

2022–2023
Annual Report



Pathways of Connection:
Empowering Futures, Enriching Communities





Dear Friends,

The window in my office overlooks the parking lot at our Merfill Avenue School. A huge joy for me is to see the arrival of parents and kids each morning. They represent a true cross section of our community from all walks of life, different backgrounds and abilities. CLC is the connector.

I watch a young single father and his daughter, whose story you will read within the pages of this report, arrive. Many mornings, Emmelie skips toward the front door, knowing she will be welcomed by her teachers and classmates.

I know many of the parents and I am thankful that they have chosen CLC for their children. These parents are the backbone of our community—teachers, cooks, retailers, landscapers, town and county employees, bankers, cleaners, florists and construction workers. CLC's services allow them to work, which keeps the community we know and love intact.

By the time everyone arrives, our teachers have set up their classroom environments to stimulate and engage their little students. Our cook is preparing breakfast for everyone. And, I know our special ed team is on site, eager to work in classrooms, giving special attention to students who need it. We're committed to inclusive classrooms where all kids, regardless of their abilities, can grow and learn together to reach their full potential.

I am proud and humbled that CLC connects so many kids and families. Inside these walls, I know our wonderful, well-trained staff will provide the best quality care and education for 250 kids at four sites across two counties, every day, just like we have done for the past 51 years.

Warmly,

Patti Boyd
Executive Director

BOARD

MELANIE BENNETT
Co-Chair

KARINA CARILLO

EMILY FRAPPART

MARILEE GORDON
Co-Chair

MARINA HOGGAN

KATIE MANNEN
Secretary

COURTNEY MARVIN

LESLIE NATE

DAVID PARK
Treasurer

NATALIE SIMS

TOTE TURNER
Vice Chair



MISSION

CLC develops a foundation for future contributing members of society and strong communities by providing accessible and research-based programs for young children and families.

VISION

We believe that all children reach their full potential when given a strong start.

INCLUSION

As an inclusive program, we work hard to ensure that all kids reach their full potential regardless of backgrounds or abilities within caring, enriching classroom environments.

By the *Numbers*



474

meals per day



576

staff hours each day



51%

of families received
tuition assistance



232

children enrolled in childcare
across Sublette and
Teton County



\$156,977

in tuition assistance

Special Education



130

children received services



518

developmental screenings



75

developmental evaluations

Head Start/Early Head Start



83

children enrolled



46%

of children are considered homeless according to the McKinney-Vento definition



73%

of eligible children in the county receive HS services



Local early childhood educators, including two CLC staff members, were honored in October at the EmPowerEd: Celebrating the Power of Early Childhood Educators Symposium.

Staff



72

staff members



32%

of staff are bilingual



40%

of staff have been with CLC more than 5 years



22%

of staff have been with CLC more than 10 years

Alberto

Alberto is a devoted father of two young kids—Emmelie, age three, and Matthew, age seven.

Alberto's journey with CLC began in 2020 when his world turned upside down. During the pandemic, his daughter Emmelie was born, bringing joy, but also revealing a heartbreaking truth – his wife Elena was battling colon cancer.

In the midst of this turmoil, Alberto learned about CLC through a friend. While caring for his newborn daughter and supporting his ailing wife, CLC's Head Start program provided Matthew with a nurturing environment while Alberto tended to his family's needs. Home visitors from CLC's Early Head Start program worked with Alberto and Elena to monitor Emmelie's development and provide additional support for their family.

Tragically, Elena passed away when Emmelie was just over six months old, leaving Alberto to navigate single parenthood with courage and resilience. CLC has remained a steady support in their lives, preparing Matthew for elementary school and welcoming Emmelie into the Head Start program.

Alberto remains dedicated to providing for his children. CLC's support has allowed him to work as much as possible with peace of mind.



“ The one thing I don't have to worry about now is school. They're learning things I can't teach them. ”

—Alberto



Jack

Five-year-old Jack's journey with CLC began even before his birth. His parents, Ashley and Henry, sought out childcare options while eagerly anticipating his arrival and multiple people recommended CLC.

When he was born in November 2018, Jack was diagnosed with microtia atresia, presenting his parents with the challenge of navigating first-time parenthood along with his hearing loss. CLC quickly became more than just a childcare provider, supporting their young family through early intervention programs.

