FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, July 6



Mayor Joe Hogsett Awards Stepping Stones Therapy Center as the Certified Vendor of the Month

Minority and Women-Owned Business Recognized for July 2023

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INDIANAPOLIS – On Thursday, July 6, at 11:30 AM, Mayor Joe Hogsett and Director David Fredricks of the Office of Minority and Women Business Development (OMWBD) awarded Stepping Stones Therapy Center as the Certified Vendor of the Month for July 2023.

Stepping Stones Therapy Center was established in 2015 by a licensed health counselor Joycelyn Wilson. This Indianapolis-based therapy center provides child welfare and family preservation services with the Department of Child Services (DCS), counseling, supervised visitation, casework and wrap-around services for Marion County Coroners' office, and self-referred services for families. The Stepping Stones team assesses current challenges, strengths, and functioning levels through, clinical interviews to determine the best evidence-based treatment for their clients. The team offers personalized care and unique treatment plans to meet client's needs and build confidence for long-lasting mental wellness. To better serve the community, Stepping Stones Therapy Center and the City of Indianapolis are currently in the process of launching the 'Clinician Led Community Response Team' to respond to mental health calls from 911 with the goal of reducing the number of incarcerations and hospital admission for people with mental health needs or substance use disorders.

"July's Vendor of the Month is not only a valued and local minority-owned business, they are a critical partner for the City of Indianapolis," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "As a key player in the City's new Clinician Led 911 response team, they are helping Indy more effectively respond to mental health crises."

The Certified Vendor of the Month is an ongoing initiative between the city of Indianapolis' Mayor's Office and the Office of Minority and Women's Business Development to bring more attention to certified minority, women, veteran, and disabled-owned businesses (XBEs). The July 2023 Directory with over 900 XBEs can be found <u>here</u>. Stepping Stones Therapy Center was chosen as the month's vendor due to its dedication to improving people's and families' lives one day at a time by offering quality services and support.

About City of Indianapolis Office of Minority and Women Business Development:

The Office of Minority and Women Business Development (OMWBD) is committed to serving businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and people with ADA disabilities. The agency helps you access contract opportunities from the city, county, municipal, and privately funded projects in Central Indiana. Businesses interested in becoming certified as a minority, woman, veteran, or disabled-owned business enterprise can learn more about the process and connect with OMWBD here.

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