



Capper Update

SUMMER 2026

CAPPER'S AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD Cup

When the opportunity to be part of the FIFA World Cup experience came along, Jarred didn't hesitate.

Jarred, 36, is an active participant at Capper Foundation's Topeka Adult Day Services program five days a week.

He loves staying busy and enjoys volunteering whenever he can. As a lifelong soccer fan, the opportunity to serve as a Host City Ambassador at the FIFA Fan Festival in Kansas City was one he couldn't pass up.

It wasn't always glamorous, working outdoors through hot days and shifts that stretched close to midnight, but Jarred loved every minute of it.

"Getting to meet people from all over the world and learn about different cultures and traditions," Jarred said. "I like interacting with people. Even if they're having a bad day, maybe make them smile. Or if they had a good time, that's great—tell them to come back."



With the World Cup bringing visitors from the Netherlands, Ghana, Argentina, Algeria, and many other countries to Kansas City, Jarred was there to welcome them—providing directions, recommendations, and helpful information throughout the Fan Festival. Jarred's mom joined him as a volunteer and watched her son spring into action. With an

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—Jarred

encyclopedic knowledge of Kansas City, Jarred answered questions about hotels, streetcars, museums, restaurants, and more.

"Helper is a good word for him. He has a good heart and has always been very good-natured," said his mother, Mimi Leonard. "He loves being out in the community and making new friends."

For Jarred, volunteering is more than a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, he volunteers at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center in Topeka, where he greets visitors, interacts with children, and helps tidy up after play.

Capper Foundation's Day Services program encourages community involvement, helping individuals build confidence, develop relationships, and discover meaningful opportunities to contribute. Staff members knew this role was a perfect fit for Jarred.

"He's very good with people, especially kids. Very friendly, always willing to help, lend a hand," said Tiffany Marvin, Direct Support Professional at Capper Foundation. "He's always there for you whenever you need him."

In addition to volunteering, Jarred works as a food service employee at the Topeka VA, where he helps prepare meals, cleans, and washes dishes.



Sometimes, Jarred says, he gets tired, but that hasn't stopped him from looking for his next adventure. Now that the World Cup is over, he already has his sights set on the 2028 Olympics, with satellite locations in Oklahoma City and St. Louis.

Ask Jarred why he volunteers, and his answer is a simple one.

"Volunteering is not about the money, it's about the experience."

Every opportunity begins with preparation. Through the support of donors, Capper Foundation helps individuals of all abilities gain the confidence, experience, and skills that open doors to moments like Jarred's.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Every milestone tells a story. Whether it's a child's first independent steps or an adult confidently representing their community on a world stage, each

achievement reflects determination, opportunity, and the support of people who believe in every individual's potential.

In this issue, you meet Ayden, whose remarkable progress through Capper

Foundation's pediatric therapy program is helping her build strength, confidence, and independence. You also meet Jarred, whose enthusiasm and welcoming spirit earned him the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to volunteer during the FIFA World Cup Fan Festival activities in Kansas City.

Although their journeys are different, Ayden and Jarred remind us that, with the right support and opportunities, individuals of all abilities can continue reaching new milestones throughout their lives.

Because of your generosity, Capper Foundation provides life-changing therapy,

meaningful employment, adult services, and programs that empower children and adults to pursue their hopes and dreams.

As summer draws to a close, thank you for making stories like Ayden's and Jarred's possible. Your support creates opportunities, brighter futures, and lasting hope for the individuals and families we are honored to serve.

With gratitude,

Zach Ahrens, President & CEO



EVERY STEP FORWARD...

Ayden's Journey

"It's the best feeling in the world when your child does anything for the first time. Especially when your child has a disability, and they soar past that."

—Ayden's Mom



SCAN CODE TO
VIEW AYDEN'S
VIDEO STORY

At just two-and-a-half years old, Ayden is full of curiosity, determination, and joy. But reaching this point has taken the support of her family, a dedicated team of Capper Foundation therapists, and a community of donors who believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

When Ayden came to Capper Foundation, she faced challenges with mobility, communication, and feeding caused by hip dysplasia and developmental delays. Through coordinated physical, occupational, and speech therapy, she has made remarkable progress. Physical therapy helped her build the strength and confidence to begin walking independently. Today, each new

step represents not only a developmental milestone, but a growing sense of possibility.

Communication has been another area of tremendous growth. Through play-based speech therapy, she is learning to make choices, express herself, and engage more confidently with the world around her. As her therapists have watched her personality blossom, they've celebrated the many ways she's discovering that her voice matters.

Occupational therapy has helped Ayden overcome significant feeding challenges. Once unable to tolerate many types of food without gagging, she now enjoys sitting at the table with her family, exploring new foods, and even brushing her teeth

with confidence. What were once everyday obstacles have become opportunities for new experiences and greater self-reliance.

For Ayden's family, the progress extends well beyond therapy sessions.

"It's the best feeling in the world when your child does anything for the first time," her mother shared. "Especially when your child has a disability, and they soar past that."

Every milestone reflects a collaborative approach that brings multiple therapy disciplines together to meet each child's unique needs. Donor support helps bridge the gap between insurance reimbursement and the specialized pediatric services that children like Ayden rely on every day.

Today, she continues to make remarkable progress, embracing new challenges with the same resilience and joyful spirit that inspires everyone around her. Her story is a reminder that when families, therapists, and a caring community come together, extraordinary things can happen—one step, one word, and one milestone at a time. 🌈

Keep the Summer Momentum Going!

As summer comes to a close, we're celebrating milestones reached by Ayden, Jarred and the countless achievements by the children and adults we serve. Every Capper success story is possible because of caring supporters like you.

While these accomplishments are worth celebrating, the need doesn't end with summer. Your gift to Capper helps provide therapy, adaptive recreation, adult services, and other essential programs that keep the children and adults we serve moving forward and taking the next steps on their journey.

Looking for an even greater way to make a lasting impact? Consider becoming a monthly donor. Recurring gifts provide dependable

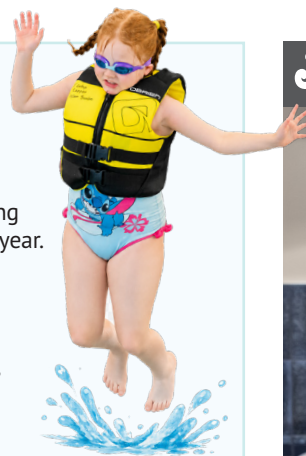
support that helps us serve more individuals and continue life-changing progress throughout the year.

Thank you for believing in a future where every person is valued and has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their age or ability.



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the next success story?

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Dialogue Coffee House provides meaningful community employment opportunities to over 50 adults and teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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



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**DIALOGUE COFFEE HOUSE
TOPEKA AREA LOCATIONS**

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**EXCITING NEWS COMING
THIS FALL—STAY TUNED!**