



TANAGER PLACE

YOUR CHILD : OUR FOCUS

PREVENTION | TREATMENT | OUTREACH

TARYN'S STORY

Dear Tanager Place Staff,

I'm nervous about being back home with my parents and sisters. Things are going well, but it's different than being at Tanager Place. I need to be more flexible, need to use the strategies that I learned. I am trying, but we all know that I'm not comfortable when things don't go as planned or as I think they should.

I did get my learning permit and my dad has been good about taking me out so that I can practice driving. Once I get my license, I can start applying for jobs and can find a place to volunteer. I really am looking forward to that. It will be nice to have my own spending money and to go somewhere where I'm needed and wanted. It will also be nice to be around people who don't look at me and see some of the bad things I did in the past.



I'm following through with what I promised. My room is clean ... OK, it's getting cleaner. I look for ways to help out around the house and am trying to start fresh with my sisters.

I know I didn't get here in one day, didn't harm my relationships with my family in one day, and I won't be able to fix everything in one day. But I also know what I want. I want to be a part of my family. I want to be trusted and wanted.

I'm going to keep working on myself and my reactions to other people. I know my family wants me to be healthy, and that they are doing everything they can to help me be comfortable and happy.

Thanks Tanager for everything you've done for me, for helping me learn how to talk with my family and be honest with myself. -Taryn

MOVING OUR MISSION FORWARD

Tanager Place is excited to share our new mission statement. With our vision statement: To be the industry leader of comprehensive, holistic, and integrated services for children & families, a comprehensive process involving the board of directors, organizational leaders, clients and staff created the new mission statement:

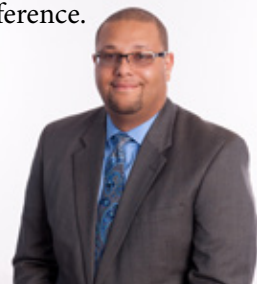
Our Mission is to provide children and families with services that empower, inspire and heal.

We present this mission with a focus on the client experience first. Children and families are key to our decisions. Programs are client-centered to meet each child with strength-based solutions.

The culture at Tanager Place shares a unified commitment to the delivery of quality service, effective collaboration and the measurement and evaluation of outcomes. We are committed to recruiting, training and supporting the best people to deliver these services. We are proud of our 220 employees and believe our professional growth and development programs lead them toward successful outcomes for the children we serve.

The work at Tanager Place is tied to a strong, long-lasting mission. We are proud of the community connections we have successfully built over the years. We are in the business of building strong futures for our children and together, we as community stand ready with resources that make a difference.

Okpara Rice, CEO



HELPING CHILDREN DISCOVER



Meet a 12-year-old girl with diabetes who feels accepted by her peers for the first time. A 9-year-old with a bleeding disorder who isn't afraid to play outside. Meet a parent who witnessed a once-shy child grow in confidence and self-esteem.

These are some of the many faces of those impacted by Camp Tanager, which serves children with medical or economic needs. Campers range in age from six to 17 and often arrive a bit uncertain about what they will experience at camp. Yet, they leave with a bolstered sense of identity – and for those with diabetes or hemophilia with a truer picture of what it means to live with their medical condition.

“Having diabetes, my kids struggle to feel normal,” writes one grateful mother of a camper. “Camp Tanager shares a time of adventure and a time to learn alongside others who have the same struggles. Thank you for this wonderful program.”

Regardless of what brings them to camp, kids experience positive activities and interaction with mentors and counselors. Life lessons and confidence-building exercises are tucked seamlessly into a summer camp experience that would rival the most imaginative child's dream. Swimming, archery, fishing, canoeing, campfires...it's all a part of the experience, one not often offered for children with special medical or economic considerations.

“Opportunities for growth have been a part of camp life this year,” explains Donald Pirrie, Camp Director, “From camp rentals to extended weekend programming camp was able to serve hundreds more children this year.”



Camp Tanager plays a critical role in opening the doors for children not only on a medical level, but more importantly, a mental and emotional level. Camps have a near magical ability to empower children to grow and make formidable strides in leadership and development. And at Camp Tanager, the doors are always open.

DAY CAMP

Learn more about Camp Tanagers' incredible day camp program for kids 6-12 years! We offer a complete program of activities including swimming, arts & crafts, archery, nature education, STEM, sports, and more. As a member camp of the American Camp Association we are committed to giving your child the best camp experience ever! Sessions for the 2018 Season are filling up fast! Act now to secure a spot for your child this summer!

