



**capper**  
FOUNDATION

# Fiscal Year 2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

**100**  
years

building  
abilities  
together





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,



Reviewing our Fiscal Year 2020, a year like no other with an abundance of twists and turns, reminded me how resilient our organization has been for the past 100 years. With the Covid-19 pandemic entering the national scene in March 2020 and many disruptions, we kept the main thing the main thing – our mission – to build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities. Capper Foundation staff immediately adjusted many of our practices and policies, adapted new service delivery models to meet community needs, managed our finances tighter and elevated health safety measures at considerable expense.

Revisiting our 100-year history, Capper Foundation experienced many challenges along the way and navigated the course necessary to adapt to community needs just as we continue to do today. With foresight, our founder Arthur Capper created the path leading to where we are as a disability service provider to our communities. We are grateful for his vision and philanthropic, caring and sharing heart. His compassion and actions on Christmas Day 1920 set the stage for who we are – an organization committed to helping others be the best version of themselves every day.

This Annual Impact Report includes information about persons served, our programs and services across Kansas, finances, generous donors, planned gift honorees, volunteers and others who contribute to our progress. It takes all of us working together to make good things happen for those we serve. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress and successes of persons served in our Fiscal Year 2020 highlights.

Please know you play a critical role in changing the lives of infants, children and adults with disabilities. Your valued partnership with us, compassion and generosity are noticed and sincerely appreciated by all of us at Capper Foundation. Thanks so much for making such a positive difference with your continuing, caring support!

Jim Leiker  
President & CEO

## CAPPER FOUNDATION LOCATIONS:

### TOPEKA



3500 SW Tenth Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
785.272.4060

### EL DORADO



622 N Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, Kansas 67042  
316.320.7531

### WINFIELD



1500 E Eighth Avenue, Suite 201  
Winfield, Kansas 67156  
620.221.9431

# MEET COLTON



***"He doesn't see this as going to therapy. He sees this as going to play and have fun, and he loves going to Capper."***

*Jamie Selman  
Colton's Mother*

Colton Selman was born prematurely at 23 weeks and spent his first 124 days in the NICU. As his parents welcomed their precious son into the world, the fear they felt was indescribable. From the beginning, they were told about all the things Colton "may never" do — he may never walk, speak or even make sounds. Fortunately, Capper Foundation would become part of Colton's story.

In July of 2017, Colton began receiving services at Capper, starting with Physical Therapy. Within a couple months, he also began Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. On their first day, Physical Therapist Kim Coker listened to the Selman's goals and evaluated what Colton could do. Immediately, Kim offered much-needed hope and reassurance that Colton's potential simply needed to be unlocked.

"Sitting was hard for him, at first," Kim shares. "Everything was hard for him. He didn't move on his own at all. Strength and balance are the things we worked on a lot. To develop those skills, we used the basketball goal, bean bag animals, balls that roll — that sort of thing."

Therapy with Kim has helped Colton progress from struggling to sit up to standing on his own and walking independently. Though Colton fought using his walker at first, with hard work and determination, the walker has become a natural way for him to go wherever he wants to go. This has given him both freedom and confidence.

He's accomplishing so much," Jamie explains. "It's amazing to see. Things that happen quickly with other children, with Colton, happen slowly. It's such an exciting thing when he's able to sit up on his own, or stand on his own or use stairs."

By simultaneously taking part in three of Capper's pediatric services, Colton has developed complimentary skills to enhance his overall development. From his time in physical therapy with Kim, his trunk has become stronger, allowing him to vocalize more, which transfers over to help his work with Speech Therapist Jenny Stous and, in turn, communicate better with each of his therapists. With Occupational Therapist Amy Douglas, he has improved the use of his hands and can now use his finger to point to a device and express himself during speech therapy. While each therapy discipline targets specific skills, his new skills have overlapped perfectly to help him maximize his potential.

"I don't know where we would be without Capper," Jamie shares. "They've done so much for my son, and they will continue to do so much for him, because they don't give up."





# OUR SERVICES



## Pediatric Services

Our therapists provide comprehensive evaluations using standardized testing and leading-edge medically based interventions. Through person-centered treatment plans, parent training and more, we are helping children build their abilities and gain independence. We believe children have the greatest success when the family is included as a member of the therapy team.

