2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Achievement Centers for Children

DEAR FRIENDS

We see what is possible—and we are here to make it happen.

That belief has been at the heart of Achievement Centers for Children since our founding in 1940. It shapes how we see every child and adult we serve: not through the lens of limitations, but through the possibilities ahead. Across our programs, children and adults gain skills, discover greater independence, form meaningful connections, and achieve milestones that once may have seemed out of reach.

Seeing what is possible also means looking ahead. Throughout ACC's history, we have evolved our programs and spaces to respond to the changing needs of the people we serve. Today, we find ourselves at another important moment: one that calls us to imagine how our services and surroundings can better support our community for generations to come.

Sensory wall in ACC's new Autism School

We saw the promise of that future when we first walked through a former early learning center on Clemens Road in Westlake. We envisioned a space thoughtfully designed for our autism school students—and then brought that vision to life. With sensory break spaces in every classroom, indoor and outdoor sensory trails, and a specialized playground and outdoor classroom, the building became much more than a new location. It became a space created around the distinct strengths and diverse needs of its students. Since moving into their new home in April 2026, they have been thriving.

When we see what is possible... and pursue it together... we can transform lives.

Now, we are bringing that same spirit of possibility to the future of our Camp Cheerful campus. For nearly 80 years, Camp Cheerful has been a place where nature, friendship, adventure, and belonging come together. As the needs of those we serve continue to evolve, we have an opportunity to envision a campus with accessibility at its foundation—one where welcoming, thoughtfully designed spaces complement the restorative power of the natural surroundings. It will also allow us to welcome more people in the years ahead—to explore, create, connect, build confidence, and flourish.

There is much more to come, and we look forward to sharing our plans with the broader ACC community in the months ahead. What we can say today is that the next chapter will be shaped by the same conviction that has guided us for more than eight decades: when we see what is possible—and pursue it together—we can transform lives.

With Gratitude,

Bernadette Kerrigan

Bernadette Kerrigan, MSSA, LISW, SPHR
President & CEO

Jennifer Vergilii

Jennifer Vergilii
Chair, Board of Directors

2025 – 2026 OUR PROGRAM IMPACT

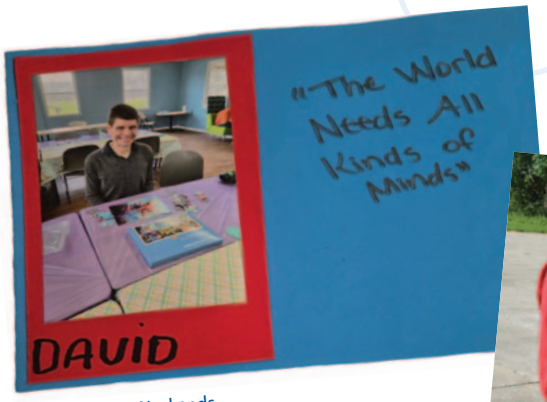
The following offers a snapshot of the impact our programs made over the past year:

5,053 clients served by our care teams from **17** Ohio counties and **1** additional state (Pennsylvania)

1,365 individuals, corporations, and foundations supported our mission

$2.76 MILLION raised through the generosity of our donors

OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Respite Weekends

Summer Overnight Camp

ADULT SERVICES

Respite Weekends

390 registered campers enjoyed a separate theme for each of the **17** weekends (including the pictured Autism Acceptance Month)

Summer Overnight Camp

107 campers created **972** art projects over the Summer 2026 camp season

River Rock Adult Day Program

Forged a partnership with Strongsville Emergency Food Bank resulting in **$1,200** worth of donated food by River Rock participants, staff, and families over the past year

River Rock Adult Day Program

MORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Autism School

Autism School
Outdoor Classroom

EDUCATION

Autism School

45% more square footage in new Autism School vs. previous site

14 classrooms customized to the specific needs of each age group—all with sensory break spaces

Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

1,495 visits by our TAP Resource Teachers to childcare programs

231 kids served in childcare programs

108 child care providers received TAP support

Help Me Grow

FAMILY SUPPORT

Behavioral Health

5 TO 70 YEARS is the age range of clients served

Early Childhood Mental Health

20% more clients served this year over last

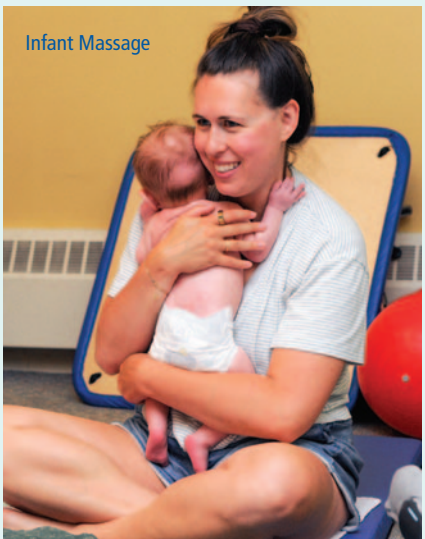
Help Me Grow

32 graduates in the past year

100% of HMG families would recommend ACC to family or friends

Infant Massage

6 community and office locations across Cuyahoga County hosted sessions



Infant Massage

Infant Massage

Adapted Cheerleading

RECREATION

Adapted Sports

One of the **8** Adapted Sports seasons we host is our **Cleveland Browns Adapted Football League**

9 athletes have participated in the league for **4+** years (including Zoey and Rachel, pictured). Zoey & Rachel were also our two athletes who participated in both Skills & Drills football—and our new Adapted Cheerleading

18 athletes have played in the league for **6+** years

Cheerful Day Camp

5 sets of siblings (**4** of whom are pictured below) were registered during the Summer 2026 season

Sensational Extended School Year (ESY) Camp

33 students attended from **7** districts over **3** summer sessions

Lucescu is one of our 9 athletes who has played in the league for 4+ years.