Summer 2018 Camp Tanager applications and information are available at www.camptanager.org

AUTISM SUPPORT SERVICES

Tanager Place offers one of the areas most comprehensive mental and behavioral health programs. One of the distinguishable services offered is our Autism Support Services which specializes in providing a treatment program designed to meet each child's individual needs. Autism assessment and specialized treatment development is offered on an outpatient basis. Children ages 3 and older are a part of this special program.

New this year, Tanager Place was able to broaden our services with the inclusion of a socialization program for youth after school. Middle-school- and high-school-age students come together to spend time learning new skills, building relationships and working on individualized goals.



Congratulations to Blake Stephenson for being awarded the ABA Alumni of the Year from the School of Social Work at Saint Louis University. Blake is the Autism Program Supervisor at Tanager Place.



I'm working with a 13-year-old male in Cedar Rapids. He asked me deep questions yesterday about his autism, and he was able to learn about the neurological structuring/wiring of the brain and how different he interprets, processes, understands and perceives life around him. The next thing he said, with a smirk on his face, was: "I can't see myself living in this world without autism. I feel if I didn't have it, then I wouldn't be able to live as well as I do."

- Tanager Place Employee

PREVENTION SERVICES AT WORK

CHILDREN OF PROMISE

Tanager Place Children of Promise mentoring program is for youth with a parent involved in the correctional system. Nationally, 1 in 28 youth will experience the incarceration of a parent before their 18th birthday. Children of Promise provides youth the opportunity to develop positive relationships with mentors.

“Meeting twice monthly for group activities gives the children and mentors a sense of community. We plan social and educational sessions that aid in relationship building,” shared Daniel Johnson, Program Coordinator. Mentors are matched with children based on shared interests and common experience. Mentors meet with their matched child weekly when it works best for them.

“Each story is unique,” Johnson shared. When asked what story he wanted to share that depicts the value of this program Daniel talked about a very special grandmother.



“One day I met with a strong stoic Grandmother, guardian of her three rambunctious grandsons. She welcomed me into her home and we visited. She told me about how long the journey had been and the many ways she felt alone. I encouraged her to consider Children of Promise. I told her about the wide variety of activities we do and the group of committed volunteers we work with. She agreed to try the program. Now, after eight months she is the program’s number one fan! She told me, ‘I was ready to give up. Every program we have tried had left us for lost. I believed there was hope when I met you. I believe this is where my boys need to be.’”

According to their Grandmother, the boys’ story was layered with success this year. In school, in the neighborhood and at home the boys have improved their self-confidence, have less anxiety, and are less depressed.

“The boys’ school behavior has changed. They are happy to attend school, they are completing their homework and bringing home good grades. They are not fearful to join in activities; they love to be a part of Children of Promise,” she shared.

The research is clear, to succeed in life, children need positive relationships with caring adults.

Children of Promise relies 100% on donations.

We thank these partners:

- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
- City of Cedar Rapids Community Development Block Grant
- Alliant Energy Foundation
- YMCA
- Mt. Mercy University

To make a donation to Children of Promise visit:
<http://www.tanagerplace.org/donate/>

MENTORING CREATES STRONG FUTURES



PROGRAM DETAILS

Group Activities:

- Program offers group activities two times per month including games, team building activities, group discussions and relationship building opportunities.
- Activities are held in the community, at Tanager Place facilities or at Camp Tanager.
- Transportation assistance is available upon request.

One-on-One Mentoring:

- Youth are matched with mentors based on shared interests and common experiences.
- The family and mentor will work together to identify a schedule that works for everyone.
- Mentor and mentee will spend a minimum of 4 hours together monthly.

ELIGIBILITY

- Youth in the Linn county area, ages 5-18
- Youth with a parent who has been impacted by the correctional system
- Youth who have run into trouble themselves

DURATION

- Youth are enrolled for 12 months.
- After a year, the family, program lead, and mentor, will assess the youth's experience to determine the program's duration.

MAKE AN IMPACT! JOIN US AS A MENTOR.

Our Mentors:

- are community members
- make a 12 month commitment
- receive training and monthly support
- utilize low and no cost activities in the community
- complete a background check

Meet Giovannia, Children of Promise mentor



Are you interested in becoming a mentor?