## Adult Services

We provide Adult Day Programs in Topeka, Winfield and El Dorado, Kansas. Staff support individuals as they make independent and productive life enhancing choices for themselves at home, work and in the community. Work opportunities are available on-site at Capper Foundation for adults to learn valuable job skills to use in the community. Job counseling, training and placement services are provided with on-site job coaching. We partner with families and individuals to provide Residential Services and create the living arrangement of their choice in Topeka and southcentral Kansas.



## Professional & Family Training

Our Professional & Family Training program is designed to enhance clinical decision-making skills, therapy, and educational techniques. Training sessions are for direct service providers, personal attendants and parents with the ultimate outcome of enhancing the independence of people living with disabilities. These services include continuing education workshops and customized training.

## Additional Services

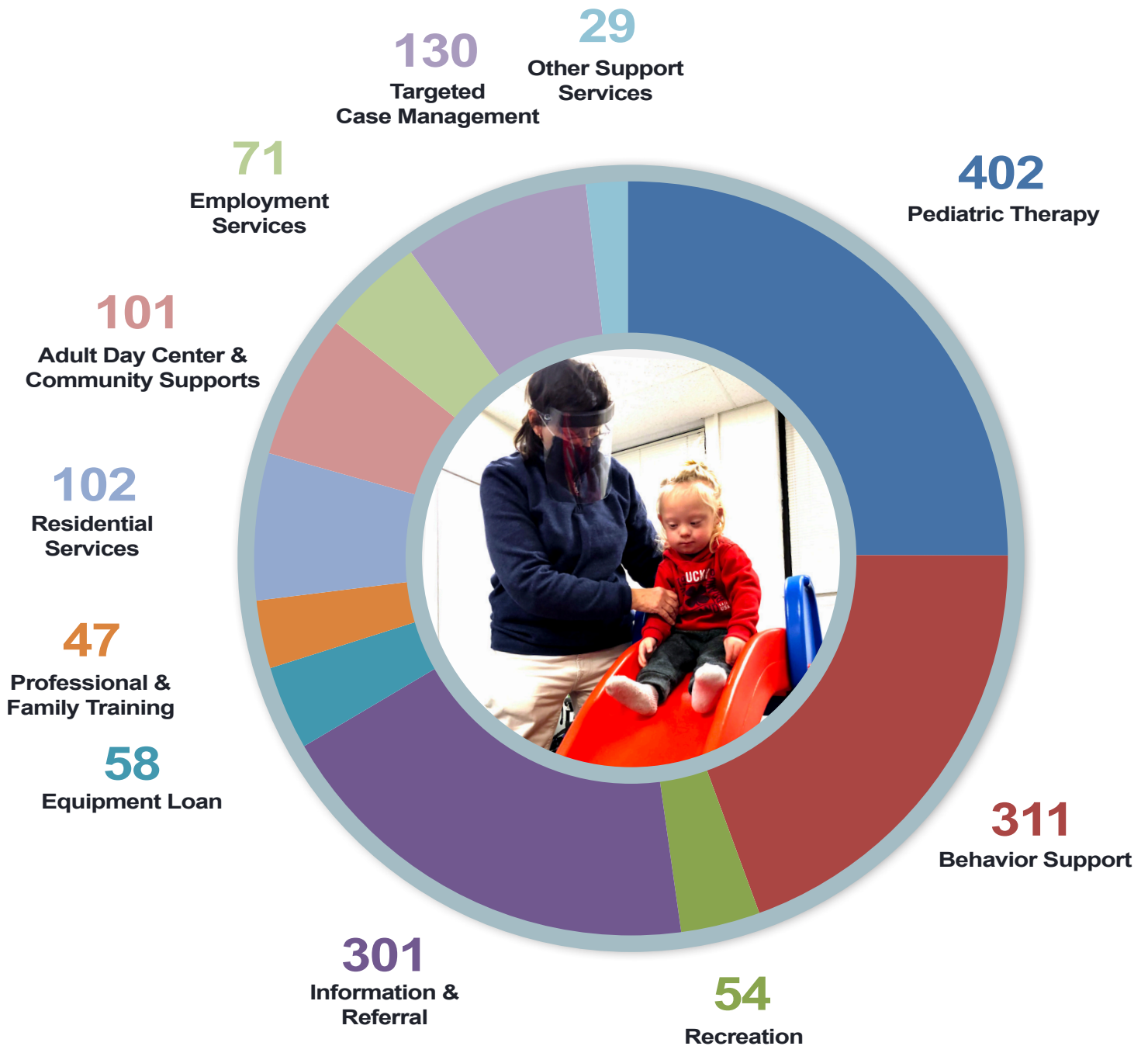
Our Knoll Mobility Loan Bank includes wheelchairs, crutches and other equipment to assist individuals in need. Our Veterans Assistance Fund program provides emergency financial assistance to veterans with disabilities. Ability Awareness and Disability Etiquette Training is available to schools, groups and anyone wishing to learn more about disabilities. Our certified Mandt System trainers demonstrate how to prevent, de-escalate, and (if necessary) intervene when individuals' actions may harm themselves and/or others.