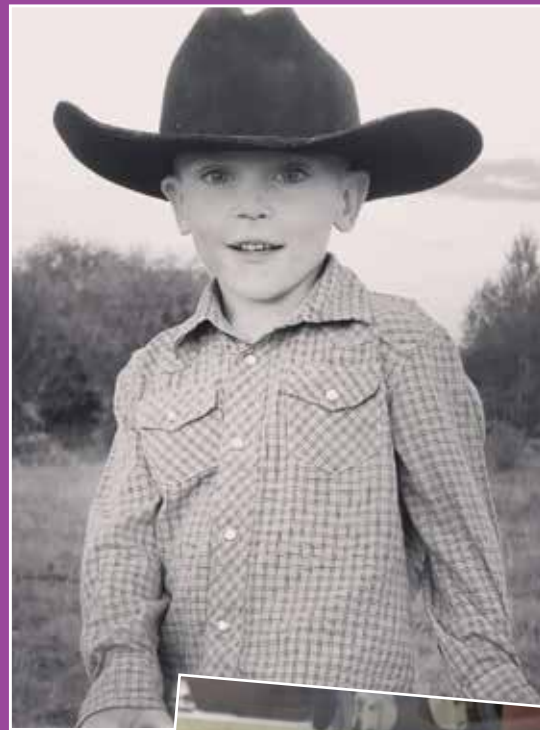
Starting when he was just two months old, CLC staff members worked with Jack at home. As Jack transitioned to CLC's childcare program at 11 months old, he received one-on-one speech services as part of the typical childcare experience.

One-on-one sessions continued during the pandemic, ensuring Jack received the individualized attention he needed to thrive.

During the 2022/2023 school year, Jack was scheduled for microtia atresia repair surgery. Serendipitously, Jack was in the Racoons classroom at Rafter with Miss Angie and Miss Angela. Angie has a prosthetic leg, so she was able to talk to the class leading up to Jack's surgery to explain that he was getting a "robot ear" just like her "robot leg." Jack's mom says "He was never made to feel anything but loved and supported at school or different in a negative way. If anything, Miss Angie lifted him up with the robot analogy. We had the biggest community of love and support you could dream of."

Cash

Cash was born 16 weeks early, weighing just 1 pound 11 ounces. He was immediately rushed to the NICU at the University of Utah. When he was born, Cash was about the size of his dad's palm. He spent four months in the hospital. Cash started working with the team at the Children's Learning Center in Sublette County as soon as he came home from the hospital. He was so sensitive to noise and lights that all services were provided in a quiet, dark room. Today, Cash is six years old and in kindergarten. He is displaying age-appropriate skills and keeps both his teachers and his family on their toes at all times. Cash is a true success story of early intervention and how it sets children up to thrive.



“ *The amazing CLC staff became like a family to us starting with the moment they met Cash and us. We were so scared and they were really a life line for us from the beginning. There was so much support for Cash and for our family throughout the years...Cash needed everything at first. They laughed with us and cried with us. Thanks to CLC, Cash was on track in all developmental areas and went on to kindergarten prepared and successful. When he graduated from CLC, we all cried with happiness.* ”

—Nicole, Cash's Mom



Our Schools

Children's Learning Center is proud to serve children at four locations in three communities in Teton and Sublette Counties.

RAFTER J

Teton County

- 89** children
- 28** staff, including special education department
- 5** classrooms

BIG PINEY

Sublette County

- 21** children
- 4** staff
- 2** classrooms

MERCILL

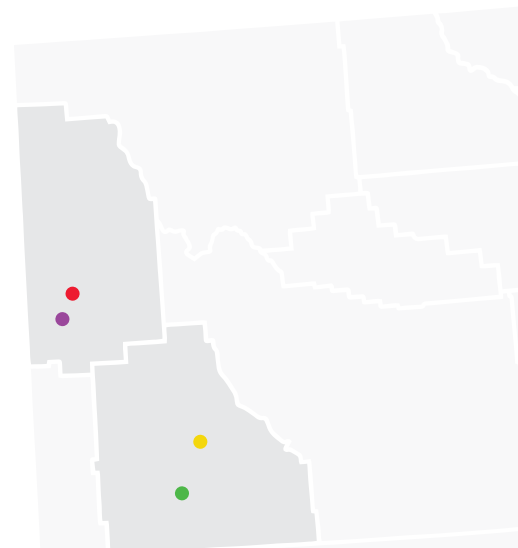
Teton County

- 130** children, including 40 Head Start students
- 34** staff, including all Early Head Start and Head Start staff
- 7** classrooms

PINEDALE

Sublette County

- 34** children
- 9** staff, including special education department
- 2** classrooms





Securing Our Future

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have successfully reached the goal we set last year of raising \$5 million for our board-directed contingency fund. This fund, strategically invested for long-term growth with the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, will ensure our ability to sustain and enhance our critical programs for years to come.

