



“Nurturing and Empowering Families to Help Build Stronger Communities.”

Serving Flagler and Volusia Counties

The House Next Door From our House to Yours...

February 2023

www.thehnd.com

Administrative Office
804 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32720
(386) 734-7571

February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month, also called African American History Month. It is a monthlong commemoration of African American history and achievements that takes place each February in the United States and had first began in 1976 when President Gerald Ford officially recognized it. The idea behind Black History Month had first started by historian Carter G. Woodson along with a group of fellow scholars. It helps us show recognition towards each other and to understand each other better. Here are some links on some interesting facts and accomplishments for Black History Month.

- [25 Black History Month Facts | Interesting Black History Facts \(rd.com\)](#)
- [In Honor of Black History Month, 30 Black History Facts You May Not Be Aware Of \(yahoo.com\)](#)

There are big accomplishments that have been made and that we'd like to recognize from here at the House Next Door as well as we celebrate Black History Month. See the next page to see our employees who have made an impact and worked their way up within the organization.



Employee of the Month, January 2023

Our January Employee of the month is dependable, helpful and is a strong advocate of our agency values. This employee has been making a difference in the lives of families in our community for several decades. This staff member leads by example to empower children and families to build stronger communities. This employee always listens with compassion and inspires growth in their clients.

Commitment and reliability are hard to come by. Thank you for being someone we can always count on! We are so grateful for all their hard work and dedication throughout the years.

Please join us in congratulating our January employee of the month Lucia McPherson.



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DeLand Service Site

114 S. Alabama Ave.
DeLand, FL 32724
386-738-9169

Flagler Service Site

160 Cypress Point Parkway
Suite B301/302
Palm Coast, FL 32164
386-738-9169

WVHA Office

840 Deltona Blvd. Ste. K
Deltona, FL 32725
386-232-2055

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How You Can Help

To give a secure online donation, learn about our amazon smile and scrip card programs, help fulfill our wish list, or view current volunteer or career opportunities, please visit our website at: thehnd.com

The House Next Door Family Foundation

Established in 2002, governed by local leaders, committed to the preservation of family services at The House Next Door.

Be a part of ensuring a healthy future for our community. Contact Tom Robertson, Foundation President, at tomrobertsonrai@gmail.com for further information.

Celebrating the achievements of our staff at the HND



We love to celebrate the achievements of our staff, especially because they make such a huge impact within our organization. "I've been working at The House Next door for about 30 years. I've been an associate director for about 3 years. My favorite part about being an associate director is that I'm in a position where I get to empower, nurture and engage my staff. I love watching them grow and being able to see the unity within my group of staff." said Tan McKenzie, associate director. She had first started in our Alpha program and moved on to

grow our Homework Club into what it is today. We enjoy being able to see that different types of leadership our staff provide. Tan McKenzie responded to what it means to make a leader within our organization and she responded with "You really need to understand the values of our agency. It is important that you also understand who we are, what we are, and who we serve." Terrell Irvin, who has been in his supervisor role for a little over a year, responded with, "You must show that you're eager to learn, be perceived as dependable, then you'll be given higher level tasks to do for leadership opportunities."



Engagement for Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our Prevention Specialist, Reva Desmore, was invited to attend Turie T Elementary School for a day to read a book to the second graders. The event was organized by the schools librarian. Below is a photo of the group of amazing people who were picked to read to different classes. The readers in this group are ranged from different professions which include educators, social workers, counselors, therapists, and authors. The book that Reva was asked to read is called "The Honest Goodness Truth" by Patricia C. Mckissack. It was all about teaching children about why it's important to tell the truth. Everyone enjoyed the reading activity together along with the wonderful learning opportunity for the kids.

