



Center for  
Developmental  
Services™

2023 Year in Review





# Message from Leadership

In reading through this Year in Review, we are incredibly moved by the numerous individuals, corporations, and foundations who continuously invest in our mission. CDS was founded on the concept that our community would come together to support children with developmental delays. This took a leap of faith back in the year 2000, and that faith continues to sustain us today.

Through our community's support, CDS streamlines disability services to ease access to various resources, especially with the partner organizations located physically inside our building. In 2023, over 8,000 children received educational and therapeutic services that were crucial for long-term success. Our newest partner, Project Hope Foundation, joined CDS in July which added another therapy service for children with autism.

Last fall at the Eggs Benefit, our annual fundraising breakfast, a record crowd listened to Mike Hayes speak about how CDS and our partners helped his two sons who were born with developmental delays. Mike was the former general manager of WYFF 4 and is the current president of Hearst Television in New York. We were honored that his family traveled to Greenville to share an update that both his boys now have college degrees.

The goals achieved by the children we serve confirm to the community what our staff already know... that what we do makes a difference. That assurance motivates us to do more. Our new strategic plan will guide us through 2028 as we expand our case management program. This vital service links families to state programs, respite resources, and other disability support services.

For 24 years, our community has embraced a philanthropic generosity that is rare across the nation. We appreciate our board members, our donors, and our CDS partners for leading the efforts that continually improve the trajectory of our clients and families.



**Dana McConnell**  
CDS Executive Director



**Ryan Tiller**  
CDS Board Chair

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# Highlights

**Inspiring Our Community** – A record crowd attended our Eggs Benefit breakfast to hear Mike Hayes, Senior Vice President of Hearst and President of Hearst Television, speak at the event. He shared how pivotal CDS and our partners were in the early years of his children's diagnoses and how the unique collaborative care at CDS changed the trajectory of his two sons' development and future success.

**Growing Case Management** – In 2023, we hired more case managers to fulfill a portion of the Healthy Greenville grant awarded to CDS in 2022. The additional program staff allows us to open new referrals for case management to families who qualify for service coordination for individuals with a life-long disability.

**Connecting With Leaders** – CDS was presented at a recent Greenville County Council meeting to showcase the depth of resources available to families under one roof as well as the impact CDS makes in the community.



**Welcoming A New Partner** – Project Hope Foundation joined the CDS partnership in July. They have four specialists onsite who bring a new service to our families with Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy.

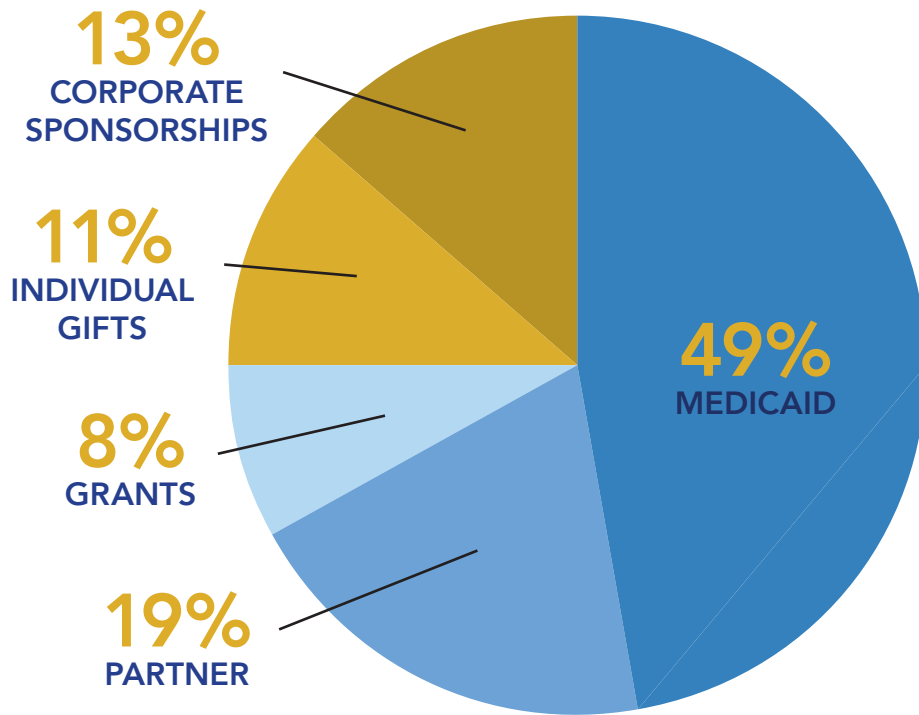
**Enjoying the Autumn Spooktacular** – At this fun annual event, children practiced their skills learned in therapy to walk or move throughout the building to various booths, communicate with volunteers, and select a toy for their goodie bags.

