

Annual Report 2022/2023

*Celebrating the Successful Completion of the
Forward Into the Future Capital Campaign*



**faison
center**





May 16, 2019
Ribbon-cutting ceremony to open
Flo and Tony Guzman Community Center

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Introduction

"If you don't know where you are going, you will end up someplace else." Yogi Berra would be pleased to know that his astute observation does not apply to The Faison Center. In 2016, we defined a vision for the future of Faison and created a roadmap of where we wanted to go, how we would get there and when we would arrive. In the pages that follow, we look at that journey and celebrate the successes along the way.

Where did we want to go? We wanted to create a campus in Richmond where all of our programs were in one location, a campus that allowed our programs to grow and expand, a campus that was welcoming to all who we served and all who visited, a campus with facilities that were as exceptional as our services.

How would we get there? We knew that our vision was bold and would require a tremendous amount of support from donors. Therefore, we began our Forward Into the Future campaign in 2017 to raise the funds necessary to make our vision a reality. From the moment this campaign began until the moment it concluded in 2022, our donors rallied to the call and generously invested in our mission.

When would we arrive? In 2018, we opened a new wing of Kirshner Mihaloff Hall to increase our enrollment capacity of The Faison School. In 2019, we opened the Flo and Tony Guzman Community Center to focus on health and wellness for those we serve. In 2020, we opened Markel Hall to house our innovative Early Education Center for the toddlers on our campus. In 2021, we opened our unique Outdoor Learning Center to provide additional outdoor space for education and fun. Finally, in 2023, we opened Pioneer Hall for our Adult Services programs and Behavioral Health Clinic.

These are all visible measures of our success, but everyone who supported this campaign understands that this was not about beautiful new buildings. Instead, it was about what goes on inside of these buildings that matters most—pursuing our mission to provide children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities the best opportunity to improve their life's journey. Thank you all for [investing in our mission](#) and supporting those who we serve.

Sincerely,

W. Brian McCann
President and CEO

Forward Into the Future

Capital Campaign Timeline

2023

2018

KIRSHNER MIHALOFF HALL



The Faison School Expansion

2019

FLO AND TONY GUZMAN
COMMUNITY CENTER



Health and Wellness Programs
Community Events

2020

MARKEL HALL



Early Education Center
Meeting Spaces

2021

THE OUTDOOR
LEARNING CENTER



Science and Nature Education

PIONEER HALL



Adult Day Services
Center Based ABA Clinic

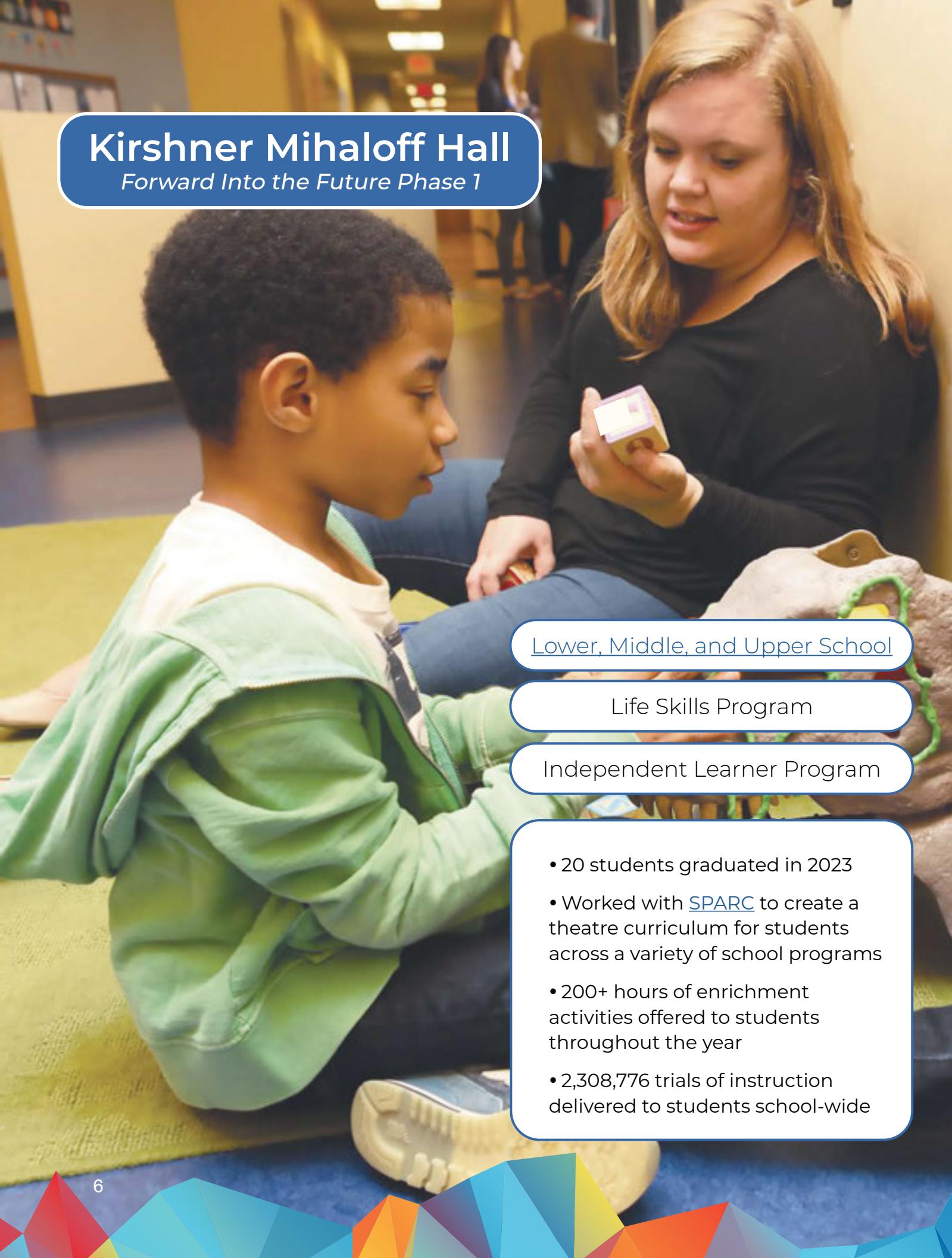
Founded as the Faison School in 1999 with just a handful of toddlers, what is now known as The Faison Center has grown into a comprehensive suite of services and programs for individuals with autism. In 2017, driven both by local demand and a growing trend of autism diagnoses, Faison undertook an ambitious fundraising campaign to significantly expand its facilities on the Richmond campus to serve more individuals with autism of all ages all along the spectrum. This five-year effort resulted in four brand-new buildings and an outdoor learning space.

