



A Message from
Pete Caldwell



Kathy Youngson
Retires



Barbara Langsdale
Retires

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Summer 2019

Early Intervention Education was Our Best Decision

On Nolan's first day of attending We Care's early intervention program, my husband and I were anxious, nervous, and worried about how our 20-month-old son would make it through the day without us. Meeting Nolan's teachers put my mind somewhat at ease, but it was still extremely difficult to leave him.

Fast forward to one year later, we know that putting Nolan in We Care for early intervention education was the best decision we have ever made.

Mastering new skills at school and home

During the past year, he has thrived while attending We Care. When I drop him off each day, he is so happy to be there. He loves the classroom and his amazing teachers. Masako, Joycelin, Caroline, Kat and Merci have all spent so much time working with Nolan to help him master new skills.

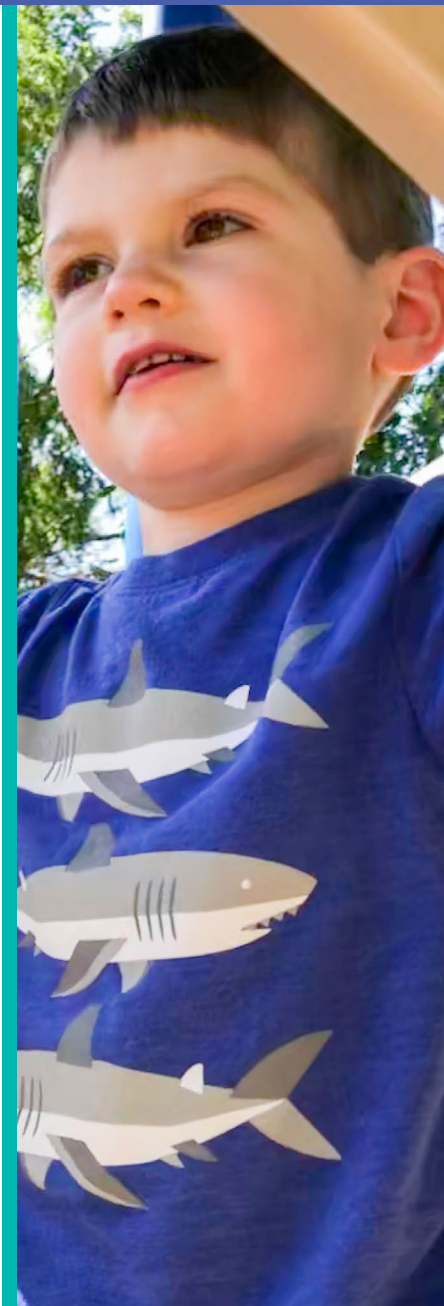
Each day I get an update from Masako Poeppel, his incredible primary teacher, who tells me all of the exciting things he has learned or accomplished. We get consistent feedback from Elysa Underwood (speech therapist) and Kathy Youngson (occupational therapist) about activities to try at home to encourage Nolan's development and learning. It feels like we have our own team of professionals ready to help us tackle any issues that may come our way.

Heartfelt, unwavering support

Over time, we came to the realization that We Care was not just a school – it was a community where we all feel supported. It's a place I bring my son to each day knowing the teachers there truly care for him. Masako has celebrated with us so many of Nolan's seemingly small, yet significant, successes.



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At We Care, we protect the privacy of children in our care even when their parents give us permission to tell their stories. Therefore, while the families' stories are true, names and images are likely to be changed.



A Message from:

Pete Caldwell, Executive Director



Dear We Care Family,

We often highlight individuals whose efforts inspire us and reflect We Care's passion for helping the most vulnerable among us.

But today I wanted to highlight four remarkable foundations – each has created unique opportunities this year for community-based organizations like We Care to provide critical help for at-risk children in Contra Costa.

1 The Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation's Executive Director, Melissa Stafford-Jones, is guiding a county-wide process bringing focus to early childhood vulnerabilities and solutions. Our partnership with the foundation has helped us to launch programs that:

- Enable us to have an impact at the very beginning of an endangered child's life through therapeutic and educational interventions targeted at new parents
- Reach underserved children and families at risk of "falling through the cracks"
- Develop innovative approaches to entrenched problems of misinformation, systemic neglect, and missed opportunity within many of our most vulnerable communities

2 The Quest Foundation, helmed by Derek Jernstadt, has supported our work to make real and lasting change in the lives of hundreds of families. The foundation has recently awarded We Care a substantial challenge grant that will allow us to:

- Increase our assistance to underserved families
- Bolster our internal capacities to meet the community's needs

3 The Bernard E. and Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation has been one of We Care's most consistent and impactful partners. As director, Ken Kuchman helped to:

- Develop our inclusion program – the first iteration of our multi-disciplinary treatment model for children with both developmental and mental health concerns
- Create innumerable opportunities for us through financial support and connections with other funders and providers

4 Last but not least, the Ed and Betty Manoyan Foundation, through many years of generous grant-making, has allowed We Care to:

- Build and refine its core programs
- Improve delivery and access to disadvantaged families
- Support critical staff development

While many foundations do much to make Contra Costa County safer, healthier and stronger, I am particularly grateful to these four for their compassion, countless ideas, and phenomenal commitment to effective philanthropy.

Thank you!


