



United Services for Children

Annual Report
2025



A Word from President and CEO Julie Turner



As I reflect on this first year as President and CEO of United Services for Children, I am struck by the power of stepping into a story already in motion. For 50 years, United Services has been a place where children's first words, first friendships, and first milestones have been celebrated—and where families have found hope, encouragement, and the tools they need for their child to thrive.

This year has been especially meaningful as we launched our 50th anniversary, honoring a half-century of life-changing work while setting our sights on the future. We marked this milestone by hosting our inaugural United for Neurodiversity conference, bringing together families, professionals, and advocates to build more inclusive communities for neurodivergent children. We also partnered with Lindenwood University students to create our 50th anniversary timeline and received support from the Missouri Humanities Council to develop "Honoring 50 Years of Early Childhood Inclusion: A Humanities Reflection," a permanent exhibit exploring the evolution of inclusive early childhood services through the voices of families, educators, and advocates who shaped this movement.

Together with our staff, board, donors, and community partners, we are building on this strong foundation to expand services, innovate in how we support families, and ensure that every child—no matter their abilities—has the opportunity to reach their full potential. We are excited to be expanding our Next Steps program, which provides

crucial support for children transitioning from early intervention services into school settings, helping families navigate this important milestone with confidence.

I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the difference your support makes: a child speaking their first words through therapy, parents finding reassurance that they are not alone, and families discovering a brighter future for their children. These moments remind me daily that our mission is not just a service — it is a calling.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities before us, including innovative projects like The Inclusion Gallery — the region's first therapeutic indoor play space designed to serve children of all abilities year-round. With your partnership, we will continue to grow, adapt, and lead boldly into the next fifty years—strengthening families, empowering children, and creating a community where every child belongs.

On behalf of our board, staff, and the children and families we serve, thank you for your belief in our mission and your commitment to inclusion, resilience, and hope. Together, we are writing the next chapter of this extraordinary story.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Julie Turner, President & CEO

Mission and Leadership

Our Mission

United Services for Children is a nonprofit organization that provides pediatric therapy and early intervention to children with developmental disabilities or delays by partnering with families to build a foundation for success.

Board of Directors

Stacia Peterson – **Chair**
Garrett Watson – **Treasurer**
Michele Bowman
Jim Didion
Anthony Graham
Amanda Jennings
Doug Raines
Jill Skyles
Mike Wilhite

Duane McCrum – **Chair Elect**
Dr. Natasha Marrus – **Secretary**
Heather Decker
Allen Fox
Kristy Haggett, MD
Jennifer Melson
Dan Saettele
Heidi Sowatsky

Administration

Julie Turner – **President and CEO**
Lori Kohrs – **Director of Administration**
Leslie Tucker – **Director of Programs**
Lisa Cuppy – **Director of Finance**
Raymond Castile – **Marketing Director**
Jasmin Singh – **Director of Community Engagement and Philanthropy**

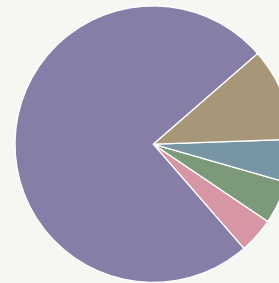


Demographics and Outcomes



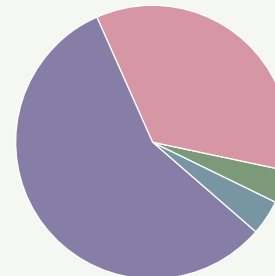
Children served 2024-2025

Early Intervention



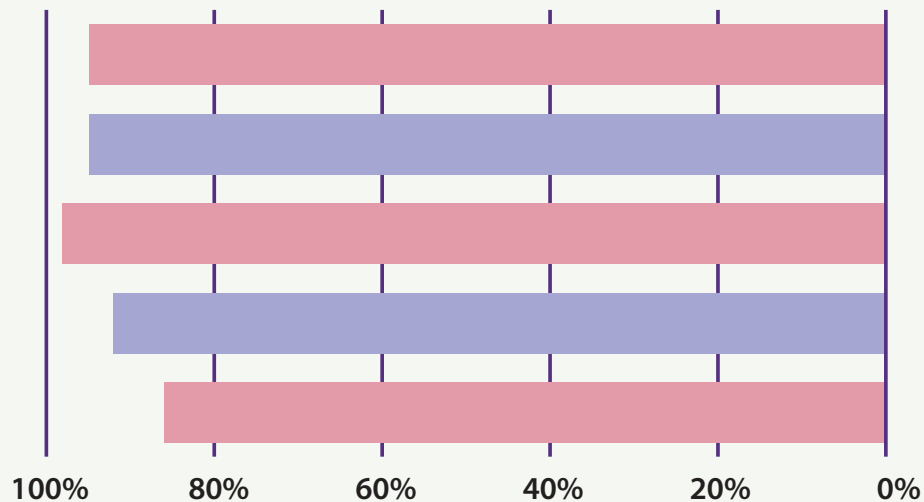
- 75% **Developmental Delay**
- 11% **Autism Spectrum Disorder**
- 5% **Other Genetic Disorders**
- 5% **Down Syndrome**
- 4% **Premature Birth**

