

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Children's TherAplay
The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is never really a dull moment at The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc., and 2023 had its own special way of keeping us on our toes. We had an abundance of monumental highs, a few frustrating lows, and so many eye-opening lessons. We all continue to feel so grateful to work for our mission that does so much good for so many families.

There is no contest for my favorite memory from 2023! A star was born, when TherAplay kiddo Mila stepped out of her comfort zone and joined me onstage at our Hoe Down as our first ever kiddo co-host. And let me tell you...she nailed it! At 6 (and a half), Mila showed confidence, poise, and purpose as she shared her TherAplay story with over 600 guests. She was a remarkable witness to the work we do here on a daily basis to empower children to believe they can do hard things and give them the tools they need to live their dreams!

Our 2023 Hoe Down had another memorable moment when our Founder, Wm. Craig Dobbs, announced that he had secured the funding needed for our new Dobbs and Towriss Community Engagement Center, which will break ground in the Spring of 2024! This new space will allow us to provide families and community members the opportunity to further connect with Children's TherAplay. Whether it's educational workshops, support groups, social gatherings, or specialized camps, this new space will help us support families raising a child with a disability more holistically. We will also expand our physical therapy space to increase programming and serve more children each year.

The addition of The Dobbs and Towriss Community Engagement Center will mark the completion of our three-phase capital project that began in 2017 with the building of our new barn. We are so grateful to the community of donors who have made our beautiful new barn, clinic, administrative office, and community engagement center possible. Because of all of you, we have increased the number of children and families we serve by 68% in the last 10 years, and we have set our sights on raising that number even higher.

Children's TherAplay brings hope to families who face challenges and uncertainty on a daily basis. We bring laughter and triumph in a safe and caring environment to kids who deserve the opportunity to work alongside someone who believes in them. And I can assure you...we ALL believe!

Kathy Pelletier
Executive Director

MISSION + VISION + VALUES

Our Mission

The mission of The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc. is to provide individualized skill development for children with disabilities and/or unique needs through physical, occupational and speech therapies using a horse as a treatment tool in a safe and caring environment.

Our Vision

The vision for The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc. is for all children with disabilities and/or unique needs and their families to have access to the therapies they need to thrive.

Our Values

Empowerment: We connect with others with dignity & respect while promoting each individual's growth & self-direction.

Quality: We deliver our best in all we do, acting with intention & holding ourselves accountable for the results.

Inclusivity: We foster a culture of compassion & care where everyone can feel like they belong.

Learning: We are dedicated to seeking and sharing knowledge that helps us deliver innovative care to improve outcomes.

Collaboration: We partner with caregivers, fellow team members, & the community to further our mission.





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2023 IMPACT REPORT



2023 was another year for reaching new heights and expanding our services to the families and communities we serve. Not only did we provide more occupational, physical, and speech therapy services to a growing number of kiddos, but we saw an increase in community involvement as well. In 2023, we had more first time and returning donors, a higher donor retention rate, over 100 additional active volunteers, and we attended over 25 community events.

In March 2023, we welcomed two miniature horses, Peanut and Banana, growing our herd and further developing our Therapeutic Animal Assisted Groundwork (TAAG) sessions. With help from Peanut and Banana, we provided over 1,050 TAAG sessions, giving kiddos new opportunities to work on their therapy goals.



11,573

total therapy sessions provided

97%

average caregiver satisfaction

324

unique clients served

285

active volunteers

75

kids graduated after achieving their goals

71%

of families served are on Indiana Medicaid

Diversity, Equity, + Inclusion Initiatives

- Hosted our first **Trauma-Informed Care Camp** on site, which welcomed 15 kiddos from diverse backgrounds to experience our fun farm environment.
- Our **Transportation Program distributed \$450** in gas and ride share cards to families experiencing transportation barriers.
- Partnered with ProAct Indy, a community engagement and critical service learning organization, to implement a **DEI strategic plan** that targets areas of need.
- For the third year in a row, **Our Scholarship Fund distributed over \$15,000 in financial aid to families.** We awarded 100% of financial requests received.

