



FISCAL YEAR 2022

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

*building abilities together*





## Our Mission

*To build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities.*



## Our Vision

*Every person is valued and enjoys access, independence and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams.*



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Topeka, Kansas 66604  
785.272.4060

622 N Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, Kansas 67042  
316.320.7531

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

[www.capper.org](http://www.capper.org)

# President's Message

Dear Friends,

Every day is a great day at Capper Foundation!

I am honored to share with you that we finished strong in Fiscal Year 2022.

Our outstanding staff of more than 230 caring, dedicated and skilled professionals provided the highest quality life-changing therapies and adult day and residential supports in the nation. Through their commitment to Capper Foundation's mission, our team has worked diligently to earn our tenth consecutive 4-STAR RATING by Charity Navigator for strong financial health, transparency, accountability and trustworthiness, and also recognition of being in the top 5% of charities nationwide.

Everything we do at Capper Foundation is motivated by our mission to build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities. Over the past year, our staff has diligently worked to expand our impact by serving more infants, children and teens with physical, occupational and speech therapies and behavior support services. We have expanded the offerings of our adult day programs in Topeka, El Dorado and Winfield providing more choices and experiences for individuals supported increasing access, independence and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams.

The mission impact of Fiscal Year 2022 is all about "firsts" —

- A 12-year-old's first steps without assistance.*
- A family enjoying their first Thanksgiving meal together as their child can now sit cooperatively.*
- A grandmother's first time of getting to be grandma and not caregiver.*
- An adult supported enjoying their first Christmas celebration with their Capper friends.*
- First time for parents to hear their child say, "I love you".*
- First time for individuals who were told they would never walk, be part of a family meal, experience independence, or speak to thrive.*

In a world filled with "you can't," at Capper, "you can".

With our mission at the forefront of what we do, we will continue to build upon the success of 2022 with vision, intentionality, and stewardship as we focus on our four pillars - quality, sustainability, people and growth.

Thank you to the stakeholders, individuals and families we serve, vital volunteers and loyal community partners for their generosity and commitment to ensure our mission is strong today and filled with the powerful message – at Capper "you can"!

  
Zach Ahrens  
President & CEO

# SHOOTING

# FOR THE STARS

THEN & NOW: *Conner Schonlaw*

**We** first introduced Conner to our donors and friends in Spring 2010. At 2 ½ years old he started walking and learning to talk with help from pediatric therapists at Capper Foundation, after a surgery to disconnect the sides of his brain proved to be the miracle needed to give him a more independent life. This life-changing surgery stopped the over 30 seizures a day Conner was enduring and allowed him to become more active instead of napping to recover from the seizures.

As Conner progressed through his interdisciplinary therapy at Capper, he also participated in adaptive recreation events hosted each summer by Capper Foundation including iCan Bike and iCan Swim, to further develop strength and coordination and to build self-confidence.

Fast forward to 2023. Conner now attends Washburn Rural High School where he serves as a manager for the boys JV basketball team.

Conner continues to become more self-sufficient, developing daily living skills to prepare him to one day live as independently as possible.







# building abilities

**On** May 6, 2019, a one year old little girl began changing lives in ways no one thought possible. Ryan and Carla Butler, along with their children, welcomed their foster child, Riley, into their home and hearts with a willingness to learn how to care for a child with challenging medical needs. Since that day, they have done everything in their power to help her live life to the fullest, disproving medical opinions along the way.

"With Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy, we were told she would never talk, walk, sit, move, eat, or drink on her own. In fact, we were told our job was just to keep her alive, feeding her through a g-tube," shared Carla Butler, Riley's mom. Since starting services at Capper Foundation, Riley has now gained the ability through speech therapy to form two to three word sentences and hold short conversations – greeting everyone she meets. Capper's interdisciplinary approach to her care also includes physical and occupational therapy, helping Riley develop gross and fine motor skills essential for daily living and greater independence.

"Right now, our goal is for Riley to walk into her first day of school and eat lunch with her peers. In the future, we want her to have the skills to achieve her dreams – go to college or live on her own if she chooses. These are things we wouldn't have thought were possible without the amazing progress she has made through her therapies at Capper," noted Carla.