But here's the thing: did you know tuition payments only cover 83% of the cost of operating our essential childcare program? We strategically choose to keep tuition costs down for working families and fundraise to help bridge the gap to ensure that every child in our community has access to quality care and education. Your support isn't just an investment in our organization; it's an investment in the future of our children and our community as a whole.

Did you know...

it costs nearly \$12,000 to operate our childcare program each day? Your private donations help keep the cost of our programs affordable for our community.

\$1,117,141

Total Donations
FY2022-2023

\$277,108

Total Gifts for the Long
Term Contingency Fund

\$840,033

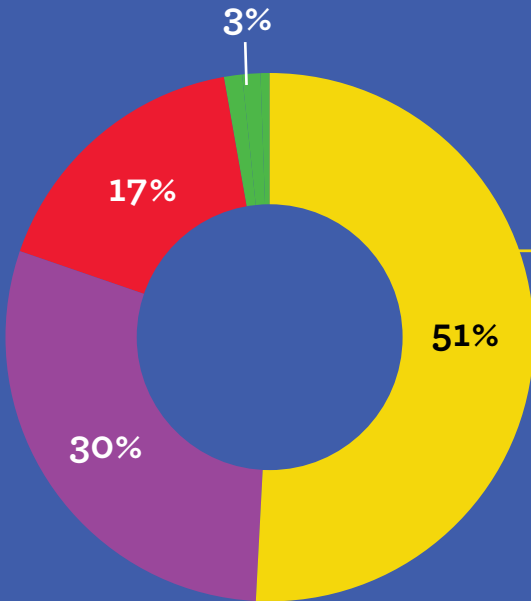
Total Gifts for Program/
General Operating

238

individual
donations

2022-2023

Financials

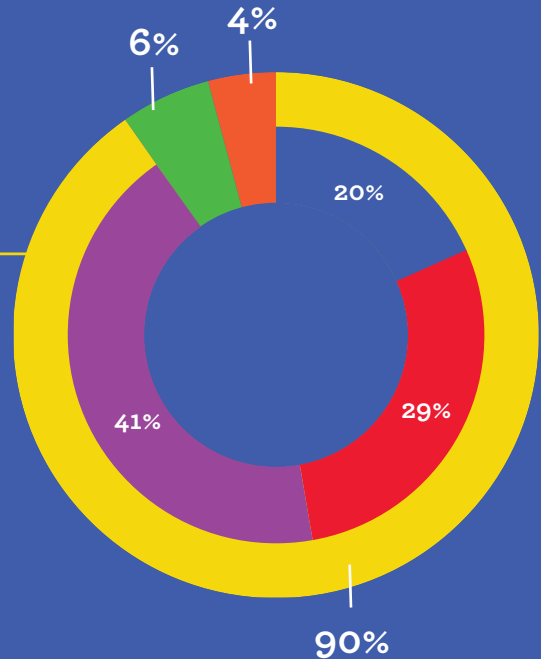


INCOME \$6,657,201

- Government - \$3,389,125
- Tuition - \$1,973,213
- Private Donations - \$1,117,141*
- Other - \$177,722

EXPENSES \$6,312,560

- Program - \$5,701,795
- Special Education - \$1,848,340
- Early Head Start/Head Start - \$1,264,191
- Tuition-based childcare - \$2,589,264
- Administration - \$349,416
- Fundraising - \$261,349



*Fundraising income includes contributions raised this fiscal year for the long-term contingency fund and reserves.



**Children's
Learning Center**

PO Box 4100
Jackson, WY 83001
childrenlearn.org
(307)733-1616 • info@learningcenterwy.org
tax id number: 83-0222566

*"Children's Learning Center is an
equal opportunity provider."*

RAFTER J CENTER

1300 W. Valley Springs Road
Jackson, WY 83001

MERCILL CENTER

145 Mercill Avenue
Jackson, WY 83001

PINEDALE CENTER

191 South Franklin Street
Pinedale, WY 82941

BIG PINEY CENTER

650 Piney Drive
Big Piney, WY 83113