



Club 21 Learning and Resource Center
Annual Report
for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

2014-2015 Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

Club 21 provides the educational tools
and resources that enable individuals
with Down syndrome to be fully included.



Message from the Executive Director & the Board President

Each year we press the pause button, look back, take stock, and examine every aspect of our operations and services here at Club 21 Learning and Resource Center. It can be so easy to be caught up in the dailies and forget to stop, reflect, ponder, and ask some important questions. We never want to forget that we are accountable to YOU, to each donor, every family, and our children.

This past year has been truly exceptional and humbling. We continue to attract new families with our excellent programs, exceptional staff, and energetic volunteers. Over 1,800 supporters participated in this year's Together is Better Walk-a-thon! We invested in two new, innovative programs essential to our mission and the growth of our students: Talk Tools and Equipping Educators. We trained 90 speech therapists and parents who learned the value of oral motor placement therapy with Talk Tools. We trained and equipped 60 teachers and 44 parents in 3 Educational Partnerships sessions. But, most importantly, our ability to connect and support every child and his or her family is the backbone of this special place. Our staff, board of directors, volunteers, and families are passionate in their support for our mission to provide the educational tools and resources that enable individuals with Down syndrome to be fully included.

Thank you for believing in Club 21 and trusting us with your resources. Your support is vital and allows us to serve precious children, each one with different hopes and unique needs. Thank you for your continued support and for propelling us forward as we joyfully serve the Down syndrome community. It is with great hope and deep gratitude that we are committed to financial integrity and serving with excellence all those who find a new "family" here at Club 21.

In gratitude and service,

Nancy Litteken, Executive Director

Nancy K. Norris, Board Chair

What We Do

The goal of every program at Club 21 is to equip families and educators and teach the skills that will enable individuals with Down syndrome to have independence, access and a true sense of belonging within their home, school and community. We have developed our programs so that they accompany a child as they grow. We begin with our babies and follow our learners throughout their school lives: **First Steps** (age 0 to 3), **Good Beginnings** (Pre-school), **Smart Start** (K-2nd), **On the Road** (3rd-5th) and **Moving on Up** (6th-12th). In each program we support families and our educators, we educate with the most current research and best practices, we advocate by empowering all who come through our door and we always celebrate every success – big or small. Volunteers are an essential part of our organization, they serve our families and help our community to expand in its vision of what is possible.

Our Current Programs

FIRST CALL

Receiving a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome brings about many questions and emotions for parents and expectant families. After training 25 parents in 2014 to be First Call Peer Mentors, we were able

to match up mentors to come alongside families who receive a prenatal or newborn diagnosis. Each mentor was able to offer support and guidance as they began this journey.

IMPACT: We provide a *First Call Welcome Basket* that sends a message that there is a larger family community. Available for answers and information to educate and support parents, *First Call* starts families on their journey with high expectations and support to move forward. Long term, the First Call program will change the face of the Down syndrome community.

Through our FIRST CALL Program we supported 40 new and expectant parents.

FIRST STEPS

FIRST STEPS is the springboard program into the other Club 21 program offerings. Focusing on children from birth to age 3, this program comes alongside these families to encourage, empower and educate them in areas of OT, PT and Sign Language. It further provides a foundation for the continuum of resources available and growth of Club 21's educational programs.

IMPACT: Families have the resources and tools to navigate systems and have support of the community behind them and are ready to transition to preschool and other Club 21 programs.

75 children under the age of 3 received services and support through FIRST STEPS.



FAMILY SUPPORT/ COMMUNITY GROUPS

We know that support and information are critical for families to thrive. Club 21 invests in developing and supporting a strong network that increases community involvement, Down syndrome awareness, acceptance, and advocacy. This year we supported two new groups; our Spanish speaking families and grandparents.

IMPACT: Stronger community means thriving families, higher expectations and better advocates. Parents and families are becoming mentors and allies for one another.

227 attended last year's ANNUAL MEETING.

165 celebrated community at annual EASTER PICNIC.

45 dads received support at monthly D.A.D.S.

30 moms kept calm at monthly MOMS MEET-UP.

10 siblings enrolled for SIBSHOPS

38 grandparents attended GRANDPARENTS DAY in June! They received information and support and became a part of the Club 21 community.

Our newest community group BIENVENIDOS, which means Welcome in Spanish, supported 15 Spanish speaking families.

Educational Support

LEARNING PROGRAM

LEARNING PROGRAM continues to be a foundational program to provide knowledge and resources to both parents and children. As children learn and advance in the program, we will expand and train additional teachers.

IMPACT: Parents understand the learning profile of a child with Down syndrome and then use the tools and resources for a successful learning environment.

We are at capacity with 35 families being educated in 4 classes at 3 different levels.



EVERY CHILD A READER (ECAR)

This collection of one-on-one weekly literacy tutoring programs focuses on the development of reading and writing skills.