"We cannot emphasize enough how proud we are of the lifespan of services Faison offers, and of the team that provides those services daily. Now, with the addition of Pioneer Hall, Faison's Richmond campus is complete, allowing for services to be provided to more people with autism and related challenges. The impact of the Faison Center on clients and their families is life changing for them and heartwarming for everyone involved with Faison."

- Richard Davis, a Faison Board Member

Kirshner Mihaloff Hall

Forward Into the Future Phase 1



[Lower, Middle, and Upper School](#)

[Life Skills Program](#)

[Independent Learner Program](#)

- 20 students graduated in 2023
- Worked with [SPARC](#) to create a theatre curriculum for students across a variety of school programs
- 200+ hours of enrichment activities offered to students throughout the year
- 2,308,776 trials of instruction delivered to students school-wide



In May 2018, a new 18,000-square-foot wing was added to the original building of The Faison School. As we celebrated this first phase of the Forward Into the Future capital campaign, the entire building was dedicated as Kirshner Mihaloff Hall. This expansion increased enrollment capacity to allow The Faison School to serve up to 200 students from over 35 jurisdictions across Virginia. We have come a long way since the school began with just one student, Brittany Faison!

The vast majority of the students we serve are severely impacted by autism. As a result, they are unable to receive their education in the public school setting. These public school systems turn to us to educate these students because of our experience and expertise. Over the years, the demand for our services has continued to increase. The new space in Kirshner Mihaloff Hall helped to meet that demand with eight new classrooms, a playground filled with adaptive equipment for our special-needs population, and, for the Life Skills program, a central multi-purpose room surrounded by functional learning areas such as a teaching kitchen, a studio apartment-style living space, a

library, and an exercise space. The unique design of this building allows our staff to create new and impactful learning opportunities for our students. According to Jonathan K., a teaching assistant in the Life Skills program of The Faison School, "It is extremely fulfilling to be able to provide experiences that wouldn't usually occur in the students' day-to-day routine if they did not have Faison in their lives."

For those who have visited our campus, they quickly realize that what we do in the hallways of Kirshner Mihaloff Hall is about much more than just education. It is about dedication, love and a commitment unlike any other to all of our students. As Jonathan also noted about his work at The Faison School, "Knowing that you're making students feel safe and loved, that's the most fulfilling part."