While none of us know what the future holds for Riley, we do know she will do it as "Riley Rose Butler". Riley joined her forever family on August 15, 2022 when her adoption was finalized. With the aid of speech therapy, she now calls the Butlers "Mom and Dad".

# How We Help Build Abilities

## Pediatric Services

Our Pediatric Services provide custom, personalized treatment plans for children, infant to 21 years, with disabilities. Our therapists use cutting-edge interventions disguised as fun activities, providing children a chance to thrive in their own environment. Our goal is to help children gain their highest level of independence as they grow into adults and enjoy living a fulfilled life.



## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play a vital role in support of our organization's mission. We strive to match their interests and talents to optimally help those we serve. Groups are always welcome, too!

## Adaptive Recreation

Our *iCan Bike* and *iCan Swim* 5-day summer programs provide quality learning opportunities in recreational activities for individuals with disabilities, creating an environment where participants are safely empowered to learn new skills and maximize their individual potential.



## Behavior Support Services

Our trained therapists help families and children navigate everyday tasks, experiences, build social skills and manage emotions. Our model of services helps the child and the family work together, extending the new learned practices into their home, school and community settings for future success.



## Residential Services

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities often have many overlapping support and health needs. Some adults can live independently with very little support, while others need more intensive around-the-clock assistance and medical care. Our Residential Services provide professional assistance and nursing care to help with all levels of individuals' needs, as well as teaching valuable skills for adults to enhance their independence.



## Professional & Family Training

Professional and/or Family Training opportunities are designed for direct service providers, guardians and family members with the goal of equipping them with techniques and strategies to enhance the independence of their loved one living with disabilities.





# FOUR PILLARS OF SUCCESS

**Quality**, Financial strength, and a focus on People and Growth have always been at the heart of Capper Foundation's rich history of building abilities and empowering people of all ages living with disabilities. During Fiscal Year 2022, Capper senior leadership established this set of core operational principles as the FOUR PILLARS OF SUCCESS. Throughout the year all initiatives and activities were viewed in alignment with these pillars to ensure every person is valued and enjoys access, independence and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams.



## We are People Helping People

### PERSONS SERVED BY DISCIPLINE

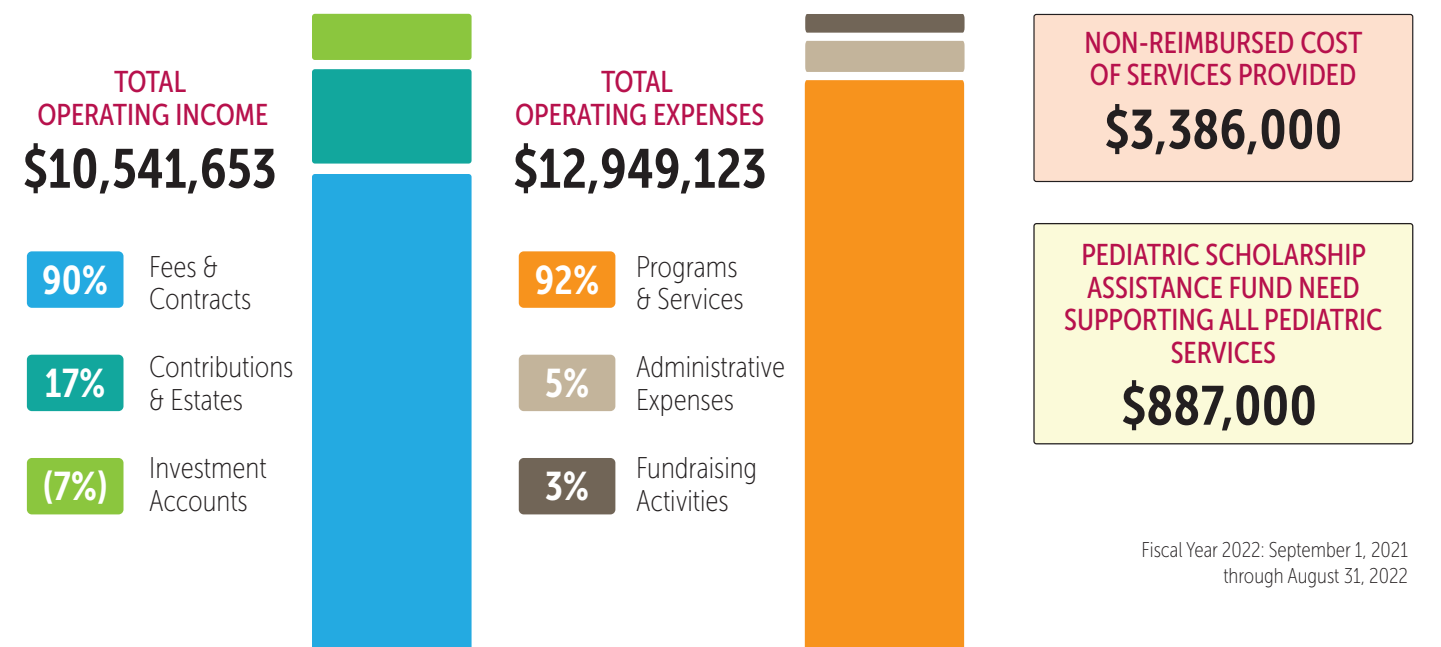
- 630 Pediatric Therapy
- 95 Adult Residential Services
- 398 Behavior Support
- 91 Adult Day Center & Community Supports
- 75 Recreation Activities