IMPACT: Children improve their reading and writing skills.

25 children advanced in their reading in EVERY CHILD A READER (ECAR).

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP'S program informs families on specific educational topics and provides resources to support their child's education through grade level cohorts that meet four times in the year.

EQUIPPING EDUCATORS, a new and innovative program to train and equip our families' teachers, launched this year. We were able to offer substitute

pay so that teachers could be released to attend three all day trainings.

IMPACT: 44 families were able to participate and 60 teachers were able to attend the trainings.

104 individuals increased their knowledge base at EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS to work within the educational system from K-High School.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Adding topic specific CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS continues to be a valuable resource for our members.

TALK TOOLS CONFERENCE: This year we provided a Talk Tools conference with Sarah Rosenfeld Johnson for the "providers" to our families, Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP).

SECOND SATURDAY SPEAKERS: Every month there is an opportunity to learn new information from a variety of experts. We had 14 different topics presented from Creating a Vision to Audiology.

IMPACT: Monthly attendance of 40 parents with Spanish Translation offered.

90 Speech therapists and parents were able to learn the value and be equipped to implement Muscle Based Motor Placement Therapy. We are equipping therapist across the greater Los Angeles County to support our families.

15 Parents were able to have private speech and language evaluations.

SCHOOL SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Club 21 provides members with many supports to be advocates for their children in the classroom environment. Curriculum supports available in the MOD POD include modification templates, access to Brain POP, Reading A-Z, Inspiration and Boardmaker. Individual Education Plan (IEP) workshops equip parents with information on their special education rights and responsibilities.

The ABLE ACT was passed due to the unwavering efforts of Club 21 families, Brad Pitzele and Kelly Kutzer-Reyes. They worked tirelessly to represent our community on a National Level as well as helping our families learn to be community advocates.

IMPACT: Parents have more tools and resources and are able to have greater access to their school community.

35 families attended IEP WORKSHOPS and /or received direct support.

75 families accessed CURRICULUM SUPPORT

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS assisted throughout the year in a variety of roles. Youth are choosing Club 21 for their service hours. We THANK all our volunteers!

IMPACT: Volunteers allow Club 21 to sustain many of our programs. Educating and raising expectations in the community through engagement of our families.

Over 250 volunteers supported CLUB 21 and were enriched in the process.



One Family's Story...Eisley Hope Dougherty

December 22, 2014 changed our lives forever...for the best. The day after our little girl Eisley Hope was born, we found out she was born with Down syndrome. It was quite a shock and it took a while to fully wrap our heads around this news. There was an unknown journey ahead of us, a road we never expected to be traveling down. But with each passing day, and the more we got to know our Eisley Hope, the fear of the unknown was replaced by the joys of the present. Life is full of unknowns, but we have no doubt that Eisley's life will be full of love, joy, and possibilities.

When we brought Eisley home we were surrounded by our loving and supportive families, but they eventually had to go home and we were left to figure out our new journey. We were overwhelmed with all the information and lack thereof. We researched all we could, but we still felt lost and confused.

When Eisley was about 6 months old, we ventured into a place called Club 21. We had heard of it shortly after she was born, but we never went because we were just too emotionally overwhelmed. When we



finally did go, we found instant relief. Everyone was so open and welcoming. We felt instantly at home. The resources they have, the love they pour out, the support they offer is astounding. Club 21 has become family to us and we are forever grateful.

Down syndrome comes with its challenges, but its joys far outweigh those challenges. Our life is fuller, richer with Eisley in it and we would not trade this experience for anything in the world.



Dream Big... Matthew Von Der Ahe

In the year 2000, it seemed our world had crumbled. The child we imagined we were going to have, and the child we delivered, were very different. Looking back 16 years, the journey hasn't always been easy, but it's been amazing. We are fortunate to have partnered with Club 21 Learning and Resource Center, an organization who has supported and encouraged us at every turn, answering questions and educating not only us, but the community around us.

With guidance from Club 21 and the Educational Partnerships program, the teachers at our son Matthew's Catholic elementary and junior high school have begun an all-inclusive program. We never dreamed Matthew could do all that he is doing. He is thriving amongst his peers, supported by mutual friendships and educators who understand how to approach the learning process.

Now that Matthew is a teenager, we have discovered that there are not many resources out there for our teens and young adults with Down syndrome. Club 21 is working to keep up with the demands of



this population and continuing to help open doors and possibilities for us through its new Club Connections program for teens. We hope to continue a Catholic education for our youngest son Matthew in an inclusive high school program. Though there is no program presently in place, we know that with support and guidance from Club 21, the possibilities are endless!