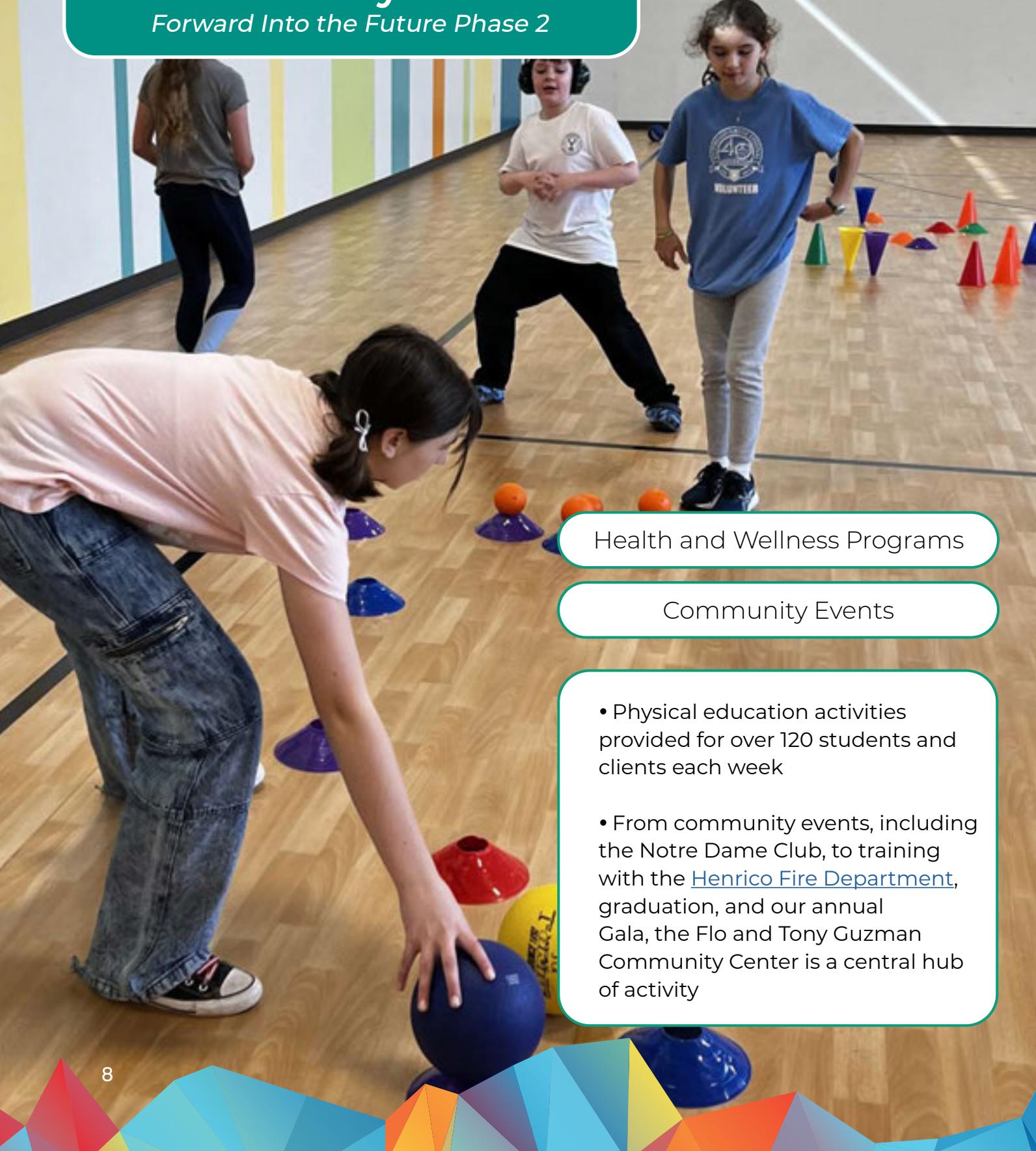


"Faison does a really good job motivating the [students] and showing them their future is endless and that there's a place at the table for everyone."

- Kat S., a Faison Teaching Assistant in the EILC

Flo and Tony Guzman Community Center

Forward Into the Future Phase 2



In May 2019, The Flo and Tony Guzman Community Center opened. This 10,000-square-foot community center was built to provide a place for our students to be active and a place for the surrounding community to gather for a myriad of events.

Individuals with autism have higher rates of obesity, depression, anxiety, stomach issues and sleep problems. Therefore, maintaining healthy and active lifestyles is especially important for the individuals who we serve. Our Community Center provides a flexible space where our toddlers, students and adults can exercise, engage in sports activities, and have fun.

This space, though, is more than just a place for exercise, activity and well-being. It is a place for gathering—for Faison and for the community. Our community supports us, and we want to support our community. Therefore, Faison is committed to making this space available to community groups and other non-profit organizations. In recent years, it has hosted an international conference of the Organizational Behavioral Management

Network, town halls for Autism Speaks, the Richmond Bridge Association, children's birthday parties, Faison's own Action for Autism gala, and community trainings with local law enforcement about how to interact with individuals with autism and other disabilities.

Nicole R., a Faison physical education teacher, reflected on the most recent law enforcement training at Guzman: "It was an awesome day, there were a ton of officers here. For some of our students, it was really unique to have that opportunity to engage and interact with a person in uniform in a non-intimidating situation. There's really no other way to do that without somewhere like Faison to facilitate that interaction."



Markel Hall

Forward Into the Future Phase 3



[Diagnostic Services](#)

[Early Education Center \(EEC\)](#)

[Speech Services](#)

- 4 EEC graduates moved on to public school settings
- Multiple field trips off campus and several volunteer activities throughout the year
- Clinicians in the Diagnostics program completed 47 Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) assessments



In May 2020, Markel Hall, the third building added to the Richmond campus for the capital campaign, was completed. A 16,000-square-foot two-story building, Markel boasts a welcoming foyer and four large, flexible-use classrooms on the first floor, and a multi-functional boardroom, patio, and administrative offices on the second floor. A large playground on the south side of the building was designed specifically for the toddlers who occupy our first-floor classrooms.

Markel Hall houses Faison's Early Education Center (EEC) which serves children ages 16 months to five years old. There is ample research demonstrating the importance of early diagnosis and intervention to improve outcomes for children with autism. The younger they can begin receiving autism specific services, the more likely they are to develop skills and behaviors that will help them throughout their lives.

Our curriculum integrates toddlers with autism with their peers without disabilities as part of an expanded partnership with Westhampton Day School. That partnership allows Faison to blend the

toddlers who we serve into integrated classrooms where they learn alongside West Hampton's preschoolers. This partnership enables those in our Early Education program to participate in more traditional classroom settings while also continuing to benefit from individualized instruction.

The impact of this kind of learning environment is tremendous. Kristen M., a program manager with the EEC, has seen just how powerful the experiences are for children in the EEC and Westhampton Day School: "Academically, socially, and emotionally, I don't think (my student) would have been able to grow that much without our inclusive program. And, the Westhampton kiddos learned to embrace his differences and to love him for who he was, which was so sweet."

