

HEROES OF HOPE

A close-up photograph of a young boy with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses. He is smiling and looking slightly upwards. He is wearing a bright green t-shirt with a grey and blue graphic design on the front. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

YOUR IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

OCTOBER 2018

**“The Children’s Center
has given my son
so much life.”**

Truth: DDS Children are Often Undiagnosed

Here's a hard truth: many children with Developmental or Intellectual disabilities often go undiagnosed. Without therapy, their lives are often challenging. Our Developmental Disabilities Services program (DDS) serves children diagnosed with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

Because of you, 540 children, like Derek (pictured right), received DDS therapy last year here at The Children's Center.

In DDS, families focus on improving social, play and daily living skills, parent-child relationships, and decreasing problem behaviors.

You make it possible for more and more children to build bright futures and overcome hurdles.



Meet Derek & Jessica

"The Children's Center helped our family put the pieces together."

At three years old, Derek wasn't playing imaginatively like most children his age. His mother, Jessica, began to notice that he repeated words and phrases and spoke in odd ways. Jessica started thinking Derek might be autistic, but didn't even know where to begin in order to help him. Then she met someone who suggested she check out The Children's Center.

"When I came to The Children's Center, I just loved it," Jessica reflects. "As a new mom, having your child diagnosed with autism is so overwhelming. The Children's Center helped me put the pieces together for Derek."

Despite The Children's Center being quite a distance from her home, Jessica knew this was the place for her son to receive therapy. The family started coming to the Center when Derek was three years old. They received supports coordination, in addition to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services at an outside agency. Now, at age eight, Derek is in our Developmental Disability Services program. His sister, Hannah, and Jessica join Derek in therapy sessions to learn how to socialize and play together.

"The Children's Center has given my son so much life. They taught me how to understand Derek and work with his behaviors. Being here has brought us closer and helped Derek to grow in so many ways, and I am so thankful we found TCC," Jessica shared.

Fun is for Everyone!



Thank YOU for making this summer so fun for our children!

In July, we had Water Day, where children enjoyed water balloons, sprinklers, pretend fishing, and bubbles! It was a fantastic opportunity to practice skills like asking for water balloons, waiting in line, and playing respectfully.



In August, the petting zoo came to our center! Children played with rabbits, goats, and llamas. They also rode a pony! A big thanks to the Chamberlin Pony Rides and Mobile Petting Zoo, who made it fun and safe for our children with special needs.

Early Treatment for Autism Is Vital for Children

The earlier, the better. That's one of the most important things we know about treating children with autism. In our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs, children begin treatment as early as 18 months old, extending until they are six years old, for 15 to 30 hours per week.

The treatment is intensive, and it truly makes a difference.

You are making the difference because you make it possible.

According to Dr. Kara Brooklier, the Director of Neuropsychological Services at The Children's Center, this "intensive early behavioral intervention is the key to helping children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) learn from the social environment." Dr. Brooklier notes, "The sooner treatments begin, the sooner children with ASD can learn to pay attention and learn from the social world."



Children in this program work one on one with a Behavior Technician at all times toward their treatment goals. Goals range from building everyday living skills such as toileting, eating, social communication and play skills to pre-academic skills that are typical for preschool-aged children. The ABA staff also works with parents, caregivers and siblings – helping everyone in the child's life overcome barriers.

You make it possible for approximately 53 children to go through this program every year with 1:1 clinician support every day. Additionally, 13 children successfully transitioned from the ABA program to school in September 2018! You are making a monumental impact in the lives of these children as they learn invaluable lifelong skills.



October Wishlist

Help us continue to make the impact we do for our families. We're in need of the following donations:

- Dolls
- Race car ramps
- Books for young readers
- Arts and crafts kits
- Toilet seat covers for potty training
- Batteries (AAA and AA)
- Peanut-free snacks

Show Derek you Believe in Him Today



Living with autism is an ongoing challenge for children like Derek. It's likely that he will receive therapy throughout his entire life to help him cope and thrive socially and intellectually. Our monthly giving program, Believers, shows children like Derek that we are behind them for the long term. You, too, can become a Believer and show your commitment to those who will need lifelong therapy. Sign up for a monthly donation today and champion the never-ending quest for providing the best care for our children!

TheChildrensCenter.com/heroesofhope