Andrus

We Are Andrus

Spring 2023

OUR MISSION Andrus is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative, coordinated social and emotional support for all.

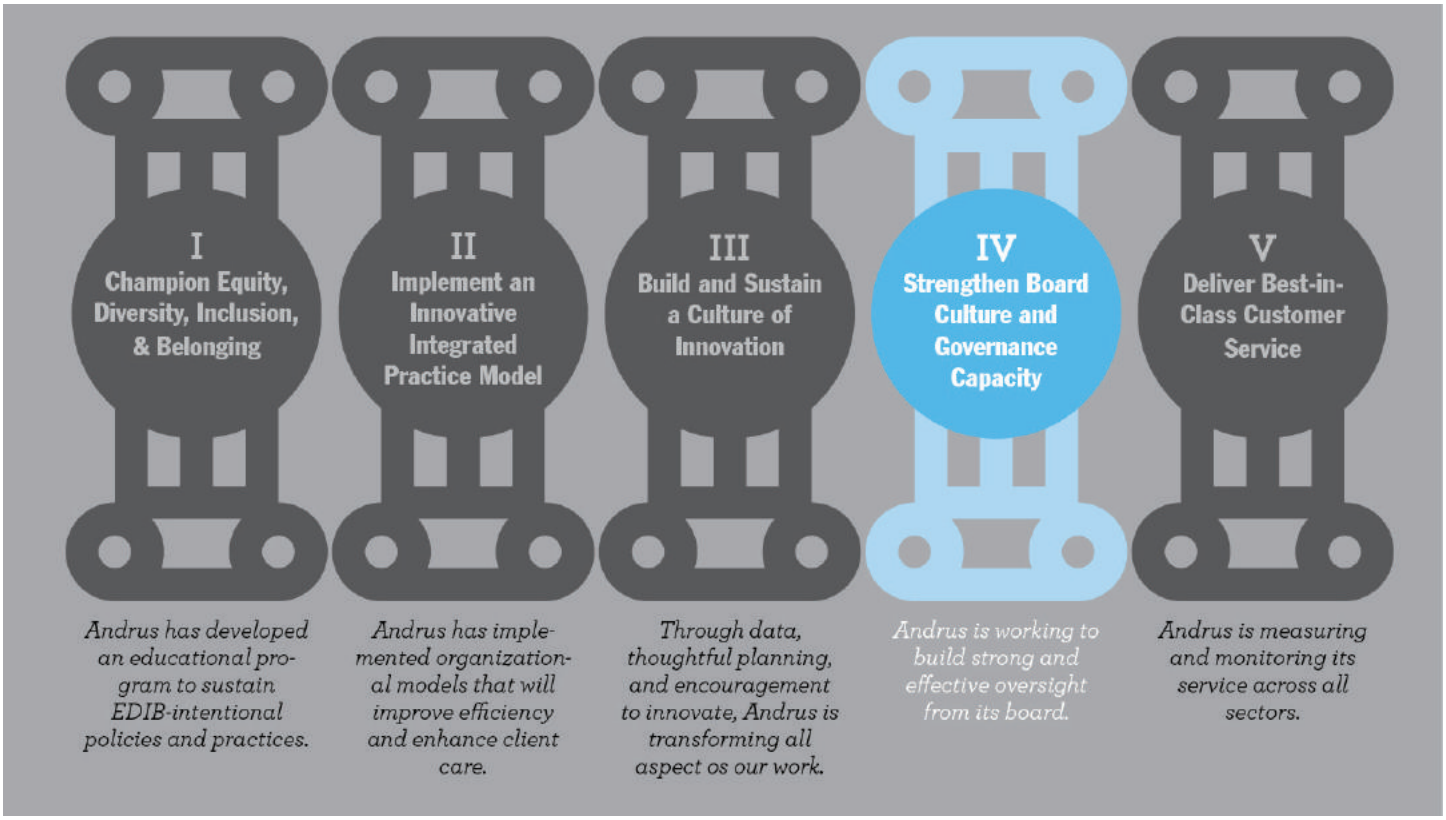
OUR VISION Our vision for the community we serve is for children and families to discover a place of safety and healing.

