Johnny, an artist at RHD’s Imagine That! creative arts studio for people with intellectual disabilities, was one of the artists selected by the Charlotte Street Foundation for Mobank’s 2018 Artboards. Johnny exhibited commissioned images on the exterior, double-sided billboards above downtown Kansas City. The “Artboards” will be visible to the public all hours of the day, and will remain on view through the spring.

It’s just one of many recent honors and awards for artists at Imagine That!, which offers creativity-based healing and learning opportunities for artists of all abilities, empowering people to realize their creative potential and explore various means of personal expression.

Gilvon placed first in the annual Directors Creativity Showcase, sponsored by the Missouri Mental Health Foundation in partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and Daniel’s piece “Dark Fusion” was accepted for the Art of Possibilities exhibition in Minneapolis in April.

In addition, staff art coordinator Jillian is one of three winners of the 2018 Visual Artist Awards from the Charlotte Street Foundation.

At Imagine That!, artists are supported by teams of other artists that help integrate the studio into the art community at a local, national, and international level. Imagine That! supports up to 50 individual artists with 13 staff members and a number of volunteers from the surrounding area. Since 2012, the studio for artists with intellectual disabilities has exhibited throughout Kansas City, as well as in several group exhibitions across the country.

Marco Giordano named RHD CEO

The RHD Board of Directors announced that Marco Giordano has been appointed to the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer.

“Marco brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role, an uniriting work ethic, and an ardent commitment to the values and culture of the corporation,” RHD Board of Directors Chairman Michael Denomme said. “The Board is confident that he will provide the kind of wise, vibrant and empowering leadership that will enable RHD to continue its remarkable success as a highly effective and innovative human service organization.”

Giordano had occupied an interim position as RHD’s CEO since July. The Board made its official announcement in December 2017.

“I am honored, and very grateful to the board, for the opportunity to lead this extraordinary organization of caring, exceptional people dedicated to serving people across the country,” Giordano said. “The excellence of RHD’s person-centered, trauma-informed services will always be our highest priority. I am excited to lead RHD into the future, as all of us work together to make sure RHD is always a place that believes every person should be treated with respect and dignity, and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.”

Giordano joined RHD in February 2007, as Chief Accounting Officer and has been a member of RHD’s Executive Management Team since 2008. He became Chief Financial Officer in 2013.

A Certified Public Accountant since 1996, Giordano joined RHD after five years of public accounting experience at Cogen Sklar Levick (now Morison Cogen LLP) and nine years at Temple University Hospital. Giordano attended Widener University and graduated with a BBA in Accounting.

“I am excited to lead the this amazing organization, and look forward to the work we’ll do together,” Giordano said. “RHD works every day to meet challenges that make our communities better places. To see people change their lives, and know RHD played a part in it, how could you not get excited about that?”
In Wendy’s arrangement, Sarah’s hair is pulled back, her face is partially obscured, and she appears to be wearing a white shirt. Sarah is holding a large plate of food, and there is a chair nearby. The background is blurred, but it appears to be an outdoor setting with greenery.

On the opposite page, there is an image of a mural painted on a wall, featuring various people and objects. The mural is colorful and vibrant, with different shapes and patterns. The people depicted in the mural appear to be engaged in various activities, such as playing instruments, dancing, and interacting with each other.

The text on the page reads: "At RHD, we believe in empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and live fulfilling lives. We provide a wide range of services to support clients with special needs, including residential care, employment services, and community integration. Through our innovative programs and approach, we strive to create meaningful opportunities for all individuals."

Further down, there is a quote that says: "I keep thinking I'm going to do something else, but I'm not. I've been doing this for years, and I still love it."

In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for RHD, along with some contact information, including a phone number and email address. Additionally, there is a website address: rhd.org.

The page also includes a section titled "Valiant Murals: A Family Affair," which features images of people painting murals on walls and interacting with each other. The text describes the collaborative efforts of families in creating art together, with a focus on the collective impact it has on the individuals involved.

Overall, the page is filled with images and text that highlight the diverse range of services provided by RHD, as well as the meaningful relationships and opportunities it creates for its clients and the communities it serves.
RHD’s Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Services, the oldest RHD program, expands services for children and families to meet increased needs in their community

Poppys is not just a client at RHD’s Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Services — he’s one of the program’s most enthusiastic supporters.

