



# Capper Update

HOLIDAY EDITION

DECEMBER 2023



Join us in celebrating Victoria's progress...

## A Journey of Discovery

**F**or nearly four years, Victoria has taken the initiative to make positive changes in her life to help her gain greater independence with the assistance of Capper Foundation's Adult Day Services and Employment Services programs. Currently, she is successfully working two part-time jobs in Topeka with hopes of increasing her work hours at both places she loves.

In 2020, Victoria chose to receive support and services from Capper in part because of the opportunity to learn workforce readiness skills and be able to utilize them in on-site positions where she felt safe before seeking community employment and stepping out of her comfort zone. Last year, when Victoria decided she was ready, she collaborated with Al Woods, Employment Specialist at Capper, to search for and apply for positions. After successful interviews, she was hired to work at *Kansas Children's Discovery Center* on Wednesdays and *Sunsations* on Thursdays.

In both roles, she has been tasked with cleaning and organizing duties which have helped hone the soft skills she has learned – communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, problem-solving, critical thinking, and professionalism. "I like my jobs because they give me more independence and I can build my self-confidence by interacting with staff and customers. It's also fun to see the people I meet through my jobs at other places like the grocery store and restaurants", shared Victoria.

On the weekdays that she is not working, Victoria spends her days participating in activities of interest including being a part of the Capper group that volunteers for Meals on Wheels and is an active member of our local chapter of Aktion Club, a service club for adults with disabilities sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Topeka. For leisure, Victoria finds enjoyment and relaxation in arts and crafts projects, gardening, and playing video games but always looks forward to her next work shifts.

With your gift, more adults like Victoria will flourish as they embark on their successful community employment journey and it will give families hope that in the future their child will have opportunities to fulfill their dream of having a job...or two.

“We love having Victoria at the Discovery Center! She is a wonderful part of the team and always willing to jump in and help when needed.”

Caitlin Luttjohann,  
Vice President of Play and Learning  
Kansas Children's Discovery Center

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

During this holiday season, reflecting on the mission driven impact of Capper Foundation for the nearly 2,100 people served this year, my heart overflows with gratitude for our committed staff, volunteers, generous donors, collaborative community partners, and the individuals and families we are privileged to support.

We are people serving people who have been called to help build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities. The support of our donors and community partners creates the possibility to achieve our vision that every person is valued and enjoys access, independence, and opportunities to advance their hopes and dreams.

We are privileged to be able to serve people like Victoria who participates in our adult day and employment services programs. Through job readiness and skill building training Victoria

has gained the preparation and confidence to successfully work at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center and *Sunsations*. During her time in our adult day program, Victoria participates in community outings and volunteer opportunities.

Also, people like Edison who experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury and multiple broken bones after a debilitating accident. With the help of the Capper pediatric therapy team, Edison's strength and skills have been regained. Now, the sky is truly the limit as Edison pursues his dream of becoming a pilot.

These are just two of nearly 2,100 wow stories that may not have been written if not for the compassion and support of our donors. May your holiday season be filled with the warmth of shared moments and the knowledge that your generosity is shaping a brighter future for others.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Zach Ahrens  
President & CEO



### YOUR GIFT TODAY CAN HELP MAKE A MEMORY FOR A FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

Nearly 70% of families served by Capper Pediatric Services depend on assistance from Capper Foundation's Children's Abilities Fund. Your donation today will help the families we serve to enjoy making memories this holiday season with less worry about meeting their next insurance co-pay.

**YOUR GIFT OF AS LITTLE AS \$25 CAN COVER A SINGLE INSURANCE CO-PAY FOR A CHILD RECEIVING SERVICES AT CAPPER.**

#### DONATE BY PHONE

785.272.4060

#### DONATE BY MAIL

Use enclosed envelope

#### DONATE ONLINE

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



SCAN TO DONATE FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE



## Cleared for Takeoff!

Edison's dream of becoming a pilot and engineer wouldn't be grounded by the events of one day.



On September 26, 2022, Edison Sinkler was involved in a life-changing accident that led him to receive treatment at Capper Foundation. Through his own determination, support from his family and the help of our interdisciplinary team of pediatric therapists, Edison's dream of becoming a pilot and engineer would not be grounded by the events of that day.

One evening while flying his remote-controlled airplane outdoors with his dad and sister, Edison was struck by a vehicle that no one saw coming nor did the driver see him in the roadway. After initial evaluation at Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, he was airlifted to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City where he spent seven weeks rehabilitating from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other injuries including multiple broken bones. Once home, his journey to recovery continued with occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy sessions at Capper.

Over the next six months, Edison worked hard in therapy and at home to regain skills he had lost as a result of his injuries including navigating stairs, jumping, tying his shoes among others. By the end of April 2023, we are happy to share that he was discharged from services at Capper and is doing tremendously well. "Thank you, a good solid thank you. I could have not been



Edison works on rebuilding strength and regaining essential motor skills in one of his physical therapy sessions.

here anymore. Somebody up there was looking out for me," remarked Edison.

While Edison's story is somewhat unique for our organization, it serves as an important reminder that potentially debilitating events can happen to anyone at any time.

With your help, Capper Foundation will continue in its mission to provide essential pediatric therapy services and support to children of all ages and their families as they face unexpected challenges from an injury or disability.

"Thank you, a good solid thank you. I could have not been here anymore. Somebody up there was looking out for me."

—Edison Sinkler



To view Edison's story, scan the code at right or go to: <https://youtu.be/iEzzXE6V7BY>



Give the gift of dialogue.

**Dialogue Coffee House**  
GIFT CARD

KELLY

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

Gift cards available in-store. E-gift cards can be purchased at [www.dialoguecoffeehouse.com](http://www.dialoguecoffeehouse.com).

**dialogue coffee house**

4009 SW 29th St.  
Topeka, KS

6800 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS

301 E Railroad Ave.  
Silver Lake, KS

IALOGUE COFFEE HOUSE IS A COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF CAPPER FOUNDATION.

## JOIN IN THE SEASON OF GIVING

While challenging economic conditions continue to drive giving decisions this year, our donors remain aware of the important role they play in helping Capper Foundation to provide our critical services.

Here are a few ways you can help us to offer life-changing supports and services for the over 2,000 families we impact each year :

- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA reduces your tax liability
- Stock gifts transferred to Capper directly translate to the full value of your gift

- Memorials & Honorariums are a great way to recognize friends or family members
- Planned Giving through Wills and Trusts help sustain the future
- Facebook Birthday Fundraisers introduce Capper to your friends and show you care
- In-Kind Donations help our bottom line
- Daily Shopping donation programs

However you choose to give, you are helping a child or adult with disabilities have hope for a more fulfilled future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 **BLARNEY BREAKFAST**



Saturday, March 16

7:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
The Blind Tiger  
Brewery & Restaurant  
Topeka, KS



Saturday, April 13

Pickleball Tournament & Evening "Pickle BALL" (not your traditional gala)  
SportZone - Topeka, KS

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



**Capper FOUNDATION**  
building abilities together

3500 SW Tenth Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
785.272.4060

1500 E Eighth Ave., Ste. 201  
Winfield, Kansas 67156  
620.221.9431

622 N Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, Kansas 67042  
316.320.7531

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