

Meet K.K. Parker

Senior Program Manager

Parker lives in Colorado, and focuses on program operations, partnerships, and communications for BrainFutures to support the adoption of expanded access of innovative, evidence-based brain health interventions.



About Parker



Parker brings a multidisciplinary background spanning **technology, nonprofit leadership, and trauma-responsive facilitation.**

Grounded in a **commitment to embodied healing and systems change**, she's interested in the intersection of **predictive processing and affective neuroscience**, trauma-informed care, and emerging therapeutic approaches.

What experiences have you had in this field?

*"I developed a clinical trial protocol during my master's, under the leadership of Matthew Banks, Ph.D. The protocol was designed around **MDMA-assisted tactile/affective therapy for PTSD** in sexual violence survivors.*

*The design focused on **reducing heightened threat detection and dissociation**; symptoms that deeply impact daily life for many."*



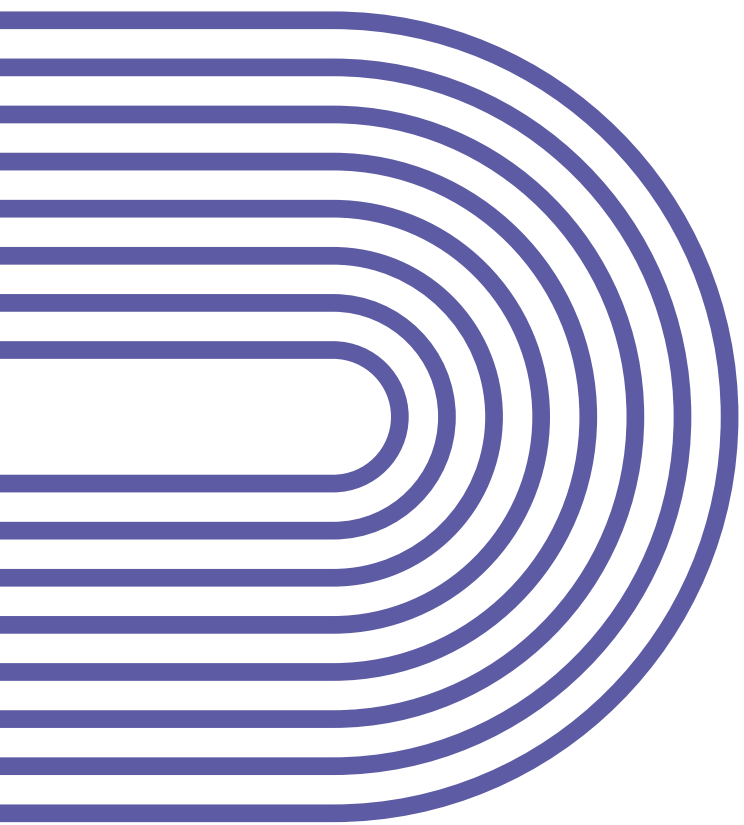
What excites you about working for BrainFutures?

*“It is quite **inspiring to be part of this organization and contributing to the safe, ethical acceleration of access to the best treatments for those most in need.**”*

*“I’m **action-oriented by nature**, and it is fulfilling to see focus toward implementing new therapies so people most in need can get access.”*

*“The more the field can move toward **bridging therapies for the brain and body together, the better the outcomes will be.**”*

What do you see as the biggest gap between research and practice for psychedelics?



“We don’t have a culture of care that supports people in their psychedelic integration and longer term processes.

There's a lot of complex PTSD out there, but we just don't understand complex PTSD that well.

When someone has childhood trauma, and they go into psychedelic therapy for the first time, there are things that can come into the conscious space for some individuals that they are absolutely not expecting.

A completely different process needs to unfold the minute that happens.

