





2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, it's with immense pride and gratitude that we present The AJ Foundation and Comprehensive Learning Center's 2023-2024 Annual Report. This year has been marked by resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to our mission to maximize the potential of individuals with autism.

Throughout the past year, we have witnessed our learners continue to thrive, achieving remarkable milestones in both our Education and Adult Life Skills Programs. The dedication of our phenomenal staff has played a crucial role in this journey, utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis to provide tailored support that meets each learner's unique needs.

In this report, you will find inspiring stories of our students' achievements alongside highlights of the outstanding contributions from our staff. Each narrative reflects the hard work, strength, and determination that define our community. We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors and volunteers, whose generosity allows us to continue providing these essential services.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with autism and their families. We invite you to read on and celebrate the successes that your support has made possible.

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





CLC & AJF MERGER

MOVING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The AJ Foundation For Children With Autism (AJF) has been operating and fundraising since 1997 as its own legal nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization, led by Joanne Corless, its founder and president. AJF's main mission has been to benefit Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC) through fundraising events to support CLC's efforts in providing quality education services to individuals on the autism spectrum and more recently, to adult learners through CLC's Adult Life Skills Program. CLC was established in 2000 through AJF's fundraising efforts and the vision of Joanne Corless and Cindy Murphy, CLC's Executive Director, for a quality program for individuals with autism.

As AJF looks to the future and with much consideration, we have merged legally with CLC and will continue to raise the much needed funds to support CLC's mission. Joanne will remain in her role as Director of Fundraising, continuing her exceptional work to raise funds for CLC. The AJ Foundation will now operate under CLC's Employer Identification Number (EIN), 501(c)3 number, and PA sales tax ID as it continues holding events to benefit CLC and its learners.

In honor of AJF and Joanne's unwavering dedication to the autism population in our communities, CLC has established The AJ Foundation Legacy Endowment Fund. Donations are being accepted to grow this account for the future success of CLC and support our mission to provide the necessary educational environment for individuals with autism, today and into the future. The official merger of AJF into CLC occurred September 1, 2024. CLC's EIN number is 23-3043139. This merger does not change how AJF and CLC work together; it only enhances our efforts. We thank you for your past and future support!

JOANNE CORLESS

- -PRESIDENT, AJF
- -DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING, CLC

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

- -COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING CENTER
- -THE AJ FOUNDATION

CINDY MURPHY

-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLC

NEW PLAYGROUND, NEW POSSIBILITIES

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FUN, IT'S ABOUT BUILDING SKILLS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

We recognize that play is an essential component of childhood development. It not only brings joy but also fosters skills that last a lifetime. Our playground has been a vital part of our educational programming, enabling students to develop social, play, and motor skills that benefit them in all aspects of life. After 18 years use, it is time to upgrade our playground to ensure safety, inclusivity, and fun for all our students.

Our Vision for the New Playground

We are excited to announce the plans for a brandnew playground that will include expanded equipment and space to accommodate our growing student population and enhance developmental opportunities. We will be adding additional swings and other equipment, along with a larger area for basketball and bike/scooter riding. Safety remains our top priority; therefore, we will replace the current shredded rubber mulch with a smooth, accessible poured-in-place rubber surface, making navigation easier for all students, including those with physical challenges.



Pictured: Shredded rubber mulch, sparse and unsteady surface

With a more spacious layout, students will have ample room to engage in play simultaneously, fostering social interaction and peer engagement. New features will include areas for bike riding and basketball, as well as a storage shed to keep everything organized.



Not pictured: swing-set structure with 4 swings.

Join Us on This Exciting Journey

We are kicking off a Capital Campaign to cover the \$125,000 expense of this project and we are excited to announce that we have already secured \$61,000 toward this goal. We need your support to turn this vision into reality. Your contributions will empower our students to become independent and confident individuals. Donors contributing over \$1,000 will be recognized on a prominent sign displayed on our new playground.

