



Jim Leiker,
President & CEO

100th Anniversary Gala, NOV. 7, 2020

Capper Foundation's Board of Trustees cordially invites you to attend our **VIRTUAL** 100th Anniversary Gala on the evening of November 7, 2020.

For more information, links to Zoom and Facebook video feeds, and a landing page to help you choose your online experience, check back with us closer to the event at www.capper.org/events



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Capper Foundation is a
tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit

capper update

Fall 2020

Our lives have been disrupted in major ways and our world appears very unsettled and uncertain with the coronavirus pandemic, racial strife, political divide, economic volatility and more. This is occurring as we celebrate Capper Foundation's 100th anniversary of building abilities together. Throughout our long and impactful history, people with disabilities and our organization have considerable experience facing adversity. We have responded by adapting with persistence, determination and resilience to advance hopes, dreams and our mission. Thankfully, this continues today for everyone's benefit!

We are blessed to be involved with people who face challenges and work hard to make progress and achieve victories, both small and large, each day. We continue to stay informed and proactive with measures to provide our services and keep everyone as safe as possible. Our Capper Team acted quickly and impressively, enacting many safety precautions at our numerous locations and pivoting to pediatric teletherapy services and remote work options.

In that spirit of safety and overcoming obstacles, our 19th annual An Evening for a Child (EFAC) event transitioned from an in-person celebration with our friends and community supporters to a successful online experience. EFAC raised considerable funds toward pediatric scholarships, surpassing recent in-person years of the event. We will continue hosting events virtually for the time being. We hope you will join us for our virtual 100th Anniversary Gala on the evening of November 7, 2020.

Despite the challenges, this has been a fruitful season for Capper and the individuals we serve. For that, I would like to recognize and thank our staff, volunteers, donors and individuals and families served. We deeply appreciate everyone's contributions and caring hearts.

While we have made some great strides, Capper still has a lot to accomplish. The Capper CAN! campaign has passed 90% of its \$3 million goal. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we gain momentum toward completion of our campaign objectives to reduce the number of children on our Pediatric Therapy waiting list and enhance our job readiness program for adults with disabilities.

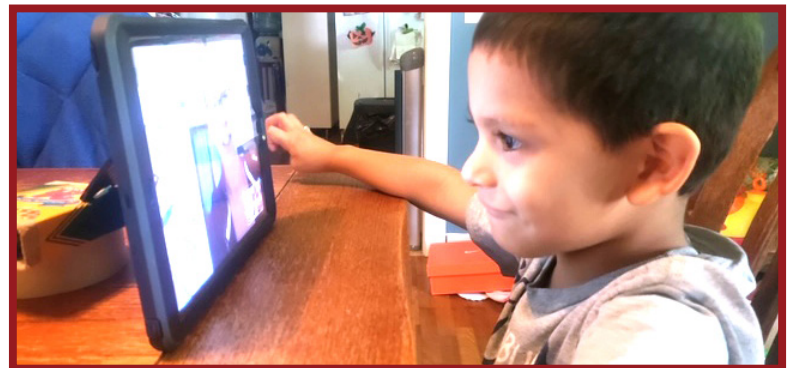
Please join us in transforming lives today! Your contributions are valued, appreciated and make a difference for the continuation of our worthwhile cause. Thanks so much for caring and sharing in so many ways!

Sincerely,

Meet Marti

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Capper Foundation has transitioned to a service delivery model known as "teletherapy," allowing our therapists to safely connect with children through video conferencing.

In his journey to overcome a speech delay, Marti has been working with Speech-Language Pathologist Jenny Stous, continually making huge strides in his sessions. Marti's mother, Sudia, says, though virtual sessions can't fully replace the in-person experience at Capper, his continued progress has been significant and very much appreciated.



Regardless of the virus and safety requirements that came with it, Marti's communication skills are undergoing a life-changing transformation, thanks to the caring, generous support of people like you!



An Evening for a Child

Transitioned into a virtual event for 2020 (we missed seeing our many friends, contributors and community partners in person), the 19th annual An Evening for a Child, August 29, exceeded expectations for the year.

We are amazed and truly appreciative of the community's participation in this online event to provide Pediatric Scholarship Assistance to children with disabilities.

To watch a full event recording, visit www.copper.org/efac2020

Our Mission

is to build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities.

SPOTLIGHT: Copper Gardens

We are excited to share that the Copper Foundation gardens were featured in a four-page article in the Summer 2020 issue of Mother Earth Gardener magazine.

With permission from the magazine's publisher, we are pleased to include an excerpt from the article below. Written by Associate Editor Haley Casey, the article is titled "Adaptive Gardens: Access for All."

The staff, supporters, and volunteers who ensure Copper's legacy have grown the Copper Foundation to serve both adults and children. When they saw the healing that outdoor activity and gardening could bring, they knew it was a service that should be brought to the campus.

One Copper Foundation garden was funded in 2014 through a grant from the Darden Foundation's program to teach adults with disabilities to grow their own food. Additional beds were added to the Darden Garden in 2018 thanks to funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation. In the same year, a local landscaping company donated additional flower beds and raised beds to the Foundation's courtyard — a gardening space that's now worked in, walked through, and enjoyed by anyone who works, receives services, or visits there.

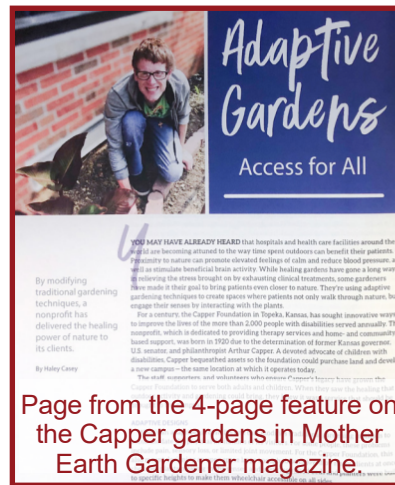
The courtyard gardens, especially, have helped bring the healing power of plants to clients. The 8,000-square-foot space holds more than a dozen different planting areas bursting with herbs and flowers.

Carolyn Litwin, the Master Gardener in charge when the courtyard gardens were first installed, is particularly proud of a raised bed built specifically for wheelchairs to be rolled beneath. Four clients can sit around it, two on each side, as if "you're sitting at a desk," she says. Litwin explains that this setup means a person in a wheelchair "can actually roll right under the bed so their arms are lying right on top of the soil to feel and to plant."

Another element Litwin finds particularly helpful for Copper Foundation clients is a tipi-shaped structure in an in-ground bed in the courtyard. It's built from PVC pipes for vining plants to climb, "and

sometimes, someone who's able to get out of a wheelchair can kind of hold on to that tipi and work on it," she says. This provides extra interaction with plants that would otherwise stay out of reach.

Adaptive gardens give those with physical limitations the chance to reconnect with nature in a way they may have thought was lost. Nothing could be more healing to the spirit than that.



Page from the 4-page feature on the Copper gardens in Mother Earth Gardener magazine.

iCan Bike 2020

Special thanks to all the staff, families and volunteers who participated in this summer's week-long iCan Bike event!

As many may know, iCan Bike uses adapted bicycles, a specialized instructional program and trained staff to empower individuals with disabilities to learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle.

Over the course of the week, staff continually adjust the adaptive bikes in an effort to challenge riders appropriately as they gradually discover the skill and joy of riding. The process begins indoors in a gym on a circular course laid out with cones, and riders eventually move to an outdoor track as they progress.

We are pleased to report that each participant successfully progressed to the outdoor track this year! Way to go riders!

