

FALL 2023



great
LIFE



On September 27, donors, team members and community supporters celebrated the grand opening of ChildServe's recently completed expansion space.

ChildServe Celebrates Expansion in Ames

We're growing to meet the needs of our community

The highly anticipated expansion project at ChildServe – Ames wrapped up this fall, but our life-changing work in the space has just begun! The expansion doubled the square footage of our building and will enable ChildServe to double the number of children we serve.

"Our team is grateful for the many ChildServe donors and community partners who believe in our mission and who have made this expansion possible," said Kate Reynolds, Director – Ames. "Seeing our team provide services in the expansion space puts a huge smile on my face – this is an amazing step forward that will allow us to expand our team and enable more kids with special healthcare needs to access the expert care they need to live a *great life*."

ChildServe – Ames has been a staple in the community since 1995. When we built our original facility in 2000, we were serving 125 children. Today we serve nearly 1,000 children and families from Story County and 22 surrounding counties. This growth, and the growing demand for our services, fueled our passion for the expansion project.

"This expansion project was only possible with the generous support of donors and the exceptional leadership of our campaign co-chairs Sheila and Reynolds Cramer," said Vice

President of Development Erica Axiotis. "We're especially grateful to our lead individual donor Connie French for her generous gift of \$1 million to support the project, as well as the Iowa Economic Development Authority for selecting ChildServe as the recipient of a \$2.7 million grant from the Nonprofit Innovation Fund. To see our community show this level of support for our mission is beyond rewarding."

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"I'm grateful to each of our donors and the greater Ames community for their support in making this expansion project possible. We are excited to welcome more local children who can benefit from ChildServe's expertise and wide array of programs and services. This expansion project has been an amazing reminder that when we all move forward together, we can make a lasting difference for our community."

– Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO





First therapy session held in the new expanded space!



Dan Culhane, Debi Durham, Reynolds Cramer & Dr. Teri Wahlig

Beyond Square Feet: Expansion Highlights

Room to serve more children.

Since beginning our construction project, we are already treating 75 children who were previously on a waiting list for outpatient therapy services. As our team continues growing into our new space by adding more team members, we cannot wait to add to that number. Our expanded space includes the Georges Niang Therapy Gym, fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology and equipment. (Learn more on page 3).

Customized space for the Autism Program.

ChildServe's Autism Program offers a range of services for individuals with autism. Our expansion project allowed us to create a custom floor plan where children in our Autism Program can smoothly transition between individual and group therapy activities, classroom activities and play. Less transition time means kids can spend more time working on their goals for communication, daily living and school readiness.

Designated space for our community and day programs.

Our indoor gym will maximize time for play when Iowa weather prevents them from using the playground, or they need a change of scenery from their classrooms.

Best of all, our team members are back under one roof!

Due to growing demand for our services, the Autism Day Program moved to a stand-alone location just across the road from our main building in 2019. Being back under one roof means children in the Autism Day Program who receive speech, occupational or physical therapy as part of their customized care plan will be just down the hall from their therapists and treatment spaces like the gym.



Treatment Room



Welcome Center



Georges Niang Therapy Gym



Applied Behavior Analysis space



Ames leadership team



Presented by Sukup Manufacturing Co., the event was held July 27 – 28, 2023, at the Ames Golf & Country Club and the Sukup End Zone Club.

Georges Niang Golf Outing Raises \$151,000 Helps fund new pediatric therapy gym

Iowa State basketball legend turned NBA star, Georges Niang, showed his support for ChildServe this summer by selecting our organization as the beneficiary of his annual golf fundraiser. We are pleased to announce the 2023 Georges Niang Golf Outing raised **\$151,000** to help fund the new pediatric therapy gym at ChildServe – Ames.

In recognition of Niang's generosity toward ChildServe, team members surprised Niang with the reveal of the gym's name: The Georges Niang Therapy Gym. The gym opened this fall as part of ChildServe's expansion project.

"I'm grateful to give back to the Ames community by partnering with ChildServe for the 2023 Georges Niang Golf Event," Niang said. "I have friends and teammates in the NBA who know first-hand the experience of having a family member with special healthcare needs, so ChildServe's mission stood out to me. After touring ChildServe – Ames and seeing the positive impact they make on nearly 1,000 kids each year, I'm so proud to be a small part of the work they're doing. It's always rewarding coming back to Ames to support the community that showed me so much love during my time at Iowa State."

The Georges Niang Therapy Gym will be used by ChildServe's pediatric rehabilitation experts. Having access to the gym during therapy appointments will help children and teens with disabilities, injuries, developmental delays and other special healthcare needs maintain or regain strength, improve coordination and balance, and work toward important developmental goals for independence.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of Georges Niang, presenting sponsor, Sukup, and event attendees, thousands of local children will have access to life-changing services in a beautiful new space," said Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO. "As one of the largest pediatric rehabilitation providers in the Midwest, we help children reach goals and milestones that once felt impossible for them. We are grateful to Georges Niang for sharing our belief in the spirit of a child."





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childserve.org

OUR MISSION

We partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life.



If you have an update to your contact information, please contact us at foundation@childserve.org.



GEORGES NIANG MAKES A DIFFERENCE AT CHILDSERVE

From interacting with kids during his tour of our building, to donating over **\$151,000** to support our mission, Georges Niang made an outstanding impact during his time in Iowa this summer. See inside for how the ISU basketball alum and Cleveland Cavaliers star made a connection with ChildServe – Ames.

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