

# INTERN SPOTLIGHT

I chose to complete my internship at The Branch Family Institute based on the recommendation of someone who was currently interning there at the time I was searching for a place to perform my internship. This individual was very appreciative of the training they were receiving and insisted that I set up an interview with its president, Brenda Thompson, for the opportunity to intern there as well. I interviewed with Brenda, was offered an internship, and experienced ten months of skillful and professional clinical training from Brenda and her trained staff.

During my internship at The Branch Family Institute, the clients were assigned to me became quite comfortable with me and opened up to me with their issues. I considered it an honor and a sacred trust. Branch helped me to realize that I had the ability to calm clients and open them up to greater discovery within themselves, by sitting quietly with them and listening, then asking thought provoking questions that inspire them to greater levels of examination, prioritizing and planning.

The agency's After the Storm program was exceptionally interesting to me, whereas, I have never participated in supervised visitations or safe exchange services. Although mandated and/or court ordered, these services were a bonus towards my training and enhanced my learning. Initially intrusive and intimidating, Brenda and staff, assured me that these were common reactions and feelings for the clinician supervising these cases.

Since completing the internship at The Branch Family Institute, I have received my master's degree in Professional Clinical Psychology and I have my Type 73 certification in School Psychology. I am a School Counselor with the Chicago Public School system.



*David Little, MA interned at The Branch Family Institute in 2007. He is now a Professional School Counselor within the Chicago Public School System.*