



children's  
institute

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL HEALTH

# The Team at Children's Institute

*“Appreciation is a wonderful thing:  
It makes what is excellent in others  
belong to us as well.” -Voltaire*

Edy is always willing to help with anything. She organized a meditation group at CI that has been especially helpful to me during these stressful times. Thank you Edy for being you!



I appreciate how Dawn is very considerate and supportive of others, not only on a professional level but on a personal level as well. I value her determination and diligence in helping others in anyway possible.



When I think of what I appreciate most about James, it is difficult to choose one thing. Words that come to mind include calm, reason, passion, heart, intelligence and wisdom. James is willing to: jump in and support our team in numerous ways, share his experience and ideas, listen and learn. I did not get to work with James for very long in the office, but I will never forget how willing he was to clear his calendar to facilitate focus groups in Webster. We could not have gotten through that day and all of those groups without his help. He worked an extra long day to be there for our team. James, I appreciate so much about you. Thank you for all that you bring to our team!



I appreciate Geri for many reasons. She is always willing to assist with a project (and sometimes even on very short notice). She is able to remain calm during the craziness we experience during the year, which assists me in remaining calm as well!



I adore Lynn L. She exudes strength, love, compassion, freedom, fun, dedication, sensitivity and truth to just name a few. I love her spirit and all the passion and insight she brings to the team. She's limitless and someone who would serve as an asset in any space. I think CI and WCC is extremely lucky to have her and I am so grateful to have met her in this short time. Thank you for all that you do and all that you are Lynn.



I appreciate Marshall for so much, where do I begin. First and foremost, I love how genuine he is, I can tell he is a sincere, kind soul. He is always willing to help with whatever task is asked of him, often on a moments notice. Marshall is organized and efficient with his work. His positive personality and gentle manner is exactly what we need to greet visitors to CI. Thank you Marshall for being you, you're an awesome person!!!



Tracey makes my job so much easier!  
Always helpful and so nice to work with,  
especially before and after events. No  
matter what you ask her, she will find the  
answer – we're lucky to have her at CI!!





I appreciate Sierra's thoughtfulness and energy. Whether she is preparing a training, expressing appreciation to a co-worker, or interacting or talking about the youth in her life, you can be certain she is always considering the other person. Her interactions with others are genuine and full of heart. Her energy and thoughtful way of being is a gift to CI.



Dirk is a passionate advocate for children, a life-long learner who is always up for the next challenge. A unique strength is his interest and ability to connect with others who share the same passion, and to move doggedly forward, through a variety of challenges, in the quest to improve how we all work together to support families - in our community and beyond. He is a good and loyal friend and leads a "family first" approach to life.



I really appreciate Stas' analytic mind and reminders to always examine the alternate perspective. He sharpens my thinking and point of view by asking good questions and seeking evidence.



Genemarie feels honored to be part of the Children's Institute's mission that nurtures children's healthy development, and she brings honor to her role here. I first met Genemarie when we worked together at #9 School's prek 30 years ago. Much of what I came to know and love about her I observed in those early years. Genemarie has a great smile and laughs easily. She is magic around young children; she sees them as individuals and learns from each one - and from their families. She is open to the world around her, and encourages me to be as well. Genemarie freely shares her unique views and I always gain something from our conversations in the hallway, kitchen, or in yoga or breath class. Genemarie strives to make the world around her a bit better by caring deeply, noting what task needs attending - or who needs support - and stepping in to provide it. And she lets others know what she needs, without reservation or apology. I am so lucky and appreciative that I have Genemarie as a colleague and friend.

I appreciate Kim's willingness to step up to the plate no matter the task, and be of assistance and support, and do so with a sense of humor! As a team partner, I appreciate Kim's ability to be super organized and resourceful, which leads to a great finish. I miss her tasty treats, but she got me hooked on Bruster's Ice Cream, which will suffice for now.



Guillermo is awesome! He's passionate about his work. I love to listen to him when he presents. He's someone that makes any topic exciting by inserting interesting metaphors and clever humor – even when he spoke about predictive analytics at a staff meeting, a topic that normally would result in half a conference room of glazed eyes, everyone was riveted to their seats! That was no small feat! But mostly I appreciate Guillermo for how much he cares about his family. The world needs more dads like him!