- 58 Employment Services
- 486 Information and Referral
- 54 Professional & Family Training
- 100 Equipment Loan
- 104 Other Support Services

702,081 Number of Hours of Service	46 Cities in Kansas	PROVIDING SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS LIVING ACROSS KANSAS	16 Counties in Kansas	249 Individual Volunteers	GROWING OUR VOLUNTEER BASE	2,418 Volunteer Hours Donated
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## Serving with Integrity, Transparency & Trust



Fiscal Year 2022: September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022





## EXPANDING Horizons

**For** most people getting out to socialize and engage in their community is easy. For others it can seem impossible. When Matt started attending Adult Day Services at Capper Foundation in 2012, he preferred to be by himself or close by the one person he trusted. Today, ten years later, Matt has gained self-confidence and is trusting others while socializing and engaging in activities with his peers.

While he chooses to live independently and continues to love his privacy, Matt has expanded his horizons by joining others in making arts and crafts in our on-site art studio and enjoying public group outings. These changes have allowed him to broaden the circle of individuals he trusts and can rely on. "Over the last year and a half, Matt has truly come out of his shell and exhibited positive behaviors and actions that not many people have had the opportunity to see," shared Dorothy Robinson, Capper Program Coordinator.

Recently, Matt expressed concern for the well-being of an elderly neighbor who had passed out on his front porch. Because he doesn't know this individual very well, Matt alerted Dorothy who was able to go check on him and ensure he was alright. "In my opinion, this gentleman may have been on his porch for hours and might have stayed there if not for Matt – he saved his life," noted Dorothy.

## Board of Trustees – Fiscal Year 2023



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& Restaurant



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Community Volunteer



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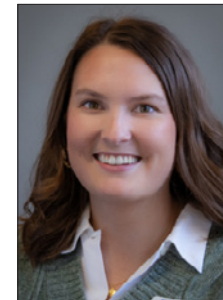
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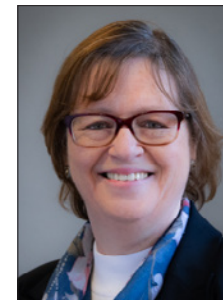
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Community Volunteer



**Jason McMillen**  
Highland Park United  
Methodist Church



**Marie Pyko**  
Topeka & Shawnee  
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**Pam Walstrom**  
Community Volunteer



