



## A Note from the 180 Degrees Team

Dear Friends and Donors, new and old,

2021 is here! With this new year comes the time for change and improvement. We have been busy, with your help! Not only have we been working with the Star Tribune spotlighting two of 180 Degrees' programs, Brittany's Place and Hope House, we have also had a large remodel.



**Thanks to amazing volunteers and your donations, we have new bedrooms, a new lounge area, and living space at Brittany's Place for girls and young women who've experienced trafficking.**

We are still facing challenges; COVID-19 limits activities for clients in our rural, urban, and suburban shelters, and in our Foster Care program. Thank you for your donations of activity kits, art and baking supplies, and warm clothing. Your gifts brighten the day of those healing from trauma.

Despite all odds, we continue to pursue turning lives around. In this issue of The Turnaround, you will read

how volunteers are transforming Brittany's Place, how youth are empowered at Hope House, an interview with Richard Coffey about leadership, and last but not least, a spotlight on one of our Interns!

**Thank you for making a positive difference!**

Sincerely,

*All of us at 180 Degrees*

## BRITTANY'S PLACE REMODEL: THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & DONORS



Before



After



Before



After

[See all interior design photos in our album here.](#)

The past few months have been busy at 180 Degrees' Brittany's Place. As you may know, we had a full remodel of our St. Paul shelter for girls and young women who've experienced trafficking. **Our heartfelt gratitude to the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for working together with 180 Degrees and Brittany's Place staff.** We are amazed at their generosity. Their talent and contributions have:

- Converted first-floor office space to create new bedrooms for more clients.
- Remodeled the Welcome Room creating a much more inviting first-impression for new clients.
- Provided beautiful new rugs, textiles, and furniture for the lounge, main area, and bedrooms for added comfort.
- Remodeled second-floor bedrooms, complete with new paint, sheets, and art.
- Retouched murals and placed new art installations in the lounge.

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ASID and many other individuals and organizations helped transform and revitalize Brittany's Place into a more comfortable and healing environment for girls and young women who've experienced trauma associated with sex trafficking.

See our full list of over 40 ASID volunteers, their businesses, and other generous in-kind donors who made this possible. If you need interior design, [please patronize these creative and generous businesses.](#)

Thank you for your donations, expertise, and support. Brittany's Place feels more like a home for girls who have experienced unique traumas due to sex trafficking and violence.

**ASID Community Service Committee Members:**

Lisa Ball, Design By Lisa - Jennie Korsbon, J. Korsbon Design - Charlene Ackley, ASID Member President - Nicole Alatar, Sherwin Williams and ASID Director At Large - Kaitlyn Stokes, Crystal Kitchens and ASID PR Committee Member - Michelle Asche, Muska Lighting - Jenni Ruis, Fuse Showroom - Chris Schmitz, ProSource Wholesale - Karen Thullner, Watershed Design Group

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## HOPE HOUSE: GIVING HOPE TO YOUTH



Abigail Botten (right), Hope House Program Mgr  
Emma Silkey (left), Mobile Case & Outreach Mgr

In Minnesota alone, roughly 6,000 youth have experienced homelessness. Leading research organization Chapin Hall estimates that among youth ages 13-17, at least 1 in 30 (roughly 700,000 youth) experience homelessness each year ([Chapin Hall Youth Homelessness Brief](#)).

180 Degrees continues to empower youth and families to help stop the cycle of homelessness.

Opened in 2015, 180 Degrees' Hope House Youth Shelter operates 24/7 for youth in crisis, ages 14-19. Hope House Program Manager Abigail Botten and Outreach Manager Emma Silkey work together to bring hope at our six-bedroom short-term crisis shelter in Excelsior, MN. Abigail describes Hope House as “a safe place for teens in crisis to [have] resources they need for their journey.”

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Many of the youth entering Hope House feel they have little control over their lives. Their experiences are rooted in things like shifting family dynamics and relationships, struggling to have their voices heard, and lacking control over their family's housing situations.

