

Healthbeat

Issue 165 | January 2025





Christopher Lloyd

V.P. of Marketing & Communications



Tiffany Whisner

Marketing Content Manager



Ben Rose

Marketing Creative Manager



Cheryl Berry

Senior Marketing Creative Designer



Brandi Brewer

Digital Marketing Coordinator



Jaclyn Saunders

Marketing Associate



CéAira Waymon

Marketing Creative Associate



Rich Trotman

Multimedia Content Producer

Aspire Indiana Healthbeat Magazine

January 2025, Issue 165

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A Healthier, More Hopeful Future for All

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A Healthier, More Hopeful Future for All

Looking back at 2024, we are filled with gratitude and a deep sense of purpose for the work we do at Aspire Indiana Health. This year has brought remarkable progress, and every step forward has been rooted in our commitment to serve our communities more fully and equitably.





A Mission to Serve



“Aspire has always served veterans, but we are continuing to put an emphasis on our veterans services because we know the areas we serve in Indiana — Boone, Hamilton, Madison and Marion counties — have the highest number of veterans and veterans’ families in the state.”

— *Aspire Vice President of Community Partnerships dianna Huddleston*

The U.S. military comprises approximately 1.3 million active-duty service members and 773,000 selected reserve members, according to “[The Financial Well-Being of Military and Veteran Families in the United States](#)” report by Purdue University. In 2022, approximately 6.6% of the adult population — 17 million individuals — identified as veterans, and the veteran population continues to evolve.

The report finds that food insecurity remains a critical issue in the military population, especially for junior enlisted families, those with unemployed spouses and minorities. Homelessness is also rising among veterans; and employment disparities persist, especially for military spouses and veterans with service-connected disabilities.

“We’ve been spending more time in veterans’ spaces, attending veteran stand downs, conferences, and sponsoring veterans events because we want them to see and understand

Aspire is military and veteran friendly,” Huddleston says. “We want to make sure we’re welcoming military, veterans and their families through whatever door they come to Aspire and that we get them connected to all our services.”



A “military brat” herself, **Aspire Clinical Manager Desire’e Greer** has a personal connection to the challenges of the military lifestyle.

“I have a passion for this population that is underserved, knowing they’re coming home after serving their country and they’re without housing or food and they often can’t get the healthcare they need,” she says. “This is a group of people we should be protecting and providing for, and Aspire offers so many services to help them feel well and get them back on their feet.”

Born on a military base in Heidelberg, Germany, to a mom and dad who were both nurses in the army, Huddleston has seen the positive impact of veterans being connected to communities and resources focused on their needs.

“We need to be there to help support this population, and Aspire is well equipped to do so,” Huddleston says. “One part of improving our services to veterans includes ensuring all levels of our staff are both culturally sensitive and clinically trained to be able to work with the unique needs that veterans and their families have.”

[Greer leads the effort](#) to get Aspire employees trained in the [Star Behavioral Health Providers](#) (SBHP) program, created by a collaboration between [The Military Family Research Institute \(MFRI\) at Purdue University](#), the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), Indiana National Guard, the National Guard Bureau and Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration. This training, referral and dissemination program helps service members and their families locate trained civilian behavioral health professionals who better understand service-related challenges.

[There are three tiers of training](#) — each emphasizes unique factors that may impact clinical practice with military-connected clients. Greer encourages all Aspire staff to at least receive Tier One training to learn more about what questions you should and should not ask when serving veterans, military and their families.

“I feel like we miss out on the opportunity to serve a lot of veterans and their families because we’re not asking the right questions,” Greer says. “There are so many barriers that often lead veterans to be



photo: iStock

hesitant to seek treatment, but if we foster an environment that is going to meet them where they are and get them what they need to feel safe, then hopefully the rest will fall into place.”

The training through SBHP covers military culture and the military population, experiences of military-connected families, and deployment cycle stressors and their impact. Participants also have the opportunity to hear a service member’s perspective.

“It’s an all-encompassing mission to serve this population,” Huddleston says. “We outreach to them through various veteran spaces; we do clinical training with our own staff to make sure we are being sensitive to their needs; and we work with our veteran-serving partners. We need to be seen serving in those communities so veterans and their families will think of Aspire when they have need, and they will feel comfortable coming to see us. We want veterans to know we care about them, appreciate them and want to serve them.”



Celebrating a Year of Compassion



"Creating healthy and thriving communities is not the responsibility or ability of one organization. Compassion Gallery was to serve as a reminder of that truth and the opportunities that exist when we lean in together to this work," says **Vice President of Strategy and Business Development Kevin Sheward**. "This event was another step in bringing our community closer to incredible care offered every day through Aspire and lays a foundation for future opportunities to come alongside this work and be compassionate advocates in their own way."



