



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to share some heartwarming and inspiring stories of transformation and growth. Your support continues to make a strong

impact on the lives of individuals across northeast and south central Kansas who are striving to build abilities and reach their full potential.

I would like to introduce you to Tatum, a remarkable 11-year-old boy. Tatum was diagnosed with autism, which presented him with a number of unique obstacles to overcome. However, we are thrilled to be able to share the remarkable progress Tatum has made over the years while working with our dedicated team of pediatric therapists.

Also, meet Alexis, an adult we are privileged to support at our Winfield location. Her incredible journey toward greater independence and success was originally featured in our adult services newsletter earlier this year. We were so inspired by her story that we felt compelled to share it with you as well.

These stories of resilience and progress are a testament to the impact of your generosity and commitment to the Capper mission. Without donors like you, stories like Tatum's and Alexis's would remain untold, and the lives of these individuals would not have been touched in such impactful ways.

Your continued belief in our mission empowers us to create opportunities for individuals like Tatum and Alexis to thrive. Together, we are making a difference, one life at a time.

Warm regards,



Zach Ahrens
President & CEO



A dedicated team of Capper therapists is...

Helping Tatum Thrive

As a toddler, Tatum Blanco was diagnosed with autism and at the time could not use words to communicate his needs, wants, or emotions. Often frustrated, Tatum would exhibit aggressive behavior toward himself and others. In 2018, his parents sought therapy services from Capper Foundation with the goal of helping Tatum learn ways to effectively communicate while they were taught how to adapt to his way of learning and processing to better understand and support his needs in different environments.

Fast forward five years to now. Tatum's therapists describe him as a different child because of the immense progress that he has made. "When I evaluated him, he was very dysregulated,



Tatum's team of therapists at Capper continue helping him to develop his speech, articulation, cognitive, vision and motor skills.

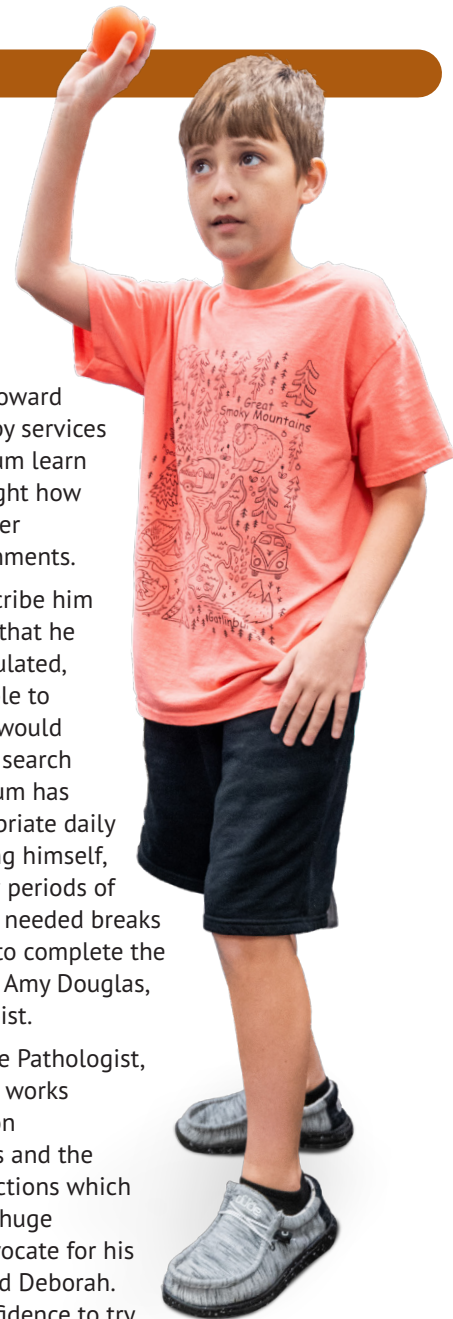
unable to sit at a table to complete tasks, and would run room to room in search of swings. Today, Tatum has mastered age-appropriate daily skills such as dressing himself, focusing on tasks for periods of time, and requesting needed breaks before coming back to complete the task at hand," shared Amy Douglas, Occupational Therapist.