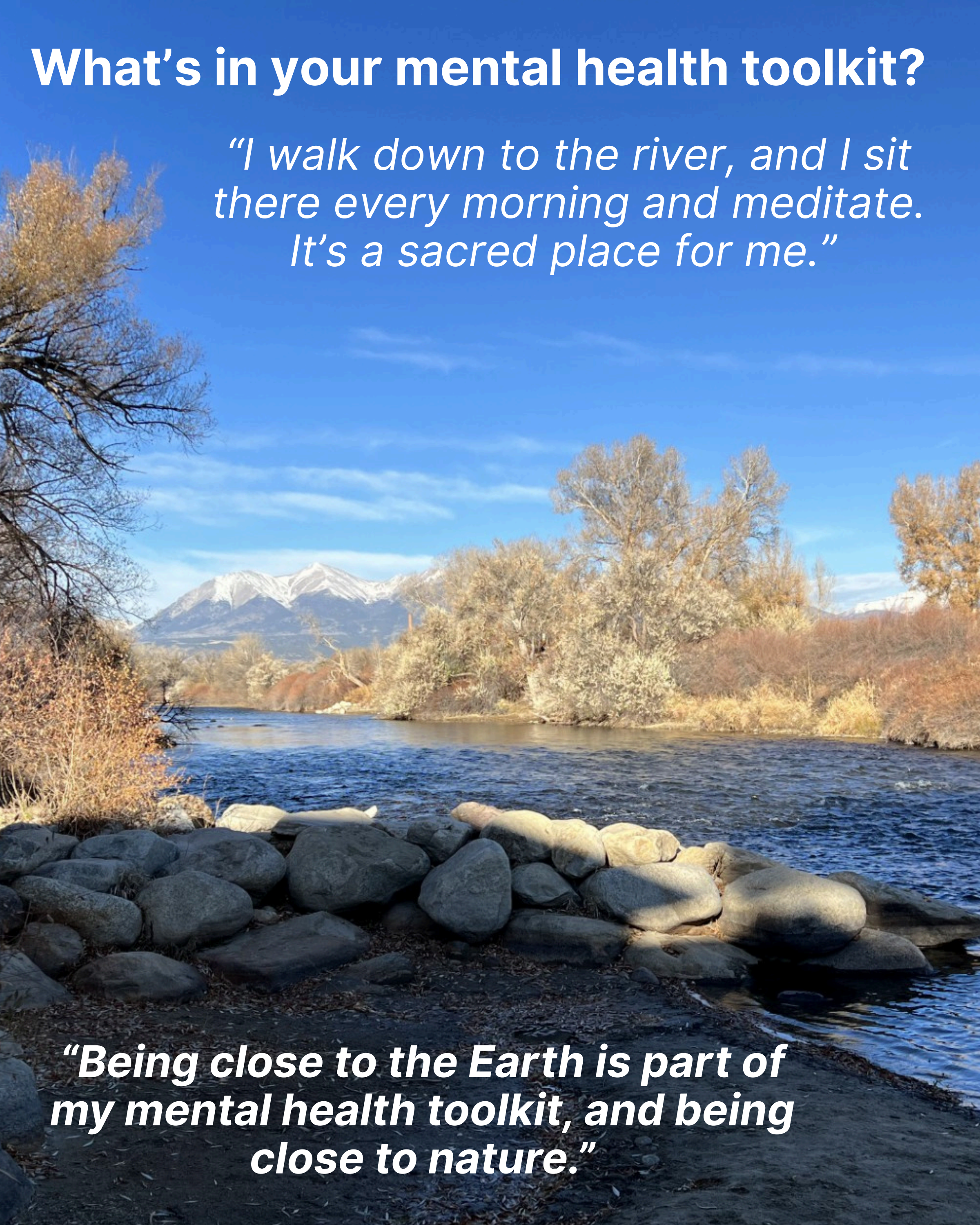
We need a more expansive wraparound set of supports available for someone if their experience with psychedelic therapy opens up things they were not expecting.”



What's in your mental health toolkit?

"I walk down to the river, and I sit there every morning and meditate. It's a sacred place for me."

"Being close to the Earth is part of my mental health toolkit, and being close to nature."



What do you do in your spare time?

“I like to be outside and enjoy skiing. I love to be in wild remote places. I spent some time living in Alaska, and I loved it.”



“I mountain bike and I’ve been getting into bike packing. I like to camp in the deserts of Southern Colorado.

Writing and singing fill my soul.”





Clinic Nurse and Parker



Christine (host mom) and Parker

Near and dear to Parker's heart are the things she learned and people she met when doing medical relief support in Central America and then later, the medical and educational service work in Kenya.

Parker is close with her host family in Kenya. After 17 years, she and Christine, the mother of the family, consider themselves sisters of the soul.

“Christine named her daughter after me, it’s a big honor.”

Parker has helped to pay school fees for the children and is working to help Christine, and her children secure housing and property where they can farm and earn an income.



Christine’s daughter



Friend with Christine and her daughter



Guatemala clinic volunteers with doctors



“I’ve always been interested in getting medicine and care to those most in need and unable to access help. That’s why I’m excited to be with BrainFutures.

While the research is key, access to the best treatments and care can change the course of someone’s entire life. That’s what drives my passion for this work.”

BRAINFUTURES