

## NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR: Proud to be a finalist

CFI has been chosen as a finalist in BizTimes Media's seventh annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards program, and we invite you to attend the Nov. 6 event [remotely](#). More than 100 nominations were submitted for the program this year, and 20 finalists were named in eight different categories. An overall winner in each category will be announced the morning of the event. We are honored to join other finalists in the large nonprofit category:

- Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin
- Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center

This award is given to a nonprofit organization in recognition for creativity and innovation in building a sustainable organization, excellence in teamwork and an outstanding dedication to the organization's mission.



## CONNECTING CLIENTS

### Pumpkin-decorating contest draws clients closer

How does one stay connected in a disconnected world? That's the question that's been bugging



staff at [Whole Health Clinical Group](#), the behavioral health division at Milwaukee Center for Independence, for several weeks.

Thanks to some creativity and perfect timing, the question was answered. Recently, Whole Health Clinical Group held a friendly pumpkin decorating contest between its group homes, as well as The Wellness Center Art Therapy Group, and the Crisis Resource Centers' north and south campus locations. Mary Wetley, operations manager at Whole Health Clinical Group, said the goal of the contest was to figure out a way to reconnect people, which has been a struggle for those living in the group homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Multiple staff identified a need to create an activity that included residents so they don't feel so alone through these difficult times, to create an activity that we can participate in together while also being distanced," Wetley said. The residents of the group homes typically consist of people who have a mental health diagnosis. Before the pandemic, it was common for family or volunteers to visit the residents to say "Hi" or just hang out. Since the pandemic hit in March, visitors haven't been

allowed inside the homes. Visits were forced to be held outside and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

“As the cold weather approaches, it’s becoming more challenging to have visitors,” Wetley said, adding, “Not being able to visit with their families has been a hardship.”

The contest idea came with the help of Dawn Kondreck, who works in the IT department at MCFI. She likes arts and crafts, as well as antique fairs.

“It’s neat to see how things can be repurposed,” Kondreck said.

The contest received more than 30 submissions, which was exciting to see for all who were involved, including Kondreck.

“They’re so much more talented than I am,” she said.



## Workforce Tour returns! Tune in!

[The WKLH Morning Show](#) is hitting the road for another Workforce Tour broadcast with Dave, Dorene and Gino LIVE at our Main Campus, Thursday, Nov. 19. Tune in at 96.5 FM between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.!

## Thank you for your Birth to Three gift!

We are thankful to the Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund for its generous \$10,000 gift for our Birth to Three program.

The funds will be used to provide interpretation services for non-English-speaking parents.

An early intervention program that began in 1993,

[Birth to Three](#) provides in-home education and specialized therapies for infants and toddlers at risk of developmental delay. An evidence-based model, Birth to Three increases positive social, emotional and behavioral skills, and helps shape child development.



MILWAUKEE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE

