

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

Comprehensive Learning Center is maximizing the potential of individuals with autism from preschool through adulthood.



THE AJ FOUNDATION IS SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Welcome to The AJ Foundation and Comprehensive Learning Center's 2022-23 Annual Report. It's our pleasure to take you on an accomplishing and exciting journey as we reflect on this past year. We stayed true to our mission in maximizing the potential of individuals with autism by providing state-of-the-art education and behavioral services based on the scientifically validated procedures of Applied Behavior Analysis. In doing so, we saw the 47 learners we serve between our Education and Adult Life Skills Programs persevere and achieve life-changing skills.

This report shares the stories of hard work, strength and success of our learners and their families, made possible by our phenomenal staff and gracious funders.

We are thankful not only for the support of our community, but for the growth of Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC). We welcomed two new students at the end of the 2022-23 school year. The steady expansion of CLC is made possible by the tireless fundraising efforts of The AJ Foundation and conscious effort to maintain CLC's mostly one-to-one student-to-staff ratio, providing the intensive and comprehensive intervention our learners deserve.

- Joanne Corless, President of The AJ Foundation & Cindy Murphy, Executive Director of CLC

5 Highlights from our 22 - 23 SCHOOL YEAR

210

School Days Completed

With the Education Program's 6-week summer session known as ESY (Extended School Year), we have completed 210 school days in the 2022-2023 School Year!



646

Home Visits Conducted

Our staff provide families with the tools and techniques needed to continue instruction at home and remain consistent in their practices. This includes nighttime routines, dressing, bathing, and other selfcare skills.

6-5 Community Locations Visited

We've visited 57 different locations this year and to develop pre-vocational skills, our learners have volunteered at 8 organizations.





Individuals Served

With 35 students in our Education Program and 12 individuals in our Adult Life Skills Program, we proudly serve 47 learners!

9

Board Certified Behavior Analysts®

We are very proud to have such a committed staff who value professional development. With 9 Board Certified Behavior Analysts® on staff, CLC is contributing to the next generation of autism/special education professionals.



GOING GREEN



Over the past few years, CLC has been systematically converting various recordkeeping systems from paper to electronic files. While this may sound simple, it has proven to be a thoughtful and methodical process in order to keep everyday operations as seamless as possible.

Some changes have been small, and some have completely overhauled systems that had been in place for 2 decades or more. Some smaller changes include adopting online bill pay, using Docusign®, and how our Annual Report is distributed. A far bigger change includes moving all our human resource operations to a comprehensive online software platform. This HR information management system has been a gamechanger in our administrative department!

The biggest change, of which we are most proud, is the creation of CLC's own electronic graphing software program! CLC is committed to the science of Applied Behavior Analysis so collecting, graphing, and analyzing data is integral to our students' success. Each of our students had very large data notebooks, 4–6 inches thick, with every detail of their instructional program being tracked with paper and pencil. However, there are now more efficient ways and CLC needed to advance, so the process began.

GRAPHING SOFTWARE

There are many electronic graphing programs out there for sale and CLC's Clinical Director, Amanda Fremont researched most of them. While many programs offered some features that were interesting, it would have required us to change the data collection, graphing, and reporting processes that we've been building over the past 23 years. This didn't feel right to us. Instead, Amanda recommended that CLC build our own graphing software program.

Over the course of many, many hours spent this past year, Amanda thought of every detail while working with a software developer so that CLC's electronic graphing software would perfectly align with our existing systems and be consistent with years of staff training. This was an enormous endeavor and CLC is beyond grateful to Amanda for conceiving, spearheading, and expertly building version 1 of this invaluable tool to better CLC's program!

EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Beginning of a Wonderful Partnership

Since Mikey started at Comprehensive Learning Center in 2018 he has gained many valuable skills, such as verbalizing feelings, remaining on-task while completing an activity and accepting interruptions within said activity, doing chores, holding conversations about different topics and completing a weekly meal prep routine. He began learning to prepare each food group individually; then, Mikey and his team began preparing a fully balanced meal and packaging them into 5 separate containers to reheat for

lunch each day!

Mikey thrives in the kitchen, whether that's cleaning, chopping or assembling meals. Mikey's mother and another CLC parent did some research on locations for volunteering that allowed Mikey and other CLC students to put their skills to work. Now they volunteer at Caring for Friends, a free meal delivery program and one of the largest food banks in the Greater Philadelphia area. Mikey started off packing snacks with a peer, but as he continued to thrive in their kitchen, he now puts his cooking skills to use! Alongside his mother, he independently washes, cuts, portions, seasons, cooks, and packages meals for homebound and hungry people twice a week, completing 3-hour shifts. For Mikey to be able to give back to his community and support a meaningful organization while building friendships with other volunteers is an invaluable experience.



ADULT LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Adult Life SKills Programs at Caring For Friends



The learners of the Adult Life Skills Program are proud to volunteer at many organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia area! Once they heard about the opportunity at Caring for Friends, they were quick to join. Four of our learners began volunteering at Caring for Friends, helping provide meals and friendship to people in need. The Adult Life Skills learners also volunteer each week in 3-hour shifts, packing snack bags for the elderly and hungry. Working together, they complete a multi-step process that truly requires attention to detail and collaboration. Additionally, fine motor skills, social skills, and physical stamina are required. With each snack bag, the recipient receives a hand-colored "caring card" with a message of encouragement. They love showing off their artistic skills by making these cards unique and heartfelt. Caring for Friends has allowed our learners to show their capabilities in a work setting from start to finish while helping our community at the same time!

EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Moving Up and On

We have had the privilege of working with Jaxon and his family since 2021. A consistent goal for Jaxon has been expanding his language and social skills, along with his academic and functional skills. To increase Jaxon's socialization outside of CLC, he first began working with an older CLC student as a "big buddy". They practiced turn-taking, following group directions, accepting directions from peers, voice volume, articulation and much more! Once the data revealed successful progress, we expanded his

socialization to new and exciting settings. CLC accompanied Jaxon and his mom to local playgrounds and indoor jungle gyms where he could initiate playing with similar-aged peers. Jaxon adapted and was successful again in socializing, this time at new locations. This success meant CLC was ready to plan a systematic transition to his home district.

Through observation and planning, Jaxon's transition back to his school district was set in place in phases. This began with Jaxon touring his new school when no students were in session, allowing Jaxon to tour each classroom and extracurricular area freely (gym, art room, library). Next, CLC staff met with his new teachers to observe what a full school day entails— to then simulate at CLC and prepare Jaxon for new routines. Lastly, we invited 4 neurotypical peers to CLC and held a full school day with Jaxon. It was the highlight of his Summer!





WAY TO GO, JAXON! In the next phase, Jaxon will attend his "new" school two days per week for 2.5 hours. He will join the 2nd grade classroom for morning meeting, complete his assigned morning work and participate in special activities! We anticipate Jaxon's transition will go smoothly. In the next school year, his time at the new school will increase and CLC support will be transferred to the district personnel. The goal is that Jaxon will be fully integrated into his home district by the start of his 3rd grade year. We're so proud of Jaxon's success and look forward to all his accomplishments yet to come as he adapts and thrives at his new school!



Flexible and Successful

Luke is a student who has received highly individualized services from CLC for the last decade of his life. The skills Luke has mastered allow him to be independent in so many aspects of his life and deserve a tremendous celebration!

A major focus for Luke at first was to learn to be flexible when unexpected changes occurred in his day. Over time, he has learned appropriate ways to respond to changes, including requests to change the situation at hand, accepting when that request is denied, accommodating the change by finding other activities to do, and sustaining his attention to the other activity. These coping skills have been so effective for Luke that he no longer struggles with being flexible when change occurs. This is a HUGE success for Luke and his family!

Learning this foundational skill paved the way for Luke to be more independent at home. Today, Luke is a very productive teenager. He makes his bed, cleans the bathroom, takes out the trash, vacuums, and practices a nightly bedtime routine. His level of autonomy at home among his family is exactly what CLC envisioned when Luke started here.



Luke's independence extends beyond school and home, taking him into his community. He is learning to take inventory of his belongings to create a shopping list, identify appropriate attire to wear depending on the weather, gather the belongings he needs on his trip (wallet with debit card, gym membership, and water bottle). He also uses his cell phone to text an adult that he is ready to go. Luke completes his community activities safely and appropriately. All this progress points towards a very bright future for Luke!

ADULT LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

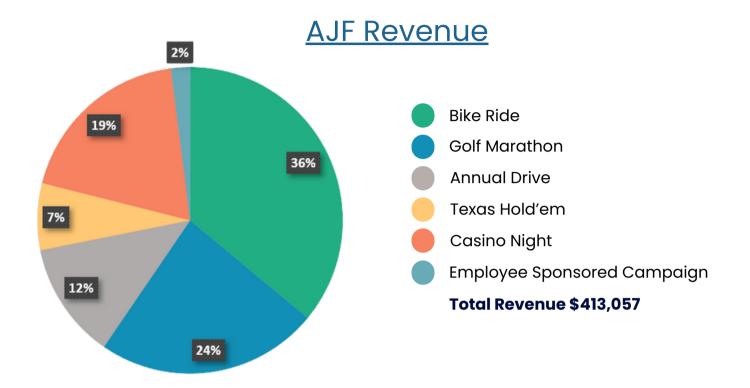


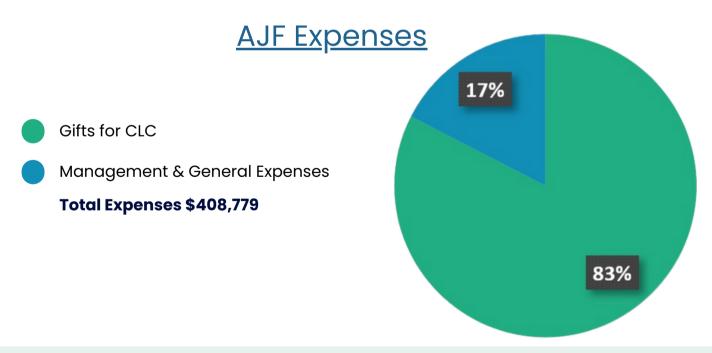
STRONG MIND, STRONG BODY!

Healthy eating and regular exercise are great habits for all of us, but often they're easier said than done. We're proud to share that Dan, one of CLC's adult learners, has proven otherwise! Since March of 2022, Dan has been committed to maintaining a robust workout schedule, stretching each morning, and exercising at his local gym almost daily. Dan enjoys weightlifting and cardio, such as swimming and running. Dan runs up to 6 miles each week! On top of all of that, he tracks his food and exercises with the Lose It!® app. His dedication to logging all his food has led to making better decisions for his mind and body. With the help of CLC staff, developing these healthy routines was easier than he imagined. Since starting this journey to better health, this amazing individual has lost almost 30 pounds! He and his family are so happy about this success!

AJ FOUNDATION

Financial Overview









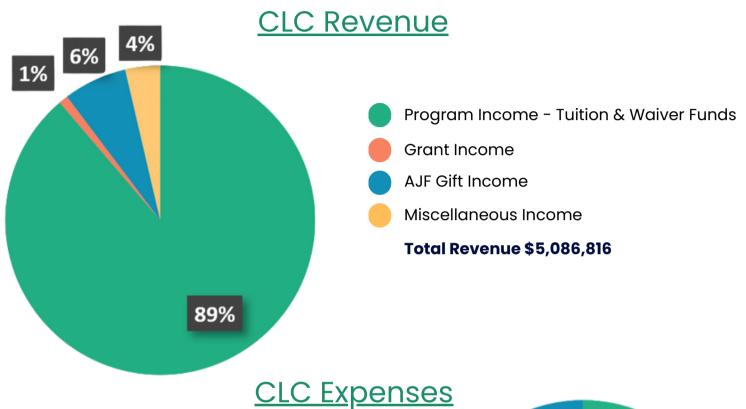




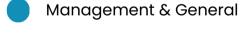


COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING CENTER

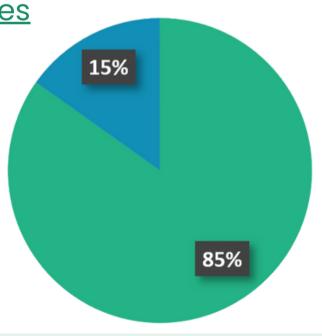
Financial Overview







Total Expenses \$4,779,826













THE AJ FOUNDATION EVENTS

AJF held its 15th Annual AJF Ride 4 Autism event in September 2023. We raised \$150,000 for the Comprehensive Learning Center! A special thank you to our 2022 Team Challenge winners: Team Blackthorn Rugby Bicycle Club, Team Patrick L. & Team Rhylin Mercedes.

AJF held its 26th Annual AJF Golf 4 Autism event in October 2022. This event raised over \$97,265! A special thank you to Makefield Highlands Golf Club for hosting a wonderful day of fun and to all of those who came out in support of our mission!

This year's Annual Drive Campaign surpassed our goal and raised \$50,877!

In February, we held the Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament which raised \$29,171!

The AJF Casino Night was an exciting and successful night. Together we raised an incredible \$80,032! We proudly surpassed our fundraising goal for this event by over \$8,000! Thank you for your participation!

COMMUNITY SPONSOR SHOWCASE

























































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FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION IN THE 2022-2023 PROGRAM YEAR!

Thank you to our event coordinators, volunteers, vendors and sponsors who make these events possible! Thank you to our community partners who provide volunteer opportunities and work placement for our students, and thank you to the community of supporters who help us spread the word!

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UPCOMING AJ FOUNDATION EVENTS:



Stylex, Inc.

Annual DriveDecember - January 31st



Texas Hold'em February 3, 2024



Casino Night April 27, 2024

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!











Thank you to all our gracious funders, community members and supporters everywhere. We hope you have enjoyed our learner's stories of success, as well as The AJ Foundation's and Comprehensive Learning Center's accomplishments throughout the 2022-23 year. We've enjoyed sharing our story with you!

With your support, we can continue providing quality education programs that prepare individuals with autism to be as independent and self-sufficient as possible so they may be active, contributing members in the communities where they live, work and play.

We look forward to another exciting year and the accomplishments it holds!