**Glenda Washington**  
Greater Topeka  
Partnership



**Zach Ahrens,  
Ex-Officio**  
Capper Foundation

### CAPPER SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Zach Ahrens**  
*President & CEO*

**Sandy Warren**  
*Executive VP & CFO*

**Heidi Pickerell**  
*Senior VP Adult Services*

**Sandy Crawford**  
*VP Pediatric Services*

**Edie Smith**  
*VP Development & Marketing*

**Stephanie Broxterman**  
*VP Human Resources*

### CAPPER ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Charlotte Parker  
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Dr. Richard Selig  
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John H. Stauffer  
Pam Walstrom





## Always Amazing Amira

**For** nearly three years, Amira Payne has received Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy at Capper Foundation where she is building her abilities in a meaningful, joyful play-based environment. Diagnosed with Smith-Magenis syndrome, Amira has medical anomalies including developmental delay, low muscle tone, and scoliosis that changes when and how she meets milestones.

"When we started coming to Capper, Amira was eight months old and all she could do was lie on the floor and suck on her hands. I didn't know what to expect because we had no idea what it meant to get PT, OT and Speech. Once we did, our fight was to make sure she got the best care she could get," shared Peggy Payne, Amira's mom. A short time later, our team of therapists started an interdisciplinary approach to help Amira gain the strength she needed to start moving her body, communicate effectively, and do self-care tasks.

Today, Amira continues to make progress. She has gained enough strength and balance to take a few steps at a time without assistance, is working on going up and down stairs, and is progressing towards doing some tasks on her own such as feeding and dressing her upper body. Also, Amira now has a dedicated communication device that she uses more independently in addition to sign language and gestures to express requests, thoughts and make choices.

Many families like Amira's know first-hand that Capper Foundation is a place where miracles happen to help every person have opportunities to reach their full potential and advance their hopes and dreams.

# A Legacy of Caring

*Arthur Capper*

**Senator Arthur Capper was a true Kansas Statesman.**

Combining media, publishing, and political influence, Senator Capper advocated for causes important to all Kansans, humbly creating an unparalleled legacy of generosity and goodwill.

Since 1920, **Capper Foundation** has carried forward Senator Capper's signature legacy by providing individualized care and therapies to infants, children, teens, and adults with disabilities from 16 counties and 46 cities across Kansas.



**Donations to Capper Foundation**

enable us to provide life-changing services to kids like Easton who required hours of rehabilitative therapy after three surgeries to treat a serious brain infection. Easton's story reminds us that the need for the therapies and services we provide extend beyond those born with developmental disabilities.

To read Easton's inspiring story and learn more about Senator Arthur Capper's legacy, scan the QR code below.



Capper Foundation has earned its tenth consecutive 4-STAR rating by Charity Navigator for strong financial health, transparency, accountability and trustworthiness.

**92%**

expenditures to programs and services

**10X**

consecutive 4-star ratings

**TOP 5%**

of charities nationwide





## 2023 BLARNEY BREAKFAST



**DATE:**

Saturday, March 18, 2023

**LOCATION:**

The Blind Tiger Brewery  
& Restaurant, Topeka

**FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT:**

Children & adults served



**DATE:**

Saturday, May 6, 2023

**LOCATION:**

Maner Conference Center, Topeka

**FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT:**

Pediatric Services & Pediatric  
Scholarship Assistance Fund



**DATE:**

Week of June 5–9, 2023  
Finale Ride, June 10, 2023

**LOCATION:**

Central Park Community Center  
& Gage Park (Finale Ride), Topeka

**BENEFITING:**

Families in our community



**DATE:**

Week of July 9–14, 2023

**LOCATION:**

Capitol Federal Natatorium at  
Hummer Sports Park, Topeka

**BENEFITING:**

Families in our community



**DATE:**

Thursday, August 3, 2023

**LOCATION:**

To be determined

**FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT:**

Pediatric Services at Capper  
Foundation

## DONOR CELEBRATION DINNER

**DATE:**

Thursday, November 30, 2023

**LOCATION:**

The Foundry, Topeka

**IN RECOGNITION OF:**

Our loyal and generous donors  
and community partners

## Capper Foundation: Building Abilities Across Kansas

### TOPEKA



3500 SW Tenth Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
785.272.4060

### EL DORADO



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### WINFIELD



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