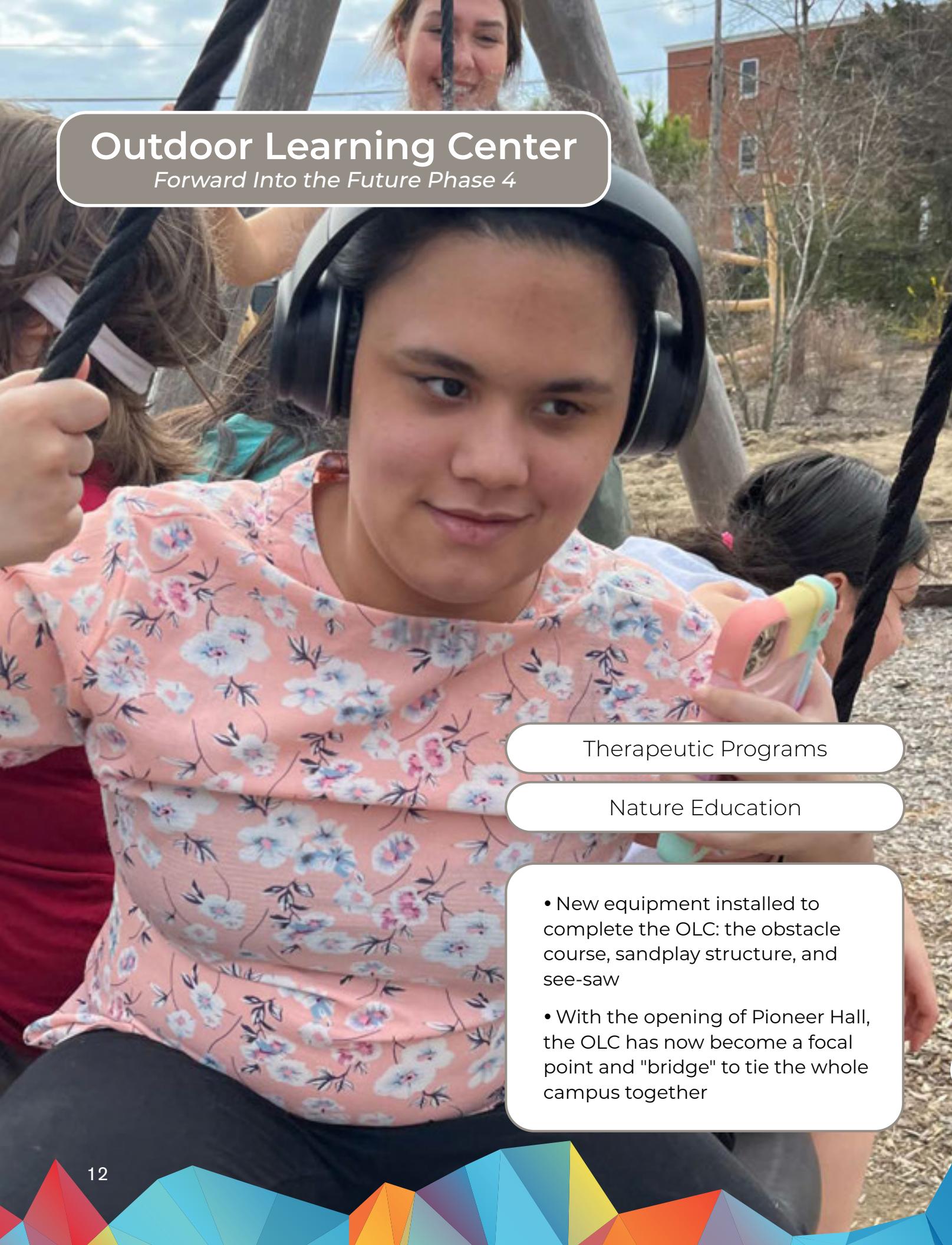


"It's great that Westhampton kiddos get to see that everybody is different, it's okay to be different, and to embrace people for their differences."

- Kristen M., EEC Program Manager

Outdoor Learning Center

Forward Into the Future Phase 4



Therapeutic Programs

Nature Education

- New equipment installed to complete the OLC: the obstacle course, sandplay structure, and see-saw
- With the opening of Pioneer Hall, the OLC has now become a focal point and "bridge" to tie the whole campus together

In May 2021, Faison's Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) was built to serve all age groups and all programs.

The OLC is comprised of multiple activity stations that are constructed with materials found in nature like wood, rock, and sand. These stations support dynamic, gross motor activity and allow our staff to work with all who we serve on their sustained activity level, movement, balance, and endurance. One of the OLC's key components is the Smithfield Foods Overlook, a 500-square-foot multi-purpose deck and outdoor classroom that overlooks the protected watershed of Jordan's Branch. In addition to the Overlook, there are multiple gathering spaces, such as the "tree stump theatre," which develop students' communication, social development, and social expression skills. Additionally, a water flow system and splash tables emphasize problem solving skills and allow our students the opportunity to explore and discover new interests.

Shep R., the Executive Director of Beyond Boundaries, has utilized the OLC to connect with students for several years. His organization guides

participants with disabilities on outdoor adventures, and oftentimes he uses the OLC as the conduit to do so. "I really love working with students who haven't done the things we offer before because there are so many benefits to exploring nature," he said. "And to see the excitement, the learning, and the growth happen firsthand in the programs and activities, that's been awesome and unforgettable."



