



Press Release

Contact:

Renaë Vania-Tomczak
President & CEO
219.937.7733 x105
renaë@mhalakecounty.org

For Immediate Release

Mental Health America of Lake County, IN, Moves Agency Headquarters to Hammond

HAMMOND, Ind. – More than 100 people attended the ribbon cutting for Mental Health America of Lake County (MHALC), on September 27 at the nonprofit agency’s new headquarters in Hammond, Ind., located at 5311 Hohman Avenue. The event celebrates the relocation to a 19,000 sq. ft. two-floor lease space owned by First Merchants Bank, which also operates a retail banking center at this location.

We are thrilled to unify our team under one roof in the City of Hammond,” said Renaë Vania-Tomczak, President & CEO. “Representatives from both First Merchants Bank and the City of Hammond have been gracious and welcoming to our organization, which proudly celebrates 60 years of service to Lake County, IN, this coming year. We can’t think of a better way to celebrate this milestone than to make this commitment of expansion for our employees and the families we serve.”

Mental Health America of Lake County (MHALC) provides many well-known, evidence-based, local programs such as **Healthy Families Lake County, Parents as Teachers, Empowering Teens as Parents, Infant Safe Sleep Education and I’m Thumbbody Special**. Our 2015 services included more than 11,000 home visits with vulnerable families using a strength-based approach to promote family well-being. In addition, the organization serves as a referral resource offering information to help people make informed mental health provider choices and find supports to help them toward recovery.

The new MHALC agency headquarters not only provides operational efficiency to the nonprofit, but also provides employees of these programs with expanded space and shared common areas in which teams can collaborate with the on-site support of MHALC management. Hasse Construction served as the construction manager for the project buildout.

“A unified headquarters has been on our wish list for some time,” said Vania-Tomczak. “We have had marked growth in staffing over the past two years, going from approximately 40 employees to 70-and counting, making it imperative to provide more space and cross-communication opportunities for our program teams. With the help of our Board of Directors, we have been able to turn this concept into an exciting reality sooner than imagined and are looking ahead with great appreciation for where we are today - and with great anticipation of continued growth and service to the community.”

As a result of MHALC’s continued growth, the organization will maintain a small satellite office in south Lake County, to meet the needs of its south Lake County employees and clients. Current programming is provided to families in every city and town within the county.

“Keeping pace in providing services to a growing number of vulnerable people required a change of venue to an area of the county where 75 percent of our program families reside,” said John Freyek, MHALC Board Chair. “This location provides us with more space, enhanced facilities, and better access to serve more families.”

About MHALC

Mental Health America of Lake County (MHALC) is an award-winning, non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the communities it serves through proven programs that educate, empower, and strengthen the way families function for life. We operate from an empowerment philosophy with prevention and early intervention programming to create generational change in the lives of families. In 2015, MHALC was named *Empowering Business of the Year* by NWI Influential Women for its support of women in the workplace and was the 2015 recipient of the *Workforce Diversity Award* by the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. In 2017, MHALC will celebrate its 60th year of service to communities throughout Lake County, IN.

For more information on MHALC and its programs, visit www.mhalakecounty.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MentalHealthAmericaofLakeCounty.

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