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Dexter Chamber 2023 Business of the Year - Bootheel Pediatric Therapy

MARCH 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Friday, March 22, 2024. Since the Chamber began 80 years ago, the theme was the 1980s. Members dressed in their best 80s themed clothing and the Elks Lodge was decorated in 80s theme!

Brock Williams, Board Vice President presented Business of the Year award.

According to Bethany Hamilton, motivational speaker, "Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you."

Cast your mind back to the year 2008, a pivotal moment for Ben and Belinda Worley, as they received the life-changing diagnosis of Autism for their daughter, Emma.

At the outset of this challenging journey, the Worley family faithfully traveled an hour, three times a week, for therapy. Yet, it soon became evident to Belinda that their family was not alone in seeking a local therapy solution.

With unwavering courage in 2009, a haven for parents and children alike was born.

Enter Bootheel Pediatric Therapy, a sanctuary established to support families navigating the intricate paths of their child's development. Belinda Worley, the visionary behind Bootheel Pediatric Therapy, has been an advocate for children's speech and language development for an impressive 21 years.

Operating within a clinic-based setting, she extends her expertise to children with various developmental delays.

Through a combination of guided practices, play, and engaging exercises, Belinda empowers each child to discover their unique voice in their own time.

Bootheel Pediatric Therapy not only offers Speech and Language Service, but Belinda has also formed Autism Rocks, where she travels all over the country educating and advocating for those with autism.

In 2021, Belinda became a published author with the release of “An Autism Journey of Hope”, a novel dedicated to being a resource to understanding, acceptance, and strength for those navigating the world of autism.

While Bootheel Pediatric Therapy may seem like a one-woman show, Belinda has profoundly impacted the lives of hundreds of individuals.

She humbly contends that those who have touched her life are the true superheroes.

This entire journey commenced with an extraordinary little girl and her remarkable parents.

Thanks to the presence of Ms. Emma, our entire community has been enriched by the invaluable contributions of Bootheel Pediatric Therapy and the Worley family.

It is a privilege and an honor to bestow the 2023 Business of the Year award upon Bootheel Pediatric Therapy.

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