**Resuming Our Outshine Programs** – After COVID-19 slowed some of our in-house activities, the Summer Reading and Homework Help programs resumed in 2023. We are grateful to our volunteers who helped read to students and support their academic progress.

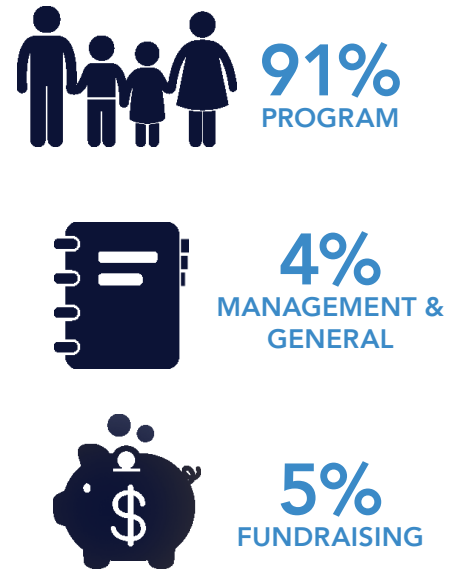
**Celebrating with Mrs. Claus** – During our Holiday Events at CDS, Mrs. Claus made a special trip from the North Pole to visit with our families and give out toys made by the Greenville Woodworkers Guild and brand new books donated by Greenville First Steps.

**Rediscovering Our Library** – We replaced the television in our library with a WiFi capable system and added a CDS Disney+ kids account so that families and siblings of children in therapy could be entertained while waiting on therapy to begin or end.

## Revenue Sources



## Expense Allocation



## Clients Served



8,250

individuals served



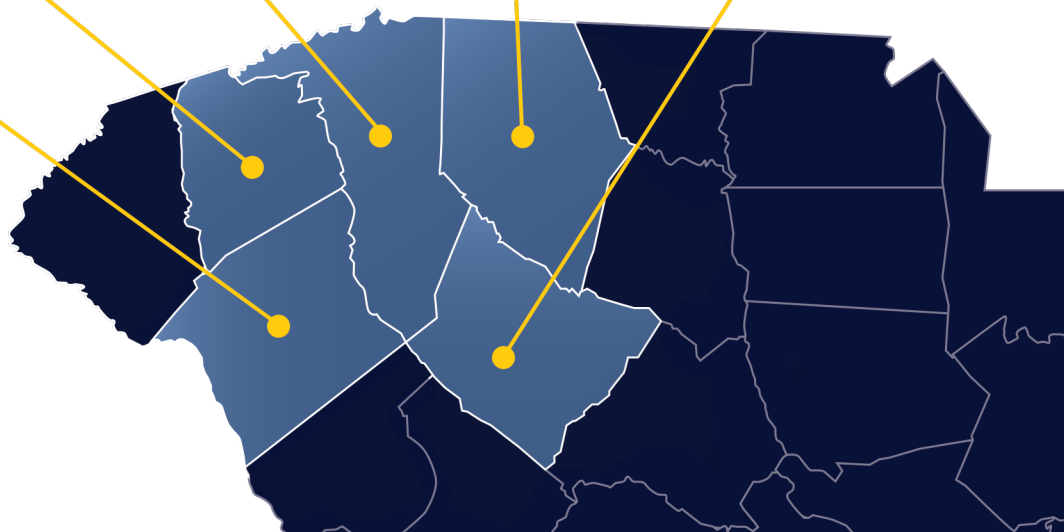
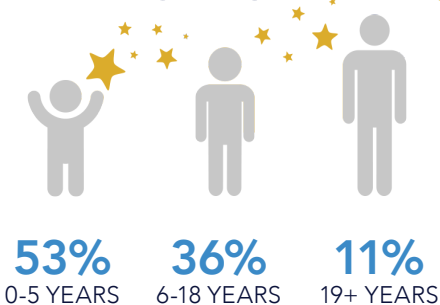
72,486

total client visits

## By County

14% ANDERSON 7% PICKENS 54% GREENVILLE 12% SPARTANBURG 5% LAURENS 8% OTHER

## By Age







# A Parent's Perspective

by Jodi Shenal

*"At the time, I had no idea how CDS and Kidnetics would soon become an integral part of Ryleigh's life. I was unaware that they would soon change our lives for the better."*



Ryleigh is thirteen years old and was diagnosed shortly after birth with a rare genetic disorder. Prenatal ultrasounds had revealed multiple anomalies and a growth restriction that led to in-depth genetic testing. While we anxiously awaited her arrival, we knew that our little one would likely face many obstacles. However, we knew that she was already loved immensely, and we'd tackle anything that came our way as a family. She was a fighter, and she brightened our world when she was born; a tiny, 4 pound, 1 ounce miracle.

