



A Message from
Pete Caldwell



Thank You, Daniella!



Your Support
Changes Lives

WHAT'S INSIDE:



we care news

Summer 2020

Skills and Friendships to Last a Lifetime

Andrew and Glenn are both 2020 graduates of We Care's preschool. We Care held a special drive-through graduation, so the boys and their families were able to celebrate the important step of moving on to kindergarten!

When Andrew and Glenn started at We Care, they bonded immediately and built a friendship that transcended preschool. During class, wherever one of the boys was, the other one was there too.

Glenn's mom, Leslie, said that Glenn loves to play with cars. And when it was time to bring something from home to share, he brought an extra car so Andrew could play with him as well. When Glenn's birthday came around, Andrew's mom, Rebecca, knew it was the perfect opportunity for Andrew to attend his first party, and he stayed by Glenn's side the whole time.

When We Care transitioned to distance learning due to the shelter-in-place, Glenn was very excited to reconnect with Andrew. He had been watching his older sister use Zoom, while Andrew was a bit unsure about just seeing Glenn on the computer without being able to play with him in person.

But working together like they always did, they got the hang of it quickly. So much so, teacher Lindsey said that at the end of one of the first Zooms, Andrew and Glenn took over and entertained the other kids the same way they used to do in class. The boys always knew when it was time to focus on learning, but when it was time to play, their friendship took center stage.

Now they frequently talk on the phone and connect via FaceTime. Rebecca and Leslie are looking forward to planning playdates as soon as it is safe, and they both anticipate that Glenn and Andrew's friendship will continue to grow.



Andrew and Glenn
celebrating Glenn's birthday

“I will miss being silly
with you guys.” – Glenn



“I miss my teachers very
much and can't wait to
visit them.” – Andrew

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We Care is Now on YouTube!

Check out our new YouTube channel where kids can feel like they're back at We Care with stories like *Dragons Love Tacos* read by Jessalynn, and fun projects like learning how to make Cloud Dough with Maria. And it's not just for kids! Parents will learn tips to help their children with tools such as the parent series webinars by Roxanne. Also, for a glimpse into the life of We Care during the COVID crisis, take a moment to watch Pete's *Welcome to We Care* video. If you love what we've done, make sure you subscribe – we will continue to add new videos to keep the whole family entertained!

Search We Care Services for Children to find us on YouTube.

A message from:

Pete Caldwell, Executive Director



Dear We Care Family,

More than ever, I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well and successfully weathering these extraordinary times.

We Care, and nonprofits like it, have always been critical to the health of local communities – delivering treatment, support, education, and promoting the wellness of at-risk and low-income families. And now the role of We Care has become even more important as the pandemic continues to devastate the lives and livelihoods of the people we're here to help.

While we are finding unexpected resilience in our clients – and in ourselves – the very way we do our work has changed dramatically. Instead of using a quiet playroom in our clinic to gently help a parent understand their child's psychological needs, we're trying to accomplish the same results over a video call. Previously, we had group-based learning and social development in our classrooms. Now we deliver educational materials to isolated homes and apartments.

But please know that the staff is doing an incredible job of providing our clients with the best possible opportunities to maintain and foster learning and treatment. I could not be more proud of the ways We Care's teachers, clinicians, and specialists have all innovated, gone the extra mile and, frankly, just coped.

I wanted to share some research. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve recently surveyed nonprofits in the western states about the impact of the pandemic.

The results are alarming.

- Almost three quarters of respondents indicated COVID-19 is causing significant disruption to their nonprofit, with only **42% expecting to bounce back quickly** after recovery begins
- More than 75% of respondents said **demand for their services has increased or is anticipated to increase**, and more than half of the respondents noted a corresponding **decrease or anticipated decrease in their ability to provide services**
- More than a quarter of respondents reported that their entity could operate for **less than three months in the current environment before exhibiting financial distress**
- Nearly 8 out of 10 respondents indicated COVID-19 was a **significant disruption to the economic conditions** of the communities they serve and that **recovery is expected to be difficult**

The pandemic will continue to have a profound impact on We Care. But when this is over – and it will be – we'll take what we have learned and create even richer opportunities for all the children we serve.

This is our 60th anniversary year, and because of you, it won't be our last. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.


Pete

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Surprisingly, being best friends in the Quarantine Class of 2020 isn't the only part of their story.