For more information about our plans, please visit www.CLCPlaygroundCampaign2025.org.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:

UNDER THE C-L-SEA DANCE

This year's Under the C-L-Sea dance was an extraordinary event that highlighted the incredible collaboration among our staff. Careful planning was put into this night to ensure that every detail, from decorations to food and activities, was perfect for our learners and adults. The goal was simple: to create an unforgettable night of fun, dancing and socialization.



Pictured from left to right: Taylor Stek, Curtis, Deione King, Ali Yerger.



The results were truly magical. On the night of the dance, our learners had a fantastic time mingling, dancing, and playing games, all while enjoying delicious refreshments. The atmosphere was filled with smiles, friendship, and joy—elements that made the evening special for everyone involved.

Taylor Stek, Module Trainer, shared her vision for the event, stating, "I decided to make this event come to life to give our students and adults an opportunity to experience a memory that many of us have of school dances and formal events. Often individuals with autism are not given the opportunity to experience these life events so why not create that opportunity for them in a safe, familiar place."





CREATING COMMUNITY

CLC's Adult Life Skills Program (ALSP) knows what it means to be part of a strong team. Whether it's supportive relationships between staff or a sense of belonging in our community, the ALSP is aware that the connections our learners make with others can enhance their lives in so many fulfilling and meaningful ways.

Everywhere our learners go, these connections get stronger. Whether at weekly art lessons, group work out sessions at the YMCA or daily volunteer work, they are well known and valued within their communities. Recently, a director at a volunteer site shared some wonderful feedback about the impact our adult learners have made with their team, writing "They're all truly incredible, and it is such a pleasure working alongside them. The communication between everyone is always clear and their positivity, consideration and generosity always shine through. They're also a great help to our store!"

To highlight some examples of these beneficial connections, consider Remi. She works hard volunteering at her local library, a church clothing pantry, and Caring for Friends, an organization that provides food and friendship to seniors, children and homeless individuals. She balances these responsibilities with fulfilling hobbies like weekly knitting and art lessons with friends.

Another example brings us to Madison, who has made wonderful achievements with participating in community-based programming! She regularly plays basketball and walks with friends at a local park, picks up coffee and donuts at Dunkin', and orders a pizza for lunch at our favorite pizzeria. We couldn't be prouder of her flexibility and independence this year and we're so excited to see how happy she is!

The ALSP has built a team of learners and staff who have proudly built a strong sense of belonging in our community and we are excited to continue this incredible, collaborative work!



TRANSFORMING DATA

THE JOURNEY OF CLC'S GRAPHING SOFTWARE EVOLUTION

CLC's Graphing Software Version 1 went live in May of 2023, following over a year and a half of development. Once the software was live, the real work began. The Trainers and Clinical Directors endeavored to become experts with all the features of CLC's Graphing Software so they could train all CLC staff to use the software effectively. CLC staff were patient during this transition period, as strategic and systematic planning went into moving years of data for each learner's programming from the physical notebook to the graphing software.

Staff embraced the new software program, and the training provided, actively reporting glitches for correction and sharing feedback on features that were working well. Throughout the development and rollout of Version 1, Clinical Director, Amanda Fremont remained focused on the future, identifying enhancements to expand the software's capabilities and conceptualizing Version 2. CLC's Graphing Software Version 2 went live during this year's pre-service. Staff welcomed the additions to the software, allowing for enhanced data analysis, reporting and ease of creating and individualizing programming.



JAXON'S TRANSITION TO 3RD GRADE:

SAYING GOODBYE TO CLC AND HELLO TO NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

We are thrilled to report that Jaxon has officially transitioned full time to his 3rd grade classroom within his home school district! In his new school, he has made many new friends and loves any chance he gets to run around and socialize at recess. This

transition occurred with very careful planning and working collaboratively between schools.

