



STATEMENT OF INTENT 2022-23

Build Community

The single priority for our team during the 2022-23 school year is to create community. We work toward this goal: everyone has someone, no one is alone.

To that end, we will funnel resources into communities using all means at our disposal. National, state, regional, and local resources are to focus intensely on the singular act of developing community. We are to help communities realize they are a resource unto themselves. Within community, we can meet any need.

Our systems leaders will reinforce conduits of resource to fountains of aid and support to offer stability that benefits community. People will gather assured their needs will be met by provision and by one another. Those resource fountains will be found at schools, libraries, and in designated community and virtual locations. Help will be accessible in community, and in community, we will learn to support and provide resources for one another. We recognize the County of Wayne as a community. We see school districts, towns, and villages as communities. We recognize mobile home parks, housing complexes, and streets as communities. We understand single-school buildings and grade-level cohorts as communities. We offer faculty and staff a way to join a professional community. We need intervention teams to be communities. Within those communities we will sort resources to meet needs. We will use a tiered system to do that sorting; what do all young people in this community need? What do some groups of young people need? And who are individual young people who are most vulnerable and need small communities of guardians built especially for them?

To build community, we will hire people who put others ahead of self, we will recruit volunteers to mentor young people, we will train young people to tutor their peers, we will foster in parents an awareness of their own capacity, and assure them that when the developmental trajectory of their children is considered, parental influence and family influence is unmatched.

We reject the idea that a person's past is destiny. We assert that through the construction of community around vulnerable youth, we can surround young people with protective factors that bring hopeful balance to the imbalances caused by poverty, addiction, domestic violence, and untreated mental health issues. We believe resilience can be shared, taught, and cultivated. The Collaboration ARCH will identify strengths, and we will use strengths as our starting place. The Collaboration ARCH will guide our understanding of the development of individual young people. How can we work together to build community so young people are connected as they learn to cope, as they gain skills for academics and careers, and as they eat, play, and sleep?

Like a skilled laborer with many tasks but one job, our team has one job. Our tasks include case management, curriculum delivery, training professionals, leading restorative circles, recruiting volunteers, distributing food, placing young people in work locations, supporting afterschool programs, transporting young people to appointments, gathering data, scripting reports, keeping a written and pictorial record of our journey and sharing that on social media, convening meetings, and planning events—but we have one job.

Our job is to make sure no one is alone. Our job is to make sure that everyone has someone. Our job is to hold out hope. Our job is to build community.