David has a can-do attitude, has a great level of integrity, recognizes mistakes when he makes them, he engenders trust in his work and his person. It is the perfect colleague in data-related tasks that often rely on blind faith that your colleagues are doing their exacting and detailed, often far from the limelight, work well. He is an asset to CI.



I appreciate Kenneth's love of history and research and his joy in teaching others what he has learned. I have seen his passion for history and continuous learning in meetings, especially REJI meetings. His perspective is invaluable to RECAP, Programs and Services, and CI.





I appreciate Linda's professionalism,  
and that she is always open to listen  
and encourage! She is a woman of many  
talents, including baking and juggling plus  
her ability to make people smile.



Earl has been with our agency for a short time but has had a large impact. I appreciate his thoughtful responses to questions and issues that have come up over the last few months. His knowledge and perspective are invaluable as we move through these interesting times. Also, he is just a great, friendly person and I am grateful that he is working with our team.



Zahra is a wonderful team member who shows willingness to be flexible and learn new things. She always comes with a warm and welcoming smile that puts those around her at ease. She is thoughtful in her interactions and shares a depth of perspective from her own life experiences that are inspiring. I am so grateful to be able to work with Zahra!



Terry's exemplary business acumen and on point humor are greatly appreciated at all times! However, his overarching compassion for children and families is most appreciated. He walks the walk and talks the talk in support of the communities he serves. Thank you, Terry, for all you do for so many!!



Kathy has an incredible eye for detail and depth of understanding for technology. She is curious and always willing to learn. She is thoughtful and fun. I am tremendously grateful that she is my colleague.



Well this isn't too difficult as Shelley is one of my closest colleagues at CI! One of the things I appreciate most about Shelley is her sense of humor! Whether it is in a training full of Primary Project teams, a meeting at CI or just a conversation she always adds a little humor and a smile or laugh to someone's day.



Lauri consistently presents a very calm and measured attitude that has a comforting affect on those around her, even in the midst of chaos. Thank you Lauri for leading with grace!



Craig has done a fantastic job supporting and helping all of us during our transition to working remotely. It has been a challenging time, but he keeps us smiling with stories about his family, sleepless nights, and home haircuts. Our IT Guy is the best!!





I only got to speak with Andrea once or twice before we went remote, but through our team meetings her kind heartedness and sincerity shine through. I appreciate her thoughtfulness and dedication to her work. Andrea, I look forward to continuing to get to know you and work with you!



Ashli is hardworking, compassionate and a true team player! When times have been tough, she supports us with her gentle optimism, sense of humor, and kindness. Ashli's commitment to supporting the mental health needs of youth and the light she brings to all of her work, is something I value so much! Ashli, we love you. Thank you for being you!



MJA is a mover and shaker with deep knowledge about lots of important stuff, a delightfully bizarre sensahuma, a love of dogs (of which I approve) and elephants (ambivalent at best). She gets involved in things. REALLY involved.



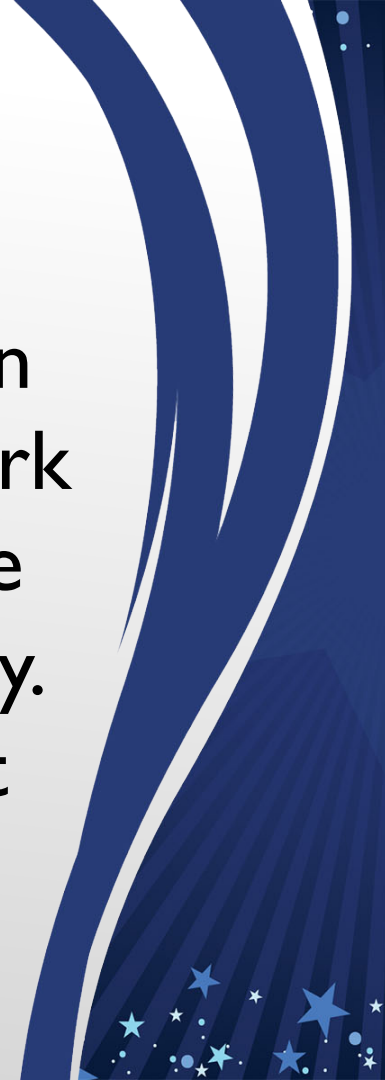
Ann Marie has "jumped in with both feet" (& arms and legs!) to her new position – with enthusiasm and intelligence. Furthermore, she has already improved our connection to our customers in the community we serve.