The Sky's the Limit... Nathan Chan

Our lives changed when I was given the news that our son would have Down syndrome. My husband and I were in complete shock and feared what the future held for us. When sharing this diagnosis, our doctor told us about Club 21 Learning and Resource Center. I still remember her saying, "Do you know about Club 21?" The very next day we headed over to Club 21 where Executive Director Nancy Litteken listened to us and

shared the many possibilities for a child with Down syndrome. We were given hope and love.

It has been 6 years from that day and we cannot imagine our lives without our son Nathan and Club 21. Club 21 has been the anchor that we look to for support, education, advocacy, and friendship. The First Steps Program gave us the opportunity to connect with other parents and their babies. Friday was the best day of our week and we made friendships for life! We learned sign language, met with therapists, and navigated the medical and educational systems together. Most of all, we were in a safe place with our baby where people loved, celebrated, and understood us. When Nathan was turning 3 years old, Club 21 was there to educate us and help us become advocates for Nathan as he transitioned to

preschool. They prepared us for what was ahead and allowed us to dream big for our child's future. Now we are in our 3rd year with Educational Pathways and the Learning Program. I can see how much Nathan has learned, grown, and thrived during these years. We celebrate every achievement, big or small, and are so proud of him.

Our entire family has been transformed in this process. I have learned through Club 21 and have become an advocate and mentor. My husband joined the men's support group D.A.D.S and those meetings and men changed him forever.

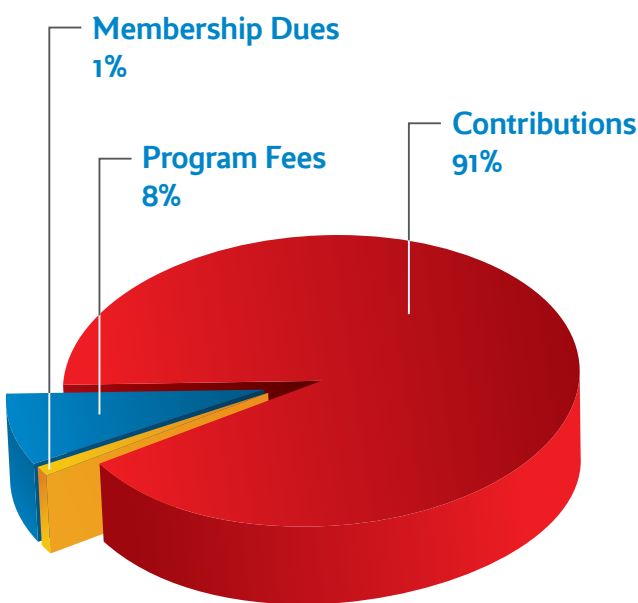
Our family totally embraces the motto "Together is Better." Our kids are awesome!

Financial Summary

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

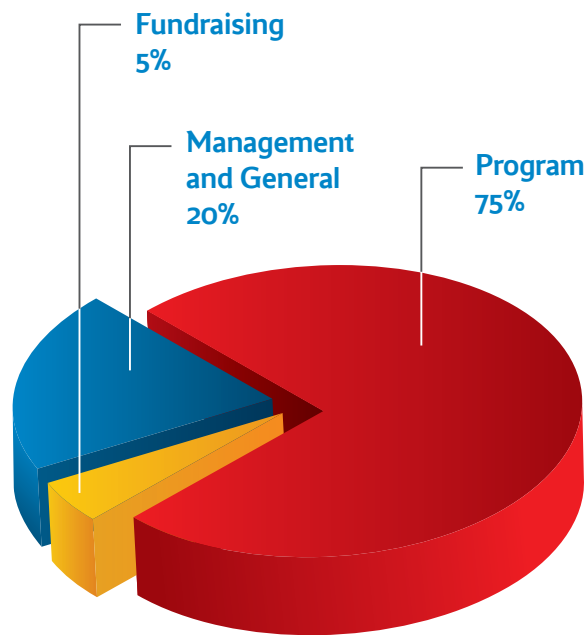
Support and Revenues

Contributions	\$363,939
Membership Dues	\$4,769
Program Fees	\$30,736
Other Income	\$1,664
	\$401,108