Guests were also able to enjoy THE LUME featuring "Dalí Alive," an immersive digital experience showcasing original artworks with projections over the walls and floors as well as interactive spaces; and Winterlights, with nearly three million lights in a display of wintertime wonder.



It was a night reflecting on a year of compassion, a first-of-its-kind event to end the year, an evening celebrating Aspire's community support programs surrounded by artful entertainment and the magic of the winter season.

Aspire's Compassion Gallery, presented by Nuvem, brought together staff, donors and partners to learn more about Aspire's programs through testimonials and mission-focused stories. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with Aspire program leadership and hear from **President and CEO Antony Sheehan**.



"The event was a wonderful success due to the generosity of our sponsors," says **Director of Philanthropy Kasey Davis**. "We appreciate them for allowing us the space to bring our mission to a new audience. The Aspire staff who supported the event – with their attendance and their participation – made the evening a next-level event. Our team is filled with deep gratitude for all those who came out to celebrate with us."



[Watch the Compassion Gallery recap video here!](#)





Employee Spotlight: Lillian Anderson

Life Skills Trainer – HCBS

Thirty years ago, Lillian Anderson began her journey with BehaviorCorp – which would later become Aspire Indiana Health. And in December 2024, Lillian retired from Aspire.

In the '90s, still early in her career, Lillian worked for the Hopewell Center. After six years with them, working with clients with developmental disabilities, she accepted a position with the residential sector of BehaviorCorp (AIH). Lillian was excited about her new path, though she had no idea where her journey would go.

After what seemed like a quick five years, she was promoted to a case management role. However, when BehaviorCorp merged to become Aspire Indiana Health, Lillian made the decision to transition



into a life skills instructor role as it was most similar to the work she had been doing. This allowed her to stay with her clients as well.

In fact, Lillian has served much of the same caseload as she was assigned when she started.

Meaning, Lillian has worked with many of the same clients for the last three decades. As one can imagine, her clients felt bittersweet about Lillian's retirement. Lillian's voice jumps an octave talking about her clients and the impact she didn't fully realize she'd had until she announced her retirement. "It's a lot. You don't realize the impact you've had on people."

In her retirement, Lillian plans to volunteer with the hospital or nursing home. The importance of service remains at her core. She does look forward to spending time with her family, specifically her grandchildren. Lillian also loves reading and is excited to spend time dwindling down her "to be read" pile. Lillian will most miss her clients, listening to their accomplishments and bearing witness to them achieving milestone moments.



[Click here to watch the video!](#)



Accent on Compassion

In last month's Accent on Compassion feature by Aspire Indiana Health President and CEO Antony Sheehan, he reflects on Aspire's Compassion Gallery fundraising event at Newfields and how

compassion is our compass in every decision and endeavor – plus some of Aspire's upcoming work in 2025. [Read more here!](#)



Aspire News

PROTECTING HOMELESS PERSONS DURING THE WINTER

Aspire Indiana Health is partnering with Indianapolis Public Schools to provide shelter for families experiencing homelessness this winter. Now through March 31 – during the coldest months of the year – unhoused families can go to the Susan Ross Leach School 68 on North Riley Avenue for shelter, along with additional resources such as case management and on-site medical care. Aspire’s MACY (Mobile Access Care for You) will be available as well as employment services.

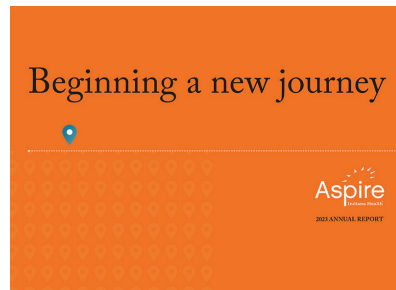


[Read more here.](#) Want to help ensure these families have the basic necessities they need to stay warm, healthy and cared for? Please consider making a donation from [this wish list!](#)

MARKETING AWARDS FOR ANNUAL REPORT AND MACY

The [Aspire Indiana Health 2023 Annual Report](#) is a winner in the 61st Graphic Design USA (GDUSA)

American Graphic Design Awards! It honors outstanding work of all kinds in two dozen categories across all print, digital and interactive media. The Marketing Team is proud to have received this honor along with two Honorable Mentions from this year’s [PR Daily Awards!](#) One for Aspire Indiana Health: MACY (Mobile Access Care for You) for Marketing Campaign of the Year in the Healthcare PR & Marketing category; and for the Aspire Indiana Health 2023 Annual Report in the Podcasts, Publications and More category. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on these campaigns!