Contact Daniel Johnson:
djohnson@tanagerplace.org or 319-365-9165 ext. 406

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

We invite you to join us for the first annual Resiliency and Trauma-Informed Care Symposium



Date: *May 17, 2018*

Time: *8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.*
International Keynote Speakers
14 Breakout Sessions
Breakfast and Lunch Provided

Location: *Kirkwood Hotel*
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Cost: *\$25*
Register at www.tanagerplace.org

Keynote addresses:

- Heather Forbes, internationally known author and speaker: “This is Your Brain on Trauma: Understanding Challenging and Difficult Behaviors.”
- Dr. Mollie Marti, President & CEO of the National Resilience Institute

Targeted for anyone who works with, lives with or believes in children.

The goal of the symposium is to empower and inform our community. Presentations will share the effects of trauma, the pathways to resiliency and the tools that can help strengthen and heal those who are suffering from the effects of a traumatic experience.

The symposium is designed for all those who live with, work with and believe in children; parents, coaches, school personnel, social workers and community leaders.

JOIN US FOR ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH EVENTS:

- *Wednesday, May 2nd, 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Tanager Place Outpatient Clinical Services Open House*
- *Friday, May 4th - Center for Play Therapy Training - Trauma and Play Therapy - Tanager Place*
- *Wednesday, May 9th, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Paper Tigers and Resilience Viewing - Tanager Place*
- *Tuesday, May 15th, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - From Trauma to Resilience - Cedar Rapids Public Library*
- *Thursday, May 17th, Trauma and Resilience Symposium - Hotel Kirkwood*
- *Thursday, May 24th, Youth Mental Health First Aid - Tanager Place*
- *Thursday, May 31st, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Connecting Parents and Children through Expressive Arts - Tanager Place Art House*

CREATING YOUR LEGACY

As a father, community volunteer and coach, Vernon Squires knows there are many children with no substantial means and many in circumstances beyond their control. Some of these children suffer from challenges that impact their mental and behavioral health. These are the children Vernon seeks to help with his planned gift to Tanager Place.

While in his 40's, Tanager Place emerged as a favorite charity for Vernon. "Children are helped in ways that make sense," he shared. The three pillars of service at Tanager Place—prevention, treatment, and advocacy—fill an unmet need for children and their families. Thankful for the life he has and wanting to give back to an organization he believes in, Vernon considered planned giving. With the aid of his lawyer, he revisited his estate plan.

"The worst thing you can do is postpone these decisions because one day it will be too late." He knows that accidents happen, health declines, and eventually children age out of needing support.

"It's a common FALSE IMPRESSION that people need to leave a large gift," shared Vernon. "In truth, there is no minimum and no maximum gift."

Leaving a charitable gift at death was modeled by Vernon's mother, and he is modeling planned giving for his daughters. Vernon believes strongly in the two nonprofit organizations he selected in his will. "I believe that my gift will make a difference and that's important to me. Leaving a legacy is a smart choice", he shared. "My gift makes an impact and will help keep the mission of Tanager Place going for generations to come. If you're an adult with the ability to help, investing in the future of Tanager Place is a logical way to give in perpetuity. It's also a great way to role model philanthropy."

Vernon joins thousands of donors that believe in the future and are making an impact today with their estate planning. "It felt good to do this for Tanager Place. It is very easy to include a charity in your will, and often it's inexpensive to do."



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU HELP CHILDREN

Making a planned gift can be easy and quick. Adding a sentence to your will or trust can name Tanager Place as a beneficiary of your assets after your lifetime. Consider, "I give to Tanager Place Endowment Foundation, Cedar Rapids, IA, ___% of my estate to be used at the discretion of its governing board." Gifting stock or securities, real estate, life insurance and retirement plans passes assets to Tanager Place tax-free. Please contact Lorrie Erusha, Director of Philanthropy at 319-365-9165 ext. 310 or lerusha@tanagerplace.org to start the conversation.

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**Introducing the
 Tanager Place Associates Board**

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SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 2

3:30 - 8:30 pm

**Rockwell Collins Sports Complex
 Collins Road and F Avenue NE**

**75 FREE activities for
 kids of all ages!**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: THOMPSON & CO.

“Kids are what matters,” Bobby Thompson, salon owner explains. “My job as a stylist is to make sure the kids feel safe, confident, strong and beautiful. The kids are what brings our salon back to Tanager Place.”

A favorite story he recalled was when he chose to cut a young boys hair ‘exactly as he wanted.’ “The young man ordered a special mohawk. He was open and talkative and we spent our time talking about our lives.” When the haircut was over, the young boy ran into the bathroom and ran out and gave Bobby a HUGE hug. “This is the best haircut ever! Thank you so much!” He couldn’t have been more thankful. Bobby went to talk to the boy’s counselor. The counselor told Bobby, “There are no mirrors in that bathroom. He may love his haircut, but he loves you more.”

