



2024-
2025
Annual
Report





2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends, Partners, and Champions of Our Mission, Welcome to the Developmental Learning Center's 2024-2025 Annual Impact Report! **This past year has been nothing short of inspiring—and it's all because of YOU.** From supporters and partners, to families, and volunteers, to our local churches, community leaders, and dedicated advocates, each of you has helped shine a bright light on the path for our incredible students.

Inside, you'll discover success stories that will warm your heart, data that shows real progress, and highlights that capture the joy and resilience of our DLC family. We've celebrated milestones, overcome challenges, and created countless moments of growth, laughter, and love.

We invite you to read, reflect, and celebrate alongside us. **Thank you for believing in our mission and making this journey possible.** Together, we are building brighter futures—one child, one family, and one story at a time.

With gratitude and joy,
The Developmental Learning Center Team



Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26

Serving the Special Needs and Medically Complex Community for over 35 years

Every day, DLC serves special needs, medically complex, unique abilities, and typically developing children. Listed are some of the diagnoses of the children and families we serve.

- Dandy Walker Syndrome
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Autism
- Yuan-Harel-Lupski Syndrome
- Coffin-Lowry Syndrome
- Gardner Syndrome
- Dysphasia
- Developmental Delay
- Reynaud's Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- Noncompaction Cardiomyopathy
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Hypertonia
- Tibial torsion
- Fragile X
- Asthma
- Colostomy & Pyelostomy
- Intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH)
- Fibular Hemimelia
- Lipoblastoma
- Down syndrome
- Hirschsprung's
- Vacterl Syndrome
- KAT6A Syndrome
- Trisomy 21
- Hydrocephalus
- Speech delay
- Legally blind
- Intellectual Disability
- Chromosomal disorder
- Seizure disorder
- Alexander Disease
- Dysphasia
- Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)
- Ebstein Anomaly
- Spasmus Nutansgel
- Hypercalcemia
- 15q11.2 Micro Deletion
- Bilateral Club Feet
- 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome
- Spina Bifida
- Cerebral Palsy
- Cleft Palate
- Treacher Collins Syndrome
- 8p Inverted duplication
- Charge Syndrome
- Noonan Syndrome
- Pfeiffer Syndrome
- Pentasomy X
- Hemimegalencephaly
- Craniosynostosis
- Graves' Disease
- Bilateral neurosensory hearing loss
- Schizencephaly
- Pectus Excavatum - Sunken Chest Syndrome
- And many more!



***I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,
I know that full well. - Psalm 139:14***

MATEO'S STORY

From His Mom



“Mateo – lovingly called “Mati” – **has a diagnosis so rare that it doesn’t even have a name.** It’s called ***8P Inverted Duplication Deletion***, a chromosomal condition that also brought with it a coarctation of his aorta, agenesis of the corpus callosum, and ultimately, a diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

His birth was frightening. While I had some advance notice of potential complications, my pregnancy was filled with worry. I had a planned C-section, and within minutes of his arrival, the room filled with doctors and specialists. Thankfully, his initial vitals were stable, and I was able to hold him briefly before he was taken to the NICU. We spent the next month in the hospital. At just two weeks old, Mati underwent open-heart surgery. Though the surgery was successful, complications arose a month later when fluid built up around his heart. **It was a terrifying setback**, but he recovered – and life at home with my precious boy finally began. Those early days were a blur of fear, tears, and endless medical appointments. We struggled to imagine what his future might look like. But little by little, we found our rhythm. Our older daughter embraced her role as big sister **with love and grace**, and together we adjusted to this new life.

Mati began outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Progress was slow and hard-won, but we celebrated every “inchstone”: sitting on his own, drinking from a straw cup, chewing food, and most recently, standing and bearing weight with assistance. **Each step forward brought us hope.**

Eventually, our journey led us to the **Developmental Learning Center (DLC)**. **To say I am grateful is an understatement.** ***DLC gave me moments I once feared I would never have: packing his lunch, filling his backpack, and sending him off to a safe, loving classroom where he has friends, caring teachers, and the chance to learn.*** Although Mati cannot tell me about his day, his teachers keep me closely updated, easing my worries and including him in every way possible.

