

SEPTEMBER 2022
ISSUE 06

Community Newsletter



Partners in AUTISM

FAMILY OWNED • FAMILY FOCUSED



A Word from the Owners


We are so very proud of all our clients and the goals they have been achieving.

It brings us such joy to see clients starting new stages of their journeys - from finding meaningful employment, to heading into school, to all the victories in between. Each client reaches their goals because of their own tenacity and the support of our staff who form connections with them as individuals. We appreciate all the dedicated work our staff puts in each day. Your effort shines through. Thank you!

- Tommy Guest and Camile Voglewede

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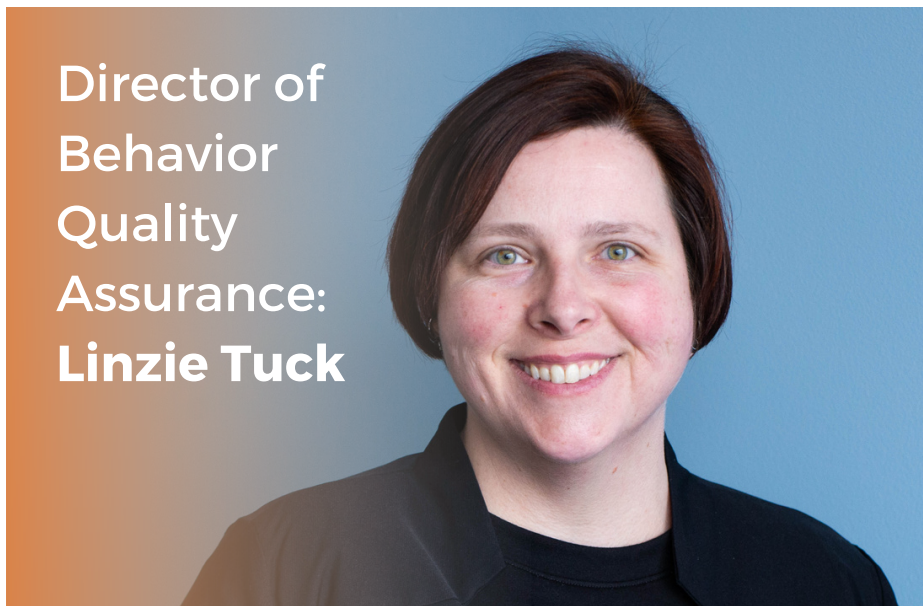
 @partnersinautism

 Lake Location: 3030 Lake Ave. Ste 20
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

CONNECTIONS TO QUALITY

New Director
Role

Director of
Behavior
Quality
Assurance:
Linzie Tuck



We added a new director position, “Director of Behavior Quality Assurance,” to ensure that best practices are cohesively applied across our multiple services. This new position will be filled by our own Linzie Tuck, previously our BCBA Director. The Director of Behavior Quality Assurance role is designed to connect staff from all our services to behavior based training and meaningful Continuing Educational Units (CEU) opportunities. These trainings will focus on best practices for treatment plans and behavior protocols that align with our ethical standards. Linzie brings to this position not only years of experience at multiple levels in the ABA field, but also a firm and deep commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of our clients. She will be coordinating the development of our own behavior-based training for our ABA, Employment, and Waiver Services. This new position will give greater structure to a quality that already makes Partners unique - intentionally integrating autism specific trainings in key places throughout our services so that all of our staff are informed and equipped.

Ballet, Clay, and Hornworms

What do these have in common? Our kids love engaging with them. Some of our older ABA kids get together each day for subject-specific activities. During times allotted for science, music, art, and movement, Linzie Tuck makes sure our kids work on skills like following group instructions, motor imitation, giving or responding to mands, waiting for a turn with materials, and increasing duration of attention to a novel task. All of this is practiced naturally as our kids learn to observe insects, sculpt clay, and move with ballet - connections we (and our kids) love!



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WALK

Join My Autism Ally for an afternoon of activities and resources for the whole family including supports for those of all ages on the autism spectrum.

The event is FREE to attend. Donations will be accepted at the event and benefit My Autism Ally. All money raised helps families affected by autism in northern Indiana.

The full event runs from 12-4pm at the Allen County Fairgrounds, and the Autism Unity Walk Lap starts at 3pm. The fairgrounds are located at 2726 Carroll Rd. Fort Wayne, IN.

My Autism Ally Autism Acceptance WALK



Activities include: food trucks, a vendor fair, pony rides, music play, sensory play, crafts and games, and more! Stop by and see us at the vendor fair. We'll be in the passage between the two main buildings.



My Autism Ally

My Autism Ally is a highly valued community partner and an indispensable resource for so many families and individuals in our community. To see more of what they do and the resources they have to offer, check out their website at www.myautismally.org

INSPIRED TO KEEP LEARNING

Journey to Program Coordinator

Program
Coordinator:
Becca Schaub



Becca Schaub finds continual inspiration from her clients, their unique personalities and growth, and the hard work they put in to their learning. In fact, she has been so inspired that she decided to delve deeper into this field. Previously a Behavior Technician with her RBT certification and a Bachelor's in Science for Child and Family Development from Western Michigan University, she has been busy working full time as our Northcrest Clinical Director while earning her Master's in ABA from Ball State University. In August, she stepped out of her role as Clinical Director and into her new role as Program Coordinator where she hopes to continue developing her skills to serve our clients even better. We are so proud of all of the hard work and pure love that Becca has given to her clients over the past 2.5 years, and are so glad that she's stepping up to deepen her ABA knowledge as a Program Coordinator. Thank you, Becca. We're beyond lucky to have you!

