

Providing a Port in the Storm

PRACHI AGARWALA, M.D., FROM NEW

Brighton, Minnesota, earned her medical degree from Saint Louis University School of Medicine, completed her residency at Michigan and is now in her second year as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow. Support from the Edwin and Mary Meader Memorial Fund for Depression and Related Disorders in Children and Adolescents allows fellows to gain practical experience treating children in Michigan communities, especially underserved areas. Agarwala works each week at the Corner Health Clinic in Ypsilanti.

INTERVIEW BY WHITLEY HILL

PHOTO BY J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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WORKING WITH ADULTS,

I always wondered what happened when they were 5 or 10 years old to lead them down this path. Now, working with kids and teenagers, I'm attempting to treat the problem when it first starts. The clinic is kind of a port in the storm for many adolescents, the one place where they can come in and drop all their problems. There's somebody here they can talk to, no matter what it's about.

“A lot of our patients are from poor families with a lot of abuse and neglect, and bad experiences with the health care system. I have one chance to get them to trust me — and get them to come back.”

—PRACHI AGARWALA

