



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

Serving Flagler and Volusia Counties

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

February 2024



www.thehnd.com

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February is Black History Month

This month is Black History Month. Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans and was first recognized in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Every year is a different theme and this year's theme is African Americans and the Arts. This theme acknowledges the many impacts that African Americans made in visual and performing arts, music, fashion, art, culinary, film, cultural movements, architecture, and much more.

A Positive Influence on the Community

The House Next Door employees have many talents to highlight and they even devote time to share those talents within the community. Here's an example of one of those positive influences.

Tan McKenzie, Associate Director of School Based Services, is very talented when it comes to playing the drums, as she's been playing since she was just 5 years old. Her passion led her to wanting to also share her talents within the community and not only inspire others, but also teach them. She plays the drums every Sunday at church and has been devoting time to teach the kids at Palm Terrace Elementary School.



“I started playing drums at the age of 5 and started in church which is where I got my roots from. When I learned how to read, I began to take lessons and was trained by a jazz musician with a drum set. I started reading music in the 5th grade and took an interest in band and started traveling all over the county for competitions in middle school. When I got to high school, I did marching band and choir. I was a drum section leader in sophomore to senior year and continued to travel the country doing more competitions.

So, I went to Bethune Cookman University and got a scholarship and continued to travel and play. After that, I played at church and taught drumline at some of the local schools such as Palm Terrace and Campbell Middle School, and doing it now at Daytona Music Academy. I also play African drum, marching drums, tympani, and steel drums. Where I currently play is at Allen Chapel Church every Sunday.” says Tan McKenzie.

Tan McKenzie teaching at Palm Terrace Elementary School

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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.

Acknowledgement Within the Community



Tan McKenzie, Associate Director of School Based Services, was nominated this year for a community award at the Our Youth Matters Gala hosted by Mr. and Ms. Mentoring. She was one of the four finalists for the Neighborhood Role Model of The Year award for 2024.

"I felt great about the opportunity that I had to represent who I am. I am a product of The HND and it was great to see that other people saw me for what I do in this community. It always feels good to be recognized for some of the things that you do and that there's always someone watching." said Tan McKenzie.

Employee of the Month January 2024 Mary Kamine



Our January Employee of the Month is a valued member of our agency. This employee listens with compassion while teaching her students. They enjoy seeing their students have their lightbulb moments and become excited at what they have just learned. From milking a fake cow to building a volcano, there is never a dull moment in this classroom. They are described by their supervisor as having a calming and nurturing influence on the students and teammates.

Please join us in congratulating our January Employee of the Month, Mary Kamine.