

# Discovering Abilities

  
**Caring Solutions**  
caringsolutions.org

*Caring Solutions designs and provides services to meet the unique needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, giving them the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives.*

Fall 2020

## When Families Are in Crisis . . . They Need Caring Solutions



*Like most kids, Al can focus intently on video screens. His mother and staff set up appropriate viewing for him on his tablet but also ensure that he has different activities throughout each day to help him develop and grow.*

that you evolve with it because this is a child you love. You don't know what else to do. You do the best that you can, but you need more support."

Al gradually settled in and his mom marveled at how he began to connect with various staff and even learn new skills. Today, Al still receives services from Caring Solutions in a home with another individual who has similar needs. Dr. Davis visits often and considers herself part of his team.

"Al's staff—they know him, they understand him, they love him and he loves them. He's got a good life—so much better than I ever thought or could have imagined. So we're in a good place and I am incredibly grateful to Caring Solutions."

Dr. Davis tells her story in greater detail on video for Caring Solutions to be available soon—a story similar to many other families' experiences.

Al has always had challenging behaviors with his autism and being non-verbal, but his mother said the behaviors really intensified when he aged-out of his special school program and was at home more.

Amy Davis, a physician, tells of the fateful day she hurried home from work after receiving a phone call from his caretaker. "I could hear him in the background breaking things and yelling" she said. "When I walked in, it was a disaster."

In addition to broken furniture and dishes, Al had lashed out physically at his caretaker. They had to call 911 for help again, but this would be the last time that would happen in 2017.

Caring Solutions' Valentine Place therapeutic respite home opened in 2017—the first of its kind in the state to serve those with developmental disabilities and significant behavior challenges. Dr. Davis calls it "a lifesaver."

"He had a really rough night," she said of Al's first night there. "They were up late with him and the supervisors told me later that they had no idea how I was doing this at home. It's just



**Check it out NOW!**

Bidding OPENS  
August 27 - 10:00 a.m.

Bidding CLOSSES  
August 30 - 8:00 p.m.

Go to: [caring2020.givesmart.com](http://caring2020.givesmart.com)  
or to: [caringsolutions.org](http://caringsolutions.org)

**THANK YOU**  
for Bidding & Giving!

### In This Issue

Founder **Madi Hawn**  
Retires as CEO

**Shannan French**  
named Executive Director

**Guankita Henry**  
named Assistant Director

Crisis Services/Training

Assuring the Future



### Board of Directors

Greg Beasley	Joseph Ilges
Pearson Buell	Zac Loraine
Donald Buckner	Mike Mertens
William Couch	Sarah McGough
Amy Davis	Joyce Smith
Joyce Eisel	James Tarter
John Hutchens	Reggie Thorpe

### Advisory Council

Priscilla Bass Timmerberg	Rick Jones
Jack Baumann	Tom Kraatz
Angelia Bunch	Rebecca Miedema
Dale Chamberlain	Rick Nagle
Cherie Dobbs	Ted Ruzicka
Angela Dorn	Darlene Skaggs
Rene Duckworth	Carol Teaney
Tom Earll	Tom Tenhula
Mark Felten	Trudy Busch Valentine
Jay Gifford	Todd Watts
Jeanne Gladden	Dennis Woldum
Frank Haase	Jim Zimmerman
Mike Hogan	Stuart Zimmerman
David Hotle	

Shannon French - Executive Director  
Madi Hawm - Founder

### HOW TO REACH CARING SOLUTIONS

Phone: 314-942-7350  
Email: info@caringsolutions.org  
Web: caringsolutions.org  
1852 Craig Park Court  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
EIN: 03-0374478  
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



## Guankita Henry Named Assistant Director



Guankita Henry was promoted to the new position of Assistant Director. Guankita has a background that started in direct support though the majority of her 10 years with Caring Solutions has been in supervisory roles and in recent years as a Program Director.

“Guankita has strong organizational skills,” Founder Madi Hawm said. “Guankita’s consistent and thoughtful leadership has earned her great respect and appreciation from all levels in the organization. She always considers the clients and families’ wellbeing first.”

Guankita is a graduate of Harris Stowe State University with a bachelors degree in Health Administration.



*Kudos to the staff who wanted to recognize the caring efforts of our direct support professionals who deserve extra kudos themselves for keeping the individuals safe, engaged and well. Treats, gift cards, and other goodies have been delivered to Caring Solutions home sites across the region. This box full of fun activities was greeted with a warm welcome in the chilly early spring.*

## Crisis Services/Training

While Caring Solutions individuals with developmental disabilities have various levels of needs, in recent years it has been in demand as the only nonprofit in Missouri providing therapeutic respite services for those with additional significant behavioral challenges. In addition to its Valentine Place home, crisis intervention and support can be provided in the family home. The Caring Solutions Valentine Place team consists of a licensed behavior analyst, behavior support technicians, a house manager and direct support professionals with a focus on teaching individuals proactive ways to be safe and implement alternative ways of dealing with life other than being aggressive, destructive or self-abusive.