Cindy provides so much energy to the office and her planning of the staff lunches and other activities contribute to the positive atmosphere in our office and staff cohesiveness. She always maintains a fun, efficient demeanor, no matter how busy and stressful her workday may be.



Caitlin is solid as a rock. She is a quiet presence that provides support and encouragement, while keeping innovation and creativity at the forefront of her work every day. I appreciate the collegiality she brings to the office, and I miss her greatly. She also has a witty sense of humor that strikes at just the right moment. Thanks for all you do, Caitlin.



No matter the situation Arlene maintains a calm and kind demeanor. She always lends a helping hand and one never has to even ask for assistance. She jumps right in. She is one of the most genuine people I've ever known. She is loved at CI.



Sarah is such a calming and willing presence on our team. She joined Whole Child Connection right before the lockdown, and we only got to meet in person once or twice, but I have since gotten to know her through Zoom and through Teams. She is always willing to jump in to a Feel Good Friday thread, she listens closely and thinks deeply, she is willing to share and build community with our team, and she is a diligent and mindful professional. Her background in neuroscience and development makes her a secret gem, and we are hugely lucky to have her!





Charles shows honesty and constancy, as well as smarts and a big heart for children and their teachers and their teachers' teachers.



Chiamaka is one of the most genuine and real individuals that I have had the privilege to work with. I admire for her courage to speak her truth and to help us engage in those difficult conversations.



I am so appreciative of Elizabeth's "emotional IQ" – Mensa, indeed! It is an honor to witness her natural presence in this – sharing this gifts with so many – helping to process, communicate, and advocate for people of all ages and their social and emotional well-being.



Mary is a hero at CI – her work over the years has given us the professional look but more importantly has told “our story.” Her attention to detail is amazing and her memory of what was done in the past is always helpful. She is a tremendous asset to CI – just don’t mess with the logos!



Chris is one of the backbones of CI – just think of all the information that flows in and out of her office. She is always willing to help – even if it's a crazy question and remembers details that would escape most people. Although she is great with numbers (guess you should be in her job...), she is friendly and supportive and a great source to brainstorm ideas!



Kristin is amazingly calm given what is on her plate and must be one of the most organized people at CI. She supports GROW as it's gone from infancy to now, even with all the many moving pieces. She is willing to help whenever asked and is always so uplifting. Her family stories remind us what is important and sometimes make us wonder if she ever sleeps! And of course, she should be considered for a role in any CI video...



It's the laugh that can be heard around the building – that's what people first think of when Lynn S. name comes up. Just hearing it makes you smile, then maybe want to find out what's so funny! She is on the go non-stop, both at work and home, so you have to try and keep up with with her. Her commitment to kids is always evident and you know that Lynn and her “partner in crime” are always trying to improve a program that has lasted far longer than most non-profit's work! I know Child Associates love working with her and we're lucky to have her at CI!



Ellen reminds me of the commercial about the “most interesting man in the world.” She has a wide variety of interests, experiences, and passions and you learn something new whenever you talk with her. She doesn’t do things halfway – she’s in 100% and it shows in her work. She is willing to share her opinions yet see other sides as well. Whether it is a travel adventure story, sharing something from her own personal background, or brainstorming how to make things better, we are lucky to have Ellen’s voice.





The background of the slide features a dark blue field with numerous thin, light blue radial lines emanating from the center, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. Scattered throughout this field are various sizes of light blue stars and small dots, giving it a cosmic or night sky appearance.

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Thank you for all you do for  
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