Outpatient Therapy



- 57% **Autism Spectrum Disorder**
- 35% **Developmental Delay**
- 4% **Emotional Behavioral Disorder**
- 4% **Down Syndrome**

Early Intervention Outcomes



- 95% Fewer outbursts, comfortable in new surroundings
- 95% Improved relational growth and communication
- 98% Adjusts to routines, increased confidence
- 92% Completes activities with increased independence
- 86% Communicates wants and needs verbally or non-verbally

Financial Report

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025 *(unaudited)*

Assets

Cash	\$ 1,004,129
Investments	\$ 2,806,237
Accounts Receivable	\$ 159,016
Other Assets	\$ 108,018
Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Non-current Assets	\$ 7,740,070
Total Assets	\$ 11,817,471

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 51,872
Accrued Expenses	\$ 46,667
Long-term Liabilities	\$ 446,597
Total Liabilities	\$ 545,137

Net Assets

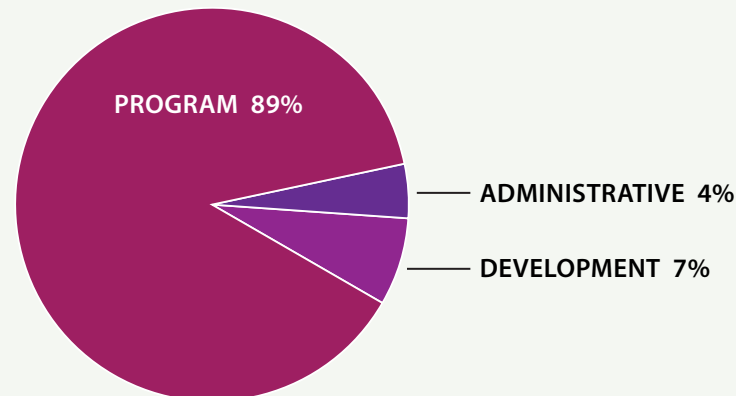
Unrestricted	\$ 11,193,824
Unrestricted Board Designated	\$ 0
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 78,510
Total Net Assets	\$ 11,272,334
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 11,817,471

Operating Revenue

Program Fees	\$ 54,658
Pediatric Therapy	\$ 634,534
Contracted Services	\$ 2,069,942
Grants/Fundraising and Other	\$ 578,854
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 3,337,988

Expenses

Program	\$ 3,234,866
Administrative	\$ 158,646
Development	\$ 261,274
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 3,654,786



The History of United Services



Once upon a time, children with developmental disabilities faced institutionalization. Society hid them away, dismissing their potential and denying them the chance to grow and find fulfillment.

Attitudes had started to improve by 1975, but not fast enough for a group of parents and caregivers in St. Charles County. Frustrated that quality services were unavailable close to home, they teamed up with local professionals to form a nonprofit special education preschool and therapy center that would ultimately become United Services for Children.

"The old system was so archaic," said Karen Stepson, who joined United Services in 1978 as a teacher and became an administrator before retiring in 2014. "It was amazing to see the lack of development in children who were institutionalized. I could not wait to find a place where families could find hope."

The United Cerebral Palsy Association and St. Louis Hearing and Speech joined the effort, using United Way grants to finance the project. The agency was formally incorporated in 1977 as United Services for the Handicapped, receiving federal 501(c)(3) status in 1978.

The agency grew slowly during its first several years, delivering educational and therapeutic services to approximately three dozen children annually while operating out of a 6,000 square-foot leased space in a St. Charles shopping plaza.

Physical therapist Chris Gartner began working at United Services in 1979. "Everyone was so amazed that services were finally available in St. Charles,"

she said. "Before 1975, everyone had to go across the bridge. From a medical standpoint, things changed dramatically."

It was during this time that stockbroker Gary Shaw accepted a friend's lunch invitation to check out a struggling children's charity. "What I saw was mind boggling," Shaw said. "Orange crates and boxes for furniture. No windows. I walked out of there and told my friend, holy cow, we have to do something for this organization."

Shaw spent the next 41 years championing United Services, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, emceeding an annual auction fundraiser, and establishing an endowment.