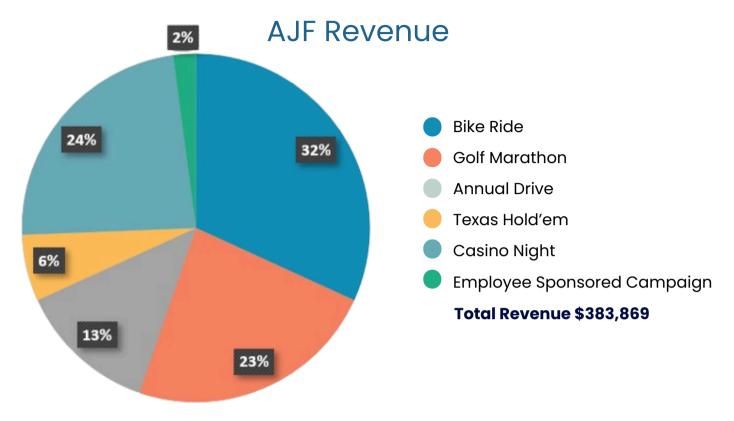
CLC sought feedback about our transition services from the school district's Special Education Supervisor who scored our evaluation tool as 99% "Completely Satisfied" and commented, "Overall, it has been a huge success".

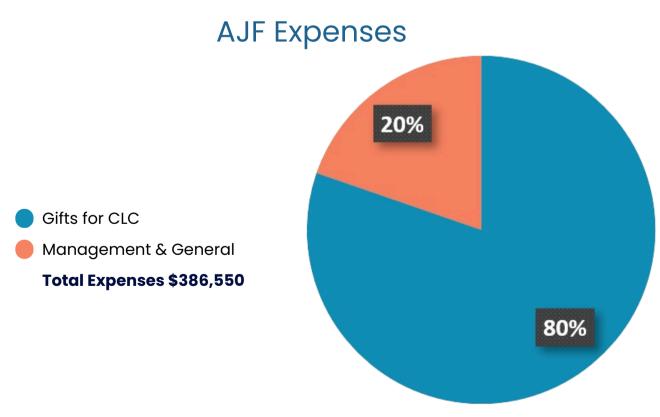
While we greatly miss Jaxon around the building of CLC, we love getting reports of how well he is doing academically and socially. We could not be prouder of him and look forward to hearing about his continued success in the future!



The AJ FOUNDATION

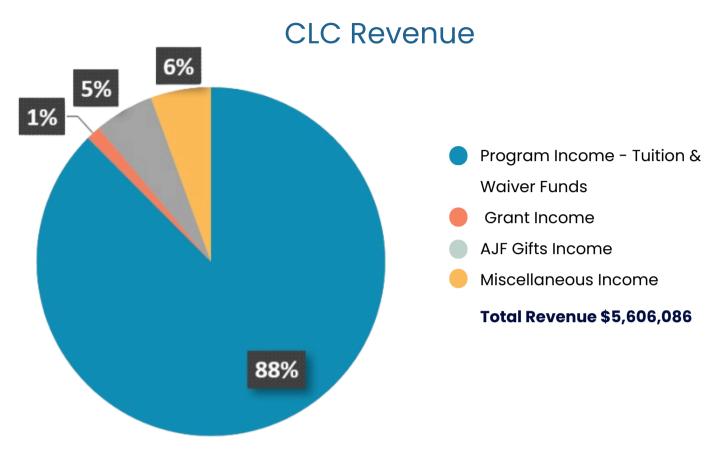
Financial Overview

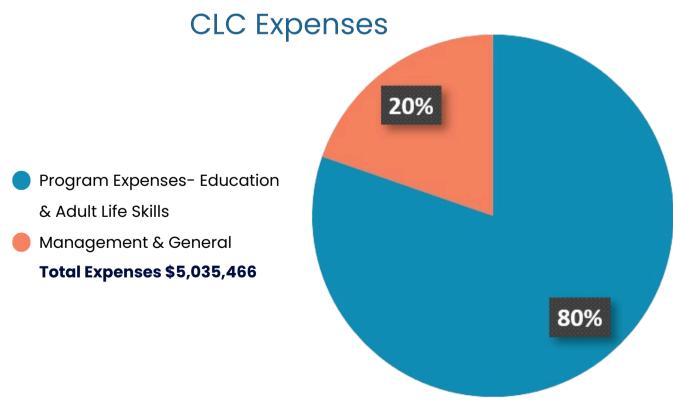




COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING CENTER

Financial Overview





PROMOTING FROM WITHIN

A PROVEN METHOD FOR SUCCESS

CLC exists to provide effective intervention services to individuals with autism, helping each person maximize their potential. Therefore, our effectiveness depends on the quality of those delivering these services. For this reason, we prioritize staff training and work diligently to optimize our training protocols. This investment becomes even more worthwhile when our experienced, highly qualified staff members have opportunities for advancement within CLC. In accordance with our ongoing practice, we regularly promote from within, drawing from our pool of dedicated professionals who are committed to our mission.



