



## **Chase Norris, LCPC, NCC**

Chase Norris, the founder and Executive Director of Clock, Inc. Chase Norris grew up in a small town outside of Peoria, Illinois that lacked LGBT+ diversity. In 2014, he graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in psychology and returned to his hometown. That same year, he began medically transitioning from female to male, with the support of a counselor that he says literally saved his life. This counselor's impact on his life was so powerful, Chase knew that he wanted to be that person for someone else. In 2015, Chase moved to the Quad Cities to begin working towards his master's in Counselor Education from Western Illinois University. During his graduate school internship, Chase had created an LGBT+ youth group. As graduation was getting closer and Chase's time with his kids was coming to end, he could not fathom the idea of "abandoning" them. In one of their remaining groups Chase asked the kids, "If you could have any resource available to you, what would you want?" In unison, they replied, "A safe place or somewhere for us to go." Chase thought that there was no way he could make that happen.

Chase began researching everything he could on nonprofit organizations and LGBT+ community centers. Chase told the kids that he would do his best to try to establish an LGBT+ community center for his kids. Chase reports, that every idea, plan, resource, event in Clock, Inc.'s business plan was suggested by one of his group kids. In December 2018, Chase graduated with his Master's in Counselor Education and he moved his weekly group to a friend's mental health private practice. This allowed him to keep his group going until he was able to provide his kids with a community center of their own. After 111 days, Chase had opened Clock, Inc.: LGBT+ Community Center in the Quad Cities and within 134 days. Clock, Inc. was an official 501c3 nonprofit.