Pillar IV: Strengthen Board Culture and Governance Capacity

A Message From Our President & CEO Heath Bloch

Board governance is a combination of people, policies, processes and procedures that manage the business of an organization. It is through board governance that decisions are made that create long-term value and sustainability for all stakeholders.

As a critical element of our strategic plan, the Andrus board of directors engaged with staff and outside advisors in an evaluation of the culture and capacity of its members, and member roles going forward. There is a strong commitment from the board to create a robust pipeline of new board members that will help Andrus achieve its mission and position the organization for continued growth into the future.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Children gathered in the McGee Hall gym for a celebration of St. Patrick's Day where they could choose from various edible and inedible crafts, pick out themed glasses and leis, and dance on the gym floor to tunes supplied by a DJ.

Years of Service Milestones

Every year we take time to recognize our extraordinary staff who have achieved their Years of Service milestones. These committed staff members are critical to fulfilling our mission. They demonstrate our core values in the work they do every day for our children, families, and the communities we support. This April we were excited to honor 35 staff members who achieved their milestones last year. We are grateful for the meaningful work they do, the dedication they exhibit, and the inspiration they provide in moving the organization forward, even in the toughest of times.

Congratulations and thank you to the following heroes who work here:

25 Years
Roger Burton
Corine Lurry-Mabin

20 Years
Alicia Waldie-Coleman
Sybil Beddingfield

15 Years
Akruti Pandya Jennifer DeVita Melissa DuQuesnay
Manuel Noguera

10 Years
Amed Olivares
Maxine Reddy
Claudio Guglielmi
Fady Hajal
Ibet Hernandez
Lauren Harrow
Darlene Chiriboga
Lewis Edney
Samuel Mensah
Joseph Delfino

5 Years
Herbert Oviedo
Raquel Cheney
Karina Pacheco
Tracy-Ann Bridge
Da'Lesha Lakes
Pricilla Coleman
William Castillo
Sujei Burgos
Noel Quinones
Susie DoCarmo
Shira Kafker
Aviva Kafka
Nicole Russo
Tonya Brooks
Kristina Jenney
Andrew Militscher
Sheila Nazario

Spotlight:

Recreation Therapy at Andrus

Andrus provides recreation therapy that includes special programs like the ropes course, motor cycles, swimming, various sports, animal therapy, music therapy, gardening, and cooking, among others.

The Andrus Recreation Therapy Department, aka the Rec Team, on "The Whale."

New Friends

Meet Jack-Jack

The newest member of the Andrus Pets at Work for Sanctuary (PAWS) program, Jack-Jack is an adorable yellow lab puppy. He was a student himself, learning how to interact with children.

Now that he's graduated to work on our main campus, Jack-Jack joins a long line of wonderful PAWS dogs who have provided support and care to students and staff over the years.

These amazing animals are an important part of the therapy we provide the children in our care. The simple act of petting an animal releases hormones that elevate mood and lower anxiety, promoting the very real health benefits of lowering blood pressure, decreasing heart rates and lowering stress.

We are all very excited to welcome Jack-Jack to campus!

A New Look

Our Mission Has Evolved. Our Brand Has Too.

Andrus was seeking a fresh visual brand identity that would complement our evolving mission and vision. Marketing professionals Bud Lavery and Jeff Seaver had recently accomplished a successful redesign of our Annual Report, and they were tasked with developing a new logo and brand.

The objective was to create a visual identity that would convey the organization's dedication to serving families and the community using innovative, coordinated support that transforms lives. The process involved extensive research and ongoing consultation with Andrus staff, board members, clients, and other stakeholders. The outcome is a robust new logo and brand that symbolizes the strength of our commitment to helping children and families thrive.

The Sanctuary Institute's Network Days

The Sanctuary Institute® restarted its annual, in-person, 3-day "Sanctuary Network Days" conference this April.

Over 170 people participated—making connections, sharing stories, and reenforcing the tenants of the Sanctuary Model that have informed so many organizations in the importance of trauma-informed practice. There were three incredible keynote speakers, 24 workshops, a panel discussion and a lively networking session. Six Andrus board members also attended to show their support and learn more about the network.

Board members Michael Spensley and Norman Coker with Board Chair, Susan Guma, at Sanctuary Network Days.

Happening at Andrus

June 7
Staff Appreciation Party

June 21
School District Welcome Breakfast

June 23
Graduation

June 26
Camp Week Begins

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