Another boon to the agency came in 1986, when St. Charles County voters approved a tax increase to fund services for people with developmental disabilities. United Services became a beneficiary, receiving annual grant allocations through the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board. The new funding enabled United Ser-



Growth and Adaption 1975-2025

vices to serve many more children who had previously been on waiting lists. The agency soon outgrew its leased space.

In 1987, the United Services Board of Directors voted to build a 13,000 square-foot building on Old Mill Parkway in St. Peters. The agency broke ground in early 1988 on land donated by Mickey Owen and his family. The agency completed construction in time to welcome children in September 1988.

Enrollment increased throughout the years, necessitating a series of building renovations, including an 11,250 square-foot expansion in 1990 and another 17,000 square feet in 1998.

United Services began integrating typically developing children into its programs, adopting a classroom model that prioritized inclusion. Children without disabilities acted as peer models for children with special needs.

In 1990, the federal government mandated that school districts provide services to children, ages 3-5 years old, with disabilities. Four St. Charles County school districts contracted with United Services to provide preschool

and therapeutic services. The Missouri First Steps program began referring children to United Services' early intervention programs. Enrollment would grow to 1,000 children by 2002.

The agency in 2003 began constructing a second facility that would expand services in western St. Charles County. In July 2004, it completed a new 38,000 square-foot building on Hanley Road in Dardenne Prairie, which allowed the agency to serve an additional 400 children.

The agency rebranded itself as United Services for Children in 2012. The following year, it launched its first outpatient pediatric therapy program, offering insurance-based occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and ABA-based therapy. The program would later add aqua therapy.

United Services closed its Dardenne Prairie location in 2015 as changes began to sweep the local education landscape. School districts, responding to state mandates, in 2016 ended their contracts with United Services and launched their own in-house special education preschool programs. United Services leadership, contemplating the agency's future direction, studied the feasibility of creating a fully accessible children's museum.

The 2020 worldwide COVID-19 pandemic put the museum project on the back burner. United Services closed its building for three months, switching to online tele-services. Thanks to shrewd planning and steadfast community support, the agency returned to normal operations after the pandemic ended.

United Services purchased a new building in 2022 and sold its St. Peters property. In August 2023, it welcomed families into its new headquarters, a 41,000 square-foot facility on Harry S. Truman Blvd. in St. Charles.



The History of United Services

Journey through our history and explore key moments and milestones that made United Services the agency it is today. Since 1975, United Services for Children has empowered more than 10,000 children with developmental disabilities and delays. Our therapy, early intervention, and family support programs have helped children of all abilities reach their full potential.



1977
United Services is incorporated.

1978
Agency receives nonprofit status. Operating out of leased space, agency serves a handful of children.



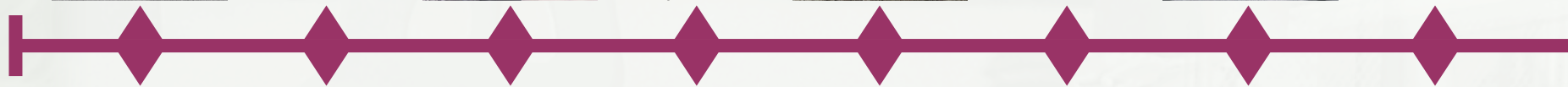
1986
St. Charles County voters approve tax increase for disability services, increasing the agency's enrollment and necessitating expansion.



1990
Federal mandate requires school districts to provide special education preschool services. Four local districts contract with United Services. Building adds 10,000 ft² to fulfill contracts.



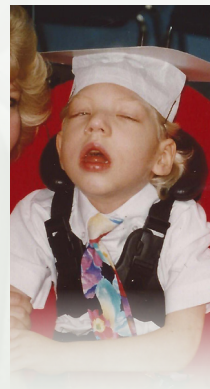
2002
Enrollment grows to 1,000 children for first time. Endowment for United Services is established, grows to \$1 million by 2014.



1975
Parents and professionals, assisted by three community organizations, form United Services for the Handicapped.

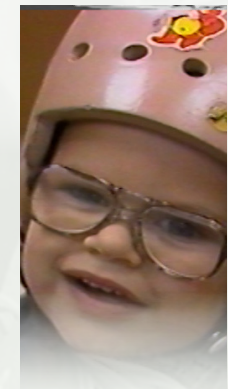


1985
Agency makes steady progress, enrolls 37 children in preschool and therapy. Annual budget is \$325,000.



1987
Agency Board of Directors approves construction of 13,000 ft² facility on Old Mill Parkway in St. Peters.

1988
Building opens.



1994
Enrollment continues to increase. Agency expands building multiple times throughout the 1990s, adding 9,000 ft² in 1994 and 17,000 ft² in 1998.