# 1,606 PERSONS SERVED

*(The positive impact of our services extends to many individuals and families and throughout communities)*



**Individuals served were from 51 Cities & 18 counties across Kansas.**

**Volunteers provided 2,022 hours of service.**

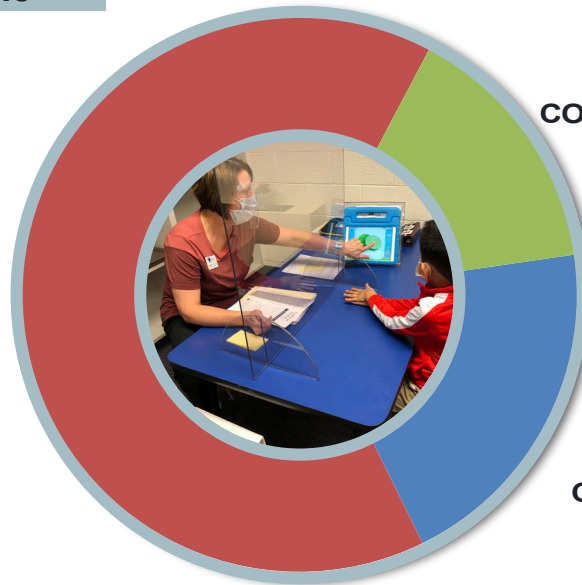
# 739,554 HOURS OF DIRECT SUPPORT SERVICE

# FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

## Total Operating Income

**\$13,439,431**

**66%**  
Fees/Contracts



**15%**  
COVID-19 Relief Funds

**-1%**  
Investments

**20%**  
Contributions & Estates

## Total Operating Expenses

**\$12,539,521**

**92%**  
Programs & Services



**4%**  
Fundraising

**4%**  
Administrative

## Non-reimbursed Cost of Services Provided

**\$3,670,000**



# MEET VICTOR



*Victor works hard for his employer,  
The Giving Tree in Topeka.*

**"The people who take part in our employment services need to be working. They should have the life that you and I have. They should be living the way we live and getting the things they need to live a happy life."**

**Chris Ostrander  
Adult Day Services Manager**

**A**n important part of our Adult Day Services is the vocational training we offer adults served, in addition to the employment experience they gain in Auto Detailing, Small Engine Repair, Business Support Services and the Capper Creations Gift Shop.

Working in our wood shop, Victor has learned valuable skills — and not just everyday skills like how to remove nails from wood, sanding and painting. During his time in Capper's vocational training, he has learned necessary interpersonal and professional skills necessary to find work in the community.

Victor wants to become a construction worker and we think he's well on his way to achieving his dreams. But that's not all. After completing vocational training in our Skills To Pay Bills program, we are happy to share that Victor was offered a job at The Giving Tree in Topeka!

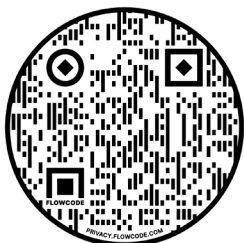
Victor is enjoying his new role and still works in the wood shop at Capper. In addition, the foundation provides him with continued job coaching to help with his work in the community. Good job, Victor!

## CAPPER CREATIONS

Now, there are more places than ever (virtual and physical) to purchase Capper Creations products outside just the Capper Foundation Topeka location. Look for our booths at both Owls Nest locations in Topeka, or search

for our Facebook page: "Capper Creations Gift Shop and Services."

To visit our Esty shop,  
scan the QR code or visit  
[www.etsy.com/shop/capperfoundation](http://www.etsy.com/shop/capperfoundation)



*Victor and Adult Day Services  
Manager, Chris Ostrander display  
a handcrafted sign Victor made  
in Capper Foundation's wood shop.*

# MEET MADDIE

**“If your child ever receives services at Capper, you will see improvement.”**

**Stephanie  
Maddie’s Mother**



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Capper has taken every precaution to protect the health of persons served and staff. For this reason, in mid-March, as part of its Exposure Prevention Plan, the facility was closed to public access, resulting in the need for online therapy services.