At Hope House, staff meet youth where they're at and empower them along the way. Our goal is to help youth build control over their life and gain confidence in their autonomy. Youth are encouraged to develop personal goals and are introduced to community resources, setting them up with tools to take beyond the program. They gain control over their lives by determining the resources that best suit their needs. "A lot of youth just want the opportunity to have a say." says Abigail.

"It is up to the [youth] to take the first step to ask for help, which can be hard..." Emma says, "There are so many more [people] that are with you, on your side... It's about having the confidence to take that first step." [Read the full article here.](#)

Make sure to follow Hope House on Instagram @HopeHouseMN.

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## 180 DEGREES LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD COFFEY



*Richard Coffey, Program Director*

Richard Coffey, Program Director at 180 Degrees, has had a career that spans many fields. He recounts the highlights: motivational speaker, a father, an ex-Timberwolf and Gopher, and an U.S. Army Airborne Paratrooper Veteran.

It was during his sales career that the question his mother always asked him started to bother him. "Who did you help today?" His mom would end every conversation over the phone with that question. It did not stick at first, but over time it bothered him. So much so that he switched career paths in 2013.

Now as Program Manager for 180 Degrees, Richard leads our Shelter and Supportive Service programs, and a team of 70 people. These Program Managers and Direct Care staff support people who struggle with the effects of poverty, racism, incarceration, and trauma.

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180 Degrees has blossomed because of Richard's supportive and confident style, much like how a basketball coach would strategically switch out players on the court. He uses his experiences to connect with those around him. He gives people chances to shine.

Leading the program team, Richard is a force for advocacy and change while providing hands-on mentorship. As I was talking with 180 Degrees staff, a Program Manager shared, "Richard has helped me realize that I have a voice in my community and it's up to me to be an advocate for myself and those around me. I shouldn't be a bystander and that motivates me to be my best."

Richard's guiding philosophy is centered on finding the inner courage to learn, even at the risk of failure. He believes more people should hold these words in their hearts: "The best leader is one who is able to surround himself or herself with people who are experts in their field."

It is a sobering reminder that we are students in our professions. When we can overcome the anxiety and fear, we make ourselves confident and powerful. That confidence can change lives and impact everyone around us.

So, I ask you this: Who did you help today? [Read full article here.](#)

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## INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT: JOHAN C. WYCKOFF



Social Media Intern Johan Wyckoff is helping 180 Degrees expand its use of social media to educate people about homelessness and sex trafficking of youth. Before Johan joined 180 Degrees, the Marketing team lacked the capacity to publish meaningful content across its social media platforms.

Arriving last November as an intern, Johan joined the team right before Give to the Max Day, Minnesota's biggest day of online giving, and began learning the ins and outs of digital campaigns. In January, Human Trafficking Awareness month, Johan pushed out a month-long educational campaign with stories and facts about human trafficking. The extra coverage helped donors better understand the realities Minnesota youth at risk of or experiencing sex trafficking face.

*Johan C. Wyckoff, Social Media Intern*

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A graduate of University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Johan came to 180 Degrees with a background in writing, social media, and videography. He's used these skills to help grow the organization's social media presence.

"We all want to make some kind of change in the world," Johan said. "I don't have a million bucks that I could donate towards helping improve lives in my community. If I can work with an organization and provide support so they can get the funds and the attention they need to do these long-term projects, I'm fine with that."

Johan has found a professional fit in 180 Degrees, but his connection to the organization is much deeper. The mission is incredibly meaningful to Johan, and his time with 180 Degrees has opened his eyes to the powerful ways that he can use his professional skills to benefit the cause.

"Working with 180 Degrees has been one of the best learning experiences I've ever had," Johan said. "It's like learning about a subject you only hear about in passing. But when you immerse yourself in it, you realize that it is a really serious mission anyone can be a part of."

Johan's main goals for 180 Degrees social media presence are education and engagement, which he achieves using visuals, videos and facts. Johan's advice for anyone considering volunteering at 180 Degrees: "Leave your expectations at the door and learn as much as you can."

Make sure to follow 180 Degrees on social media for future announcements and updates!



**THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Johan Wyckoff, Social Media Intern

Ellie Nowakowski, Writing Intern

Alex Moeller, Marketing & Events Manager