The boys have older siblings who also attended We Care. Glenn's sister Clowvie used to come home and tell Glenn it was "clean-up time" and to "use your inside voice," and Leslie said Glenn has continued that tradition. Andrew's brother Jayden also met his best friend, Xavier, at We Care and even though Xavier has since moved away, they continue to stay in touch.

Both families said that what they will miss most about We Care are the teachers and staff who made their four children's experiences so special. Leslie also shared how much she appreciates We Care's yearly cultural fest because it taught Glenn about different cultures at a young age. Rebecca loves that Andrew has learned to be more talkative and engage with other children.

Another thing the boys were known for was hugging joyfully every time they saw each other and every time they said good-bye. We know Glenn and Andrew are missing those hugs right now – almost as much as We Care misses them.

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Thank You, Daniella Lopez, for Six Incredible Years with We Care!



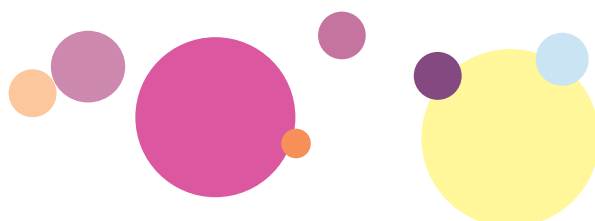
Daniella Lopez, We Care's Marketing & Communications Associate, began her association with We Care in 2014 as an intern while taking college courses. The job was to help with our social media for just one summer.

Six years later, she has worked with our Board, connected with donors, shared our story with the public, managed our volunteers, and worked directly with each staff member in one way or another. She has also been a huge part of planning and organizing our annual gala, and has helped to make it more and more successful each year.

Daniella is now leaving to start the next phase of her life. As she said, "I realize that We Care gave me the foundation I needed to build my career. I've laughed, cried, and grown here."

Her positivity, kindness, and in-depth knowledge of We Care have helped make a difference. We are extremely fortunate to have benefited from her dedication, loyalty, and hard work – and, most of all, from her caring approach to everything she does.

When something is as close to your heart as We Care is for Daniella, you never let it go. While we will miss her very much, we know she will continue to work towards changing the world for the better.



Your Support Helps Change Children's Lives

Google "Fundraising for a Nonprofit" today, and you will get a very different and much bleaker result than you would have six months ago.

The entire landscape has shifted very quickly. Nonprofit leaders are using metaphors like "tsunami" and "lifeboats" to describe the landscape that has emerged these past months. If the first half of 2020 has taught us anything, it's the importance of building a new, stronger boat that will navigate the future's tsunamis – even if we are unsure of when or where they will occur.

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, we made the difficult decision to postpone our annual peer-to-peer spring fundraiser till the summer. Then a few days after we kicked it off in June, George Floyd was murdered. At that point, in line with our organizational values, we asked our supporters to take the donations they would have made to We Care and consider supporting nonprofits championing social justice instead.

And while we hoped to avoid foregoing the celebration of We Care's 60th anniversary at the Blackhawk Museum in October, it is clear that we cannot proceed. We are discussing alternatives and you will be the first to hear about our exciting new plans.

The children we serve were vulnerable from the start. And now they need our help at a time many of their families face extraordinary hardships due to job losses as well as reduced access to food and other resources.

But with your support for at-risk children and their families, We Care will continue to provide the services that can change their lives forever.



WE CARE. CHILDREN THRIVE.



We Care's Early Intervention Services Adapt to Crisis

MENTAL HEALTH

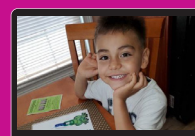
Therapy sessions are conducted through video and phone appointments.

Our community's most vulnerable children still receive that critical lifeline.



PRESCHOOL

Teachers provide small-group distance learning. Activity bags supplement lessons, and keep young students engaged and connected.



DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYGROUPS

Specialized and individualized treatment sessions are via Zoom. Children with special needs get services when needed most.



HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

We Care provides critical resources through this unprecedented crisis. At-risk children need our help now more than ever and your support allows us to continue this life-changing work. No matter what the new "normal" will be, we will be there to give children the best chance available for healthy, happy, and productive lives.

WE CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

www.wecarechildren.org

 [we.care.services.for.children](https://www.facebook.com/we.care.services.for.children)  [@wecare_servicesforchildren](https://www.instagram.com/wecare_servicesforchildren)

We hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy during these chaotic times.
— We Care Services for Children