Creating a Culture of Safety

A safe environment is a critical foundation to learning. We're proud to have two certified Safety Care Trainers on staff, Amanda Herald and Becca Schaub, who lead regular Safety Care trainings so that our ABA staff can renew their Safety-Care certifications and keep their skills and understanding fresh. Safety-Care is a national program that focuses on prevention, safety, and humane, supportive, evidence-based interventions. During training staff role-play how to prevent the escalation of harmful behaviors in ways that uphold client dignity.



DEEPER EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

We have recently formed connections with Gordon Food Service, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, and Science Central. We've also strengthened established connections with From This Day Forward Bridal Shop, Volunteer Fort Wayne, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne Tin Caps, and Community Harvest Food Bank. Nurturing these connections has given more clients opportunities to volunteer and obtain employment with companies who have diverse and inclusive environments.

Our staff have been able to spend much more time in the community with clients as COVID moves further behind us and more companies are willing to allow Partners in Autism to explore their environments. This is so helpful and appreciated.

We've also recently reconfigured our office spaces so that we are closer to each other and also closer to our training room and practice cubicles. This rearrangement is enabling faster transitions and a more cohesive feeling to the team. By using the cubicles for office-setting trainings, we've freed up space in our training room for a sewing machine station.

The sewing machine station was created to embrace the passions of one of our current clients. We constantly customize our training room to meet the needs of our clients, so that each individual can pursue goals aligned to their unique skills and interests.



What Makes a Good Employer?

Diversity leads to acceptance, understanding, and inclusion. The more importance an employer places on diversity, the more they will educate themselves about their employees and the more flexible they will be in accommodating their employees' needs and supporting their employees' strengths. Good employers recognize the value in their employees and are willing to invest in that value through simple actions such as allowing employees to listen to music, breaking up training over multiple days, and providing safe spaces for employees to self-talk and refocus.

New Staff
ABA
PAC



ABA - Abby, Jordyn, Morgan, Kashina, Tayler

PAC - Lisa, James, Alaina, Jim, Kathleen, Catherine



ALWAYS GROWING

Hiring for

Full Time - Fort Wayne

Ask about
our sign-on
bonus!



PROGRAM COORDINATOR

APPLY



PartnersinAutism.com

JOB DUTIES

- Meet with clients
- Assist BCBAs with designing ABA client programs
- Train Behavior Technicians on new programs and behavior intervention plans
- Maintain current client data

QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates must ...
- Be enrolled in a graduate-level ABA program.
 - Hold a current RBT Certification.
 - Have a minimum of 2 years experience in ABA.

**COMMUNITY**

ON YOUR WAY ACADEMY'S SPECIAL SUMMER

Guest Teacher from FWCS Shares Class Culture

Summer didn't pause learning for our "On Your Way Academy" kids. Our transitional classroom setting helps our kids prepare for future experiences in a traditional classroom. This summer, Michael Dickman, a Special Education - Applied Skills teacher from Fort Wayne Community Schools, helped our behavior technicians integrate activities that reflect current, common classroom practices. Using his experience as a DSP, ABA behavior technician, and now classroom educator, Michael designed activities that bridged between the highly structured ABA interactions our kids expect and the more subtly structured interactions of school. "I was excited to practice some teaching strategies I don't always get to use in my own classroom." It was great watching both our kids and our behavior technicians grow from this collaboration. We wish Michael the best this school year and can't wait to have him back next summer!

TEACHING AND TEAMWORK

Colleagues
and Clients

BCBA Director:
Kelly Phillips



For Kelly Phillips, each day is a day to learn as well as teach. Each interaction with clients, families, and colleagues presents opportunities to both share and refine knowledge ... and Kelly loves seizing those opportunities. She loves teaching others about ABA. "It is such an incredible tool to help an individual grow, learn, and succeed," she said. She enjoys delving into ABA principles with her team, collaborating on how to apply those principles to our clients' programs in meaningful ways, and learning from her colleagues' insights. She finds behavior data analysis rewarding because it so clearly displays a client's growth over time. She values Partners' commitment to keeping the client and family at the center of the decision making team. At Partners, she was previously our Lead BCBA, before taking on the position of BCBA Director. Not everything she does is BCBA centered - she's also heading up Partners' fantasy football league competition. This too is an opportunity for others to learn new things (some participants have never tried fantasy football before) and learn about their teammates.

Upcoming Events

**ABA: Goodies with
Grandparents - Sept 9**

**My Autism Ally's Autism
Acceptance Walk - Sept
11, Noon-4pm**

**PAC Client Game Night -
Sept 16**

**Registration required in
advance to
[Mariah@PartnersinAutism.
com](mailto:Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com)**

**Work to Include - Job
and Resource Fair - Oct
21, 10am-3pm**