

www.speciallearningcenter.com



SLC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

SMALL
STEPS

MIGHTY
STRIDES

Benefiting Special Learning Center

2024 Campaign Media Kit

WHO WE ARE

Special Learning Center (SLC) has been dedicated to enhancing the lives of babies & children with special needs in our community since 1985. SLC is deeply committed to providing the best therapy, care, education, and support to these children with disabilities, and we firmly believe that every child, regardless of their abilities or challenges, deserves the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Today, Special Learning Center has grown to serve more than 900 children annually from 11 Central Missouri counties and 23 area school districts. During the past 38 years, the organization has helped open the doors of opportunity for thousands of children and their families. The need for our services continues to grow.

IN 2023

160+ children served in Early Childhood Special Education classrooms.

550+ children offered therapy services.

42 children served in Crayon Kids childcare program.

23 school districts received SLC therapy and special education services

1,253 therapy appointments completed by SLC's SKIP Clinic.

375 home visits & **18** family events hosted by family support specialists.

SLC and The Community

The new building will be a sanctuary of inclusivity and growth. It will feature state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, specially trained staff, and a nurturing environment that allows children with special needs to develop essential life skills, experience a quality education, and participate fully in the world around them. The impact of this project will extend far beyond our organization—it will enrich the lives of the children we serve and their families, and it will continue to strengthen the entire community.

The impact of Special Learning Center's new facility is multifaceted and will affect more than improve the lives of the children and families we directly serve. Having space to work with additional healthcare providers in the community will extend our ability to provide more comprehensive and specialized treatment. A larger space increases our collaborative efforts with other educational professionals. The presence of a larger facility will raise awareness about children with disabilities and promote a culture of inclusion.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Presently, our capacity is stretched thin, leaving us unable to adequately accommodate all children with disabilities. However, Special Learning Center purchased a spacious 31,000 square foot facility situated at 905 Weathered Rock Road in Jefferson City. This facility is slated for a comprehensive remodeling project tailored specifically to meet the diverse needs of our children. With the development of our new campus, we anticipate doubling the footprint of our current facility located on Fairgrounds Road. Funds from the Small Steps, Mighty Strides Campaign will allow SLC to:

- Expand the number of classrooms in our Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program.
- Double the number of children served in Childcare (and eliminate the existing waiting list.)
- Provide state-of-the-art Therapy Services in a dedicated clinic (and eliminate the existing waiting list.)
- Allow space for a community room and resource center for our Family Support program.
- Open an After School & Summer Program for school age children with special needs.

The new SLC campus will include a main facility for early childhood special education classes, childcare program, school age rooms, family support program space and education therapy rooms. An adjacent building will contain the medical-based, pediatric therapy clinic as well as a gross motor skills gymnasium space.



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Over the past three decades, Special Learning Center has been a beacon of hope for thousands of children on Fairgrounds Road. With our forthcoming state-of-the-art facility, expanded space, and a bolstered team of dedicated professionals, we are poised to extend our impact to even more children. Our mission remains steadfast: to help children with special needs reach their maximum potential.
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Stephanie Johnson
Executive Director
Special Learning Center

OUR CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP



John Kehoe, SLC Capital Campaign Co-Chair

John and his wife Patty hail from St. Louis but relocated to Jefferson City in 1988. Patty served as a dedicated RN at St. Mary's Hospital while John found employment at Osage Industries, known for van conversions at the time, situated in Linn. They raised three children, all of whom attended Helias High School, and now revel in the joy of nine grandchildren, with five currently enrolled at St. Joseph Cathedral School and Helias, while the eldest four pursue their higher education endeavors. In 1992, John and his four partners assumed ownership of Osage Industries, a venture that has since evolved into the manufacturing of ambulances distributed nationwide. Engaged in various community enrichment initiatives such as United Way, Osage County Anti-Drug Community Action Team, Salvation Army, Vitae, and Boy Scouts, John and his team at Osage Ambulances remain deeply involved in philanthropic efforts. Collaborating with Stephanie, Missy, and Steve at SLC on the Small Steps Mighty Strides campaign has proven to be an enriching experience, one that John considers himself fortunate to have been a part of.



Missy McFerron, SLC Capital Campaign Co-Chair

Missy McFerron is a female entrepreneur passionate about sharing the good in others' stories, giving back, traveling, and real estate. Missy has been recognized in Jefferson City Magazine's 2018 Ones to Watch class, News Tribune's 2018 Voices of Influence class as well as the Missouri Women's Business Center's Entrepreneur of the Year for Cole County in 2022. She is the publisher of Jefferson City Magazine, founder of Dogwood Social, a digital marketing and consulting company serving the state of Missouri, and short-term rental investor in Jefferson City and the Lake of the Ozarks. She thrives when she's creating opportunities, making decisions, and solving problems. When she's not working, you'll find her walking her dogs or tending to her plants with her best friend and husband, Joe McFerron of Joe McFerron Plumbing. She lives by the quote is "Everything is figureoutable," by Marie Forleo, and is honored to be a Small Steps, Might Strides campaign co-chair.



Steve Houser, SLC Board President

Steve Houser, alongside his wife Janice, leads the family enterprise, U.S. Rents-It. Steve's commitment to community service is evident as he serves as President of the Operating Board for the Special Learning Center, acts as an Advisor for the Special Learning Center Foundation, and holds a position on the National Board of Directors for the American Rental Association. His contributions have been recognized with the Jefferson City Magazine's Impact Award and the American Rental Association Impact Award in 2023. Steve's passion lies in ensuring the children of the Special Learning Center receive the best resources available, a cause to which he is unwaveringly dedicated. In his leisure time, Steve cherishes moments with his wife and their two children, Steven and Emily, often found cruising the waters of the Lake of the Ozarks aboard their boat.



Stephanie Johnson, SLC Executive Director

Prior to becoming Executive Director of Special Learning Center in 2020, she served as CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City for nine years where she transformed the organization and led a large capital improvement project. Stephanie has dedicated her career to improving the lives of others through her work with non-profit organizations over the past thirty years including United Way of Central Missouri, March of Dimes and Samaritan Center. Stephanie is a past elected member of the Jefferson City School District Board of Education, a volunteer of the United Way and member of Jefferson City West Rotary Club. In addition to her work in the community, Stephanie enjoys spending time with her three young grandchildren.

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MEDIA CONTACT



Whitney Lammers

Director of Development & Marketing
(573) 634-3070 x107
wlammers@speciallearningcenter.com
1115 Fairgrounds Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109