Ryleigh's primary diagnosis is chromosome 1q43q44 deletion syndrome. It's so rare, there is no formal name for it; it is named by the section of missing genes from her 1st chromosome. Under the umbrella of this syndrome, she experiences challenges with feeding, growth, low muscle tone and mobility. Her disorder impacts communication, sensory integration, balance, and coordination. Ryleigh is nonverbal and has intellectual disabilities. She was also diagnosed with epilepsy and chronic kidney disease as an infant. Despite all the hurdles that she's encountered, these diagnoses do not define her; she is the strongest, happiest, and most joyful child you'll ever meet.

By the age of six months, Ryleigh was already involved in early intervention services and had a plethora of therapists, doctors, surgeons, and specialists. When she was ten years old, we were only seeing minimal progress with speech therapy, and we just felt "stuck." We were desperate to find someone to help us give her a means to effectively communicate. We needed to give her a voice. One afternoon, I made a phone call to a place called Kidnetics, a program of Prisma Health located at CDS. It was 60 miles from our home, and the world was upside down amid the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, I had no idea how CDS and Kidnetics would soon become an integral part of Ryleigh's life. I was unaware that they would soon change our lives for the better.

From our first encounter there three years ago, I knew that we had found the right place. We needed someone to see Ryleigh's potential, and to have the patience to guide us. That's exactly what we found! In one place, she receives speech, occupational, and physical therapy as well as orthotic bracing. Ryleigh also discovered a new favorite activity – swimming in the therapeutic pool. The goals we once feared she would never achieve are now becoming a reality! Today, Ryleigh is using her communication device to make choices, requests, respond and more. She waves hello and goodbye, which were HUGE milestones for us! She is now able to go outside and be among crowds calmly without the burden of sensory overload. She's made great strides at her school and our family has been able to enjoy fun outings together. That means so much!



Our family is forever grateful for the cohesive partnership found at CDS. We've learned through them that we CAN do the impossible and see past limitations. The positive impact they've had on Ryleigh's development, and our lives, is immeasurable. I can't imagine walking this journey without their help!



# ★ Partner Spotlight: Project Hope Foundation

*CDS's newest partner offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in downtown Greenville for Upstate families in need.*

Project Hope Foundation was founded in 1997 by two mothers looking for services for their young sons with autism. As the rate of autism has expanded to 1 in 36, Project Hope's mission has expanded into providing a lifespan of autism services. Its four core programs include education, therapy, adult services, and community engagement.

During its 27-year history, Project Hope has become the largest provider of ABA therapy in South Carolina, serving over 300 clients across its nine Upstate campuses. Their scope of services is broad, serving across ages, across the spectrum of autism, and across a wide range of programs. Project Hope is individualized in its approach, seeking to meet the unique needs of each specific person. Their programs benefit not only the individual affected with autism, but also the individual's entire family who are forever changed by this diagnosis.



At CDS, Project Hope provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy to young children who are newly diagnosed with autism, a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how an individual communicates, interacts with others, learns, and behaves. ABA therapy is currently the best practices treatment for children with autism and is a medically necessary service, meaning that the cost is typically covered by insurance and/or Medicaid.

ABA therapy uses concepts like reinforcement, prompting, and generalization in systematic ways to teach skills and replace problem behaviors with more appropriate ones. Play is an integral part of the process! Each child's therapy program is individualized and delivered by a well-trained, credentialed team that consists of Registered Behavior Technicians overseen by Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Project Hope considers the family to be a critical member of this team.

To learn more about Project Hope Foundation, visit [www.projecthopesc.org](http://www.projecthopesc.org).





# Partners and Programs

*CDS exists to make caring for children with developmental delays and disabilities easier and more effective by linking medical and support services in a single location.*



## Prisma Health Children's Hospital

- **Kidnetics:** Provides therapeutic services for children on an inpatient and outpatient basis from birth through age 21. Their comprehensive team is made up of occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists. Team members work with the child's family, physician, and school to extend all therapies into the child's environment to maintain a continuum of care.
- **Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics:** Provides medical and developmental evaluations as well as psychological, neuropsychological, and educational tests to develop effective care management plans in consultation with families.
- **Wonder Center:** Provides therapeutic treatment and day care for medically-complex children from birth through age 6 with medical and developmental challenges requiring daily nursing care.
- **Pediatric Prosthetics and Orthotics:** Provides a full range of pediatric orthotic and prosthetic devices specifically designed for each child. Intervention may include cranial remolding, scoliosis management, and lower extremity bracing.