DLC has not only helped my son blossom – **they’ve helped me heal.** For years, I had been discouraged from seeking programs or resources that could help Mati. At **DLC**, the staff guided me to the right supports, opening doors to therapies and devices we otherwise could not have afforded. Thanks to their help, Mati now has access to opportunities that are making a world of difference.

My only regret is not enrolling him sooner. Families like ours can often feel isolated after receiving such overwhelming diagnoses and prognoses. **DLC gave me back hope** and helped me look forward to all that life holds for my little fighter.

I love my son with all my heart. His smile melts everyone he meets, and no one can resist his mop of curls. I will always be thankful to **DLC** for seeing my boy not just for his challenges, **but for his limitless potential.**

2024 - 2025 Impact Report

Serving Miracles and Hope to Northeast Florida for over 35 years



72
Total Number of
Children Served

89%
Goals Students
Accomplished or
Had Improvement

244
Total Number
of Goals Set



89,000+
Educational
Classroom Hours

922
Therapeutic
Hours

**Over
\$47,000**
In Scholarships

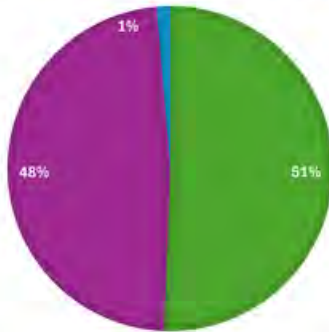
85
Volunteers

468
Volunteer Hours



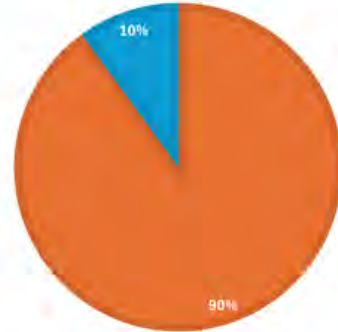
REVENUE

Contributions & Grants Programs & Services Revenue Events and Interest



EXPENSES

Programs and Services Management & Fundraising



2024-2025 Leadership Team

Board of Directors and Staff



Aaron Noles
Board President



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Gabbard



Karen
Giddens



Dr. Debra
Depto Hoffman



Joe
Honeycutt



Ellen
Light



Terri Thomas
Vice President



Heather Corey
Executive
Director



Annalaura Scott
Chief Programs
Officer



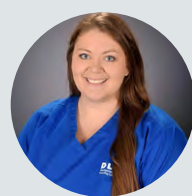
Sue Molina
Director of
Nursing



Carolyn Janzen
Director of
Therapy



Elizabeth Deutsch
Finance
Manager



Elizabeth Smith
Assistant
Program Director



DLC Teacher of the Year: Mr. Reenard

Reenard brings energy, creativity, and an incredible heart to his classroom each and every day. His dedication to his students and passion for learning make him an inspiration to all. We are so grateful for the love and leadership he shares with our children.

DLC Staff Member of the Year: Ms. Carolyn

As DLC's Director of Therapy, Carolyn has made a remarkable impact through her clinical leadership and compassionate care. She has helped grow and strengthen our therapy program, providing hope and healing to countless children and families.



DLC Volunteer of the Year: Ashley Allen

At DLC, we believe it takes a village—and we're beyond blessed to have people like Ashley Allen in ours.

During our end-of-the-year celebration, we were thrilled to present Ashley with our Volunteer of the Year award. Her positive attitude and generous spirit have made a lasting impact on everyone she works with, and her dedication shines through in every event, task, and interaction.

