Celebrations
HHC wins Best & Brightest

Team 5K
Meet several of our runners

High Five
Join the High Five Crew on race day

3rd Annual Gallery Night
Tickets now on sale!

Finding Purpose

NOV 14
3rd ANNUAL GALLERY NIGHT
Hello Everyone,

As that back-to-school breeze hits the air, I find myself reflecting on the beautiful summer I’ve had with our Helping Hand Center community.

One particularly memorable day was our annual Family Picnic. The smell of burgers on the grill, the sun on our faces, and the sound of laughter and cheer in the air which could not be captured in a social media post. Summer Picnics...such a pure and simple symbol of a community coming together to enjoy each other’s company.

Over 300 guests celebrated our mission that day in the park. Our lively camaraderie drew in a passerby that wanted to know more about Helping Hand Center and the people that made up our community. The addition to our group made that sunny summer even brighter for those in attendance.

Our community of family, friends, clients, and staff brings so much joy when we come together. Please, join us in that joy. I encourage you to connect with us, see what happens because, for me, it transformed my life.

CEO & President Bill Dwyer greets Alex and his sister Brenda.

ABOVE: Thanks to our amazing grill team!
BELOW: Hannah and her mom enjoy the festivities.

See you soon!

Bill Dwyer
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HELPING HAND CENTER

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To learn more visit
www.hhcenter.org

Connect with us on Facebook, NEW! Instagram and LinkedIn.

“Knowing we are great is one thing but when outside professionals agree with us, that puts it over the top!” said Dwyer.

Fundraising Success Stories

Celebrations
Helping Hand Center is proud to have been recognized for our outstanding work in programs and services, human resources and fiscal responsibility.

“Two very important goals for us are to be recognized for how we care for our clients and our employees,” said President & CEO, Bill Dwyer.

CARF Accreditation
This past April a team of three independent auditors visited our facilities for an intense three-day visit that included reviewing 1,132 standards and interviewing dozens of staff and board members. Helping Hand Center received the highest level of accreditation, signaling a commitment to being among the best health and human service providers available.

Best & Brightest Companies to Work For
One of just two non-profits on this year’s Chicago list of the Best & Brightest, this award identifies and honors companies that deliver exceptional human resource practices and an impressive commitment to their employees. Organizations are assessed based on categories including communications, work-life balance, employee education, diversity, recognition and retention.

GuideStar Platinum Award
The highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar. It demonstrates that an organization is focused on measuring progress and results and shows year over year improvement and results.
We are excited to have 65 clients, staff and friends of HHC participating as charity partners in the Healthy Driven Naperville 5K on Sunday, October 20th. They have all signed on to raise awareness and funds in support of Helping Hand Center. Client editors Al Dunn and Betsy White sat down with two of the seven clients who are part of the team and asked them a few questions about their involvement.

Meet Jane Boggiano
How long have you been at HHC? It’s been over 20 years.
Have you ever participated in an event like this? No. This is my first one.
What made you want to join Team 5K? I wanted to try something new to see if I would like it. You can’t say you don’t like something unless you try it.

Meet Alex Schure
How long have you been at HHC? I’ve been here for 11 years.
Why did you want to participate in Team 5K? I thought it would be good to help raise money for Helping Hand.
How confident do you feel about winning? I feel confident.

Meet Sheila O’Connell
Sheila O’Connell has been part of the HHC family for 10 years. As the Manager of Day Programming she knows our clients well and advocates for opportunities that will enrich their lives. Sheila was instrumental in launching our inaugural Team 5K and has been working closely with the seven clients who are participating to ensure they are ready for a great experience on race day. Al and Betsy sat down with Sheila and asked her some questions about the program.

What do you like best about working at HHC? Working with the clients.
Why did you sign-up to run the 5K? I want to help raise awareness of all the great things we do here.
How is training going? Training is going good. I’m walking on the treadmill, being the best I can be.
How much money do you hope to raise for HHC? $500
What are you looking forward to most about the race? My goal is to finish. This is my first 5K.
Who would you like to come cheer you on? It would be great to have family and staff cheering on the team on race day.

THANKS TO OUR TEAM 5K SPONSORS!

UnitedHealthcare
TBS
Currie Motors
Scheck & Siress Prosthetics, Orthotics
Scheiner Materials Company

See who’s running and make a donation to support them at www.HelpingHandTeam5K.EverydayHero.do

High Five Crew
Come out and cheer on Team 5K runners on race day! For more details and to sign up for the High Five Crew visit: www.HelpingHandTeam5K.EverydayHero.do
Amalia Rodrigues was a recent college graduate facing life’s uncertainties. While she worked as a waitress after college, she was on the pursuit to find her purpose. Amalia’s world was changed forever when VP/Senior Director of Education, Sally Wilson-Gamble, offered her the opportunity to observe a few classrooms in our School for Children with Autism.

“When I saw the students and staff in action, my gut told me I was in the right place,” Amalia said.

In March of 2018, Amalia came on board as an Instructional Teaching Assistant (ITA) in the Middle School 1 classroom. ITAs are assigned one or more students to spend the whole day with running individualized academic and OT programs, taking sensory breaks, attending groups with their peers, practicing life skills, and going on community outings. It took no time at all for Amalia to fall in love with teaching and the students. As an ITA, she got to know her students on a deeper level.

“The kids are so sweet, unique, and pure,” Amalia said. “I got to know every facet of their quirky personalities. Their true beauty came from their individuality and candor.”

Amalia’s excitement for each day was built by the smiles of the students being dropped off in the morning. Her favorite part of being an ITA was seeing moments of progress in the students, however big or seemingly small.

“When things don’t come easily for you, every increment of progress should be celebrated.” As someone who embraces challenges, Amalia learned the most from the hard times as new students take time to acclimate to their new surroundings and routine. These periods of transition became hurdles but Amalia took these hurdles to build confidence in her role.

“Building rapport with the students and be the helping hand they need to adjust to a new setting has given me the strength and confidence to be that person for the students to rely on,” Amalia said.

For the first time in her life, Amalia has found a passion, a purpose, and a path. After witnessing firsthand how the Behavior Analyst team operates and seeing what a profound impact they can make on the lives of the students and families, she will be leaving her role as an ITA to pursue a Master’s Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

“I’m beyond grateful for everything I am taking away from my experience and to all of the hardworking, big-hearted staff who inspired me every day.”

Join us for a special evening celebrating the unique talents of artists at Helping Hand Center.

Meet artists and purchase original works of art. Proceeds benefit Helping Hand Center.

**3RD ANNUAL GALLERY NIGHT**

**Illuminating Possibilities**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

6:30-9:30pm

Morton Arboretum, Lisle

**TICKETS $25 | ARTIST SPONSOR $250**

**NOTE: Tickets sold out in 2018!**

Purchase tickets online today at [www.hhcenter.org/gallerynight](http://www.hhcenter.org/gallerynight)
Save the date and plan to join us for upcoming events!
For details visit www.hhcenter.org/events

Team 5K
Naperville Half Marathon & 5K
OCTOBER 20

3rd Annual
Gallery Night
NOVEMBER 14

21st
Annual Gala
APRIL 18

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