

# Season of Giving

While giving is important year-round, many of us embrace the holidays and year-end to tap into our “giving spirit.” Legislative changes are driving giving decisions this year for tax considerations and donors are realizing the important role they play in helping nonprofits continue their critical services. Most of us understand helping build stronger families in our community is the most important reason to give. We hope you will include Capper Foundation in your year-end giving plans during this Season of Giving.

How can you help Capper Foundation provide life-changing supports and services for the over 2,000 families we impact each year? Here’s a few ideas:

- Year-End cash donations
- Stock gifts transferred to Capper directly translate to the full value of your gift
- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA reduces your tax liability
- Memorials & Honorariums are a great way to show you care for friends or family members
- Planned Giving through Wills and Trusts help sustain the future
- Volunteer your time in a variety of opportunities
- Attend our Fundraisers to learn more about our organization and support programs and our Pediatric Scholarship Assistance Fund
- Facebook Birthday Fundraisers introduce Capper to your friends and show you care
- In-Kind Donations help our bottom line



Whichever option(s) you select, know you are helping a child or adult with disabilities have hope for a more fulfilled future. We welcome you to come in for a tour and learn more about our services.

Thank you for helping Capper Foundation “Build Abilities.” Your support is sincerely appreciated.

## THEN & NOW



TREVEN



I was born with Cerebral Palsy, and though thankfully it’s nothing too drastic, it affects my fine motor skills. As a little kid, for a number of years, I received physical therapy at Capper Foundation and saw firsthand how their services bridge the gap between what can be done and what seems impossible. Capper’s purpose of empowering people with disabilities is reflected in every aspect of what they do, from pediatric therapy to the adult services they provide. They’re trying to give people the best life that they can have.

After my time in physical therapy at Capper, when I was about 12 years old, I started volunteering for their iCan Bike program [a 5-day camp that helps people with disabilities learn to ride a two-wheel bike]. Though I was too young at the time to be a spotter in the program, I talked to Cris Teter, who was formerly one of my physical therapists at Capper, and he found a role for me helping the bike technician adjust bikes, pump up tires, clean rollers — all sorts of things like that. It’s still a highlight of my summers, when I’m able to volunteer at iCan Bike.

I’m a producer on a film crew now, and I think if Capper hadn’t instilled in me the idea that anything is possible, I might not be where I am today. Capper really does build abilities. They work hard to help those they serve put in the hard work that’s needed to achieve their goals.

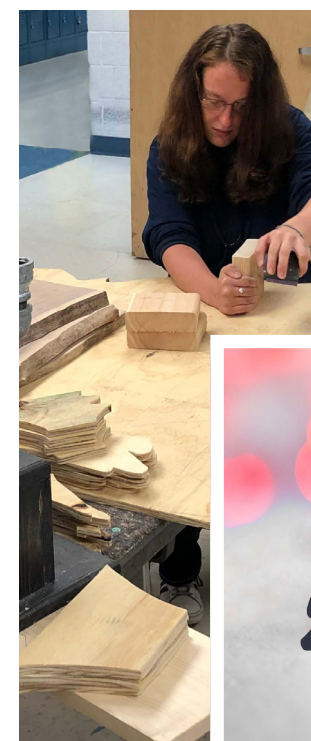


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## Capper Creations



Did you know your Capper Creations purchases benefit adults served at our Topeka location working in our Wood Shop and Art Studio? You can support these inspiring artisans as you shop for one-of-a-kind works of art as well as seasonal gifts and décor.

Our goal is for these hardworking individuals to enhance valuable skills and make a fair living wage. Our Adult Day Services offer safe places and opportunities needed for finding hope, dignity and personal growth.

We are grateful for the loyal support of customers on **Etsy**. To shop the Etsy product line from our adults served, visit [capper.org/etsy](http://capper.org/etsy).

You can find Capper Creations products locally in **Owl’s Nest** locations at **29th & Adams** and **34th & Topeka Boulevard**. Both locations are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Your support is noticed and means the world to those we serve!



## 2022 Events

### BLARNEY BREAKFAST

**When:** March 12  
**Where:** Blind Tiger Brewery & Restaurant, Topeka, KS

### AN EVENING FOR A CHILD

**When:** Saturday, May 7  
**Where:** Stormont Vail Events Center

### ICAN BIKE (AND FINALE)

**When:** June 6-11  
**Where:** Central Park Community Center, Topeka, KS  
Finale at Gage Park

### ICAN SWIM

**When:** July 11-15  
**Where:** Capitol Federal Natatorium at Hummer Sports Park

### ARTHUR CAPPER’S 157TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**When:** Wednesday, July 14  
**Where:** Capper Foundation



# capper update

Holiday 2021

Dear Friends,

I announced my planned retirement back in mid-July and my retirement date is fast approaching in mid-January 2022. In my nonprofit leadership role, I have been very fortunate to be the long-time face and voice of Capper Foundation overseeing all aspects of this great organization. I have really enjoyed working with our incredible Capper Team through all of our transformational changes and growth, providing creative, person-centered and life-changing services to more infants, children, teens, adults and families with disabilities. Being around, communicating and interacting with our staff, volunteers, donors, community partners, persons and families served has been a memorable and meaningful experience for me every day.