Over the past two years, Ashley has poured countless volunteer hours into DLC's programs and special events. Whether she's coordinating behind the scenes or offering a warm smile at the front of the room, Ashley brings joy, excellence, and heart to everything she does.

Ashley, thank you for being such an important part of the DLC family. We are grateful for you and inspired by the way you serve our mission and our children with such love.

2024-2025 DLC Graduates



Cooper J.

Cooper has attended DLC since August 2020. Since being in VPK, he has been able to accomplish many goals, such as recognizing numbers up to 50 and letters A-Z, identifying his colors and shapes, completing simple addition problems, writing his first name, and vocalizing his needs. During his time at DLC, he has worked closely with our speech therapist to use correct letter sounds. Cooper was awarded the ***Keeper of the Peace award*** this year, so he could help make sure his friends had a solution to their problems. When Cooper grows up, he wants to become a Paleontologist!

Denver W.

Denver has been at DLC since August 2024. DLC has loved watching him meet developmental milestones throughout his time here. Denver can follow simple directions and recognize letters and numbers. He has improved in socializing with other students in the classroom, attending to developmental assessments, communicating his needs to his teachers, and now loves to participate in classroom activities. Denver received our ***Singing Superstar award*** this year for always carrying a tune throughout the day. When Denver grows up, he wants to be a Paleontologist!



Isla C.

Isla has been attending DLC since January 2024. Isla comes from a family with a history at DLC—different relatives attended DLC over the years. We have loved watching Isla come out of her shell and be a great friend to all in her class. Despite medical setbacks, Isla can write her first name, recognizes most of the letters in the alphabet, recognizes numbers up to 10, can complete simple addition problems, and recognizes colors and shapes. She loves to help the teachers in her class with activities, as well as her friends who need extra help during the day. Isla was awarded the ***Future Teacher award*** for always lending a helping hand to her friends. She also wants to be a rock star when she grows up!



Aramis M.

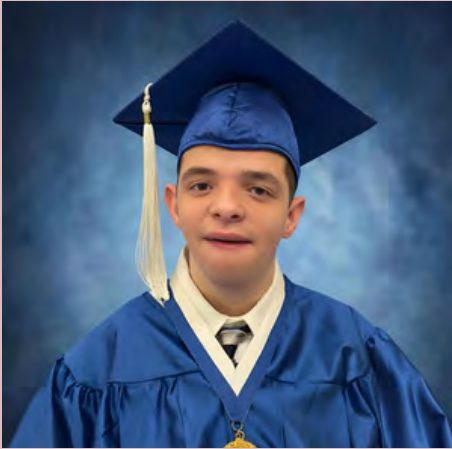
Aramis has been a fun addition to our VPK class. He loves to come in and tell his teachers and friends about new games he learned to play and just about life. He always has a smile on his face and makes sure to greet everyone who walks into his classroom. Aramis has accomplished recognizing different letters and numbers up to 10. He can count up to 25 and has improved in writing his name. Aramis was awarded the ***Storyteller award*** for all the exciting stories he would share with the class during circle time and activities. Aramis is excited to share that he wants to be a Firefighter when he grows up. Aramis, we cannot wait to see what you accomplish in the future.



Barrett A.

Barrett has been with us at DLC since January 2025. During his time here, he has already made major gains by recognizing most letters, recognizing numbers to 10, writing his name, and counting up to 30. He has come out of his shell since being at DLC by making new friends. Barrett was awarded the ***Kind Friend award*** for always helping his friends with any task. He wants to be a Chinook Mechanic in the Army, just like his dad when he grows up!

2024-2025 DLC Graduates



DANIEL M.

Daniel has been a valued member of the DLC family for the past 17 years. Over that time, we've had the privilege of watching him grow and thrive through our full-day program, afterschool care, therapy services, and summer camp. Daniel has always taken on the important role of classroom helper. He takes great pride in ensuring his friends and the classroom materials are in their proper places. If you've spent time with Daniel, you've likely heard his signature phrases: "BUS" and "BYE!" He enjoys playing card games, building with magnet tiles, and coloring pictures with care and creativity.

