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Winter 2026

Partnerships That Reflect the Heart of Our Mission

At We Care, our mission is centered on providing critical developmental and mental health support to young children and their families. That work is only possible because of the generous financial contributions from donors, foundations, and community partners who believe in what we do. This support is our lifeline and fuels everything we provide.

Beyond that essential support, we're also lucky to forge community partnerships that bring something extra—moments of connection, celebration, and outreach. Partnerships that deepen our presence in the community, help more families learn about our services, and provide opportunities to go above and beyond for the children we serve.

We're so honored to have had many of these connections throughout the years, and we want to highlight three recent partnerships that reflect the spirit of our community.

- In August, the **City of Concord declared August 12th as We Care Day**, recognizing 65 years of service. It was a meaningful celebration of our work over the decades, a public affirmation of our impact on children and families, and it raised awareness of the importance of early intervention.
- In December, **BART selected We Care as its 2025 Holiday Toy Drive nonprofit partner**. Their employees and leadership made it possible for us to provide high-quality toys and gift cards to every child we serve and their siblings. The thoughtfulness behind every gift was deeply felt.
- And once again, the **second graders at Tice Creek School reminded us what community looks like**. Each child donated a toy and created a personalized storybook for our preschoolers and the toddlers in our Beyond Boundaries classroom. The generosity and personal touch offered a sense of joy, creativity, and care that all the children will remember.

These partnerships truly reflect the heart of our mission and help us remind families they are surrounded by care. To each of these partners, our heartfelt thanks for making these moments possible.



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the We Care Community:

Email: ewilliamson@wecarechildren.org
to be added to our email or mailing lists

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A message from:

Pete Caldwell, Executive Director



Dear We Care Family,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the community that surrounds We Care Services for Children. This past year, your generosity and belief in our mission made it possible for us to reach countless children and families through our wide array of early childhood mental health, developmental, and family support programs.

Behind every service delivered was a child finding safety, a parent gaining confidence, and a family moving toward stability and hope.

The year was not without its challenges. Shifts and uncertainty at the county, state, and federal levels created real threats to funding for the vital services our community depends on. These moments tested us.

Yet, time and again, our extraordinary staff rose to meet the moment with skill, compassion, and determination. Our board provided steady leadership and thoughtful guidance, and our donors and partners stood with us when it mattered most.

Because of this collective strength, we did more than endure—we grew stronger.

Looking ahead to 2026, we know challenges will continue. But we also know who we are. We will meet what comes next with innovation, heart, and careful planning, always grounded in our commitment to children and families. We remain optimistic because we are not facing the future alone—we are moving forward together.

Thank you for being part of We Care's story.

Your support changes lives—and we are profoundly grateful!

Sincerely,



Pete



Mason's Story: A Brave Start and a Bright Future

After Mason was diagnosed with autism at a very young age, his family began the difficult process of finding the right support. At the time, We Care didn't have any open spots, so the Regional Center gave them a number of other options. One of their visits left them unsettled—a kind staff, but a chaotic, overwhelming space and pressure to enroll on the spot. They worried the right fit might not exist.

Then We Care called to let them know a spot had become available.

From the time they arrived for a tour, Mason's family felt a connection. He let go of his parents' hands and began to explore. What made it possible was the way the staff gently engaged while giving him space—offering toys, staying present, and letting him take the lead.

That small moment gave his family hope.

Mason was a quiet, introverted toddler, and like many pandemic babies, had never been apart from his parents. The transition to school was hard for all of them. But each morning, We Care's Beyond Boundaries teachers, Maria and Masako, were there offering patience to Mason and ongoing reassurance to his parents. They made it clear that Mason's well-being came first, and that they would not push him beyond what felt comfortable for him.

Throughout the day, they shared updates and photos so that Mason's mom never felt out of the loop. At first, Mason stayed for only short periods, holding tightly to his small toy turtle for comfort. With that familiar support and the steady reassurance from his teachers, he was able to stay a little longer each day.

Over time, he no longer needed the turtle at all. Eventually, he began running into the classroom without saying goodbye, and when pickup time arrived, he didn't want to leave.

Mason was feeling secure and confident—and so were his parents.

Mason found his best buddy in class, Maddox, and their bond became a highlight of his time at We Care. When Maddox graduated, Mason became the one helping new kids feel brave.

His big sister Lilliana became part of the We Care family in her own way, too. During drop-offs and visits, she would model the behavior she saw from staff as she calmly connected with all the children in Mason's class. Teachers welcomed her with the same warmth they gave Mason, asking about her day and remembering the little things. Lilliana is excited to volunteer at We Care one day, or maybe even work with us.

With support from the whole team, Mason began trying new things his parents never imagined. His occupational therapist, Lisette, played a big part by sharing tips they could use at home and connecting them with resources his mom says they never would have found on their own. His family loved getting updates and photos—a window into his world that helped them stay connected and celebrate milestones together.

"We Care is the gold standard for early intervention," his mom shared. "It was everything we needed. They saw Mason for who he is, and they loved him."

He has since graduated from We Care, but to this day, his mom still keeps in touch because We Care didn't just support Mason; we became family. And the confidence and joy Mason discovered within himself during his time in our Beyond Boundaries classroom are still with him. He's curious, observant, and methodical, always studying how things work.

His family doesn't know exactly what his future holds, but they do know this—he'll do big things.

He just needed the right start.



Advocacy Corner: California Must Do Better for Kids

California is often seen as a leader in innovation and policy—but when it comes to supporting children, we are falling behind. According to Children Now's most recent California Children's Report Card, **our state now ranks near the bottom nationally** in multiple areas of child well-being, including access to mental health services, child poverty, and early education outcomes.

The system is failing the families who need support the most:

- Children are turned away from services because their families make just slightly too much to qualify for Medi-Cal, or because a parent found a job (with no benefits) and lost their state-sponsored coverage in the process.
- Others are left waiting months for developmental or mental health care during the most critical years of brain development.

While We Care does everything we can to fill the gaps, the need far outweighs our resources.

We know that early intervention is crucial. We see how trauma-informed mental health services, developmental support, and culturally responsive care can change a child's life. But far too many children in our community are still going without the help they need.

This is the time to act. California's final budget won't be signed until July, but now is the time when input from families and providers can actually influence what gets funded.

What can you do?

- Contact your state representatives and urge them to prioritize early childhood programs
- Share why programs like We Care matter in your community
- Support organizations advocating for children's services

Together, we can take action to ensure children can access the safety-net resources they so desperately need—at the time when support can have the greatest impact.



A Night to Remember and a Community to Celebrate

This year's gala was more than a fundraiser. It was a celebration of 65 years of care, connection, and commitment to children and families.

We are deeply grateful to the guests, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who made the evening so special. The event raised critical funds to support our programs, and every dollar from that night goes directly to providing developmental and mental health services for at-risk children in our community.



From the inspiring stories shared, to the incredible energy in the room, the evening was a beautiful reflection of what makes We Care so special. But the night wasn't just about looking back—it was about the promise of an even brighter future.

We were so honored to recognize more than six decades of service in our community—and even more grateful for the support that makes our work possible today. Whether you were with us at the event or supporting from afar, your belief in our mission ensures that more children and families receive the care they need, when they need it most.