DON'T MISS OUR 2025 EVENTS

We can't wait to see you at some of Aspire's big community and fundraising events this year! Mark your calendar now for the following dates:

- **Stand Up for Kids**
Friday, February 21, 2025, 7 p.m.
Paramount Theatre
1124 Meridian St., Anderson
Tickets: <https://sufk2025.givesmart.com/>



- **Progress House Golf Outing**
Monday, May 19, 2025, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Plum Creek Golf Club, 12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel
- **Aspire Indiana 5k Fun Run**
Saturday, September 27, 2025, 7 a.m.-12 p.m.
Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers

GET READY TO STAND UP



Stand Up for Kids is Aspire's annual fundraiser to help support [Kids Talk](#), a program that assists children and adults in Madison County who have experienced or witnessed abuse and neglect. Kids Talk is funded through grants and donations, and Stand Up for Kids is a vital part of generating revenue. It's also a special event where Kids Talk and its many community partners can share some laughs while supporting a great cause! This year's event is Friday, February 21 at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre Centre and Ballroom in Anderson. Get your tickets today: <https://sufk2025.givesmart.com/>

Welcome New Employees

ANDERSON

Marissa Rider, Life Skills Coach
Hartung

LaTasha Davis, Certified Medical Assistant
Hoak

Olivia Reyes, Infectious Disease Case Manager
Hoak

Arieon Pendergrass, Prevention Specialist
KidsTalk - Madison County

CARMEL

Lauren Campbell, Crisis Response Provider

Eric Charleston, Certified Recovery Specialist -
Adult Home & Community Based Services

INDIANAPOLIS

Levi Melangton, Support Associate-PH
Progress House

Griffin Norris, Community Health Worker-Housing
Willowbrook

LEBANON

Andrew Reed, Care Coordinator/Life Skills
Instructor - Home & Community Based
Lebanon

RICHMOND

Nicole Crawley, Infectious Disease Case Manager
Richmond



Social Media Hits

A look back at our top social media hits in December!



GIVING TUESDAY



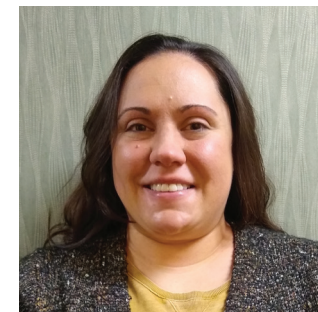
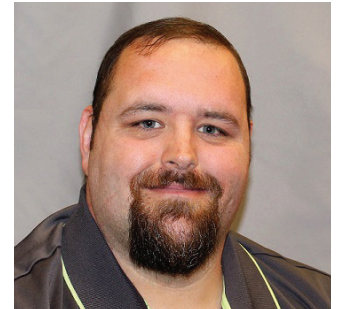
At Aspire, we want to recognize our employees for the "Great Job" they are doing! We have re-imagined our Recognition and Way to Go programs — our new Great Job recognition focuses on our people, patients and/or partners and incorporates one or more of the Aspire values of impact, innovation and inclusion!

To nominate an Aspire employee for doing a "Great Job," [click here.](#)



Kyree Nelson, License Eligible Therapist - Assessment, DeHaven, has been an excellent team player. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to support our team's goals and has been willing to step in and assist when needed. She works hard, has a positive attitude and has been valuable to our team. She makes sure clients' needs are met and that they are able to engage in needed services.

Michael Parks, Manager - Home & Community Based Services, Willowbrook, has jumped in to help the Deaf Services Team with a very challenging DCS case. This includes going to Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) and to the local office director to ensure our team has all the information to help the patient do what is needed to successfully reunite with her children.



Amanda Daughhete, Wraparound Facilitator, Carmel, offered her expertise as a former DCS Family Case Manager (FCM) to help the Deaf Services Team with a complicated DCS case. Amanda met with the team and helped them prepare so they could support the client in her Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM). She continues to be a point of contact for the team for support. She has helped clarify the processes, procedures and expectations so the team can appropriately and effectively advocate for the client and her children.

Sarah McWhorter, ASL Staff Interpreter, Willowbrook, did a presentation for Globo and LUNA interpreter services to educate other ASL interpreters about working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals who are receiving mental health and substance use services. She worked tirelessly on this project for months. She is an amazing advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and took the time to educate others who are in the same field better understand mental health services available to individuals as well as common signs used in sessions they may not be as familiar with to ensure the clients are able to effectively communicate and utilize mental health and substance use treatment.



Haylie Will, ASL Staff Interpreter, Willowbrook, did a presentation with another staff interpreter for Globo and LUNA interpreter services to educate other ASL interpreters about working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals who are receiving mental health and substance use services. Haylie is an amazing advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and took the time to educate others who are in the same field better understand mental health services and substance use treatment available in the community.