

DIVERSE SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT:

Q&A with Dr. Kim Allen of A Friend of the Family, Inc.

»» The State Chamber recognizes the importance and value of its members who qualify as Diverse Suppliers. Diverse and inclusive workplaces ultimately foster innovation and increase economic performance in the community. We want to share these stories:

Tell us about A Friend of the Family. What do you do and what services do you offer?

A Friend of the Family, Inc. (AFOF) is an educational firm that provides alternative learning strategies and programming to students and families within various school districts across Delaware.

What inspired you to start this business?

Drawing from my background with a Masters in Social Work and Doctorate in Educational Administration, I recognized the need to serve children with learning differences and behavioral challenges. I also saw the need to support parents in working effectively with their children. AFOF was established in 2001 and we have been fortunate to continue our contributions within the State of Delaware ever since.

What personal satisfaction do you derive from being in business for yourself?

Being in business for myself allows me to have a greater influence in the decision-making process to help children. It is very



Dr. Kim L. Allen and William L. Allen host The Allen Celebrity Golf Challenge annually in partnership with The First Tee Delaware. The goal of the Challenge is to expose students to celebrities and/or potential role models, provide educational opportunities and teach values through the game of golf.

has meaning and it brings a diverse perspective as a woman and a minority.

What gives you your daily inspiration?

I'm inspired by seeing our children strive to rise above

fulfilling to collaborate with school districts to make an impact on these families.

Tell us why it is important to your business to be classified as a diverse supplier?

Classifying as a diverse supplier is important because it identifies with the majority of the children and families AFOF serves. It also shows my students that if I can be a business owner, they too can embark on the path to entrepreneurship if they chose.

We list you as a Minority-Owned Business, but you are also a Woman-Owned business! What are some of the benefits you have realized being recognized as a diverse business?

I appreciate helping to bring diversity into the school districts supply chain. More importantly, I believe my voice at the table

their learning and behavioral challenges each day. There have been many success stories through the years of children and parents sharing the impact AFOF has had on their lives. Seeing our children and families succeed gives me such joy. Each day brings new challenges and it keeps me inspired to continue my work in this field.



Dr. Kim L. Allen is CEO of A Friend of the Family, Inc. To learn more, visit: www.AFriendoftheFamily.com