



United Services for Children

2023–2024 Annual Report



1990



2023



1980s



2024



United Services for Children celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. In 1975, a team of dedicated professionals and parents in St. Charles County resolved to address the lack of services for children with disabilities. They joined with two organizations — United Cerebral Palsy Association and St. Louis Hearing and Speech — to form a nonprofit agency that would become United Services. United Way grants helped finance the new agency, which was incorporated in 1977 and became a 501(c)(3) in 1978. The agency started small, delivering services to three dozen children in a leased shopping plaza unit. United Services outgrew this space by 1988, when it built a 13,000 square-foot headquarters in St. Peters. As enrollment increased by the hundreds, so did the agency's breadth of services. In 2023, the agency moved into a spacious 41,000 square-foot building in St. Charles. As it heads into the second half of its first century, the agency is ready to expand and adapt services to meet the community's evolving needs. On behalf of the thousands of children whose lives have been transformed through your unwavering compassion, thank you for supporting our mission.

A word from Denise Liebel, President and CEO of United Services for Children

As we reflect on the past fiscal year, we are reminded of the immense impact we have on the lives of the children and families we serve. Thanks to your unwavering support, we've been able to continue fulfilling our mission of providing pediatric therapy and early intervention to young children with developmental disabilities, while partnering with their families to build a foundation for success. You are a vital part of that success!

We moved into a new facility last year, enabling us to expand our programs and reach more children than ever before. With the help of our generous donors, committed volunteers and dedicated staff, we've been able to:

- Increase access to early childhood education and therapy programs with a donor-funded scholarship program. No family is turned away for inability to pay.
- Provide in-house aqua therapy for the first time!
- Foster partnerships with healthcare providers, school districts, and other nonprofits, ensuring

holistic support for children in our care.

- Open a Care Closet filled with food and essentials for our economically fragile families.

Every milestone achieved reflects the power of our community partnership.

This year also marks a bittersweet moment for me. After 13 years with United Services, I will be stepping into retirement. It's been an honor to help the agency mark 49 years of service to the community. I am excited to welcome our new President and CEO, Julie Turner. I am confident that United Services, under her leadership, will continue to build on its strong foundation and reach greater heights.

We celebrate our achievements with you! Your continued support will help us reach more children, increase access to care and strengthen families as they navigate their journey.

We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and remain deeply grateful for your ongoing support. Together, we will



continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children – fostering hope, resilience, and independence.

On behalf of our board, staff, and the children we serve, thank you for your belief in our mission and your dedication to creating a brighter future for our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Liebel".

Denise Liebel, President and CEO



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Thank you to the directors who volunteer their time and expertise to serve on our agency and endowment boards. United Services for Children thrives on their leadership.

FY24 Board of Directors

Stacia Peterson – Chair

Duane McCrum – Vice Chair

Garrett Watson – Treasurer

Dr. Natasha Marrus – Secretary

Joel Brett – Past Chair

Michele Bowman

Heather Decker

Jim Didion

Allen Fox

Jennifer George

Anthony Graham

Kyle Grate

Jennifer Melson

Dan Saettele

Jill Skyles

Heidi Sowatsky

Emeritus Members

Jane Carlisle

Brian Hollander

Lauren Kingsten

Melinda Nolan

Tom Schmidt



Endowment Board of Directors

Gary Shaw - President

Kathryn Dudley - Treasurer

Brian Hollander - Secretary

Mike Deane

Lesa Johnson

John Meilink

Allen Roche

Dan Saettele

Keith Stone



Endowment for United Services

The United Services Board of Directors in 2002 established the Endowment for United Services to ensure the agency would have the financial resources to continue serving children for generations to come.

The Endowment for United Services is a separate 501(c)3 organization with its own board of directors. Their primary responsibilities are monitoring and recommending investment strategies to preserve the endowment principal and make sure donors' wishes are carried out through established investment policies.

The Endowment offers various planned giving options. A planned gift is any gift designed or structured in connection with an individual's tax and estate planning goals.

For more information on the Endowment, contact Jasmin Singh at

jsingh@unitedsrvcs.org
636-926-2700, ext. 512





Executive Team

Denise Liebel – President and CEO

Lori Kohrs – Director of Administration

Leslie Tucker – Director of Programs

Lisa Cuppy – Director of Finance

Raymond Castile – Director of Marketing

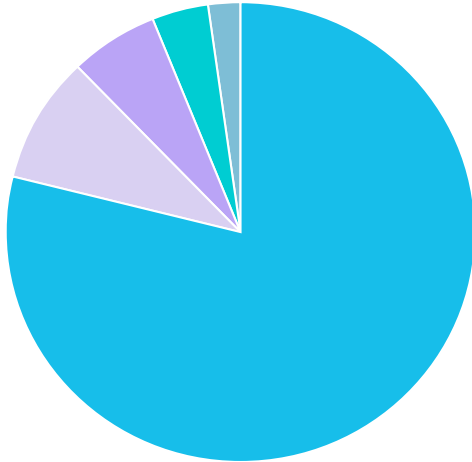
Jasmin Singh – Director of Community Engagement
and Philanthropy



