcefully raped her.

She reported the rape, and the perpetrator was arrested and prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. Years later, he appealed the conviction claiming that he and the girl had consensual sex. The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction, and the perpetrator was released. A statement from the Court argued that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was not rape but consensual sex. This became known throughout Italy as the “jeans alibi.”

The women in the Italian Parliament were enraged by this statement and launched a protest wearing jeans on the steps of the Supreme Court. This protest caught the eye of international media which then inspired the California Senate and Assembly to do the same on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento. Patti Occhiuzzo Giggans, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, saw this in the media and thought everyone should be wearing jeans to protest the myths about why women and girls are raped. Denim Day was born. The first Denim Day in LA event was in April of 1999, and has continued annually since.

April 26th was Denim Day and Townhall II held a Denim Day event on the evening of April 25th at their Ravenna office. Members of the community, survivors, youth, the Kent State University SRVSS office, and Townhall II staff decorated denim squares which will be sewn into a quilt and displayed for future Denim Days to come! We would like to thank all that came out to support the event and the meaning behind it!



A Cup of Support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Due to the success of our coffee sleeve campaign last year, Townhall II decided to create new designs to help bring awareness around Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April), again this year.

Coffee sleeves consisted of three designs and included the Townhall II logo and crime victim service information. Our team contacted coffee shops throughout the county to see who might be interested in participating in this campaign. We would like to give our sincere thanks and a huge shout out to Open Door Coffee Company, Scribbles, Tree City Coffee and Pastry, Brimfield Bread Oven, Last Exit Book & Coffee House and Akron Coffee Roasters for distributing our informational coffee sleeves on their cups and supporting Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities!



1 in 10 LGBTQIA+ survivors of intimate partner violence have experienced sexual assault from their partners

Because of their commitment to community, we were able to distribute 2100 of our coffee sleeves this year! If you get a chance, check out these coffee shops and show them your support!

Our new VOCA Volunteers

The advocates who completed the Spring 2023 Crime Victim Advocacy training are as follows:

Top row (left to right):

- Stephanie Perdue**
- Chloe Eaglowski**
- Morrigan Williams**
- Ellianna Crumley**
- Laela McVan**

Bottom row (left to right):

- Angelia Nicolardi**
- Sparrow Koury**



Welcome to the Townhall II team!

KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to Stephanie Perdue! Stephanie has been an amazing addition to Townhall II since June of 2022! Stephanie is the first one to jump in and help in anyway she can. She is kind, caring, and compassionate and it shows in her work everyday! - Amanda P.



Kudos to Chris Leonard! Chris your hard work and dedication to our clients and your co-workers is very much appreciated. Chris is always ready and willing to help lead our team; has a great attitude when taking on new projects or collaborating with others. Muchas Gracias Chris! Your continued contributions and commitment to our team, never goes unnoticed! - Tracy J.

HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

May 3rd

National Garden Meditation Day

Give yourself some time today to relax and rejuvenate! Being in nature can help us feel more grounded, improve sleep, and reduce anxiety.

Try working on your own garden, visit a garden, or even use meditation and visualization of being in a beautiful garden to reap these benefits.



May 14th

Mother's Day

Did you know the first Mother's Day was observed May 10th, 1908 in West Virginia? In 1911, it became a national observance in every state. And in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day to be a national holiday.



May 29th

Memorial Day

*** Happy ***
MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day gives us time to honor and remember all the individuals that have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Start Date: August 16, 2021

Current Title: Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist

Background into the field: She graduated with a BA in Criminology, Sociology and Law Enforcement with a certificate in Forensic Studies of Human Behavior from The University of Akron in 2017 and is currently receiving her Master's for Clinical Mental Health counseling. She knew she wanted to work in the field of helping people and educating those on the risks of using drugs and alcohol. Her favorite age group to work with is 6th grade--she loves being able to discuss important topics in a fun and engaging way.

Fun facts about Mandi: She has two dogs and welcomed her first baby on March 2, 2023.

Mandi's favorite quote: "Old keys won't unlock new doors."



Mandi Moore

NEW STAFF

Rebecca Roberts

Child Violence Prevention
Specialist

Ravnit Mangat

Crisis Intervention Specialist



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