## THERAPY TRANSITION

“Capper successfully transitioned to teletherapy,” said Lakyn Habiger, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). “This allows the therapists to connect with children and parents via video conferencing to work on their goals, just like we would in person.”

Lakyn shared that many children, including Maddie, have adapted to this model very well. She continues to improve her speech sounds and has exhibited excellent participation in teletherapy.

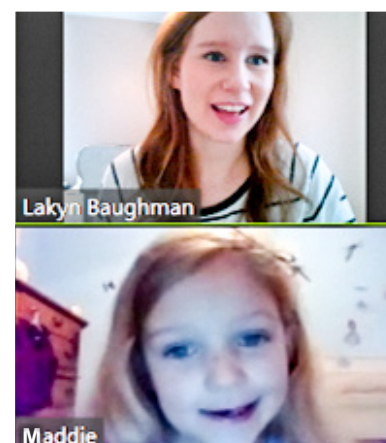
## ADAPTIVE APPROACH

Before she began services at Capper, Maddie participated in group speech therapy sessions through her school district. Her mother describes her as very shy and says one-on-one sessions at Capper have made all the difference in meeting Maddie’s specific language development needs.

“When we first started working with Lakyn, we were just working on producing individual sounds,” said Stephanie, Maddie’s mother. “At first, I couldn’t understand her basic wants and needs. I couldn’t tell if she wanted milk or juice or a fork. There was just a lot of pointing and asking. Now, we rarely have a time when there’s confusion on my part about what she needs.”

Stephanie shared from her experience that many service providers are less adaptive in their approach. She believes Capper’s individualized strategies provide the most effective services.

“At Capper, it’s very individualized, and your child gets one-on-one attention with the SLP,” Stephanie said. “They get to know your child, and that’s what makes their services so effective. The people there are amazing. They communicate very well. You know, at the end of each session, the progress your child is making. If your child ever receives services at Capper, you will see improvement.”





# MEET JERRY AND ANN PALMER

**“I don’t think people in Topeka realize what it means to have this kind of service available. There are many, many towns and cities in Kansas that do not have this... We are so lucky, and it is up to those of us who know to make sure the under-served get served.”**

**Ann Palmer  
Heritage Society Member**



Topekans since 1966, Ann Palmer and her husband, Jerry, have become more than familiar with Capper Foundation over the years. In addition to Ann’s prior role on the Capper Board of Trustees, the Palmers were warmly welcomed as Heritage Society Inductees this past fiscal year.

The generosity of a planned gift, on top of their financial commitment to Capper Foundation’s Capital Campaign, will leave an immeasurable impact on the lives of persons served at Capper Foundation and our community. We hope others will follow their example. To those who might be considering this profound decision, Ann offered some words of advice:

“Take a tour of the Capper Foundation facilities and talk to someone whose children or child have received services at Capper. Go to An Evening for a Child and hear the story of the featured child that year and see the remarkable difference that Capper makes in people’s lives. Or come and sit through a day at iCan Bike and watch the parents and the bikers. After that, leaving Capper in your will is pretty darn painless.”

## WHY NOT YOU?

Ann pointed out that, as outstanding as Capper Foundation’s services are, it needs money to operate in both good years and tough years. “Knowing that Capper has about \$3 million in non-reimbursed cost of services in an average year, you have to understand, that money has to come from somewhere,” Ann explains. “Why not you?”

She said that many in her and Jerry’s chapter of life have talked to a lawyer, or will talk to a lawyer, about an estate plan. A lawyer will usually ask, outside of family, where funds should be left.

“We are certainly strong on leaving money to our children, but you want to leave something else,” Ann shares. “I think Capper is an organization that you want to see go on and on without interruption, and it does so much good.”

It takes a great deal of confidence to leave part of one’s financial legacy to be used by a nonprofit in ways that are out of one’s hands. You have to have complete confidence in the way it’s managed, Ann explains — confidence not only in its history but in its future as well.

“I don’t think people in Topeka realize what it means to have this kind of service available. There are many, many towns and cities in Kansas that do not have this... We are so lucky, and it is up to those of us who know to make sure the under-served get served.”