## Clarity

Provides hearing and audiological evaluations and treatment to address speech, hearing, learning, social, and emotional challenges.



## KidVentures of Thrive Upstate

Provides family training and service coordination for children with developmental delays and disabilities in the child's natural environment, from birth through age 5.



## Project Hope Foundation

Provides a lifespan of autism services, including education, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy, adult services, and community engagement.



## Center for Developmental Services

- **Partnership Coordination:** CDS provides community outreach, enrichment activities, and building management on behalf of all the partners in our 35,000 sqft facility.
- **Intake:** Intake workers collect medical, psychological, educational, and other vital records to help individuals gain eligibility for services from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.
- **Case Management:** Case managers support people with disabilities by connecting them with resources and services through local agencies and Medicaid waivers. This program serves individuals residing in Greenville County who have intellectual disabilities, autism, and head and spinal cord injuries who qualify under SCDDSN eligibility.



# 2023 Donors

*CDS could not make our incredible impact in the community without donor support.  
Thank you for your generous investment in the children and families we serve.*

## **Over \$50,000**

Kathleen Wall and Chuck Belding  
Natalina and Jerry Ferlauto  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Greenville  
Greenville Health Authority  
The Michelin Charity Golf  
Tournament

## **\$10,000 - \$49,999**

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Anonymous Donations  
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Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
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 Mary Ann Watts  
 Sandra Wood

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BMW Group  
 Godshall Recruiting  
 Rebekah K. Jones  
 Robert Stephenson



#### ***In Honor of***

*In Honor of Emma Blackburn*  
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 Roger Cohen

*In Honor of Rebekah Budd*  
 Rachel Lee

*In Honor of Cohen Bunnell*  
 Marsha and Dan Bunnell

*In Honor of Tiffany Dorber*  
 Cyndi Stake

*In Honor of Amy and Hunter Gibson*  
 Jane and Mario DeCarvalho

*In Honor of The Hayes Family*  
 Jane and Mario DeCarvalho  
 John Humphries

*In Honor of Patrick and Brady Hayes*  
 Anne and Ed Stein

*In Honor of Michael J. Hayes*  
 Samuel Konduros

*In Honor of Patrick Hitchcock*  
 Carol Clarke

*In Honor of Jean Knight*  
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*In Honor of Summer Robinson*  
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*In Honor of Dr. Bill Schmidt*  
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 Penny and Claude Spears

#### ***In Memory of***

*In Memory of Patricia and Thomas C. Berry*  
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*In Memory of Annie Sue Crump Bramlett*  
 Benny and Bill Holland

*In Memory of John Burnett, Jr.*  
 Kathy and John Burnett

*In Memory of Cathy and Jimmy Francis*  
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*In Memory of Natalie Robelot Gibson*  
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*In Memory of Caleb Gregersen*  
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 Elizabeth Rollyson

*In Memory of Harry Hardin*  
 Elizabeth Rollyson

*In Memory of Frank King*  
 Sharon and Robert King

*In Memory of Ned Marshall*  
 AC Controls  
 Kevin Arquitt  
 Robin Ellenburg



# Giving Guide

*There are many ways to support the vital work we do. We appreciate the critical investments made in our programs and future sustainability so we can be there for families who need us.*

## Unrestricted Gift

Gifts of cash or check can be mailed to CDS at 29 N Academy Street. Gifts with ACH or credit cards accepted at [www.cdsservices.org/donate](http://www.cdsservices.org/donate).

## Other Investments

Donors over 71 years who must take a Required Minimum Distribution can direct their funds to CDS. Life insurance policies are also accepted.

## Bequeaths

Leaving a lasting legacy to CDS will help ensure children with developmental challenges have access to the resources they need.

## Gifts of Stock

CDS accepts gifts of stock which allows a tax-deductible advantage at market-value.

## Endowment Gift

Our endowment began in 2019 to ensure our programs will help children for years to come.

## Restricted Gift

Any gift that specifically supports a requested need such as pool equipment or HVAC.

*For more information, contact Joy Blue at (864) 331-1314 or [Joy.Blue@cdsservices.org](mailto:Joy.Blue@cdsservices.org)*



## Miracle Maker Society

*This recognition level was established in 2012 for donors who pledge at least \$1,000 per year for 5 consecutive years. Multi-year commitments are instrumental in sustaining our operations. These individuals have generously supported CDS, our partners, and the families of children and individuals with developmental delays and disabilities in our community. Thank you for your support!*

Chuck Belding and Kathleen Wall  
Lynn and Brian Blackburn  
Marsha and Dan Bunnell  
Libby and Charles Dalton  
Sherri and Tee Hooper  
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Cristina and Heath Gerrald  
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Katharine Johnson  
Sharon Jones  
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Center for  
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For your support

