



Jaclyn Kohler-Braker

A Gathering Place Massage Therapy School

A Gathering Place Massage Therapy-School positively impacts our community by offering an education in massage to those who want to become licensed massage therapists. We pride ourselves on a holistic and in depth program that invests in each individual strengths and interests, leading to empowered individuals that are successful and love their careers. Not only are we supporting those looking for their first or new career, we give back to the community with our student clinic where the students get to practice massage on the public at affordable rates and where all tips collected are donated to local charities. We also have discounted chair massage for local businesses which is a win-win for the students to practice e and for recipients to get self care at an affordable rate. We have partnered with what was previously Burrell many times and love that we are giving back to so many care professional care providers in our community.

We believe in creating quality care for our students so they can be quality therapists for their clients. We know that this is enhanced through our approach of focusing on 10 students per class to ensure quality and dedication to each student and have seen a successful completion of the boards exam the first time our students take it. We know that the calling to be of service is a common reason people sign up for our program and we love to know we are multiplying the love and safe touch that massage offers to people by giving those who attend a quality education that is affordable and that is completed quickly. We follow the standard given to us by the Missouri Department of Education, are well networked in the community to support job placement, and follow up with our therapists once in the field to ensure they are thriving. Our vision is always evolving and will soon have an alumni association to support community and self care for our therapists. We also have discounted clinic massages to make self care easy supporting longevity in the careers of the graduates in the field.

A favorite aspects of our program is the 50 hours of 'intro to' modalities of massage that allows the greater community of senior therapists to teach the students different types of massage and bodywork. This not only gives them a well rounded tool box to work with when they graduate, it also ensures they see what they can study as they continue their careers and complete their required continuing education hours. It also networks them with their peers in the community and opens their minds to the many possibilities that exist for them.

We value ourselves on always striving for a win-win mentality. This is teaching and practicing communication with our students and staff to make sure all needs are met or we can find a compromise as needed, leading to solutions that support optimal learning and true human connection. We model how we want to show up for our clients by how we show up for each other throughout the program. We also speak to being trauma informed and teach on our own self care routines to be the best we can be for ourselves and our clients. The culture of massage therapy school is a movement to educate and empower each individual to be their own therapist on the mental and emotional levels and give sessions that lead their clients to pain free lives that create joy and connection to themselves and the world around them in an embodied way.

This is a meaningful season of our Springfield campus as we are still in our beginning phases of building our vision and becoming known in our community. The first year was mostly a one woman show with the support of a few therapists teaching some classes throughout each students education to make it possible.

As we have continued, we have been able to contract more teachers to help the variety of offerings and it means so much to be, the Branch Administrator who has been doing the ground work since before we opened the doors to see the growth in business, but more importantly see the graduates thrive in the field of massage and bodywork. As a massage therapist myself, I know I can only give so many massages but in multiplying how many of us strive to walk a path of service and make the world a better place through presence and loving touch one session at a time, I feel I am doing my part to invest in humanity in the way I know how. Although I am only one woman, I see each student as another strong beacon that will support their community whether in Springfield or within surrounding communities as some are driving hours to attend.

I'm most proud of the students who choose to answer the call, their intuition, their hearts to become massage therapists, investing in themselves and their dreams and the work they put in to their education and craft.



Jaclyn is a yogini and massage therapist who is committed to creating peace and love for herself and those around her. She graduated from A Gathering Place-St. Louis in July of 2017, completing continuing education in: Sound Healing, Myofascial Release, Thai Massage and Reiki through the Master Level. With over 12 years of extensive yoga studies totaling over 1,200 hours in courses with many teachers, she has found alternative and eastern modalities of healing to be her forte and loves to bring her knowledge to the program at A Gathering Place-Springfield.

Whether in her studies at A Gathering Place Massage Therapy School or through her many years of Yoga studies, she has been blessed with experiencing community as the web of love needed for growth and healing. She is honored to be the Branch Administrator holding the vision for community, education and growth for each individual who joins the massage therapy program at A Gathering Place Massage Therapy School-Springfield.