



Join Hands ESL & East Side Aligned A Family-Run Organization in East St. Louis, Illinois

Join Hands ESL, in partnership with **East Side Aligned**, is launching a Children’s Mental Health Family-Run Organization serving families across East St. Louis and the surrounding region. Grounded in community leadership and lived experience, Join Hands ESL centers parents and caregivers as active partners in shaping supports that reflect the realities of their neighborhoods.

This partnership connects families to mental health resources and wraparound services while creating safe, welcoming environments where children can develop social-emotional skills and build confidence. Join Hands ESL offers family engagement programming designed to strengthen relationships and community bonds, navigation support that connects families to behavioral health care and essential services, and alternative educational solutions when traditional systems fall short. Staff work directly with caregivers to identify immediate needs, coordinate referrals, and ensure connections to services are sustained.

A consistent and supportive presence is provided through the Ubuntu Center for Peace, which serves as a hub for programming, connection, and community-building. Programs are designed to evolve alongside families’ needs, recognizing that circumstances change and supports must adapt. Join Hands ESL works directly with caregivers to identify barriers, explore options, and connect with appropriate resources. They also collaborate with schools and local partners to improve coordination and ensure families are not navigating challenges in isolation.

Serving greater East St. Louis, Join Hands ESL operates within a community that has historically faced service gaps and inequities in access to care. By strengthening family leadership and building trusted relationships, the organization increases timely access to support and improves alignment between families and service providers.

Through practical assistance, educational support, and consistent engagement, Join Hands ESL contributes to a stronger regional network of care focused on children’s social-emotional wellbeing.

Join Hands ESL can be reached via web or phone:

www.joinhandsesl.org
(618) 857-2600

“We believe every child and family in East St. Louis deserves to be seen, supported, and empowered.”



Flip to read more about the impact of the ILCHF Children’s Mental Health Family-Run Organizations cohort.