

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022 EDITION



Fall is here in Northeast Indiana. Fall is a time to remember that nothing in life is permanent. As the leaves turn from green to various shades of reds, oranges and yellows, let us remember that life is full of endings and new beginnings. There is no better time than Fall to begin forgetting the things that trouble us, allowing them to fall away like dried leaves.



## NEW DIRECTOR FOR DEKALB

The Northeastern Center would like to welcome Cory Headley as the new director of our DeKalb County Indiana office! Headley returned to Northeastern Center this July to step into the open director position in DeKalb County. She is settling into her new role and is excited to be back at the place that has played a key role in her career and growth as a clinician.

When asked about her goals as the new director in DeKalb County, Headley said: "I hope to continue to build our relationships within the community and provide compassion, partnership, and respect to those we serve."

While it has been a few years since Headley has been a part of the Northeastern Center, she has remained within the DeKalb County Community and has spent the last several years working within the public school system as a social worker at Hamilton Community Schools as well as North Side Elementary.

# NORTHEASTERN CENTER



## 10TH STOMP RACE SUCCESS

On September 10th, 2022 Northeastern Center and New Hope Clubhouse held the 10th Annual Stomp Out the Stigma 5K run/walk at Bixler Lake Park in Kendallville, IN. Over 150 people, including community members, Northeastern Center staff, Clubhouse members and their families came together to participate and raise awareness for those battling mental illness.

To celebrate the 10th year of the event, medals were given to all participants in the event with special awards going to the 1st place male and female finishers. The first place female finisher was Joanna Carpenter with a time of 21:15, the first place male finisher was Jose Reyes with a time of 22:30.

More than 35 area organizations helped to sponsor this year's event, including: Angola American Legion Past #31 and Alum-Elec Structures.

The Stomp Out the Stigma 5k was started to help increase awareness surrounding mental illness in our communities. Since the start of the event 10 years ago, funds raised from the event have helped to assist New Hope Clubhouse in furthering the employment and educational services offered at Clubhouse.



### WHAT STAFF ARE SAYING

The reason I love my job is because I can make a positive difference in people and families lives, being able to watch someone improve from where they are to where they want to be and knowing I was able to help fulfills me more than anything.

-Katelyn McCollough



## STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR NEC

The Northeastern Center (NEC) has announced the release of its new three-year strategic plan that highlights the agency's mission, vision, and shared values. The new strategic plan is the result of more than twelve months of planning on the part of the NEC board members, leadership team, staff, and community partners.

Northeastern Center's CEO Steve Howell shared his thoughts on the new strategic plan and what he hopes it will do for the communities NEC serves: "We are truly excited about completing the formal process of our strategic plan and now look forward to implementation. In fact, we are already realizing components of the plan which will position Northeastern Center to better meet the behavioral health needs of individuals and families in northeast Indiana."

As Northeastern Center is the community mental health provider for DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben counties they are invested in improving the quality of life for the overall betterment of the community. That was why they chose to form a collaborative partnership with True North to develop a three-year plan focusing on intentionality and growth for the agency. True North guided NEC through a three-phase process that included an organizational assessment, plan development, and implementation of action plans with performance indicators.

Part of the development of the strategic plan included the NEC Board of Directors adopting new vision and shared value statements that better reflect the agency's goals and direction currently and moving forward. NEC is excited to share the new vision and shared values with the community.

- Vision: As the premier provider of behavioral health services, Northeastern Center is the trusted partner empowering individuals to find hope, recovery, and a path forward.
- Our Shared Values: Always and everywhere, Northeastern Center's first response is CPR: Compassion, Partnership, and Respect.

Northeastern Center CEO Steve Howell would also like to publicly thank all those involved in the process: "I want to again thank those we serve, our community stakeholders, Northeastern Center staff, and my Board of Directors for their input, feedback, and support throughout the process. I appreciate the time and energy spent by all parties to make NEC the best service provider as well as the best place to work"





## NEW OUTREACH LEADERSHIP

Nicole Johnson-Smith has been with the Northeastern Center for an accumulated time of ten years. She began her career here in DeKalb County working at the inpatient, along with floating between each of the group homes in Noble and Steuben County. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Nicole transitioned to the Steuben outpatient office where she became the DCS Team Lead. Nicole went on to get her masters in mental health counseling and returned to Northeastern Center as an intake therapist and was promoted to Area Director of our LaGrange outpatient office. Nicole has been instrumental in bringing awareness to sexual assault in LaGrange and throughout the agency. She is passionate about advocating for the needs our clients and helping them reach their full potential. Nicole believes that it takes teamwork to serve a community and that it is vital to foster positive community partnerships to reach all those in need.



Nicole recently transitioned back to DeKalb County to become the director of our newest addition, the Community Health and Outreach Center or as it is affectionately known, the CHOC. Nicole is excited to grow and lead this facility from the ground up, beginning with reinstating the ACT team program and building on Emergency Solutions in order to create a mobile outreach team. This new team will be a robust addition to the Northeastern Center family further improve our ability to meet the needs of our communities.



## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Northeastern Center provides a person-centered plan of services to help meet your needs for persons of all ages and circumstances.

Noble Outpatient- Albion

260-636-6975

DeKalb Outpatient

260-925-2453

Noble Outpatient-Kendallville

260-347-4400

LaGrange Outpatient

260-463-7144

Steuben Outpatient

260-665-9494

Emergency Services Hotline 24/7/365

1-800-790-0118

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