"The training department is continually reviewing and updating our curriculum to ensure Caring Solutions is teaching

our staff the skills they need to provide quality supports to the individuals we serve," Amy Watts, Staff Development Coordinator, said. "Our goal is for every employee to feel confident and take pride in the work they do."

## Thoughtful Giving

Consider gifting **highly appreciated stock** and/or setting up a **charitable remainder trust** to Caring Solutions. This can result in substantial savings to you by eliminating capital gains tax. Other giving options include naming Caring Solutions as **beneficiary of an insurance policy** or giving **funds from your IRA**. Have you remembered Caring Solutions in your **will and living trust**? We will appreciate hearing that you did this for the benefit of the children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive our services.

# Shannan French Named Executive Director of Caring Solutions



The Caring Solutions Board of Directors has selected **Shannan French** to be Executive Director of Caring Solutions. Shannan has been with Caring Solutions for seven years and served as Regional Program Director opening their satellite office in Franklin County. Shannan's experience in the field of serving those with autism and other developmental disabilities started as a direct support worker 17 years ago. She went on to get her degree in Social Work from

the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Shannan follows in the footsteps of Caring Solutions' Founder and Chief Executive Officer **Madeleine "Madi" Haw**n who retired in July as CEO but who will continue to work part-time focused on development efforts.

"Shannan is a genuinely very respected leader in this organization with an excellent understanding of all critical aspects of organizational management and the compassion to continue the mission of Caring Solutions," Madi said. "She is highly qualified and together with the very strong team we have in place I know they will take Caring Solutions into the future and on to the next level to do new things and continue to just have this huge commitment to the clients and their families."

"One of the things that held my attention and my heart with Caring Solutions was our ability to work with families to ensure that the services for their loved ones fit their need," Shannan shared. "My hope for Caring Solutions is that we continue to provide quality services for those we have and to be a support to our families but also to be a leading provider in behavior services and training."

# Founder Madeleine "Madi" Haw

## Retires as Chief Executive Officer



Madi Haw founded Caring Solutions in 2001 against all odds and with not much money! She had to . . . she was driven.

She had served as a case manager for the Missouri Department of Mental Health for several years and also as a director for other providers of services to this population. She has met and known numerous St. Louis area families in crisis and has always been passionate and determined about serving those with the greatest need.

*Madi's last day as CEO was July 31st. She helped hand out lunch to staff and clients who came to the Employee Recognition-hosted carryout lunch.*

but the pandemic is going to give us a long pause before we can do that adequately," Sally Boyd, Director of Development, said. "For now, we commend Madi and all that she made possible for so many families—no doubt, hundreds! And hundreds of employees and their families! Caring Solutions is fortunate for her leadership and we celebrate that she will be staying involved and assisting with fundraising efforts."

Asked for her reflections, Madi shared:

"I'm excited about the future of Caring Solutions. I think we have a great team. Caring Solutions is in good hands and we're in

a good place now. I think we're positioned well to even increase services as long as we can find good staff.

"I feel good that I get to stay involved and help to raise funds for the organization. I feel honored that I've had the opportunity to do this in my life. It's been a good journey. I just appreciate all the people who have done this with me. There have been so many people that have been involved and I've developed so many wonderful friendships with people and got to know the most caring and generous people along the way. It's great. I'm grateful for my life and everything I got to do!"

*And we, Madi, are grateful for you.*

## Assuring the Future "In Honor of Madi"

Several supporters are choosing to make a gift to Caring Solutions in Madi's honor. Madi is very appreciative and has asked that those gifts go to our Assuring the Future Fund. Madi knows the financial challenges in running a non-profit organization and how important it is to be prepared for an emergency or unforeseen financial need. She has been championing Caring Solutions efforts to secure \$1 million in reserve funds so that Caring Solutions can be here for current and future individuals and families needing services for many years to come. While it may seem like a lofty goal, we have multi-year commitments of more than \$500,000 in various gift sizes for our Assuring the Future Campaign. You can make a gift in honor of Madi by envelope, giving on our website at [caringsolutions.org](http://caringsolutions.org), or by calling the Caring Solutions Development Office at 314-942-7350 ext. 22.

**Thank you for helping her Assure the Future!**





Plan A



Plan B



Plan C

Auction Items  
Available  
for Viewing  
**NOW!**

**Go to: [caring2020.givesmart.com](http://caring2020.givesmart.com)  
or to: [caringsolutions.org](http://caringsolutions.org)**

Bidding OPENS  
August 27 - 10:00 a.m.

Bidding CLOSES  
August 30 - 8:00 p.m.

Questions? Need assistance?  
Contact us at 314-942-7350 or [info@caringsolutions.org](mailto:info@caringsolutions.org)

INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS  
Pay by Aug. 31  
\$200 reduced to \$175



## 2020 Caring Solutions Cup Golf Tournament at The Legends

11:00 a.m. Lunch 12:00 p.m. Start

Sponsorships start at \$250  
Online registration available  
at [caringsolutions.org](http://caringsolutions.org)

Contact Caring Solutions at  
**314-942-7350** for up to date info

**The Tournament Committee is closely monitoring conditions  
to assure a safe environment.**