"I love holding adventure programs with Faison both on and off campus. On campus, the OLC offers a wide range of outdoor opportunities for us. We learn how to set up a campsite, construct tents on the sand, and be good environmental stewards. We practice fishing skills by tying knots and then casting for plastic fish. The OLC is such a great resource to have."

- Shep R., Executive Director, Beyond Boundaries.

Pioneer Hall

Forward Into the Future Phase 5



Adult Services

Behavioral Health Clinic

- Individuals participated in 20-hours of community-based activities per week on average
- 2 recent graduates from the Faison School transitioned to Adult Day Support services
- Participants took multiple successful outings that were different from our everyday outings, like boat rides on the James, Virginia State Fair, strawberry farm, local fire station, etc.



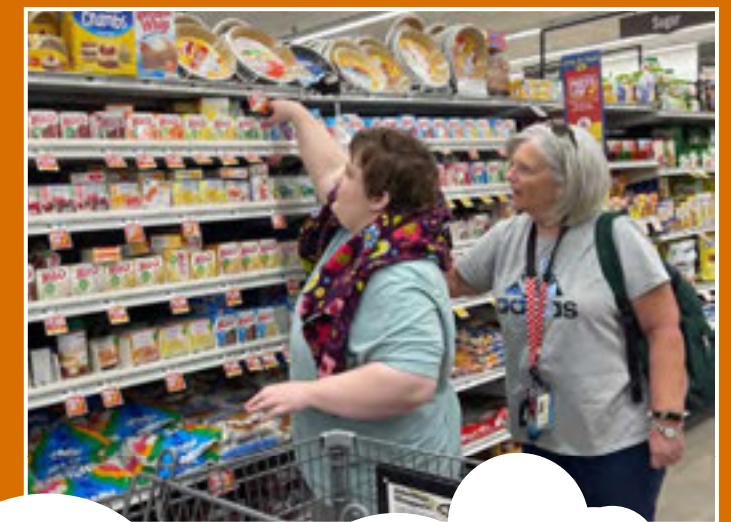
Completed in 2023, Pioneer Hall is the most recent addition to The Faison Center's Richmond campus and is the final project in the multi-year Forward Into the Future campaign. This two-story, 12,000-square-foot building on Willow Lawn Drive completes Faison's ambitious campus expansion plan.

Pioneer Hall's first floor includes three classrooms and a large gathering space for our full-day clinical support to individuals ages 5 to 22 in our Center-based Applied Behavior Analysis clinic. The top floor will house Faison's Adult Day program. This space features an open community gathering spot called "The Paige Edmunds Clubhouse", a shared teaching kitchen, a dining area and three classroom spaces for engagement activities.

When an individual with autism ages out of public education, typically at age 22, they have limited opportunities for meaningful, non-work activities. These limitations lead many of these adults to spend most of their time at home, unable to access their community or engage with their peers. The Paige Edmunds Clubhouse at Pioneer Hall will give

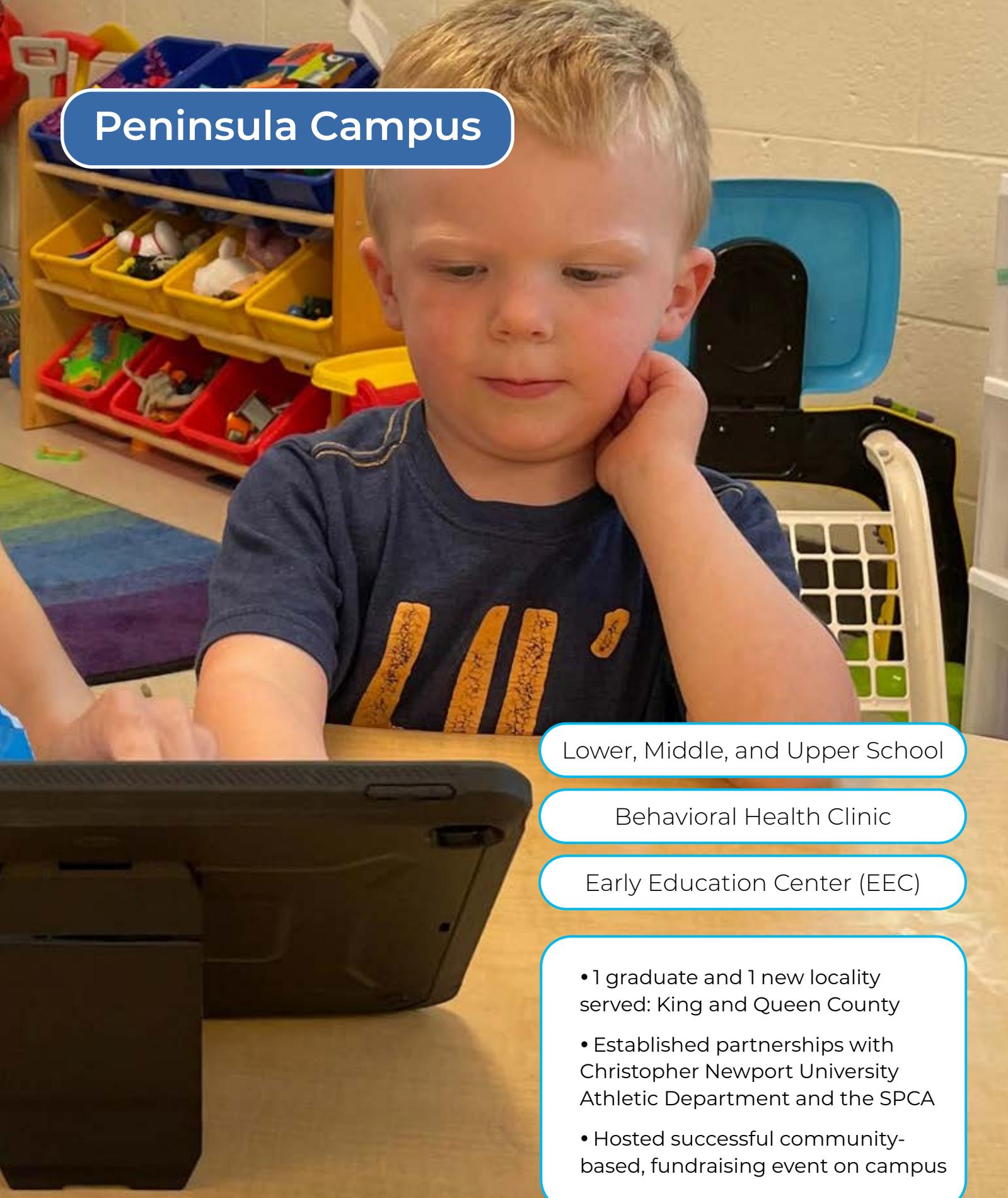
participants in Faison's Adult Day program a state-of-the-art space to socialize, learn valuable life skills, and participate in volunteer and leisure activities in their community.

