



From The Office Of Community Engagement

TRANSFORMING LIVES FROM BIRTH AND BEYOND

Can't We All Just Get Along?: An Open Letter To You from Our Executive Director

QUARTER 1 - WE ARE ALREADY ON THE MOVE:

1. Please join us in congratulating Christopher McClure, our new Group Home Coordinator. Mr. McClure has been with Unk's Place since our inception.
2. Help us welcome Mr. Michael Hill to the Unk's Place family. Mr. Hill will serve as one of our Site Directors at one of our three locations. Mr. Hill, a former Investigations and Permanency worker for Butler County, comes to us with years of experience.
3. This year renovations will begin at the home where Unk's Place began.
4. Stay tuned...



"BETTER ME. BETTER WE."

Your guide to Unk's Place news, information and Events.

I don't know all of you?! But I wish I did. When I started my journey in foster care in 2013, I had no idea that I would be blessed to adopt my son Carson M. Hagans, who was a part of the system that we all serve in. It was through caring for him that I would learn of the abuse, neglect, and even the hardship that many parents are enduring trying to care for their children. It was through the education of my son and caring for over 20 young men and women in my home as a foster parent that I felt the tug to do more. That more would become

known as Unk's Place! From 2018 to present, we have served over 100 young people in foster care in our group home! What started off as a mission and ministry, would soon turn into a weight. The weight of anticipating what allegation and or accusation that we would have to respond to. The weight of defending our character because adults are oftentimes trying to show who has the most power. Not being able to build a system that leads to reunification or stabilization for adoption can cause one to become weary!



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At The Beginning of this new year, I ask... Can we all just get along?!!!

This question is not a rebuke to the system, but it is a question for all of us to consider as we serve a vulnerable population of children and adolescents. Group homes and residential treatment programs are closing at an alarming rate, while the need for them to remain open is still much greater!

I am asking that as we work this year, that we work together! We need to work together from intake to discharge to ensure that we are all doing what is best for every young person who has been entrusted to our care!

Can we all just get along...

We all understand that we are dealing with traumatized youth while navigating through our own traumas as adults. We must listen to our youth, but does that mean it has to be at the expense of someone,

agency, and or organization who have dedicated their lives to serve children that oftentimes can't find what they need at home? Triangulation is something that our young people have mastered and usually it pits agency against agency.

We want to err on the side of the child because we truly want what's best for them and over the years I have come to the conclusion it isn't the child's fault that we can't work together!



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If you have placement needs or would like to contract with us for this year, PLEASE contact us by phone call or email. We would like to be honoured to partner with you to meet the needs of young men in your care.