I have overseen several capital campaigns, facilities renovations and additions, process and systems modernization, two mergers to expand our reach, staff, services and locations and elevated our advocacy, community engagement, support and organizational financial strength. I have frequently shared the importance of M & M's, making our Mission and Money work simultaneously. During my time here, Capper Foundation has received considerable well-deserved public recognition for being a non-profit of distinction and consistently highly rated in the top 5% of charities nationwide for transparency, accountability and trustworthiness thanks to the collective team effort of everyone involved.

Serving as President & CEO and on the Board of Trustees of Capper Foundation truly is a heartfelt honor and privilege. It makes my heart smile when I think about leading this legendary nonprofit organization for three decades and all of the lives we've touched with such a positive impact. I am very blessed that so many people have touched and enriched my life as well. Through all of the good times and challenges we faced over the years, we kept our focus on our mission to build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities. We also worked tirelessly toward our vision of every person being valued and enjoying access, independence and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams.

Being a positive, strategic leader here and encouraging and empowering others to be their best and do their best has been very rewarding. Our Capper culture has been cultivated to be about love, laughter, caring, sharing, looking out for each other, helping everyone be the best they can be and making a positive difference in people's lives. We are blessed to have the best people anywhere on the planet on our entire Capper Team. I am genuinely thankful to each of them for all they do every day. There have been so many wonderful individuals, groups, relationships, moments and memories through the years that I will always cherish. For all of this and more, I am truly grateful and proud. Fulfillment of a lifetime for sure! Capper Foundation and all the people I've gotten to know here over the years will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you so much for all of your support in so many ways! I sincerely wish Capper Foundation the very best going forward and a smooth transition to a new President & CEO in mid-January 2022.

Sincerely,

Jim Leiker  
President & CEO



Achieved 9th Consecutive  
**HIGHEST RATING**  
**Top 5% of U.S. charities**

## GREAT NEWS!

We're happy to announce Capper Foundation was recognized with the **2021 Non-Profit of Distinction Award** by Greater Topeka Partnership!



## Fiscal Year 2021 Capper Highlights

- Served individuals from **16** counties and **44** cities in Kansas.
- Capper Foundation provided **739,464** hours of services to **2,109** individuals.
- **200** volunteers provided **2,341** hours of service in diverse roles, supporting programs, facility and administrative needs, fundraising events, and capital campaign efforts.
- Provided **\$3.7 Million** of non-reimbursed cost of services.

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

## Therapy Triumphs MEET NOLAN

For nearly three years, Nolan has been building abilities at Capper Foundation taking part in Speech-Language, Occupational and Physical therapies. Now at age four he has made incredible strides in his expressive and receptive language skills, sound and speech production, creeping, crawling, walking, using a pincer grasp, improving dexterity and unassisted eating. His mother, Amanda, shared with us about his journey:

*Nolan is active in everything he does. I chase him everywhere. He has a twin sister Gabriela, and they keep me busy.*

*He was born with Down Syndrome. And he also had a heart defect. He was in the NICU for four weeks here in Topeka. And then he was transferred to Children's Mercy by ambulance and was there for two weeks where he had a G-Tube placed in his stomach. When I found out Nolan was going to have Down Syndrome, I was completely shocked, scared and overwhelmed. I've never met a child with Down Syndrome before. I knew no matter what, you know, we were going to have Nolan and he was going to change our world. But the heart defect I think scared me more than anything because I didn't know what to expect.*

*He had open heart surgery at six months old, and we had a lot of complications, unfortunately. So we ended up being there for about a month. It was an unreal time, honestly. But he finally came home and has been making strides ever since.*

*Capper has done an amazing job. Just watching him go from being able to sit to then stand and then walk with his walker. I mean, he had that walker for a while. And when he took those first few steps, I mean, we celebrate those little things huge in our house.*

*I'm very thankful for their patience. They have touched him, me — my entire family — in a way I could never*



*fully express. I don't think Nolan would be where he is right now without them. I have learned a lot from Nolan. The biggest thing is to never judge a book by its cover — to know that any single person in this world can do anything they put their little minds to. He has completely changed our lives.*

When a child or adult with disabilities faces extra challenges, the loved ones and care givers in their lives face a lot of uncertainty. Support for Capper Foundation gives the families we serve hope for a brighter future. It means the world to us and the families we serve to help people like Nolan achieve pivotal goals and gain independence.

## MEET VICTORIA



After about a year in Capper Foundation's Adult Employment program, Victoria expressed interest in working in the Small Engine Repair shop. She has been extremely helpful following instructions and assisting in repairs.

"Victoria is very hard working and energetic about what she wants to do," says Wilson, Adult Employment Services Instructor. "She is always on time and willing to stay and help clean up. She has really found her niche here at Capper. We've been hearing lots of new things on her mind, and she says she wants to work for a big corporation fixing cars one day. It would be great to see her get certified to do that eventually."

Though Victoria has worked in our Business Support Center and Art Studio, Small Engine Repair has really seemed to click for her. She found something she enjoys and does well, and that seems to have boosted her confidence and helped bring her out of her shell. Support for adults like Victoria truly makes a difference!