# CAPPER EVENTS

Although our 2020 event schedule was affected by the pandemic, Capper Foundation hosts a variety of public events to raise additional revenue to support the organization and build community awareness about our mission and services. In accordance with the unique safety measures necessary in the past fiscal year, events were adapted into either virtual experiences or reduced to accommodate only a small number of attendees.

## Advisory Council Annual Meeting

In October 2019, our Capper Advisory Council Annual Meeting & Luncheon was held in our Conference Center. In addition to highlights, updates and insights from council members, a parent of a child served by Capper shared an amazing story about the impact Feeding Therapy had on her daughter's development.



## Blarney Breakfast

Before many events in Shawnee County were canceled amidst pandemic safety concerns, Capper's annual Blarney Breakfast took place on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at the Blind Tiger Brewery & Restaurant.



## Arthur Capper's 155th Birthday Celebration

On July 14, 2020, Capper held a "double" celebration honoring the 155th birthday of our founder, Senator Arthur Capper, as well as our 100th Anniversary year. Staff and limited guests enjoyed a picnic-style lunch and fresh-made custard provided by Sheridan's Frozen Custard.



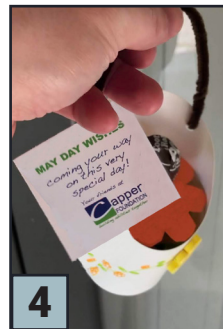
## An Evening for a Child

Transitioned into a virtual event for 2020, the 19th Annual An Evening for a Child, held on August 29, exceeded expectations. We were amazed and impressed by the community's participation in this online event to provide Pediatric Scholarship Assistance to children with disabilities.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**1** Capper offers "Ability Awareness Training" to help foster empathy and openness toward people with disabilities.

**2** iCan Bike, a 5-day summer program hosted by Capper, gives individuals with disabilities the self-confidence to learn to safely ride a two-wheel bicycle.

**3** Community tours of our Topeka facility are normally open for scheduling, though safety concerns surrounding the virus have paused tours (at the time of printing).

**4** Staff and volunteers created and made "contactless" deliveries of May Day baskets.

**5** Our Auto Detail Shop has incorporated Interior Disinfectant Fogging for the safety of its customers during COVID.

**6** Capper received "Most Informative" award for its exhibit at Greater Topeka Partnership's Business Expo.

**7** Our adults served and staff helped Ronald McDonald House as part of the NFL's #Huddlefor100 initiative.

**8** Capper Creations staff and adult's served facilitated a Pop-Up Gift Shop for employees of Security Benefit.

**9** Provided by Fairlawn Plaza Mall, children served at Capper take part in an annual shopping trip and visit with Santa.

**10** Capper Creations staff and adults served visited Odgen Publications to set up a Pop-Up Gift Shop for its employees.

**11** Our team visited Every locations to get the word out about Capper during the company's "Your Gift Your Choice" event.

**12** Our conference center is utilized by community organizations, including the Downtown Rotary Club of Topeka.

**13** Capper Foundation staff volunteered at Ag Hall to help with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

**14** Our warm water therapy pool is made available for families in the community on "open swim days."



# 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

## 100th Anniversary Reveal

On Christmas Day 2020, Capper Foundation celebrated its 100th Anniversary of building abilities and empowering people of all ages living with disabilities.

In anticipation of this incredible milestone, we hosted an event in January 2020. We invited local media, community partners and friends to one of the statues of our founder, Arthur Capper, in downtown Topeka, KS, to announce our 100th anniversary and reveal celebration banners lining Kansas Avenue.

Greater Topeka Partnership President/CEO Matt Pivarnik, and Capper Foundation President/CEO Jim Leiker shared how Capper has expanded its efforts and effectiveness over the past century. They also imparted how far the organization has come to serve people of all ages with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities in multiple Kansas communities.



## A Reenactment of Our 100-Year Legacy



Have you seen the wonderful video reenactment sharing the origin story of Capper Foundation, in recognition of our 100th? If not, we encourage you to check it out at [www.capper.org/origin](http://www.capper.org/origin)

This outstanding video was made possible by Mary Lenz, who crafted the script; narrator Kelly Lenz; character actors Dan Lindquist and Steve Costello; Topeka Civic Theatre; and Keith Walberg, who handled video production.