All CLC's clinical supervisory positions, from Trainers to Clinical Directors, have developed their skill sets in CLC classrooms before advancing. CLC takes pride in our staff's long-term commitment to CLC. Our Clinical Directors, including the Director of our Adult Life Skills Program, have each been with CLC between 12 and 16 years, amounting to 57 years combined!

In the 2023-2024 year, we celebrated the promotions of three staff members, each with 5 to 6 years of experience at CLC. Congratulations to our newest Trainers, and a huge thank you to everyone dedicated to CLC's mission of maximizing the potential of individuals with autism.

THE END OF AN ERA...

The 2023-2024 program year saw the conclusion of Barbara Leon's, CLC Director of Operations, 22-year career at CLC. Barb was hired in 2002, just two years after CLC opened its doors. She began as an Administrative Assistant, was later promoted to Business Manager, and eventually advanced to Director of Operations. Regardless of her title, Barb did anything and everything that CLC needed of her and ultimately, built amazing systems to ensure the sustainability of CLC's behind-the-scenes operations.



Barb had a 'can-do' attitude towards every task she faced. This was regardless of the size of the task, the amount of time to complete it, and whether she possessed any prior knowledge on the subject. None of this mattered—Barb figured it out and got it done. An excellent example of this was overseeing CLC's relocations in both 2003 and 2018. Ensuring uninterrupted services for our learners was the priority, and both moves were executed seamlessly. Learner programming never skipped a beat despite complete upheavals!

CLC's ability to quickly reopen in-person services following the 2020 pandemic closures would not have been possible without Barb's creation of our Phased Reopening Health and Safety Plan. The monumental effort involved in this planning was met with her enthusiasm to take the lead.

Barb's contributions to CLC are enormous and will forever be appreciated. The words "thank you" simply don't capture our gratitude. Happiest wishes to Barb for a most well-deserved retirement!

THE AJ FOUNDATION EVENTS

AJF held its 16th Annual AJF Ride 4 Autism event in September 2023. We raised \$122,115 for the Comprehensive Learning Center! A special thank you to our 2023 Team Challenge winners: Blackthorn Rugby Bicycle Club, Team Connor Brittain and Team Tristan.

AJF held its 27th Annual AJF Golf 4 Autism event in October 2023. This event raised over \$90,135! 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!

In December, we felt your support and were very grateful to see our Annual Drive Campaign raise \$49,560!

In February, we held the Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament which raised \$23,735!

The AJF Casino Night was an unforgettable night with great company. Together we raised an incredible \$90,240!

COMMUNITY SPONSOR SHOWCASE



























Independence 👨

























Don & Michelle Barder, James Biddle, Susan Cummins, The Feeney Family, The Flis Family, Charles Giovani, George Giovani, Robin Haworth, Rick & Rose Houseman, Phil & Lena Lakjer, Robert Thal, Robert Urquhart, The Weisman Family, The Wilkov Family,

FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION IN THE 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR!

A heartfelt thank you to our event coordinators, dedicated volunteers, generous vendors, and supportive sponsors who make these events a success! We are also grateful to our community partners for offering valuable volunteer opportunities and work placements for our students. And a big thank you to our amazing community of supporters for helping us spread the word!

\$10.000 and above

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Presti Industries

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Nursery School

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Airtex Interiors

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Clemens Family Corporation

Firstrust Bank

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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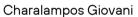
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Jerry Wolford

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Philip Zuzelo

UPCOMING AJ FOUNDATION EVENTS:



Annual Drive

December - January 31st



Casino Night

May 10, 2025



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!