 Pete Caldwell

I remember telling Kathy Youngson about progress he had made related to a medical issue. Kathy was so happy to hear our son was doing well that her eyes immediately filled with tears of joy. Her reaction was so unexpected, genuine and heartfelt, and in that moment, I had so much appreciation for how dedicated these teachers are and how much they want their students to succeed.

Nolan still has a few months left in the early intervention program and I am dreading our last day at We Care. It's our community and, in a sense, our extended family. We will forever be grateful for all of their work with Nolan and their unwavering support of our family along the way.



With heartfelt thanks from Nolan's mom, Christina

Thank You to Spring Appeal Donors!

The services we offer only happen because of folks who believe in We Care and the work we do. Thanks to supporters like you and an incredibly generous match, our spring fundraiser was very successful! A huge "thank you" to the people listed below, plus our sincerest gratitude to the amazing – but anonymous – couple who matched every single gift.

Betsy Beatty
Betsy Beros
Nathan Brooks
Erica Brown
Pete Caldwell and Jim Martin
Weide Chang
Sonja Christopher
Jon Delman
Tracy Duberman
Jim and Dee Dunathan
Dirk and Marilyn Fitzgerald

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Fred and Gina Piazza
Gayle Rotner
Marieli Rowe
Ned Sachs
Bob and Susan Sachs
Amy Smith
Ashish Vij
Jesus Villalobos
Phil Williamson
Karen Zazzi

Retirement Congratulations to Kathy Youngson!

Kathy has been a major part of the We Care family since October 2004, and her excellent occupational therapy skills have made a tremendous contribution to the children, parents, and staff in our programs.

She always embodies the "We Care spirit" we all talk about. She gives wholeheartedly – eager to lend a helping hand, fight for what is right, create something out of nothing. The expertise she has shared with us over the years has developed quality services for children, and unparalleled knowledge and training for the staff. We will all miss her very, very much!

If you would like to send a card to wish Kathy a happy retirement, she can be reached at We Care, Attn Kathy Youngson, 2191 Kirker Pass Rd, Concord 94521.



Kathy Youngson
Occupational Therapist

we care
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workplace giving

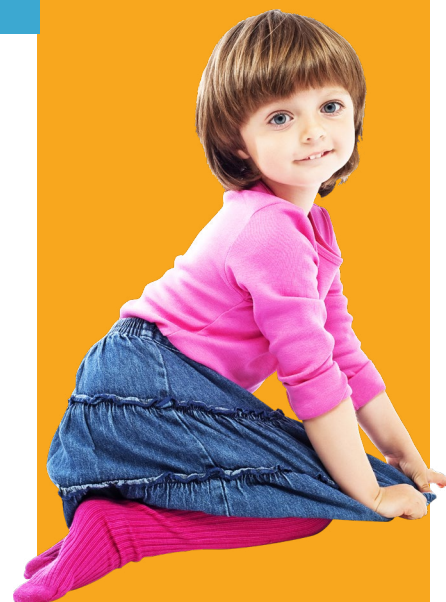
We Care is so thankful to our supporters who donate through their workplace campaigns and hope you continue to do so.

For those who are new to workplace giving, check with your Human Resource department and please consider choosing to donate to We Care.



we care videos

To hear about your impact on one We Care client, go to wecarechildren.org/videos and watch "Michael's Story."





Thank You, Barbara Langsdale, for an Extraordinary 30 Years!

For close to 30 years, Barbara Langsdale has been the consistent heart of We Care.

Even at an agency where a third of the employees have been with us more than a decade, Barbara's tenure is extraordinary. And what she's done with that time is profound. From her first days as a volunteer to her decades as Director of Marketing and Communications, she has been a force in shaping our mission, growth, and accomplishments. In addition to so many other successes, she's been the architect of our Little Stars Gala, which every year introduces new people to the work that we do – and turns them into supporters. She has served as interim executive director during periods of transition, and then happily gone back to what she loves and does best – showing the community what We Care stands for.

So now Barbara has announced her retirement

As befits her grit and tenacity, she is moving to Las Vegas in the middle of summer. We will miss her deeply because each day we'll be reminded of all she has done, but we will celebrate her accomplishments every day as well. We are so grateful for the impact of her wisdom, compassion, and strength. And we are very happy for her and her plans for a new life.

She'll be back in October to oversee our gala

Because she is who she is – and it will doubtless be even better than the last. As seems typical with We Care's great good fortune and resilience, we have a very talented person to fill her position, but I'll make those introductions in our next newsletter. For now, please join me in wishing Barbara and Tom the very best in their retirement. She can be certain in her knowledge that it was the perfect career for the particular kind of "amazing" she is, and she leaves behind a legacy of great accomplishment.

And I can tell you with more certainty than anything else I know that if I write a note thanking Barbara for her work and fail to better highlight our upcoming gala, it would not go well for me. So please hold October 19 aside, join us, celebrate some inspiring achievements, say goodbye to Barbara, and help ensure that We Care remains strong and doing important work for many years to come!

From Pete Caldwell on behalf of the entire We Care family

we care
news

Summer 2019



WE CARE SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN

SAVE
♥ THE ♥
DATE
OCTOBER
NINETEENTH
2019
LITTLE STARS
GALA



Please join us for
The Little Stars Gala
October 19, 2019
at The Clubhouse
at Boundary Oak!

For more information:
[wecarechildren.ejoinme.org/
MyEvents/LittleStarsGala2019](http://wecarechildren.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/LittleStarsGala2019)