Daniel is graduating from *Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center* as a member of the Class of 2025 and will continue his journey with Palm Avenue and DLC in a post-high school program. Another exciting achievement is that Daniel was awarded the **2025 Prom King**! We are thrilled to continue supporting his growth and watching him develop new skills in the years ahead.



LA'CHEY M.

La'Chey has been a part of the DLC family since August 2020, and we've loved watching her grow over the past five years! She's affectionately known as DLC's Fashionista—her sense of style never goes unnoticed, and it's a daily highlight to talk about her fabulous outfits.

La'Chey enjoys being a classroom helper and brings creativity and enthusiasm to every art project she works on. She is graduating from *Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center* as a proud member of the Class of 2025 and will continue her journey with Palm Avenue and DLC through a post-high school program. This year, La'Chey was thrilled to be crowned **2025 Prom Queen**—her ear-to-ear grin as she shared the news with staff was unforgettable!



JADYN H.

Jadyn has been a cherished member of the DLC family since April 2009—an incredible 16 years! Now 22 years old, she will soon be transitioning to an adult day program.

It has been a true joy to witness Jadyn's growth over the years. We've loved watching her learn new things, sharing in the happiness of her bright smile, and hearing her daily singing and humming that brought so much cheer to our days.

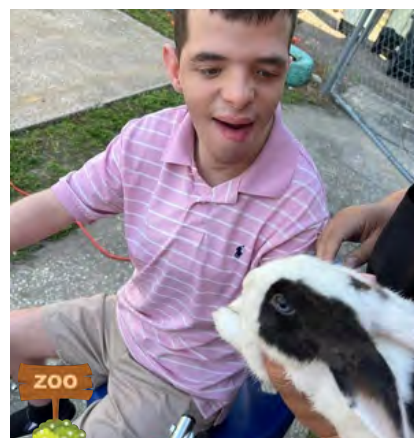
Jadyn, your presence has been a gift, and we will miss you deeply. We are so proud of you and excited to see all that your future holds. Please don't forget your DLC family—be sure to visit us soon. We'll be waiting to see your sweet smile again!

Year-Round Fun

FALL FESTIVAL

THANKSGIVING

CHRISTMAS



VALENTINE'S DAY

EASTER

SUMMER CAMP

DR. SEUSS AND LITERACY WEEK



Year-Round Fun

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Meant to Be: Zayne's Journey of Strength and Love *Shared by his Mom*

"Zayne came into my life when he was just four months old — a **tiny miracle** I didn't even know my heart was waiting for. A friend of a friend told me about his situation, and something deep inside me said, this is where you're meant to be.

Born prematurely at 33 weeks and exposed to multiple drugs, Zayne began life facing big challenges. He spent six weeks in the NICU but never needed a ventilator — **a sign of his remarkable strength** even then. He was born with bilateral club feet and underwent surgery on both Achilles tendons at just four months old. Today, he proudly wears his tiny boots and bar brace for several hours each day — his little feet growing stronger with every step.

When I was approved to foster him and brought him home that November, my world shifted forever. Those first months were filled with doctor visits, therapy appointments, and **quiet moments that knit our hearts together**. Each "first" — his first Thanksgiving, first Christmas, first birthday — was a celebration of grace and resilience.

And then this summer, it became official. Zayne is my son — forever and always. ***He may not have come to me in the traditional way, but I know in my heart he was meant to be mine all along.***

I can't say enough about how grateful I am for the **Developmental Learning Center** and the amazing people who care for Zayne every single day. From the beginning, they've been patient, kind, and full of encouragement — treating him like one of their own. With the help of his dedicated physical, speech, and occupational therapists, **Zayne continues to thrive**. Through every milestone, every little victory, and every bright smile, they've been right there cheering him on.