Overall, this space will complement our other adult services: the Faison Residence and the Family Partner Program. All of Faison's adult programs aim to ensure that adults with autism—whether they are able to live semi-independently or whether they need significant support—are provided the best opportunity to improve their life's journey.



"The Faison Center, and now the Family Partner Program, let us be a family. I don't know that we would have been equipped to give our son everything he needed for as long as he did without all of the progress that he made there." - Todd R., parent of former Faison School student who is in the Family Partner and Adult Day programs

Peninsula Campus



Lower, Middle, and Upper School

Behavioral Health Clinic

Early Education Center (EEC)

- 1 graduate and 1 new locality served: King and Queen County
- Established partnerships with Christopher Newport University Athletic Department and the SPCA
- Hosted successful community-based, fundraising event on campus



Although not officially part of the Forward Into the Future capital campaign, The Faison Center also expanded services in 2017 with the Peninsula School in Newport News. In 2019, we built out a new location for this school with an enrollment capacity of 40 students. This location increased our capacity to serve students from New Kent County all the way down to the City of Hampton. Shortly after opening the Peninsula School, we opened an additional Early Education Center to serve newly diagnosed toddlers out of this location.

Parents like Whitney G. are thrilled to have access to such high-quality autism services in the Peninsula region. "We live in a small town where there aren't many opportunities for children with autism. The Faison Center has given [my daughter] the chance to build on her life skills. Things like shopping for items she needs, practicing cleaning and organizing areas at school, and especially working on her communication skills have helped her become more independent. Without The Faison Center, she wouldn't have the chance to grow like that."

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with families and children with autism on our Peninsula Campus, and we are extremely thankful for all of those in that area who support our mission and all who we serve.

In addition to allowing us to serve more individuals, this campus has widened our research partnerships. Now, in addition to working with University of Virginia, Columbia University, and Kennedy-Krieger at Johns Hopkins, among others, we enjoy great working relationships with Old Dominion University and The College of William and Mary.



"My favorite part is knowing that there are people who care for my daughter with respect and dignity. They acknowledge her disability and treat her no different. The staff are true SUPERHEROES!" - Whitney G., Parent of Peninsula School student

The Faison Center Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023



"I don't think most people realize how life-changing the work we do with our students is for them and their families. Faison's school programs allow for so much growth in these kiddos' lives: it may not seem like much to a lot of people but it is huge to them. My students know I'm gonna be with them through thick and thin." - Kat S., a Faison Teaching Assistant in the EILC



Program Expenses	91.75%
Overhead Expenses	4.95%
Fundraising Expenses	3.30%



The Faison Center Operations (in millions)

Program Revenue	\$16.8
Faison Apartment Rental Income	\$0.7
Net Funding from Fundraising*	\$0.4
Program Expenses	(\$16.7)
Overhead Expenses	(\$0.9)
Net Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2023	\$0.3

*Capital campaign funding is not included

Financial information is provided following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles but is not yet audited.





Forward Into the Future

Campus Expansion. Service Enhancement.

Thank You to our Capital Campaign Donors who have made our campus expansion plans a reality!



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Recognizing All Gifts Received 7/1/2022-6/30/2023
to the Annual Fund, Action for Autism and Aces for Autism.



