



great LIFE



Giving Back: A Family Tradition

Schwartz family generosity extends far beyond their lifetimes

At ChildServe, helping children with special healthcare needs and their families is the heart of everything we do. The same can be said for ChildServe Vice President of Care Quality, Dawn Schwartz. In 2016, Dawn's passion for giving back and helping children and families brought her to ChildServe as the Director of Nursing.

"ChildServe holds a special place in my heart and is the most mission-driven organization I have ever worked for," said Dawn. "I knew from my first week here that this organization was unique and so very special."

From an early age, family and generosity went hand-in-hand for Dawn and she valued both deeply. The oldest of six, Dawn grew up in a home filled with children. Her parents fostered pregnant teen mothers and dozens of infants, and they were active in their community, supporting numerous charities and nonprofit organizations.

"My parents had a simple philosophy and approach to life – 'do what you can for those who can't.' They gave their time, talents and finances when and where they could, always taking care of other people," said Dawn.

Additionally, the legacy of Dawn's paternal uncle created a

special place in her heart for children and young adults with special healthcare needs.

"Following a brain injury that occurred at birth, my uncle was cared for at the Glenwood State Hospital School for much of his short life," said Dawn. "As he aged and the family grew, it became challenging for my grandparents to care for him at home. I never had the opportunity to meet him, but I witnessed the impact his life had on our family and the immense compassion my father had for people, especially children, with developmental delays, illness or social needs."

Today, Dawn and her husband Eric work to share these values of generosity and selflessness with their daughter, Natalie. A junior at Dowling Catholic High School, Natalie is following in her family's footsteps and has been giving back from the time she was born – attending charity events and volunteering with many local organizations including ChildServe. Her future plans include becoming a nurse practitioner.

Natalie volunteering at ChildServe



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Natalie hopes to be the third generation of nurses in her family. Dawn's mother, Carol was also a nurse.



The generosity of the Schwartz family will help kids like Sydney who receive care at ChildServe. Dawn first met Sydney while caring for her in the NICU. Today, they still get to see one another in the halls of ChildServe.



The Schwartz Family

While the family lives out their spirit of giving each day, they recognize they won't be around forever and have worked together to make a plan. Over the years, Dawn and Eric chose to include Natalie in their financial and estate planning process. Initially, they made decisions for her, but as she matured, they made decisions together.

"Many people don't want to talk about death, but as a family, we share with Natalie that it's really part of living," Dawn said. "It's important to us to make these decisions with and for her now so they don't one day fall in her lap."

When deciding how to allocate their estate, including ChildServe in their giving plan was an easy decision for the Schwartz family.

"You can't take your money with you. The beauty of planned giving is that we get to decide how the money we earn during our lifetime is allocated," Dawn said. "ChildServe is an organization that is easy to love and give back to. When I see the direct impact that giving has on the children, young adults and families

we serve, it solidifies the trust I have in this organization to use gifts wisely.

"There is a beautiful adage that was shared with me many years ago, 'The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.' I feel incredibly blessed to have found my gift of caring for others at a young age and I plan to spend the rest of my life and beyond giving it away."

Looking for a way to make an impact that will last beyond your lifetime? Planned giving allows you to make a future gift to our mission. Contact **Colleen Rogers Messenger** at **515-251-5572**, colleen@childserve.org or visit childserve.org/giving

30th Annual Golf Outing Raises \$181,400 to Support ChildServe Families

Thanks to our sponsors and golf event participants, ChildServe's 30th Annual Golf FORE! the Kids outing raised **\$181,400** this year! The event, held on September 11, hosted over 200 golfers and was presented by LCS and The Weitz Company at Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines.

Proceeds from the event support ChildServe's annual fund which is utilized for projects across all programs and services. A special fundraising effort was also held to raise support for ChildServe families in need. During the holiday season, ChildServe case managers and social workers identify families who could benefit from a little extra help. We partner with these families by providing winter necessities and groceries for the whole family to make their holidays brighter.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of our event sponsors, golf participants, donors and our event co-chairs Brett Bosworth and Jim Hagenbucher, ChildServe will be able to provide things like warm coats, snow boots, socks and food for the children and families we serve who need them most. I can't think of a better outcome for ChildServe's 30th annual golf outing," said Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO.



BJ Huss, Doug Ecklund, Joel Nelson & Sean Vicente



Mike Tousley, Brian Mulcahy, Vince Ward & Jake Perington



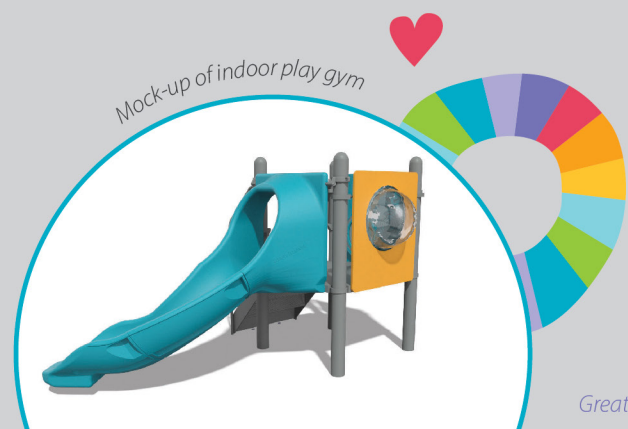
Jim Hagenbucher, Co-chair, Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO & Brett Bosworth, Co-chair

ChildServe Receives Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant to Enhance Rehabilitation Services

ChildServe was recently awarded a Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant of \$17,695 that will allow us to purchase an indoor play gym in our new inpatient rehabilitation unit. JoJo's Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit is the only freestanding, comprehensive pediatric inpatient rehabilitation program for children and teens in the state of Iowa.

"The new play structure will enhance rehabilitation therapy for younger children ages one to eight recovering from a serious illness or injury," said ChildServe Inpatient Rehabilitation Manager Katherine Lefert. "During play, children learn reflexes and movement control, while increasing flexibility and balancing skills. Physical activity helps to build stronger muscles, improve bone density, and enhance heart and lung function. Play gyms help children strengthen their fine and gross motor skills and build hand strength, dexterity, grasp patterns and upper extremity coordination."

The generosity of Prairie Meadows will enable children to make big strides toward their rehabilitation goals through play on this fun structure. Thank you, Prairie Meadows, for your partnership and for helping us provide exceptional care to kids with special healthcare needs and their families!





ChildServe
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Johnston, IA 50131

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.



GAINING LIFE SKILLS AT THE SNACK SHACK

Once a week, teens and young adults in our Day Habilitation and Autism Life Skills programs excitedly stock the shelves and set up the register to open the Snack Shack. The ChildServe Snack Shack is a mobile cart full of pre-packaged treats and fidget toys for sale in our waiting area. Alongside ChildServe staff, the teens and young adults practice business skills while running the cart, which has become popular with our team and guests.

"Each week, the individuals working the cart say how much fun they are having. I have witnessed their confidence and competence increase when interacting with customers," said ChildServe Occupational Therapist Christine Weiland. "The Snack Shack allows the teens and young adults to practice social skills, self-care needed for a job, sensory regulation, attention to task, sequencing and money management. The skills they gain will help them in future jobs, Supported Community Living, vocational rehabilitation or at school."

Thank you to Autism Speaks for providing the grant funding to launch the Snack Shack. We can't wait to watch the individuals we serve thrive through this unique experience.



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