DLC isn't just a school — it's a family. And I am endlessly thankful that Zayne, my beautiful boy, is growing up surrounded by such love, faith, and hope."

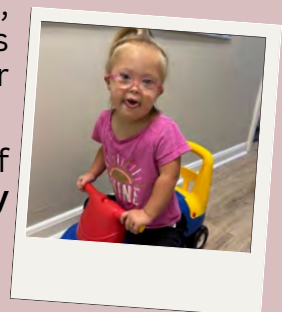


Leave a Legacy of Love

You can make a lasting impact at DLC through legacy giving. By including the **Developmental Learning Center** in your will, trust, or estate plan, you help ensure that children with special needs will continue to receive therapy, scholarships, and support for generations to come.

Leaving a gift is simple—you can designate DLC as a beneficiary of a will, retirement account, or life insurance policy. **Every legacy gift, large or small, strengthens our mission.**

For more information, please contact Heather Corey at (904) 387-0370 or HCorey@DLCJAX.org.



Champions in the Making: DLC and the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program

At the *Developmental Learning Center*, every child is **a champion** — not just in the classroom, but in life. Our partnership with the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program has become one of the most joyful and empowering parts of the school year. Through this incredible collaboration, our students experience the thrill of teamwork, movement, and accomplishment in a safe, encouraging environment designed just for them.

Each week, our therapists integrate fun, skill-building activities that help students develop balance, coordination, and confidence. The program nurtures not only physical growth but also emotional and social development, teaching children the ***joy of participation, friendship, and perseverance.***

The highlight of the year is always the Special Olympics Young Athletes Games held in May, where DLC students proudly show off their hard work and determination. With cheers from classmates, staff, and volunteers filling the air, these moments capture everything DLC stands for — **inclusion, joy, and the belief that every child deserves to shine.**

We are deeply grateful to the Special Olympics organization for partnering with DLC to create such meaningful experiences, and to our dedicated therapists who guide our students every step of the way. ***Together, we're not just building stronger athletes — we're building confidence, courage, and lifelong smiles.***



Finding a Voice: Mateo's Journey with His New Dynavox Device



At DLC, we believe every child deserves the chance to be heard. This year, we celebrated a milestone for one of our students, Mateo, who recently received a Dynavox Eye Gaze Device—technology that will help ***give him “a voice” for the very first time.***

Mateo, who was diagnosed with 8p Inverted Duplication Deletion and Cerebral Palsy, and Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum, is nonverbal. Communicating his wants and needs has always been a challenge. Thanks to the dedication of **DLC's speech therapist, Ms. Lauren**, Mateo's family was able to successfully navigate the insurance process to secure this life-changing equipment.



The Dynavox uses eye gaze technology to track Mateo's eye movements, allowing him to select pictures, words, or symbols on the screen. Right now, Mateo is a beginner communicator, learning picture association and making requests—like looking at Elmo's photo to ask for “Elmo's World” video time. In time, this device will become his voice, ***giving him the ability to communicate more fully with his family, teachers, and peers.***

This achievement is more than technology—it's ***a doorway to independence, connection, and inclusion.*** We are so proud of Mateo, and grateful for the teamwork between his family and DLC staff that made this possible.