\$25,000 and up

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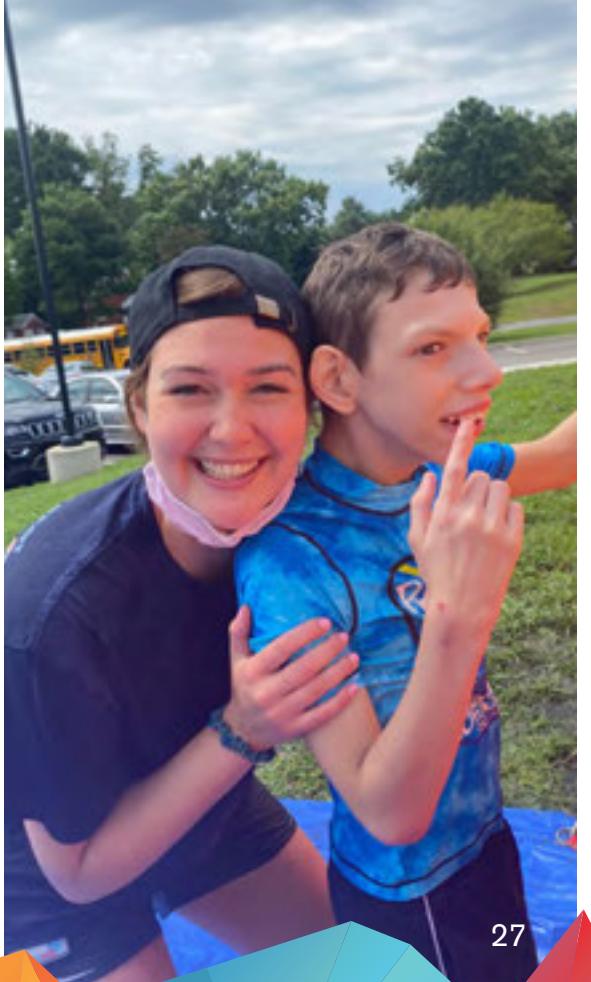
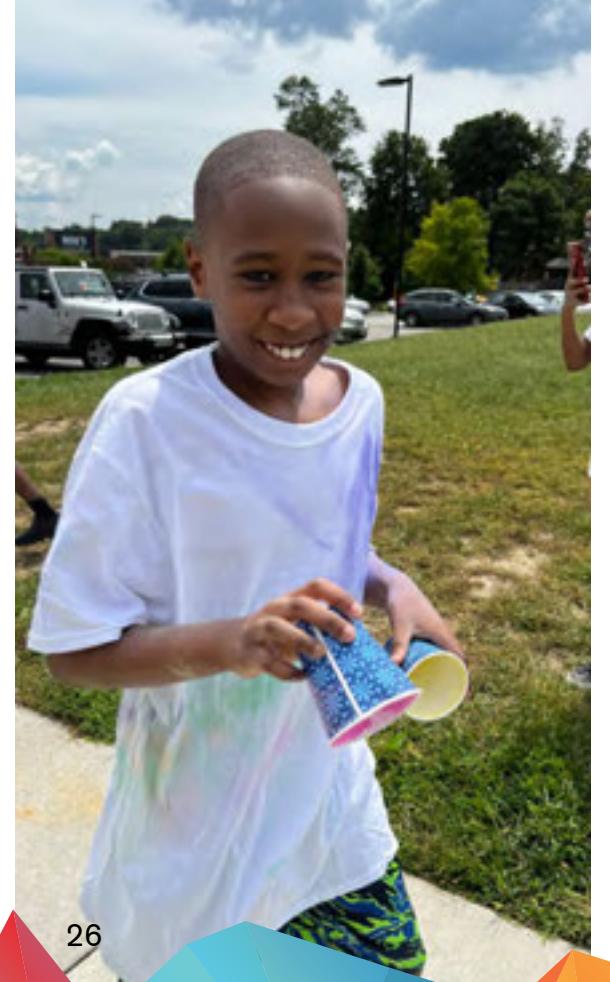
Up to \$249

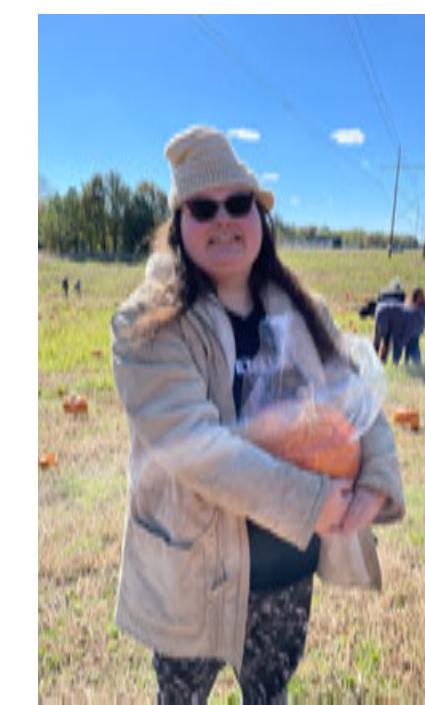
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Harry and Anne Alferink
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Rick Vander Kaay
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Paul and Kellie Kelley
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Robert Kreps
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The Kurz Family
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Amanda Muncy
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Cal and Katherine Whitehead
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Dennis and Allison Wixted
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Leslie Wrenn
YourCause, LLC
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Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation





Tributes

In Memory of Adam Williams
Patricia M. Titus

In Honor of Adeline
Charles Slate

For The Birthday of Alan Kirshner

Will and Cindy Anderson
Scott and Nancy Bellemann
Morty Brown
Community Foundation of Tampa Bay
Andrew and Elizabeth Crowley
John Cullather
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Drs. Ruth Hillelson and Terry Whipple
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Dennis and Cindy Pryor
Richmond Jewish Foundation
Kenny Salken and Wendy Kreuter
Phyllis Simons
Paul and Kathryn Smoke
Howell and Margo Wallace