Children served 2023-2024

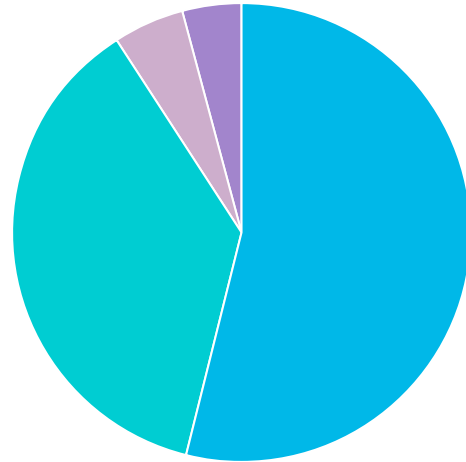
Early Intervention

- 79% Developmental Delay
- 9% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 6% Other Genetic Disorders
- 4% Down Syndrome
- 2% Premature Birth



Outpatient Therapy

- 54% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 37% Developmental Delay
- 5% Emotional Behavioral Disorder
- 4% Down Syndrome





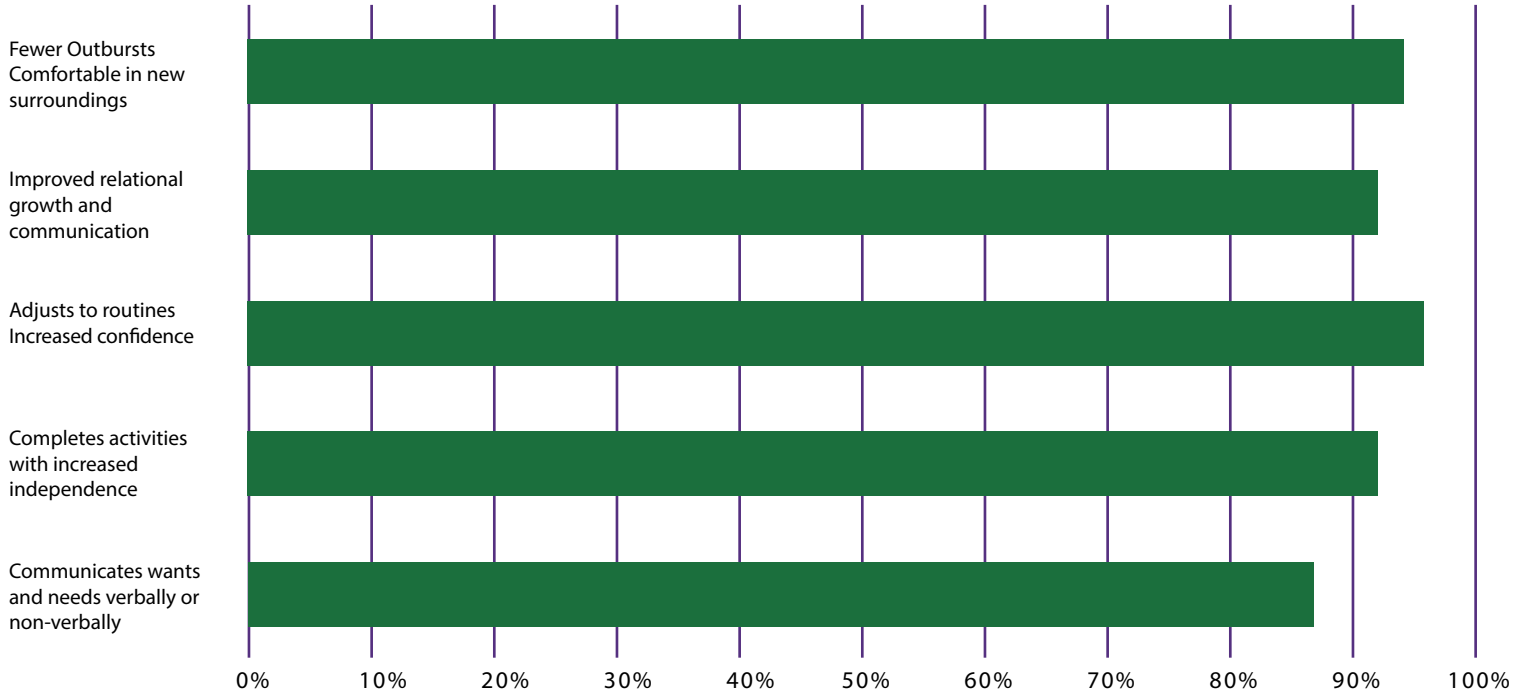


Early Intervention programs focus on young learners, age 18–36 months, who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability or delay. Children receive the support they need to develop and grow in social, language, motor and adaptive skills. Children are placed in one of three low-ratio, structured learning environments. Days and hours vary with the children’s individual needs. Parents and caregivers play an important role, working with the agency’s teachers and therapists to develop individualized strategies to address each child’s needs.