Timeline of Key Events and Milestones

This timeline honors the incredible journey we've shared with our community, highlighting the challenges and achievements that have enabled United Services to touch so many lives. Beyond reflecting on how far the agency and community have come, it's a chance to look ahead to what we can achieve together throughout the next 50 years!



2007
United Services receives 5-year accreditation from National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



2015
Dardenne Prairie location closes as agency begins consolidating services.
Aqua therapy program launches at Renaud Center in O'Fallon.



2020-2021
The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic forces months-long agency closures and event cancellations. Agency launches teleconferencing virtual learning programs.



2025
United Services for Children celebrates 50th anniversary. Enrollment increases to 400 children annually. Agency considers expansion possibilities.

2003
Agency purchases 6.1 acres in Dardenne Prairie and begins construction on west campus. The 38,000 ft² building opens in **2004**.



2012
Agency rebranded as United Services for Children.

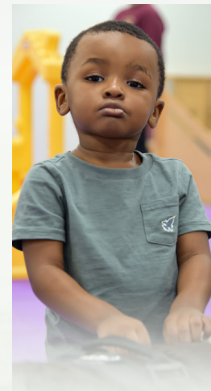
2013
Insurance-based outpatient therapy program launched.



2016
Responding to state mandates, school districts end contracts and begin providing in-house special ed preschool. United Services streamlines and refocuses its mission.



2022
United Services purchases new building on Harry S. Truman Blvd. in St. Charles. The 41,000 ft² facility with in-house aqua therapy opens August **2023**.



Early Intervention, Outpatient Pediatric



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

- **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.
- **Next Steps** — after children graduate from our Early Intervention program, some will enter Next Steps, a preschool class for 3-year-olds who need additional help but do not qualify for school district services.
- **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.



Therapy and Family Support Programs

Outpatient Pediatric Therapy is available for children age birth through 12 years. 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. Therapy is available in individual and group sessions. Medicaid and all major insurance carriers are accepted. Financial assistance is available.

- **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 effective 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. Staff make referrals to connect families with additional community resources.

- **SIBSHOP** — A sibling support group for children age 6 years and older who have a sibling with a disability. Children 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.

Annual Gala and Trivia Night Fundraisers



It's a Small World was the theme of the 40th annual United Services gala, which took place August 2024 at Ameristar-St. Charles. The agency honored F.A.C.T. and Kent Heintz for partnering with United Services to support children and families in our community. The recognition for Kent would become even more meaningful after he unexpectedly passed away at age 58 in December 2024. The following year, Kent's two daughters paid tribute to him during the agency's 41st annual gala.

Trivia fans had a blast at the **Rewind to 1975** annual trivia night in April. In keeping with the agency's 50th anniversary theme, trivia teams wore costumes to represent 1970s fads and pop culture icons.



Golf and Shopping Event Fundraisers

The 30th annual **FORE the Children** golf tournament at Bear Creek Golf Club in May 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.

The fun continued into the fall with the annual **Shop and Sip** private wine and shopping party at April's on Main and Ave by Design in St. Charles. Santa helped keep the evening lively as shoppers prepared for the holiday season.

Proceeds for all these events benefit United Services' scholarship fund to ensure children of underinsured families receive vital therapy and early intervention services.

2026 Events

Annual Trivia Night O'Fallon Elks Lodge	Feb. 13
FORE the Children Bear Creek Golf Club	May 15
Annual Gala Ameristar-St. Charles	Aug. 22
Shop and Sip April's on Main/Ave by Design	Spring/Fall



Endowment for United Services

Endowment Board of Directors

Gary Shaw - **President**

Kathryn Dudley - **Treasurer**

Brian Hollander - **Secretary**

Joel Brett

Mike Deane

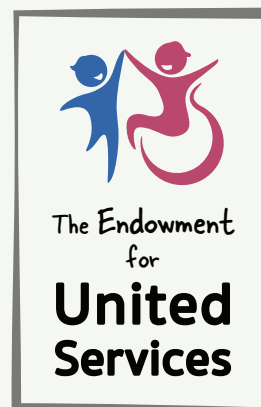
Lesa Johnson

John Meilink

Allen Roche

Dan Saettele

Keith Stone



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

Community Support

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
Boyd Gaming
Cuivre River Electric Community Trust
Dana Brown Charitable Trust
Missouri Humanities Council
QuikTrip
St. Charles County Mayors' Charity Ball

Annual Sponsors

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

Academic Affiliations

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





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3420 Harry S. Truman Blvd.
St. Charles, MO 63301

636-926-2700

www.unitedservicesforchildren.org