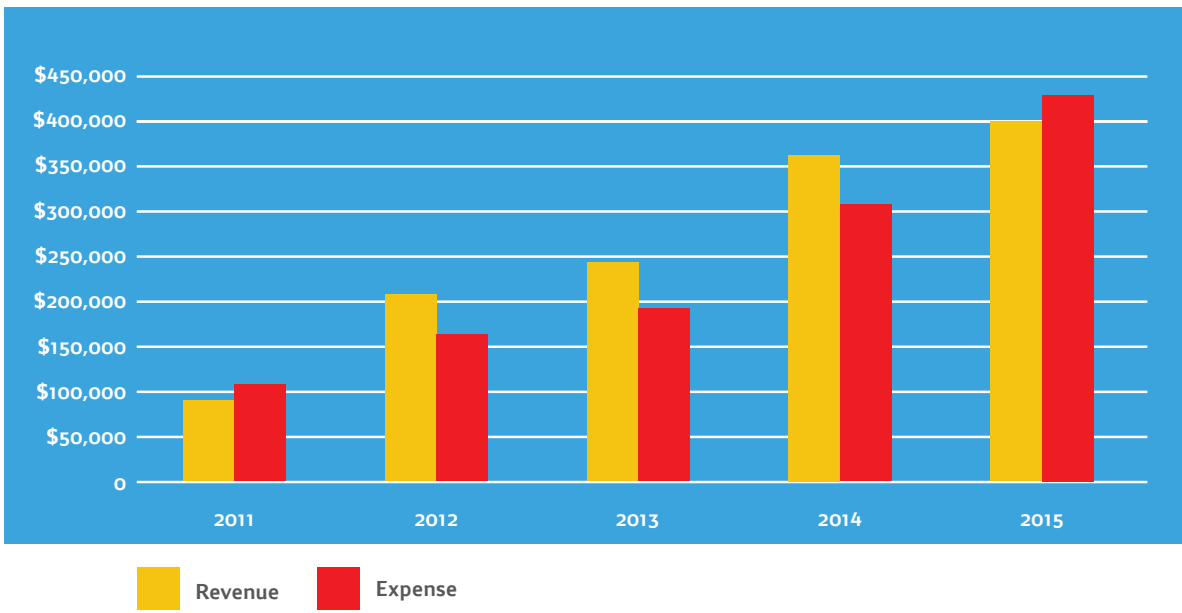
Expenses

Program	\$321,749
Management and General	\$86,843
Fundraising	\$21,470
	\$430,062



We invested in 2 new, innovative programs essential to our mission and the growth of our students. Equipping Educators and the Talk Tools conference were funded in part from the previous year's reserves.

Five Year Overview



Thank You to our Donors

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



Champion - \$10,000+

Anonymous (\$25,000.00)
Robert Case / Nestle Foundation
Rob and Jamie Knauss
Specialty Family Foundation
Warburg Pincus Foundation



Believer - \$2,500+

Eric and Audrey Gray
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Developer - \$1,000+

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Tom and Emmy Von Der Ahe
Ian and Terry West



Visionary - \$5,000+

Norris Realty Advisors / Steve and Nancy Norris
Pasadena Community Foundation
Bryan and Monica Perez
Tournament of Roses Foundation
Simms Family Foundation
Von Der Ahe Family Foundation



Partner - \$500+

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Janice Bell
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Glen and Heather Evans
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Anand Gala
Jay Gassner
John and Margie Green
Jon and Wende Headley
Paul Horn and Peg Bierschbach Horn



Thank You to our Donors
Gifts Received Between July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



Friend - \$250+

Partner - \$500+ (Continued)

Arthur and Deb Hudson
Josh Katz
Taran Killam
Diane Klein
Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.
Andrew and Elizabeth Lam
Leed Staffing LA Basin, LLC
Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus
Zachary Medow and Loreni Delgado-Medow
Darryl Mikuni and Patricia Van Der Veer
David Moore and Dawn Fanning-Moore
Buddy Myers
Bill and Ruth Neelans
Thomas and Mariann Nolan
Amy and Tom Onderdonk
Judy Packard
Larry Peltier
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Cyndi McClellan
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Edward and Betsy Merchant
James and Deborah Milley
Joseph and Anna Morente
Laura Nguyen

This report includes gifts received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. We have made every effort to ensure that this report is accurate and complete. If there are any omissions, misspellings or other errors, please accept our sincere apologies and contact our Office so that we may correct our records

Steve Ogata and Wendy Tamaki Ogata
Dean and Jennifer Pappas
Brad and Julianne Pitzele
Sarah Porath
Kat Price
James Raymond
Adupa Rao and Krishna Satti Rao
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Ellen Ross
Timothy Rutt and Mary Herman
St. Felicitas and Perpetua Church
Kristine and George Sanchez
Lauren Savarese
Adam Smith
Susan Smith
Amanda Stewart
Mark Suda
Helena Sung
Chandler Thomas
Mark and Linda Torres
Naomi Tzur
Steve and Scotti Van Herpe
Melissa White
David and Anne Williamson
Joel and Katherine Zadak
Tim Ziegler





Mission Statement:

Club 21 provides the educational tools and resources that enable individuals with Down syndrome to be fully included.

How do we accomplish our mission?

We Support, Educate, Advocate and Celebrate!

Our goal is:

Independence, Access and Belonging

Core Values:

Family support: You are not alone!

Parent Involvement: We are family!

Innovation: Try something new!

Raising Expectations: We can do it!

Inclusion: We belong!

Follow us on:



Club 21 Learning and Resource Center

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