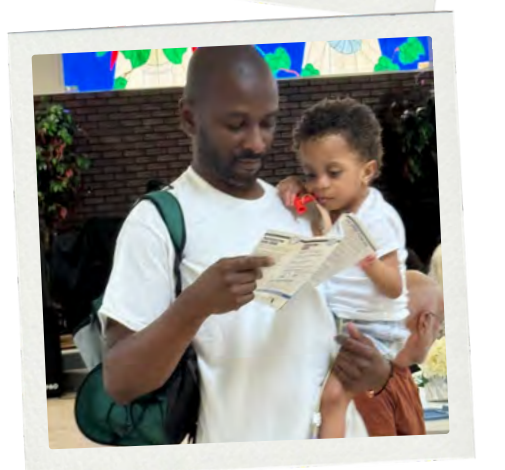
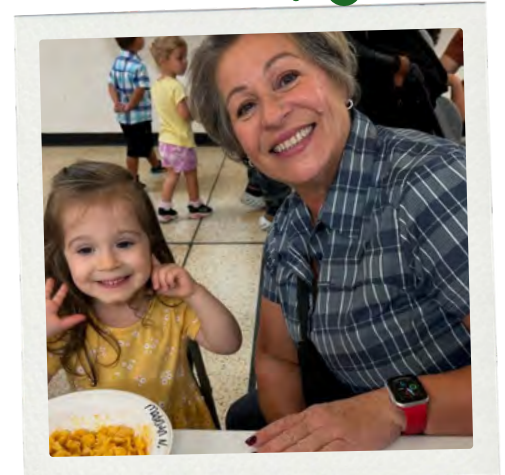
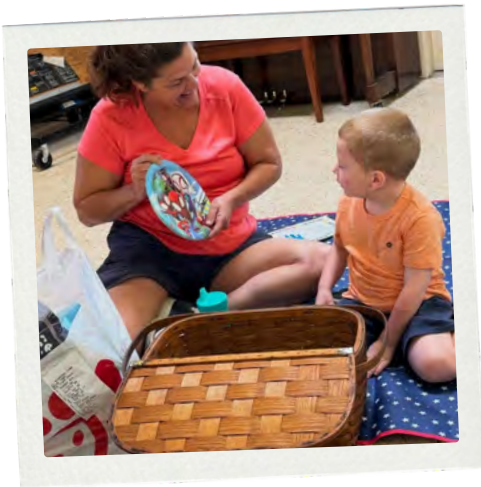
DLC Celebrates Grandparents Day

Last September, DLC hosted our very first Grandparents Day Picnic—a special time to honor the grandparents who play such an important role in the lives of our students. While the rain kept us indoors, it didn't dampen the joy! Grandparents and children shared food, laughter, and cherished moments in a warm and welcoming setting.

We are so grateful for the love and support of our DLC grandparents. Your presence is a blessing to our children and our community.

**“Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”
– Proverbs 17:6**

We look forward to continuing this new tradition for years to come!



JU CHARTER DAYS STUDENTS AND CROWLEY MARITIME VOLUNTEERS



AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH



MUSTANG CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE



This year, DLC has been blessed with contributions, partnerships, collaborations, and community support.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make a difference at DLC!

There's more to do - we hope you will join us!



501ST SQUAD 7



BAILEY'S MEDICAL SUPPLIES



WOODMEN OF THE WORLD LODGE III



PARENT VOLUNTEERS



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SCAN ME TO
INVEST IN DLC
TODAY



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Together, We Shine Brighter

At the Developmental Learning Center, we believe every child is a precious gift—uniquely created with purpose, potential, and promise. Each smile, milestone, and success story reminds us that **God's work is at the heart of all we do**. Families who walk through our doors find more than a school—they find a community that loves, uplifts, and believes in their children every single day.

When **you** partner with DLC, **you're** helping to shape futures. **You're** joining hands with teachers, therapists, parents, and volunteers who pour their hearts into helping every child grow in confidence and ability. **You're** standing with a faith-driven organization that has served our community for decades—one that leads with compassion, grace, and hope.

Your prayers, donations, and time make this mission possible. Together, we are building a legacy of love and inclusion—**where every child is seen, celebrated, and supported.**

So, we invite **you** to stay connected, to give, to share, and to continue believing with us. Because at DLC, **every act of kindness, every gift, and every partnership helps our children—and our light—shine even brighter.**

*With faith, gratitude, and hope for tomorrow,
The Developmental Learning Center Family*



The Lucy Gooding Charitable
Foundation Trust

*Petway Family
Foundation*

The
CHATLOS
Foundation, Inc.



*Jack & Betty Demetree
Family Foundation*

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