



ChildServe
1915 Philadelphia Street
Ames, IA 50010

childserve.org

OUR MISSION

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

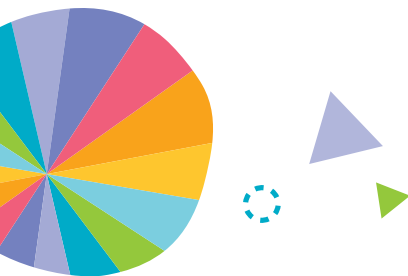


If you have an update to your contact information, please contact us at foundation@childserve.org.

JOIN US FOR LAUNCH + LEARN

When others see cardboard boxes, kids see rocket ships... and that sense of creativity, wonder and possibility is what believing in the spirit of a child is all about. Join ChildServe at Reiman Gardens on Wednesday, June 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and hear from Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO; Kate Reynolds, ChildServe Ames Director; and a parent whose child receives services at ChildServe.

Visit childserve.org/launch-and-learn-ames/ to learn more and reserve your spot today!



great
LIFE



Jones, Launch + Learn's featured kid in 2023



SPRING 2024



great
LIFE



Kevin and Yvonne Kinzler



ChildServe Then & Now

Ames Location Founding Family Reflects on Impact Decades Later

Like many beautiful things in life, ChildServe – Ames began when someone saw a need and was willing to step outside their comfort zone to fill it.

When Yvonne and Kevin Kinzler's daughter, Lacey, turned 6 years old in 1990, she aged out of her summer care program for children with special healthcare needs. Lacey, now 39, has Rett Syndrome, a rare neurological condition that impacts her muscles and coordination, communication and development.

"At the time, there were no daycare options in Ames for Lacey during the summer, and it was nearly impossible to find a babysitter for a child with special needs," said Yvonne. "We knew how important it was for children with special healthcare needs to maintain a routine throughout the summer."

Alongside four other Ames families with children who have special healthcare needs, the Kinzlers created a summer daycare organization called Community Options that would benefit children like Lacey. The company quickly grew beyond the original families, and they added a weekend respite option. By 1995, the group of parents felt ready to step back from managing the growing nonprofit and looked for another agency to pick up what they had begun, and that's where ChildServe stepped in.

"ChildServe has always been good at listening to parents and considering the desires of the families. We were overwhelmed with gratitude when we handed over Community Options," said Yvonne. "We started Community Options because there was no one to help us. The parents in our group were on their own trying to secure the help we needed, and had to spend a lot of time, ingenuity, and resources to meet the needs of our children. We are forever indebted to ChildServe for taking the ball and running. Who could have dreamed so many families would benefit?"

Over time, the Kinzler family would go on to partner with ChildServe to meet Lacey's growing care needs, as well as by becoming donors.

"When Lacey was 10 years old, we were struggling to provide the 24/7 care we wanted to give her," said Yvonne. "Juggling three kids, our construction company, multiple trips to therapy each week, and health aides coming into our home nightly became overwhelming and stressful for our family."



Lacey Kinzler at 18 years old

Continued on page 2

"We were truly blessed in 2004 when Lacey's new home became ChildServe's Long-term Care program [now Inpatient Complex Medical Care] in Johnston. ChildServe came alongside our family to give Lacey the opportunities for a great life that we couldn't provide her by ourselves."

Over the last 29 years, ChildServe – Ames has impacted the community in more ways than the Kinzlers or any of the four founding families thought possible. The organization now provides 15 services through the efforts of 180 staff members and is a staple in the Ames community for pediatric specialty healthcare.

Thanks to a recent expansion project, ChildServe's team of experts can more easily meet each child's unique set of needs and help them make progress in the perfect setting for their goals – from spaces like the playground, therapy gyms and therapy rooms using specialized equipment and technology.

"ChildServe pays forward what we could only give a meager beginning, so we give back to ChildServe from grateful hearts," said Yvonne. "It's thrilling, almost beyond belief, that today this resource is available to provide or coordinate a broad spectrum of services, equipment and therapy to over 1,000 kids each year!"



"We like to follow our donations and see them in action. ChildServe – Ames is well-planned, bright, colorful and a fun place for kids [like those pictured here] to come – and the staff are full of hugs and smiles."

–Yvonne



ChildServe to Enhance Specialty Therapy Clinics with Grant Support

ChildServe was awarded a Community Grant by the Story County Community Foundation that will allow us to purchase resources, equipment and furnishings to enhance and expand our specialty therapy clinics. Through specialty therapy clinics, ChildServe can meet the needs of children facing unique medical conditions. Examples include: children recovering from a concussion or overcoming sensory-based feeding challenges, among others.

"We're proud to support organizations like ChildServe, who recognize families of those with unique needs and abilities," said Story County Community Foundation Executive Director Karin Sevde. "ChildServe's impact in our community has championed the way for a future full of inclusivity, compassion and hope for children with complex medical needs and their families across Story County."

The generosity of the Story County Community Foundation will enable children to make big strides toward their therapy goals. Thank you for your partnership and helping us provide exceptional care to children with special healthcare needs and their families!

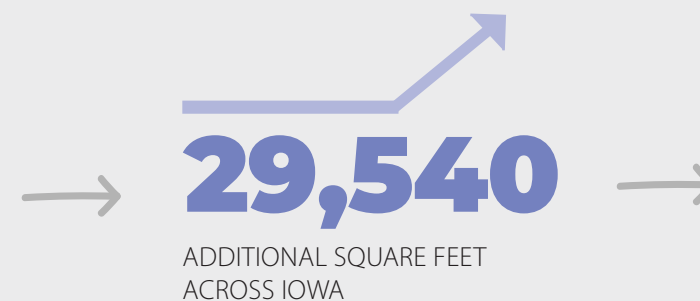
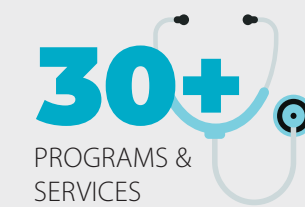


ChildServe Receives Community IMPACT Project of the Year Award

The Ames Chamber of Commerce recently awarded ChildServe the 2023 Community IMPACT Project of the Year award. This award recognizes an organization that identified a need and executed a project that improved the quality of life for those in our community. Our expansion project in Ames allowed us to double our footprint to expand services to impact more children and families. We're grateful to share our mission with the Ames community and to partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a great life!



ChildServe's Growth by the Numbers



*Statewide numbers