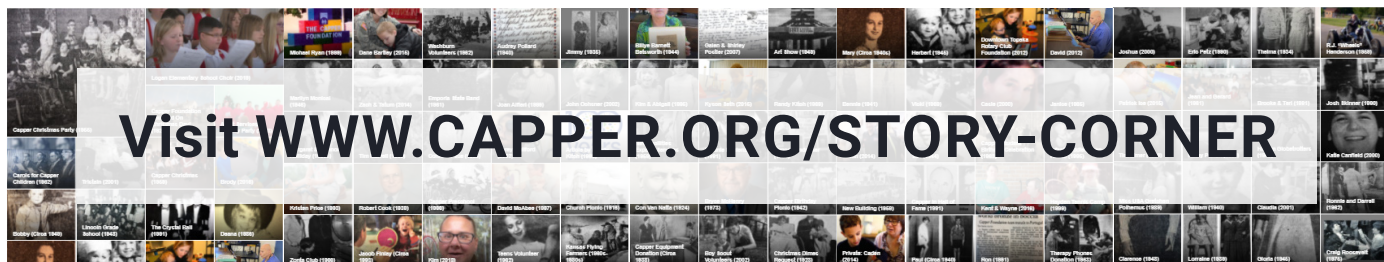
## 100 YEARS ... 100 STORIES

As our wonderful friends and supporters are aware, countless lives have been impacted by Capper Foundation over the past 100 years. There are so many testimonies of how our services have helped build abilities in our community. We could think of no better way to celebrate a century of service than sharing 100 of those incredible stories — one for each of our 100 years.

Each week in 2020, we released two "Throwback Thursday" stories on our website and social media accounts. Each story shares about partnered businesses, community supporters, volunteers, persons served by Capper and their families, providing insight into how our organization has been an agent of change in a world that has become steadily more inclusive and supportive of people with disabilities. You can find these amazing stories at the link below.



Visit [WWW.CAPPER.ORG/STORY-CORNER](http://WWW.CAPPER.ORG/STORY-CORNER)





# A LIVING LEGACY



**100** years ago on Christmas Day, United States Senator Arthur Capper made a commitment to our community and our nation to make sure any child afflicted with polio was provided the financial help needed to obtain services, surgeries and equipment, no matter the cost. The Capper Fund, kept in Capper's newspaper office drawer, provided relief to families who could not afford to help their own child.

In 1934, with polio raging across the United States, Capper invited others to join his efforts by chartering, with articles of incorporation, a non-profit called The Capper Foundation for Crippled Children. He was determined that children with disabilities would have every opportunity to live out their hopes and dreams.

Fast forward to 1951, as the country was anticipating a

breakthrough vaccine for polio, Senator Capper passed. Upon his death, Capper bequeathed shares of stock from his publishing empire for the purpose of building a rehabilitation facility and special purpose school for children with disabilities. The ambitious actions of this one man 100 years ago set the stage for what is now Capper Foundation.

Senator Capper's legacy gift 50 years ago continues to impact lives of children and adults every day. Just like Senator Capper, you can help secure the future of Capper Foundation for the many thousands who will need services over the next 100 years by naming Capper Foundation in your will or planned gift. Please join our efforts to give every future child and adult with disabilities an opportunity toward greater independence. Together, we can continue to change lives!

“

I've had the opportunity to photograph iCanBike for 6 or 7 years. At my first iCanBike, when I would see those first days, I would think to myself 'those kids aren't going to be riding bikes,' and to see what can be done... oh my gosh. It's amazing to see so many happy stories.

”

**Ann Palmer | Volunteer**

“

We benefited from Behavior Support Services. It took care of some things my son, Jeremiah, was working on at home – biting his nails, trying to sleep in his own bed – things like that.

”

**Maria | Parent**

“

Just look at the faces of the kids served by the Capper Foundation. See them receiving the therapies they need. See the progress they make. See them grow, gain strength, gain all kinds of abilities and thrive. That is enough to make me a Capper fan. This hundred-year-old outfit is perfectly poised for the next hundred years making better the lives of the people they serve.

”

**Jay Ives  
Business Supporter**

“

Congratulations, Capper Foundation, on a century of building abilities and improving people's lives. Keep it going!

”

**Greg Greenwood | Donor**

“

We love Capper's mission and the things they do on a daily basis for young people and adults with disabilities. It's just amazing to see the work that's going on, and I get to see it even more so now being on the Board.

