

CHANGED TRAJECTORY

“Leadership Whitley County Changed My Life”

TIFFANY CAREINS, Leadership Whitley County Class 10 alumna, shared a Facebook post about a speaking engagement for her current employer at Leadership Fort Wayne and mentioned LWC changed the trajectory of her life.

In the back corner of BrewHa’s coziness with blended chais, she shared her story.

Life Changes

Tiffany was a younger version of herself when she stumbled upon LWC. The leadership program is one that helps residents, employees and leaders of Whitley County develop and engage themselves as servant leaders in their homes, workplace and community. Most commonly, an employer will recommend applicants, but in Tiffany’s case she started her own path toward the program.

“I was going through some life changes and a professional colleague encouraged me to get involved in the community. I had attended an LWC wine tasting event in the past and approached my colleague about doing the program.

My colleague was an alumnus of the program who spoke to the program facilitator at the time, Kelley Sheiss, who in turn talked to my employer at the time,” Tiffany said.

At the time of her enrollment, fall 2010, Tiffany was employed as a dispatcher for the Whitley County Sheriff’s Department. The department agreed to pay for Tiffany’s tuition and the department has since supported the program with consistent enrollment.

The push to be involved in something greater and the connection of professional networking sparked Tiffany’s life in a way she never imagined.

Non-Profit Service Leads to More

LWC provided Tiffany with community involvement opportunities, lifelong friends, and more.

“My LWC experience really got me interested in not-for-profit leadership, so I went back to school and received my degree from Huntington University.” While Tiffany enjoyed the work at the Sherriff’s Department, she wanted to impact even more people and applied for an opportunity with Toys for Tots.

“I applied and got it,” Tiffany explained.

Every September, Toys for Tots has a national conference in Washington, D.C. As if things weren’t good enough, they got even better on the trip.

Tiffany explained how she was traveling with her

counterpart from Allen County when they ran into Matt, who was serving Georgia’s Toys for Tots program and knew the Allen County representative.

Matt asked where Tiffany was serving and she said, “Whitley County.”

He was from Columbia City and was looking to move back in the area. He was unsure where he wanted to settle but offered to help Tiffany any way he could on the local campaign.

Seven months later-- Matt and Tiffany were married!!

Where She is Now

Tiffany now works for a faith-based online mental health chat center called RemedyLIVE.

Their chat center provides safe and compassionate listeners 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

“We aren’t counselors, we’re trained listeners. We hear things people have kept inside for decades when they need us the most,” Tiffany said.

RemedyLIVE has several programs and serves people nationwide. There are virtual opportunities and options for in-person visits to train students and adults how to get help when it matters most.

Locally, RemedyLIVE has been working with Bowen Center and Cross Winds to bring in-person training to our local schools. RemedyLIVE has been in all three Whitley County school corporations in the past.

To learn more about RemedyLIVE, visit their website.

In addition to her marriage, Tiffany and her husband welcomed Noah to their family. Noah will turn one year on Dec. 26.

“It’s funny, the day I went into labor I called an LWC friend. When we went through the program, she worked for Parkview and she helped me navigate my active labor,” Tiffany remembered.

Leadership Whitley County gave Tiffany so many opportunities just because she took the chance. It truly changed the trajectory of her whole life.

If someone was on the fence about attending LWC, Tiffany said, “if you’re here because your employer made you come, give it a chance. This could be the chance you never realized you had.”

To share your story about the impact LWC had on your professional or personal life, send an email to lwc@whitleyedc.com, or simply tag us on social media. LWC loves connecting with alumni and would love to share your story of how you engaged and served after the program.

LWC applications are currently closed for the year, but open June 2022 for the next class. If you wish to join the wait list, email lwc@whitleyedc.com.



Tiffany and Noah Careins