ESY Camp

Jimmy and Alivia

Jackson and Keaton

Leija and Diana

Rocco and Franco

Cheerful Day Camp Siblings

MORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RECREATION *continued*

Therapeutic Horsemanship

Our program celebrated its **20TH YEAR** with an anniversary party!

$98,883 was raised at the September 2025 event

230 Barnyard Bingo squares were purchased by the **200+** attendees and online supporters—raising **$5,750**

THERAPY

2 MONTHS TO 37 YEARS is the age range of clients currently being served

12% of clients are above the age of **18**

12,470 hours of therapy were provided in the past year, an average of **478** hours/week

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

889 VOLUNTEERS donated a total of **10,563 HOURS** to our mission through the following programs:

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

367 volunteers,
2,828 hours

Keller Williams volunteers at Camp Cheerful

KeyBank volunteers at ACC's Clemens Road site

ADAPTED SPORTS VOLUNTEERS

390 volunteers,
707 hours

THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP VOLUNTEERS

132 volunteers,
7,028 hours

FUNDRAISING

$2.76 MILLION was raised through the generosity of our donors in 2025–2026!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our three signature fundraising events raised a total of **$827,585!**

Blue Chip Blue Tee
August 2025

Sparkle
February 2026

A Most Excellent Race
June 2026

A Most Excellent Race — Emcee Gab Kreuz with top family fundraising team, Team Thomas

Blue Chip Blue Tee — Entrepreneur and former ACC client Erik Whetstone speaks with event chair David Dunstan looking on

Sparkle — Artist Amanda Bagby with guest Beth Mooney

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Ohio Desk has long supported the agency by volunteering at Camp Cheerful twice a year—helping with groundskeeping before/after camp season. This year, **60** volunteers donated a total of **168** hours!

Ohio Desk also supported the opening of our new Clemens site in Spring 2026. They donated office furniture for our administrative offices and our Autism School, as well as design/moving services valued at **$21,520**.

Higley leaders Dave Pastir and Gareth Vaughan with award presenters Robin and Steven Kyman

Acorn Award

Amy Brady

2026 CHAMPIONS FOR ACHIEVERS AWARDS

Higley Construction and Amy Brady

A company whose vision has shaped ACC for decades and a former Board member and mission champion were both honored for their passionate support of the agency during the 2026 Sparkle event.

INAUGURAL KAREN SORACE THOMAS ACORN AWARD

We presented the Karen Sorace Thomas Acorn Award to the award's namesake at our 2026 Sparkle event. The award will forever celebrate what Karen exemplifies—being a fierce advocate for meaningful change in how the community embraces individuals with disabilties.

FOUNDATION GIVING

The Cleveland Foundation supported our agency's strategic priority of improving business performance with a $50,000 grant.

"The Cleveland Foundation works with partners to help Greater Cleveland thrive, now and generations into the future. By supporting strong business practices in agencies like Achievement Centers for Children, we can help ensure their model and mission will serve individuals with disabilities and their families in Northeast Ohio for years to come."

—Kathy Hallisey, *Vice President of Grantmaking, Cleveland Foundation*

NCTA

A Subsidiary of Achievement Centers for Children

36,965 HOURS of OT, PT, Speech Therapy, BCBA, and Psychology services provided to school districts

1,959 STUDENTS served

Remembering NCTA Executive Director David Brand

Achievement Centers for Children and NCTA mourn the loss of NCTA Executive Director David Brand, who died in August 2026 after a brief battle with cancer. A long-time public school administrator, his obituary said of his time with NCTA, "It was a mission he embraced with his whole heart. Dave believed every child deserved access to high-quality therapy and every school district deserved a trusted partner."

OUR LEADERSHIP

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19 News – WOIO

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Brian Zimmerman
Cleveland Metroparks

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Thomas McKee*
*(*Deceased)*

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Debbie Rodriguez
Chief Development & Marketing Officer

Vicky Snyder, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

Hunter Wilson, JM, sHRBP
Chief Human Resources Officer

David Brand
Executive Director, NCTA

Kimberly Allen, Ed.S.
Vice President of Education/Superintendent of Schools

Susan Christopher
Director of Marketing & Communications

Dawn Jovic
Program Manager/Principal

Scott Matson
Vice President of Information Technology & Project Management

Danielle Muckley
Vice President of Development & Marketing

Nate Ogonek, PT, DPT
Senior Director of Program Development

Kayleigh Olson, M.Ed.
Senior Director of Youth & Adult Services

Nastia Pak-Galvin, MBA, SPHR/SCP
Senior Controller

Sarah Stilgenbauer, MNO
Director of Foundation Relations & Strategic Gifts

Craig Tavanello
Facilities Manager

Achievement Centers for Children

SINCE 1940, we have been a trusted partner to families in unlocking the potential beyond disabilities.

OUR MISSION We empower children and adults with disabilities to achieve their greatest potential through holistic and family-focused services.

OUR VISION A future where individuals with disabilities live life to the fullest and reach their highest potential at home, school, and in the community.

BREEN FAMILY CENTER
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, Ohio 44128
216-292-9700

CAMP CHEERFUL
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
440-238-6200

WESTLAKE
24211 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
440-250-2520

WESTLAKE
28501 Clemens Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
440-577-8886

Achievement Centers for Children's Board of Directors touring the agency's new Clemens Road site during renovations in September 2025.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.AchievementCenters.org