Early Intervention programs:

- **Learn and Play Together** — Children learn to separate from their parents, play with peers, accept and adapt to change, use language to communicate their wants and needs, and expand proficiency in a range of developmental skills.
- **Building Blocks** — Focus on preparation for group learning. Children learn to follow classroom routines and transition more easily. Children work on “learning to learn” behaviors, like attending to their name, coming when called, and sitting for a task.
- **Building Blocks Intensive** — Children learn to attend to people in their environment and build social motivation. Focus on engagement, communication, social play, toy play and sensory needs.
- **Partnering Through Play** — A parent/child program led by an early childhood special education teacher and a range of support staff skilled in developmental therapies. Parent goals include building confidence and competencies to support their child’s development and effectively engaging their children in active learning opportunities. Child goals include accepting and adapting to change and interacting with others in a group play setting.

Early Intervention Outcomes







Outpatient Pediatric Therapy is available for children age birth through 12 years. The agency's expert therapists help children develop their gross motor, fine motor or speech and language skills. They teach kids how to talk, walk, play, listen, run and jump! Family members are an integral part of the therapy team — participating, planning and observing throughout the process. Therapists work with families to address each child's unique needs. Therapy is available in individual and group sessions. Medicaid and all major insurance carriers are accepted. Therapy is in-network for most insurance plans. Financial assistance is available, thanks to support from community members.

Outpatient Therapy programs:

- **Applied Behavior Analysis** — Individualized treatment plans help children with Autism Spectrum Disorder increase their skills and decrease challenging behavior.
- **Occupational Therapy** — Facilitates fine motor manipulation, visual perception, sensory processing skills, eye-hand coordination and feeding skills.
- **Speech/Language Therapy** — Fosters the development of communications skills.
- **Aqua Therapy** — Helps develop motor skills, a greater sense of awareness, increased mobility and strength, and improved sensory processing.



Family Support Services ensure that new families feel welcome at United Services for Children. Wrap-around services help families with young children navigate life's daily challenges. Teachers, therapists and a licensed clinical social worker collaborate to provide ongoing assistance. Group classes for parents, grandparents and caregivers are offered throughout the year, along with evening support groups for siblings of children with disabilities.



- **SIBSHOP** — A sibling support group for children (ages 6 years and older) who have a sibling with a disability. Groups meet monthly throughout the year, offering siblings a better understanding of their families. Children learn ways to ask for what they want, and find friends who will listen. They have the opportunity to express feelings, and a chance to see their own special qualities.
- **The Incredible Years** — An eight-session parent training program for families of children (2–5 years) who demonstrate significant language delays, have an autism diagnosis, or exhibit red flags for autism. Play and communication strategies promote children's emotional regulation, social competence, language skills, school readiness, and relationships with others.
- **Referrals** — Staff frequently connect families with community resources that can provide additional services and aid.





Guys in Ties-Girls in Pearls was the theme of the 39th annual United Services gala at Ameristar-St. Charles. The agency honored Blues for Kids and Midwest Service Group for supporting children and families in our community. Guests embraced the evening's spirit, with some wearing outlandish ties and others wearing elegant pearls. The 29th annual FORE the Children golf tournament at Bear Creek Golf Club was another fantastic success. Year after year, golfers turn out in force to support United Services' mission. Rain or shine, it's always a great day for a great cause. Trivia fans had a blast at the "Thank You for Being a Friend" annual trivia night. It was wonderful to see so many people dressing in costumes and decorating their tables based on their favorite TV shows. Proceeds for all these events benefit United Services' scholarship fund to ensure children of underinsured families receive vital therapy and early intervention services.

FORE
the Children

Thank You
for Being a
F·R·I·E·N·D





This past year, United Services learned that the rising costs of basic goods had placed mounting financial burdens on many of the families we served. They were encountering obstacles in obtaining basic necessities, like food and personal care items. We responded by organizing a Care Closet. United Services volunteers regularly stock the closet with nonperishable items like soup, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, shampoo, tissues, diapers and household cleaning supplies. When teachers or therapists learn of a family experiencing hardship, staff members assemble a bag containing food or care items to meet their immediate needs. These bags are discreetly given to the families when they drop off or pick up their children. As of June 2024, more than 30 families had received food and supplies. The Care Closet supplements our longstanding scholarship program, which budgets more than \$100,000 annually to help working class and underinsured families pay for tuition and therapy fees.