“People really listen to me here and are understanding of me and my experiences,” said Poppys, who experienced homelessness and described his behavioral health challenges as “difficult.” “The support they offered was very helpful in helping me to figure things out. At LMCMS they have a gift to make us all feel valued, heard and respected. I do not feel alone in the world anymore, knowing that I have a team of caring clinicians who want the best for me and have the skills to make sure I am happy and healthy.

“LMCMS has the best and brightest staff who care about each person who walks through the door.”

LMCMS has been providing the highest quality outpatient mental health therapy, psychiatric, and mobile services to children, adolescents, adults, and families since 1970. RHD’s history of innovative services began with the founding of this very program, in response to a community need for outpatient services. Today LMCMS offers individualized support and community-based treatment to more than 500 people each month.

This year LMCMS expanded services with the opening of a Child & Family Center, serving children, adolescents, and families with behavioral health treatment in a holistic and compassionate manner in a safe and engaging environment.

“When my daughter started showing a significant amount of stress at school we knew it was time to pursue behavioral health services,” said Alyssa, whose daughter Roxy is a client at LMCMS. “I don’t think my daughter knew what to expect when she started, but now she very much enjoys attending every week. The services at LMCMS have been great. My daughter finds the experience so valuable that she’s signed up for an additional group. This school year, my daughter is having an easier time and feeling less overwhelmed.

“The skills she’s learning are useful when something stressful does arise. As a parent, I’m so happy that my daughter has this kind of help.”

The LMCMS clinical program is designed for children and adolescents ages 2-18 who need support with their transition into the next stage of development. Each year more than 800 children and adolescents receive specialized care at LMCMS.

It’s an extension of the commitment to service excellence always found at LMCMS. Last year LMCMS became among the first providers in the nation to participate in a new program aimed at improving behavioral health services with the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) designation. CCBHCs provide the comprehensive array of services necessary to create access, stabilize people in crisis, and provide the necessary treatment for those with the most serious, complex mental illnesses and addictions.

“We listen,” said LMCMS Director Kelly Clarke. “People’s values are an important element in their treatment. We assess and understand their preferences, individual concerns, and expectations.

“Clinicians at LMCMS have education and experience that shapes their clinical skills. Skill is more than delivering a specific service, treatment, or practice. It is the combination of care and knowledge, applied with the individual’s needs in mind. We consider each person’s unique characteristics, situation, and preferences. We understand that treatment must be individualized and ever-changing.

“LMCMS strives to educate ourselves, people who participate in our services, and our community about mental illness and substance abuse, and the hopeful possibilities of treatment and recovery.”

“As a parent, I’m happy that my daughter has this kind of help.”

LMCMS’ person-centered services provide outpatient drug and alcohol services with integrated treatment at each person’s own pace, helping hundreds of people each year sustain and maintain recovery.

“I had hit rock bottom in my life,” said G.A., a client at LMCMS. “I was referred to LMCMS, and it is their support that I receive that helps me to keep on going.

“If it wasn’t for the services I receive at LMCMS I think I would still be living on the street. The staff is very helpful and very supportive. I have someone to help me through challenges. My Certified Peer Specialist believes in me, and even helped me to get a tutor so that I can learn how to read. I am currently working on my GED and believe that I will get it. I feel better than I have felt in a long time.”
Late in the afternoon the staff at RHD Mobile Crisis Services in Louisiana went on a crisis call and found a mother sitting with her adopted daughter.

"The mom and her daughter are home and utilizing resources, but the mother seemed resigned to giving up and make those steps with them. It's important that people feel like they don't have to do this on their own."

RHD has been providing services in the New Orleans area since 1992, and today supports a diverse human-services network that provides an array of essential services to the community.

"What RHD provides is the opportunity to reach people, to support an individual who needs something — and that something may not be in every instance, but they need something," Sims said.

"The way RHD organizes programs and services gives us the freedom to do that. Jefferson Parish, our community, operates differently, than, say, Louisiana."

RHD programs in Louisiana are uniquely positioned to respond to a wide variety of individual and community challenges, sharing resources and communication are among the cornerstones of every RHD program.
Sen. Casey visits FPCN

U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) visited RHD’s Family Practice & Counseling Network to see firsthand the impact FPCN has on its community. Sen. Casey toured the health center, met the staff and spoke with patients like Eugenia Turner (pictured, right) who told him: “This place saved my life.” FPCN delivers quality affordable health care to more than 24,000 people each year.