

Contact

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Top Skills

Project Management
Written Communication
Microsoft Office

Languages

Spanish (Elementary)
English (Full Professional)

Certifications

Project Management Certificate

Asia Whitney

Social Worker | Executive Growth Officer & Co-Founder, K.I.
Connects | Co-Founder, K.I. Invest | Community Growth • Business
Strategy • Women's Leadership
Hillsborough, North Carolina, United States

Summary

I am a practitioner with several years of experience working within child welfare, kinship care, and community systems, supporting individuals, families, and communities through complex systems of care. My professional background includes leading high-complexity casework involving assessments, safety planning, placement evaluation, and court-ready documentation, including expert witness testimony in child protection proceedings. I bring strong expertise in advanced case management, cross-agency collaboration, and building trusted relationships with families, clinicians, educators, legal partners, and community organizations. My work is grounded in clarity-centered, dignity-affirming practice. I believe sustainable outcomes are achieved when people are supported with structure, reflection, and intentional action—not urgency or pressure. This approach has guided my work across county systems, residential youth settings, and community-based programs. In addition to direct practice, I maintain a strong interest in leadership and community-focused work that explores how clarity, confidence, and connection support long-term growth. These interests are informed by my professional experience and commitment to ethical, community-centered practice. Alongside my work in human services, I co-founded K.I. Connects and K.I. Invest to help entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and growing organizations build stronger operational foundations through technology, strategy, and business growth planning. At K.I. Connects, I help shape client strategy, partnership development, business growth initiatives, and organizational planning. Through K.I. Invest, I work with founders as they move from idea to implementation, helping them clarify goals, strengthen their business foundations, and prepare for sustainable growth and funding opportunities. Although my work spans different industries, the mission remains the same: helping people move forward with greater clarity, confidence, and purpose.

Experience

K.I. Connects

4 years 10 months

Co-Founder

June 2026 - Present (3 months)

K.I. Invest is the business growth and strategic advisory division of K.I. Connects, helping entrepreneurs, startups, nonprofits, and small businesses build stronger organizations, prepare for funding, and create sustainable growth.

As Co-Founder, I work with founders through discovery, strategic planning, and business growth initiatives, helping clients transform ideas into actionable business plans and long-term growth strategies.

Key Responsibilities

- * Lead founder discovery and business assessment sessions.
- * Help entrepreneurs define business goals and growth priorities.
- * Support business planning, service development, and operational strategy.
- * Coordinate client onboarding and ongoing engagement.
- * Build strategic partnerships that expand opportunities for clients and the K.I. Invest ecosystem.
- * Contribute to investor readiness initiatives, growth planning, and business advisory services.

Co-Founder & Executive Growth Officer

November 2021 - Present (4 years 10 months)

K.I. Connects is an AI-powered technology and business growth ecosystem that helps families, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and organizations build stronger operations through software, strategic advisory, workflow modernization, and business growth solutions.

As Co-Founder and Executive Growth Officer, I help shape the company's growth strategy, client experience, strategic partnerships, and business development initiatives. I work closely with founders and organizations to identify opportunities, clarify goals, and build practical roadmaps that support sustainable growth.

Key Responsibilities

- * Lead business growth and strategic partnership initiatives.
- * Conduct discovery sessions with entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and organizational leaders to understand operational challenges and identify growth opportunities.
- * Collaborate on business strategy, service development, and long-term company planning.
- * Help shape client engagement, onboarding, and relationship management processes.
- * Guide strategic messaging, founder communications, and community engagement initiatives.
- * Support the development of K.I. Connects' expanding ecosystem of technology platforms and advisory services.
- * Partner with leadership to develop scalable business processes and growth strategies.

MURDOCH DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

11 months

Social Worker @ Royall Cottage

February 2026 - Present (7 months)

- * Provide social work support within a community-based residential setting serving youth with developmental and behavioral needs.
- * Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to support emotional regulation, stability, and person-centered outcomes.
- * Partner with caregivers and stakeholders to strengthen consistency, communication, and supportive care planning.

Youth Program Educational Assistant

October 2025 - February 2026 (5 months)

- * Supported structured youth programming focused on development, engagement, and daily routine consistency.
- * Reinforced learning goals and individualized support plans in collaboration with educators and program staff.
- * Built rapport and trust through daily interaction and aligned program support.

Hennepin County

Senior Kinship Social Worker

September 2016 - March 2025 (8 years 7 months)

Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

- * Led complex kinship and child welfare casework involving investigations, safety planning, and placement evaluation.
- * Prepared detailed investigative reports and maintained comprehensive court-ready documentation.
- * Testified as an expert witness in child protection court proceedings.
- * Applied expert knowledge of local, state, and federal child welfare, foster care, and custody policies.
- * Conducted home safety checks and evaluated foster and kinship placements for vulnerable youth.
- * Referred families to public, nonprofit, and private resources to strengthen stability and long-term support.
- * Built collaborative relationships with families, clinicians, psychologists, educators, guardians ad litem, and law enforcement.

Paideia Early School

Managing Director

June 2011 - November 2016 (5 years 6 months)

Durham, North Carolina, United States

- * Led early childhood program operations and supervised curriculum development for a small learning community.
- * Conducted informal developmental evaluations to assess cognitive growth and support planning.
- * Collaborated with families and connected them to appropriate community resources.
- * Ensured compliance with all local, state, and federal daycare regulations and operating guidelines.

Full Circle Center

Program Director

March 2009 - June 2011 (2 years 4 months)

Gary, Indiana, United States

- * Directed community-based programs serving at-risk individuals and families.
- * Provided training and professional development to social workers, staff, and families to strengthen support networks.
- * Facilitated community health workshops and educational classes.
- * Administered needs assessments, program evaluations, and continuous improvement efforts.
- * Prepared and managed program budgets and financial reports.

Education

Howard University

Master of Social Work - MSW, Macro Social Work · (2002 - 2004)

Antioch College

Bachelor of Arts - BA, Self-Designed: Communications, Languages, and Culture · (1993 - 1997)