Key Funding Partners

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County
Community and Children's Resource Board of St. Charles County
United Way of Greater St. Louis

Foundation Supporters

Blues for Kids Foundation
Baue Family Charitable Fund
Boeing ECF
Cuivre River Electric Community Trust

Academic Affiliations

Lindenwood University
Maryville University
Saint Louis University
University of Missouri–St. Louis
Washington University
St. Charles Community College
St. Louis Community College

Annual Sponsors

GM Wentzville Assembly
Carrollton Bank
BAX Engineering Company
SSM Health
Acropolis Investment Management
Ameristar Casino Resort Spa - St. Charles
Great Southern Bank

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024 *(unaudited)*

Assets

Cash	\$	809,783
Investments	\$	3,105,226
Accounts Receivable	\$	179,018
Other Assets	\$	119,394
Fixed Assets	\$	0
Non Current Assets	\$	7,646,607
Total Assets	\$	11,860,027

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	44,252
Accrued Expenses	\$	32,913
Longterm Liabilities	\$	445,236
Total Liabilities	\$	522,402

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$	11,247,221
Unrestricted Board Designated	\$	0
With Donor Restrictions	\$	90,404
Total Net Assets	\$	11,337,625
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	11,860,027

Operating Revenue

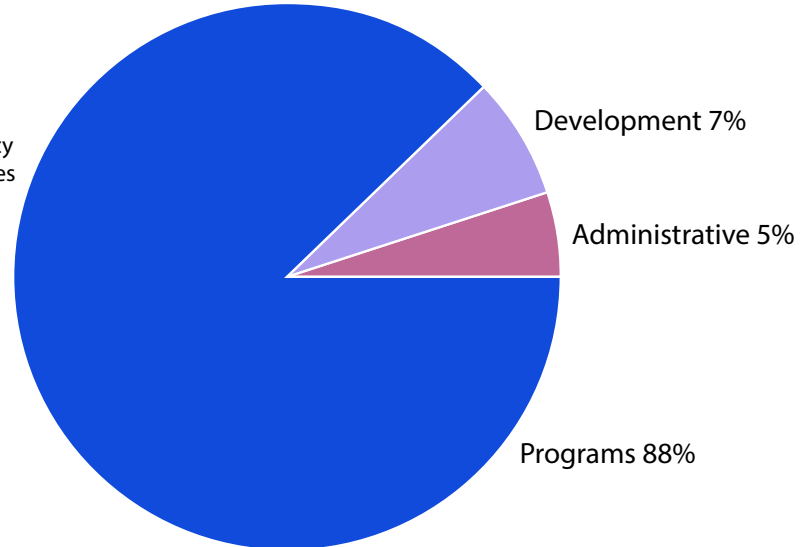
Program Fees	\$	52,170
Pediatric Therapy	\$	448,777
Contracted Services	\$	1,848,175
Grants/Fundraising and Other	\$	630,335
Total Operating Revenue	\$	2,979,456

Expenses

Program	\$	2,761,004
Administrative	\$	164,579
Development	\$	232,901
Total Operating Expenses	\$	3,158,484

Functional Expenses

In FY24, the agency held two properties and associated costs before moving into a new location.



United Services for Children offers a warm welcome to our incoming President and CEO, Julie Turner, Ph.D. She brings 25 years of education and nonprofit leadership, having worked as a K-12 teacher and administrator, and a development and grant writing specialist. Julie has held various key leadership roles with community organizations. She served 15 years as Professor and Department Chair of Nonprofit Administration at Lindenwood University's Plaster College of Business and Entrepreneurship, where she was Associate Director of the Duree Center for Entrepreneurship and served as grants and research manager. Julie is the Chair of the Community Council of St. Charles County, immediate past-Chair of Vision Leadership St. Charles, and Regional Chair of Thrivent Financial-Heartland Region. She actively volunteers within educational, nonprofit, and church settings. Julie has a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, a master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Michigan State University, and a bachelor's degree in Sociology, Religion and Education from Hope College. The Lindenwood Student Government Association recognized Julie as its 2020 Professor of the Year. The ATHENA Leadership Foundation of St. Charles County bestowed Turner with its 2020 ATHENA Leadership Award, acknowledging her professional achievements, commitment to community betterment, and promotion of women's advancement.



The logo features two stylized human figures, one blue and one red, positioned above a red circular element that resembles a stylized 'C' or a child's figure. A horizontal line, blue on the left and red on the right, passes behind the figures.

United Services for Children

Upcoming Events

Shop and Sip
Nov. 21, 2024

Annual Trivia Night
April 4, 2025

FORE the Children
May 16, 2025

41st Annual Gala
August 23, 2025

Shop and Sip
Fall 2025



United Services for Children

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