Northland
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Annual Report

2024

"Leading the way in Early Intervention and Education."



(816) 420-9005

www.neeckids.org

8630 N. Oak Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64155

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Who are we?

Mission:

Northland Early Education Center provides early education and therapy services for children who have special needs as well as early education for children who have typical needs, in a fully inclusive classroom environment in order for them to reach their full potential.

Vision:

Shape the future of children through quality early education and therapeutic intervention while teaching compassion for diversity.

"Leading the way in Early Intervention and Education."

Board of Directors:



Executive Officers:

President:
Jeni Schrimsher

Vice President:
Valerie Clawson

Treasurer:
Michelle Marriott

Secretary: Amie Francois

Members:

Joe Kamler
Biniam Kebede
Everett Jacobs
Jessica King



Administrative Team:

Executive Director:
Brea Connett, M.Ed.

Director of Devlopment:
Natasha Lehman

Director of Programs:
Tammy Dodd

Assistant Program Director:
Lauren Pitnick

Office Manager:
Cindy Humbird

Office Assistant:
Mary Shurtz

Accreditations and Services



Early Education

- 2 infant classrooms: ages birth to 12 months.
- 2 toddler classrooms: ages 12 to 24 months.
- 3 two-year-old classrooms
- 2 Preschool classrooms: ages 3-4 years
- 2 Kindergarten prep classrooms: for children the year before entering Kindergarten

Learn 4 Life

Before/After care and summer program for children kindergarten - 5th grade with an IEP or 504 plan.

Early Intervention Therapy Services

Early Learning naeyc ACCREDITED Program

Speech & Language Pathology
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Special Instruction
Applied Behavioral Analysis

ASPIRE to Excellence® carf ACCREDITED

Children Served



100% of children with special needs enrolled at NEEC who went to kindergarten, transitioned into their least restrictive environment.

96% of children with special needs receiving services in Speech and Language Pathology made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

100% of children not receiving therapeutic interventions made progress toward school readiness as outlined in the DRDP.

100% of children with special needs receiving services in Physical Therapy and Occupational therapy made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

100% of children with special needs receiving services in Special Instruction and ABA made progress on at least 75% of their IFSP goals.

Activity	Output Measure	Current Value	Target Value
Physical Therapy	Units of Service Provided	1,643 *Lapse in services due to staffing change.	2,300
Occupational Therapy	Units of Service Provided	3,735	2,550
Speech & Language Pathology	Units of Service Provided	2,279	2,760
Special Instruction or ABA services	Units of Service Provided	2,085	1,250
Early Education	Number of Children Served	138	190

Strategic Plan

2023-2027



Goal 1: Establish independent, consistent funding sources that lead to long term financial stability.

Eliminate capital debt by the end of 2027.
Increase cash reserves to equal 12 months of operating expenses by the end of 2027.
Establish endowment by end of 2027.

Goal 2: Provide a supportive environment that yields long-serving, highly engaged teachers, board members and volunteers.

Increase recruiting and retention of quality teachers to at least 70% annually.
Develop and implement a staff development program, which includes professional and personal development, to increase overall teacher satisfaction.
Increase board membership to 12 members and implement individual engagement plans.



Goal 3: Leverage community partnerships and parent engagement to raise the profile of NEEC as the premier school for inclusive early childhood education in the Northland.

Increase NEEC's donor retention rate to at least 45% annually.
Strengthen engagement so that NEEC families act as ambassadors in the community at large and have a 60% attendance rate at internal events.
Develop a campaign to position NEEC as the first choice for early childhood education among prospective families.

Projects Completed



Northland Early Education Center received a capital grant opportunity for 2023's funding year and 2024's funding year from the Clay County Developmental Disabilities Resources Board.

2023 Capital Grant

- 3 new shade structures on the playground, 1 large shade structure and concrete pad for tricycles in the outdoor classroom area.
- Parking lot repair and restriping.
- Replacement of old furnaces and addition of an Ion technology unit.

2024 Capital Grant

- Demolition and reconstruction of the front desk to include more storage, space, and privacy as well as updated technology.
- New signage on North Oak including removal of old sign (1998) and shrubbery.
- Upgrades to increase entry/exit and documentation security.

Fundraising Success



Texas Hold'em Tournament

The 2024 Texas Hold'em Tournament and silent auction was held at Side Pockets Kansas City North on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Through the tournament and silent auction, $4,515 was raised to further Northland Early Education Center's Mission.



The Little Gatsby; 1920s Casino Night

Northland Early Education Center returned to large event fundraising with the first annual Little Gatsby; 1920s Casino Night. It was an evening of music, food, gambling and fundraising straight out of the 1920s. The Little Gatsby; 1920s Casino Night was held on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at The Rumely Historic Event Space in the Kansas City West Bottoms. The event raised $34,310 through ticket sales, donations, and a silent auction.

NEEC's Excellence in Education Award Nominees and Recipient

Excellence in Education Nominees

Charity Shinabarger is the lead teacher in the Silver room, one of NEEC's Kindergarten Preparatory classrooms. Chairty is scheduled to complete her bachelor's degree in early childhood education in the spring of 2025.

Holly Julo is the Site Manager for NEEC's Learn 4 Life before and after care and summer program for children grades Kindergarten - 5th with an IEP or 504 plan. Holly has been educating children for over 30 years.





Excellence in Education Award Recipient

Rhoda Powers is NEEC's kitchen manager and the 2023 Excellence in Education Support Staff Award recipient. Rhoda has been with NEEC since July of 2022. Rhoda goes above and beyond her duties and knows each child individually.

Donors



Corporate

pediatric smiles DENTISTRY

pediatric north care
An Affiliate of Children's Mercy

JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION

Lou's Catering, LLC.

Individuals

Amie Francois
Knopp-Amalong Family
Terry and Paula Palmer
Mary Shurtz
Katharine Wooldridge
Michael and Christine Rhodes

Foundations

Clay County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board
15 and the Mahomies Foundation
The Arc of Clay and Platte Counties, Inc.
Harry C. Arnote Charitable Foundation
Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
Irven E. and NeVada P. Linscomb Foundation
Northland Community Foundation: Harvest Ball Society
Louetta M. Cowden Foundation

Community Partners



ddrb
clay county, mo
Developmental Disabilities Resource Board

Platte County Board of Services
Developmental Disability Resources - Since 1975

Children's Services Fund
of Clay County
Investing in children for a brighter future

CCVI
Children's Center for the Visually Impaired

MARC
Mid-America Regional Council

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Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC

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