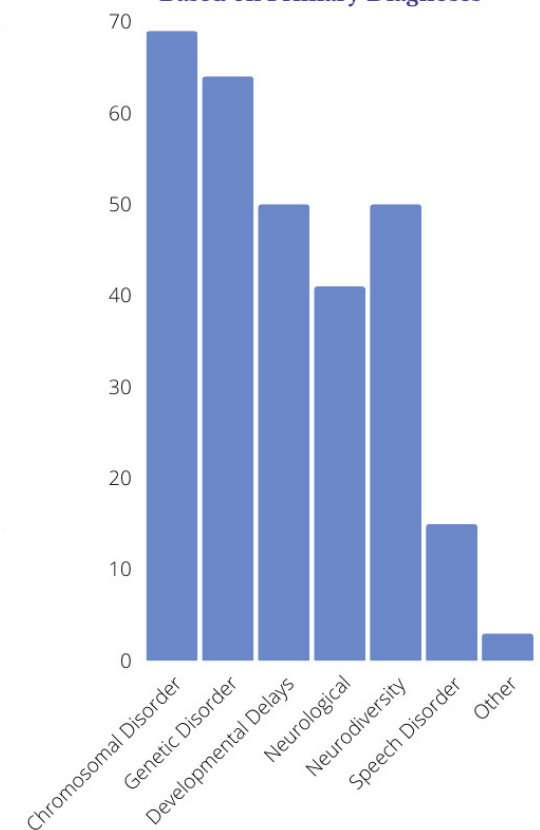
Community Outreach

We also connected with our community. We worked with 158 physicians in the greater Indianapolis community to connect families to our services. Our therapists hosted and coordinated educational in-services for parents and staff on topics like sensory processing and integration, advocating for children in schools, and securing the future of dependents with disabilities.

Further, in Fall 2023 we hosted the American Hippotherapy Association Level II Clinic, which welcomed 16 therapists from across the country into our facility to sharpen their skills and learn best practices in the field. Community support continues to help Children's TherAplay thrive!

Who We Serve*

*Based on Primary Diagnoses



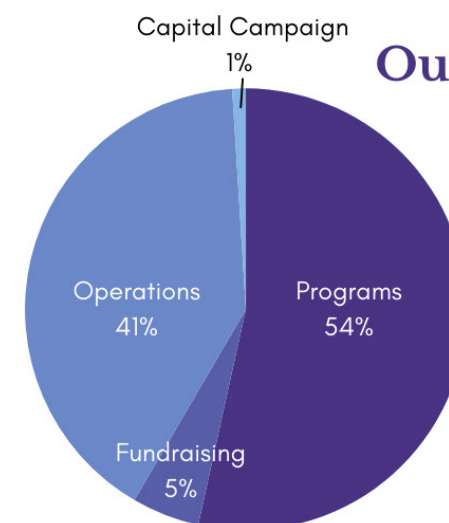
Common Diagnoses Served*

*Based on Primary and Secondary Diagnoses

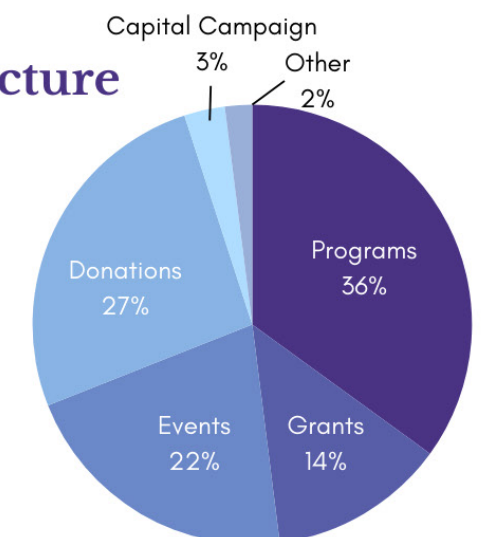
- Down Syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Delayed Milestones
- Feeding Disorder
- Gait and Mobility Abnormalities
- Dysphagia
- Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder

Our Financial Picture

*Unaudited



TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE: \$2,546,584



TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE: \$2,980,157

*64% of annual revenue is generated by fundraising

"Over the last year, as Ollie (pictured on the horse above) has been getting stronger it has helped with his speech and his eating...Ollie is getting a lot louder and is able to engage his muscles, his core, his diaphragm and make his voice heard. We really attribute a lot of that to TherAplay. The horse therapy, the PT, and the speech he is getting here has helped him grow a lot"

-Sasha, Ollie's Mom

VOLUNTEERS

285

active volunteers

4,805

volunteer hours logged

\$152,805

Dollars saved by
volunteer hours



Sidewalking

Sidewalking is our biggest volunteer need--we require at least 10 volunteer sidewalkers every day! Sidewalkers walk alongside the horse during a therapy session and assist the therapist by providing support and ensuring client safety.

Event Support

Individuals join planning committees or volunteer to set-up, tear-down, or run a station at any of our signature fundraising events throughout the year.



Barn Support

Individuals help to assist our barn staff care for the herd. These volunteers replenish shavings, dump and fill water buckets, help with turn-out, and perform light stall work.