His Speech-Language Pathologist, Deborah Schloeman, works diligently with him on comprehension skills and the ability to follow directions which

has reduced his frustration and aggression. "I've seen huge changes in Tatum's verbal communication. He can advocate for his wants and needs and ask and answer questions," noted Deborah. This progress has given Tatum and his family the confidence to try new things including Capper-related community events such as Fairlawn Plaza Christmas Shopping and C.A.S.T for Kids.

"Without Capper we would not have the guidance to support Tatum and successfully help him navigate life living with autism. As he gets older, we hope that his communication skills will continue to improve, and he will live as independently as possible. We will always be grateful for the help we have received at Capper," shared Jolene French-Barr, Tatum's mom.

With your support of Capper Foundation, more children like Tatum are gaining the valuable skills that will help them today and through a lifetime of milestones yet to come.



www.capper.org





With the help of Capper Adult Services...

Alexis is Driving Her Future Forward

Alexis became a part of the Capper Foundation family in July 2017 when she started receiving day and residential services. Over the past six years, she has experienced emotional and social growth and has determined she is ready to take the steps needed to increase her independence.

Her first milestone occurred in August 2022 when she was hired as a part-time Dietary Aide for Winfield High School. As part of her job, Alexis prepares and serves food based on the nutritional needs of the students as well as assisting with sanitation, and inventory duties. As time allows, she also continues to work on our crew of adults supported that clean our day services and administrative offices in Winfield.



“When Alexis joined us at Capper, she had no desire to live on her own and was scared to learn how to drive. Now, she is more outgoing and maintains friendships, has better self-control, and is advocating for herself by expressing her wants, and needs. She’s doing very well.”

Danielle Wilson,
Director of Adult Services
South Central Kansas



In January 2023, she obtained her learner’s permit and completed the required hours driving with a licensed instructor before getting her official driver’s license. She hopes to save enough money this year to purchase her first car. To save money, Alexis opened an ABLÉ Savings Account through the State of Kansas Treasurer’s Office. An ABLÉ account is a tax-advantaged savings account that qualified individuals with disabilities may open. To learn more about this program and eligibility (which is changing in 2026), visit https://kansascash.ks.gov/able_savings.html.

Alexis is preparing to live independently and already buying some items to furnish her first apartment. Through all these changes, she’s been self-confident and supported and encouraged by Capper staff, her family, and friends.

In her spare time, Alexis enjoys doing her favorite activities like going to the movies, bowling, shopping especially for shoes, going for coffee at College Hill Coffee, playing video games, and socializing with peers, and our staff.

At Capper Foundation, adults and children with disabilities experience life-changing “firsts” just like Alexis and we know that their progress will continue in the months and years to come. Together, we are fulfilling our mission and vision every day and watching with excitement as hopes and dreams come true.

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP WRITE THE NEXT INSPIRING STORY

Without the generous support of our donors, stories like Tatum’s and Alexis’s would remain unwritten. Please consider a donation of any amount so we can help those we serve to build abilities while creating their own amazing and inspiring stories.

DONATE BY PHONE



785.272.4060

DONATE BY MAIL



Use enclosed envelope

DONATE ONLINE



www.capper.org



SCAN CODE ABOVE TO DONATE USING YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Give the Gift of Dialogue



Dialogue Coffee House Gift Cards are perfect for sharing with friends & family while helping us provide meaningful employment to teens and adults with disabilities.

Physical gift cards available in-store. E-gift cards can be purchased at www.dialoguecoffeehouse.com.



4009 SW 29th St.
Topeka, KS

6800 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS

301 E Railroad Ave.
Silver Lake, KS