”

**Michelle Butler  
Heritage Society Member**

# CAPPER CAN! CAMPAIGN

In Spring of 2019, Capper Foundation launched a life-changing challenge asking donors for additional financial support to address critical, growing needs for disability service among Kansas families. The CapperCAN! five-year campaign initiative was formed. While supporters, individuals and businesses have been generous, we have not yet crossed the finish line of our \$3 million goal to support our five-year initiative to help children and adults with disabilities have every opportunity to be the best they can be.

Waiting lists for children to receive Capper's medically-based Pediatric Therapies reached two hundred, while waiting times averaged eleven months. Many adults, capable to enjoy community employment, could do so with additional training and coaching. Adding Pediatric Therapy hours, increasing scholarship assistance funding for families and enhancing our Employment Readiness training for adults address these concerns and changes lives. You can be a part of that change with your donation to CapperCAN!.

To date, as a result of many donors advance generosity, we accelerated hiring three Pediatric Therapists to address the waiting list for services, yet are finding the needs are even greater than anticipated. Despite the addition of the increased therapy hours, the list has again grown, putting children at risk of not receiving the timely therapy needed to help them walk, talk, eat, perform daily tasks and thrive independently.

We are excited to welcome you and your family on this worthwhile and meaningful journey, ensuring every person is valued and enjoys access, independence and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams. One time gifts or multi-year pledges to CapperCAN! are appreciated, not only by Capper Foundation, but by the families whose loved ones need our life-changing services.

If you desire to participate with the CapperCAN! initiatives, simply indicate so on the enclosed envelope or contact Edie Smith, VP Development & Marketing at 785.272.4060 or email [esmith@capper.org](mailto:esmith@capper.org). We are committed to helping our friends with disabilities and want to help you be an active participant as well.



★★★★★  
**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
Four Star Charity

for TRANSPARENCY,  
ACCOUNTABILITY and  
TRUSTWORTHINESS

8x

consecutive highest 4  
**STAR RATING** from  
Charity Navigator.

92%

of expenditures go toward  
programs and services.

Top  
5%

of charities nationwide.

8%

of expenditures are  
used for administration  
and fundraising.

*Charity Navigator is the largest and most popular charity assessment organization in the country.  
We couldn't be more proud to share their endorsement!*



# 2021 UPDATES

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### An Evening for a Child

**WHEN:** April 24, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** Virtual

**THEME:** “Celebrate Then and Now”



### iCan Bike

**WHEN:** June 7-11

**WHERE:** Central Park Community Center, Topeka, KS



### iCan Swim

**WHEN:** July 12-16

**WHERE:** Hummer Sports Park - Capitol Federal Natatorium



### Arthur Capper's 156th Birthday

**WHEN:** July 14

**WHERE:** Capper Foundation, Topeka, KS

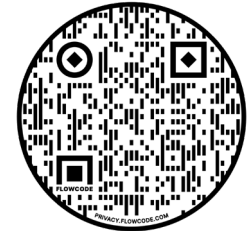


### Blarney Breakfast

**WHEN:** Sept. 18, 7-10 a.m.

*(Postponed to coincide with the Topeka Irish Fest and Parade.)*

**WHERE:** Blind Tiger Brewery & Restaurant, Topeka, KS



Please scan the QR code for the latest event information, or visit [capper.org/events](http://capper.org/events)

## FY 2021 Board of Trustees

Dr. Judy Kooser, Chair  
Michelle Butler, Vice-Chair  
Glenda Cafer, Treasurer

Bruce Akin	Jason McMillen
David Claussen	Suzanne Mumford
Lucky DeFries	Pam Walstrom
Jay Ives	Emily McGee, ex-officio
Herman Jones	Jim Leiker, ex-officio
Doug Kinsinger	

## Senior Management Team

Jim Leiker, President & CEO  
Sandy Warren, Executive VP & CFO  
Kathy Stiffler, Senior VP Adult Services  
Sandy Crawford, VP Pediatric Services  
Edie Smith, VP Development & Marketing

## Capper Advisory Council

Mark Boranyak, Chair  
Barbara Hesse, Vice-Chair  
Marlou Wegener, Secretary-Treasurer

Randy Austin	Marge Hogue	Gerald Mowery
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Gay Bauersfeld	Karen Huntley	Debby O'Neill
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Steve Briman	Loretta Karst	Charlotte Parker
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Linda Gilbert	Connie Michaelis	
Jeanne Hoferer	Diana Morgan	

Founded in 1920 by Senator Arthur Capper, Capper Foundation is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code and receives significant support from charitable contributions.