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VANTAGE Aging Hires Gizelle Jones as Behavioral Health Solutions Program Director

Akron nonprofit making changes to improve the lives of Summit County Seniors

Akron, Ohio (Feb. 27, 2018) – VANTAGE Aging (formerly Mature Services), announced the hire of Gizelle Jones as Director of Behavioral Health Solutions. VANTAGE is an Akron-based agency that provides programs to help older adults maintain their independence and age in place.

Gizelle will oversee the Behavioral Health Solutions program, which provides mental health services and addiction treatment to older adults. The program offers a variety of counseling services, including assessments, case management, home visits, anxiety and depression counseling, and gambling treatment.

Substance abuse and mental health issues are often overlooked in our older population. Many symptoms can be masked by psychosocial factors such as the loss of a loved one, changes in financial stability due to retirement, and emotional stress due to health decline. VANTAGE Behavioral Health Solutions acknowledges the unique needs of older adults in need of support.

FIT FOR THE JOB

Directing the VANTAGE Behavioral Health Solutions program requires a superior understanding counseling practices and passion for helping seniors. Gizelle’s impressive list of credentials and experience reflect both.

Gizelle is licensed by the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board as a Licensed Independent Social worker with Supervision Endorsement. She has worked in the field of social work for over 30 years, specializing in depression, women’s issues, program development, community collaboration, and cognitive behavioral therapy with families and individuals with supervisory expertise.

Prior to joining VANTAGE, Gizelle served as the Executive Director and Forum Chair for Jewish Family Services in Akron, a nonprofit that offers counseling, care management, and education services for older adults.

“We are thrilled to welcome Gizelle to the VANTAGE team,” said VANTAGE President/CEO Karen Hrdlicka. “Gizelle has proven that she is a competent and caring social work professional and supervisor with a unique interest in helping older adults meet their recovery goals. We look forward to what the future has in store for the program and the agency with Gizelle as Director of Behavioral Health Solutions.”

In 2014, Gizelle was honored as one of the Akron Urban League’s Magnificent Seven Women of Power, which is given to women who are committed to giving back and making a difference in their organizations and communities.

Gizelle serves on the United Way Food and Shelter Board and the Senior Independent Living Coalition. She is the Chair of the Summit County Elder Abuse Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team), which works to advise adult protective services providers in planning for comprehensive services to vulnerable elders who are abused, neglected or exploited. She is a member of the Hoarding Task Force and Women’s Endowment Fund. She earned her Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Bowling Green State University.

“I am excited to be a part of an organization committed to enhancing the lives of seniors in Summit County and beyond,” said Gizelle of her new role at VANTAGE.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SENIORS

Bringing Gizelle Jones onboard as Director of VANTAGE Behavioral Health Solutions is just one change this four-decade-old nonprofit has set into motion. With a new location, name, and look implemented in the past year, VANTAGE has the potential to disrupt aging in Summit and surrounding counties.

The Akron-based nonprofit recently changed its name from Mature Services to VANTAGE Aging. Formerly called Avenues to Recovery, Behavioral Health Solutions is one of 5 programs that VANTAGE offers to assist older adults. Other programs include Workforce Solutions, Home Wellness Solutions, Meals on Wheels of Northern Ohio, and RSVP. It also operates several social enterprises, including Encore Staffing Network and Catering for a Cause.

VANTAGE promotes a positive perspective on aging and addresses the needs of one of our community’s most marginalized populations – seniors.

To learn more about VANTAGE Aging, visit vantageaging.org, call 330-253-4597, or email info@vantageaging.org.

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About VANTAGE Aging

VANTAGE Aging (formerly Mature Services) provides high-quality programs to empower the economic, social, physical, and mental well-being of adults as they age. Our programs include homecare, alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention, mental health counseling, job training, home-delivered and congregate meals, and volunteer opportunities. Founded in 1975 as a senior citizen program, it has since become an independent, nationally respected organization with offices throughout the state. For more information, visit vantageaging.org.