

The Rainbow Project's 2021 Extra Mile Award

**Goodman Community Center's Early Childhood Program**

*Accepted by Miranda Starr*

Have you ever worked with someone who had joy, energy, initiative, passion and great ideas, who also had a heart of gold and a hysterical sense of humor to boot? And who made you feel better about yourself and the world just by being around that person? Yes? Then you must have worked with Miranda Starr and the team at the Goodman Community Center. The Rainbow Project is very excited to present Miranda and Goodman with an Extra Mile Award this year.

Miranda has a rich background in education as a kindergarten teacher, Lead Teacher and Bridges Coordinator. Miranda is now the Early Childhood Partnership Manager and Transition to School-Age Care Professional Course Instructor at the Goodman Center.

Miranda also serves as a District Certified Classroom Teacher, is certified in Mental Health First Aid and is a certified Childcare Tier 3 Trained Trainer. She is a part of the Racial Justice Community of Practice, Co-Director of Cultural Connections, part of the Dane County Trauma-Informed Community Advisory Council and Key member of the I.D.E.A. Team, which is a diversity and cultural competency committee developed to proactively assess internal agency practices through the lens of diversity, inclusion and equity.

The Goodman Center team has been on the frontline working with children, youth and families during these challenging times. Nonetheless, they pivoted to overcome barriers to provide childcare, mentoring, out-of-school time and parent support. They provide high-quality, real-life, relevant care, transportation, programs, education and support that comes from strong policies, that are then carried out by strong, dedicated staff.

Thank you, Miranda and the Goodman team for your leadership, integrity, high standards and compassion for the children and families you help every day. On behalf of all of us at the Rainbow Project, we thank you for your inspiration and partnership.