In Honor of Alan Kirshner and Deb Mihaloff
Jean Childress

In Honor of Ben Ratner
Jamie B. Ratner Rich
Tinsley and Mary Alice Yarbrough

In Honor of Blake Vincent
Tony and Deborah Vincent

In Honor of Capital One's Pay it Forward Initiative
Kim Nicol

In Honor of Carolyn Abbott
Robert and Amanda Crowell
William and Carol Downey
Robert Hatten

In Honor of Chris Ost
Emily Cole-Jones

In Honor of Christopher Corsello
Bruce and Marguerite Corsello
Schwab Charitable Fund

In Memory of Evelyn Ruth Sutherlin
Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District

In Honor of Faison's Amazing Staff
Rachel Ernest
Glenn and Rebecca Harris

In Memory of Gary L. Clower
Wesley and Patsi Hall

In Honor of Hunter Burger
Larry and Andrea Hogan

In Honor of Isaac Michael Hannon
Spinnaker Consulting Group

In Honor of Jill Parker
Julie A. Pollard

In Honor of Liam Strickland
William J. and Lydia J. Strickland

In Honor of Markel Insurance Agricultural Division
Lisa and John Seger

In Honor of Mary Coleman
Katherine Bryant

In Honor of Melody Drisko
Anonymous

In Honor of Nosuk Kim
Philip and Isabel Hatchett

For The Birthday of Paige Edmunds
Roy and Ann Tyler Allen
Anonymous
Complete Pest Management
Jordan Ferrell
Chris Rudner
The London Company
Kathryne and Russell Yates
Kell Young
Walter and Rebecca Young

In Honor of Richard Davis
Anonymous

In Honor of Sarah Anne Seltzer
John and Diane Golden
Sheldon and Carmen Seltzer

In Honor of Scott and Kate Whitehead
Cal and Katherine Whitehead

In Honor of Steve Ernest
Hugh and Karen Catlett
Cathy Clark
Rick Vander Kaay
James and Deborah Sadar
Anonymous

In Honor of Suzanne M. Hogg
Lisa Freeman

In Honor of Sydney Johnson
Thomas and Ann Wilson

In Honor of Taylor Wixted
Denis and Allison Wixted

In Honor of The Faison Center's Teachers
Mehmet Camurdan and Yujie Shan

In Memory of Tony Guzman
Wendy N. Brown
George and Genie Crawford
John and Amy Daylor
Susan and David Farris
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Robert and Hilda Garlock
Catherine, James, and Teddy Gregory
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Paul and Nancy Springman
Trevor and Lisa Klein

In Honor of Tucker Naftzger
Anonymous



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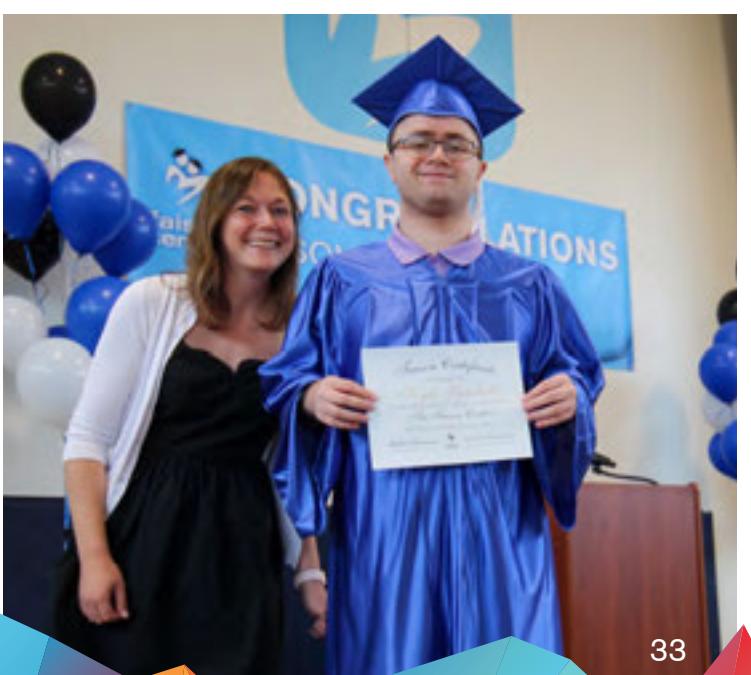
The Faison Clinical Advisory Council

- Louis P. Hagopian, Ph.D., BCBA-D
- Melissa Nelson, MD
- Terry J. Page, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Graduation Time

Congratulations to our 2023
graduating students!

Amilleon Anderson
Elizabeth Angle
Sean Bamman
Kyle Birchett
Abby Brown
Caleb Cheely
Zoe Elias
Michael Gentry
Coleman Heirholzer
Kristine Ogden
Benjamin Ratner
David Rubenstein
Sarah Seltzer
Marquis Smith-Reynolds
Dev Trivedi
Nicky Walczak
Hayden Wheaton
Sean Wood
2 additional students



Thank You!

On behalf of all of the children and adults we serve....Thank you!



The Faison Approach

At The Faison Center, our mission is to give children and adults with autism and related challenges the best opportunity to improve their life's journey through evidence-based practice. We provide world-class services and programs through our unique lifespan model, which offers enriching opportunities from early diagnosis to adulthood. No matter when our services are needed, we are committed to improving the lives of the individuals we serve.



**faison
center**

Pioneering Possibility

for individuals with autism and their families since 1999

faisoncenter.org

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The Faison Center

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