TAAG

Individuals help run our Therapeutic Animal Assisted Groundwork. These trained volunteers assist kiddos and therapists work on therapy goals off the horse by practicing grooming, leading, and other skills.

Meet Volunteer Vicki

Vicki started volunteering at TherAplay in March 2023. She is a sidewalker but also enjoys participating in the TherAplay social events! Vicki is retired and had always wanted to try horseback riding but couldn't. After driving by TherAplay many times she now spends her free time volunteering here and hanging out with the horses.

"I get such a happy feeling when I see the kiddos! The staff, therapists, and horse handlers are the best!!" - Vicki



EQUINE PROGRAM

Our Four Legged Friends

Our equine herd is an essential part of the Children's TherAplay team. Many of our horses are in their second, third, or fourth career, and providing carefully graded motor and sensory input for our kiddos gives them great purpose as a therapy horse. Each horse has a unique personality, gait, and tempo making it easy to match each kiddo to the horse who will best fit their therapy goals. Thank you to all our generous 2023 horse funders!

2023 Therapy Horse Herd & Their Funders



Beau funded by:
Indiana Thermal Solutions
& Kathleen Reynolds



Bootz funded by:
The Phil and Sharen Meyers
Living Trust in Honor of Ally,
Livy, Luke & Kenzy



Ella funded by:
Leslie Ackerman



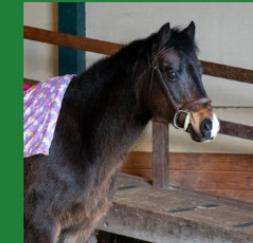
Fairytale - Retired



Giuseppe funded by:
The Round Room Family in
memory of Amy Smith
& The Layton Children



Hank funded by:
The Phil and Sharen Meyers
Living Trust in Honor of Ally,
Livy, Luke, & Kenzy



Kipper funded by:
Mike & Lindsay Martin, in
honor of Larry, Marsha, Kathy
Marti, & Robert



Lacey - Retired



Luna funded by:
Copper Creek Canyon
& Mudsock Fest



Moe funded by:
Hank & Jayma Meyers



Nemo funded by:
Theresa Catterson Kraft



Padre funded by:
Barb Bixler
& NextGear Captial



Pony Boy funded by:
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Peanut & Banana
funded by:
Courtney, Harlan & Tinley
Rahal



Red funded by:
Leslie Ackerman



Spot funded by:
Jana & Tim Wiley, Kathy
Wiley Smith, Dillon Wiley
The Richardson Family
& NextGear Capital



Tash funded by:
Hank & Jayma Meyers
in honor of Rylee &
Coen Bauer



Willow funded by:
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MEET KIDDO ZOË

Kiddo Zoë is a silly, sassy, and kind kid who likes to laugh and play. Zoë is an active kiddo who is always doing flips, and cartwheels, and likes to dance with mom! She also loves the outdoors and being in the sun, sand, and dirt. Above all else, Zoë is a fun-loving kiddo who is also sweet and loving to those around her.

"Her two favorite movies in the world are Moana and Because of Winn Dixie, she can watch them two or three times a day!" Mom said. "She is a person of order and I love that about her; she has a spot for all her things. She likes bubbles, cake pops, chocolate, and loves books - we read a lot. Zoë is so diverse!"

In early 2021, Zoë was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing disorder, global cognitive delay, and bilateral conductive hearing loss. She was in First Steps and went through a number of occupational and speech therapists before seeking other programs. Eventually, Mom was recommended and introduced to TherAplay.

"We joined TherAplay in 2022 and I have loved it ever since. I am a big lover of horses anyway, so when I heard they get to ride horses during OT I said 'Yeah! Let's do that!'" Mom said. "That was the big draw, but I had also heard about TherAplay from more than one person. When you hear good things like that you think 'ok this is probably a good place for my child' and she loves it!"



When Mom started this journey with Zoë she was very protective and found that it took a lot to make her voice heard for Zoë's needs. Her time at TherAplay, however, has provided a flexible environment to work with Zoë as a person rather than a diagnosis.

"The therapists have been so loving and flexible and willing to learn about Zoë as a person. What makes TherAplay unique is that it is very person-centered instead of diagnosis-centered," Mom said. Since coming to TherAplay Zoë "can tend to task a lot longer and her eye contact has improved. I can see that her confidence level with her words is better, she used to whisper but now she is starting to say her words out loud."

Zoë has big goals in occupational and speech therapy. She continues to work hard at Children's TherAplay and grows in her goals each week.

"This is the one place that I bring her for services and I know she's happy," Mom said. "She is always so excited to come here!"

- Danielle, Zoë's Mom

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