

# Annual Report

**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

**Honoring Nancy Litteken's Retirement from Club 21  
as Founding Executive Director**



# 2024-2025 Board of Directors

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**Lucia Serio, Educational Consultant**



## Mission Statement

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



# A Message from the Board President



This year, Club 21 is entering a significant transition in our story. As we celebrate all that we have accomplished together, we also honor the extraordinary legacy of our founding executive director, Nancy Litteken, who is retiring after 16 years of visionary leadership.

Nancy's unwavering belief in what is possible has shaped Club 21 into a place where dreams become reality. Even when the path isn't clear, she taught us that progress begins when we "just show up," ready to learn, connect, and support one another. Through her imagination, determination, and the power of community, Nancy and her team have built a foundation that empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families to unlock new opportunities and flourish in ways once thought impossible. Her legacy is not just in the programs and resources she helped create, but in the spirit of hope and perseverance she inspired in all of us.

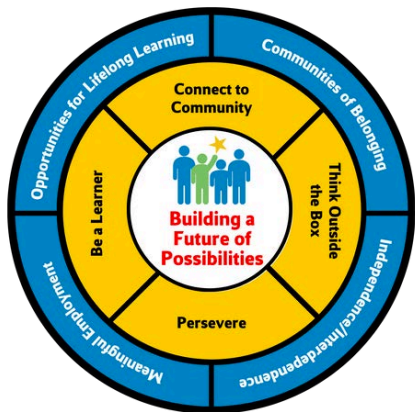
As we look to the future, the Board and staff are committed to carrying forward Nancy's vision. We will continue to innovate, expand our reach, and foster a community where every individual is valued and supported. Together, we are building a future filled with possibilities, one step at a time.

Thank you to our families, donors, and supporters for your partnership and generosity. Your belief in our mission makes all the difference. Let's continue to dream big, show up and create new opportunities for our Club 21 community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Matt Peacore".

Matt Peacore  
President, Board of Directors



# A Message from the Executive Director

## What makes a hope/dream a real possibility?

Well according to AI:

*"Possibilities happen through a combination of imagination and action, where a mindset shift to believe in what could be is coupled with taking concrete steps to make those ideas a reality. It involves visualizing goals, challenging current limitations, adapting to setbacks, and putting in the effort to move from a concept to a completed action."*

And that is exactly what happens at Club 21. How have we done it? With amazing people like you who work hard, give funds and help build a future of possibilities.



When our founding moms first sat around my kitchen table, each of us shared our heart, fears and hopes for the future for our child with Down syndrome. Then we started putting the puzzle pieces together, step by step. What skills did we have among us? Who did we know that could help? What would this cost us in time, money and heart? When we faced a barrier or a problem, we came together and brainstormed and moved forward. When others challenged us with the "status quo" or "acceptance" we pushed through by looking at research and discovering tools and strategies that our children needed to succeed. We created a curriculum that teaches families and children. We found people all across the world with expertise in Down syndrome and shared their knowledge with our community. And our community has grown and thrived thanks to supporters like you.

We built Club 21 "step by step". We started with babies and grew our programs as those babies grew. Now we have young adults who long to be contributing citizens and dream of a future of independence and community.

If I had to sum up how to build a future of possibilities, it is what I tell each new family I meet:

- Create and keep a big Vision. It makes you a detective when things don't go as planned.
- Find good research, tools and strategies to overcome the barriers.
- Keep going! Don't give up! Persevere! Too many people limit individuals with Down syndrome. The world so often underestimates what is possible when you have an extra chromosome.
- AND don't do this alone. You need community at every step. Together is better on this journey.

So, as I retire, I thank all of you for partnering with us. You, our families, friends and supporters, who have donated funds, time and expertise to transform dreams into real change and possibilities for individuals with Down syndrome. We have only just begun. Let's continue to create more possibilities together for our Club 21 families.

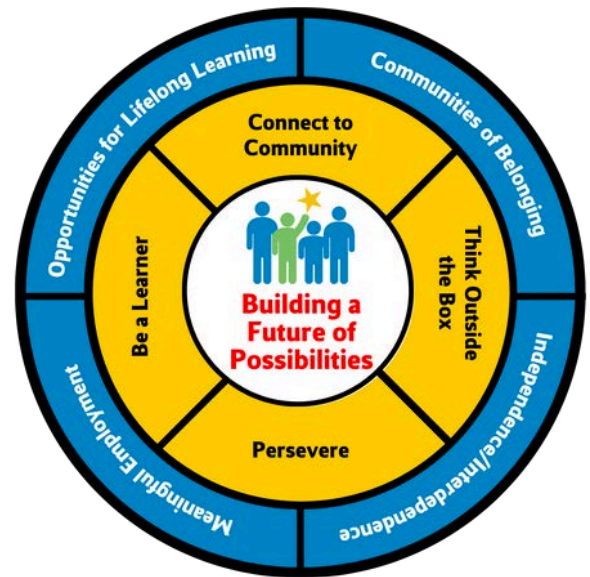
Nancy Litteken  
Executive Director



# Building a Future of Possibilities

## Nobody embodies building a future of possibilities like Nancy Litteken!

Before opening Club 21's doors in March 2009, Nancy and other founding moms organized Club 21's first Tools for the Journey conference, hoping there was a need. The response was overwhelming with over 250 participants! Every year since, an average of 200 parents, educators and therapists have attended our annual Tools for the Journey conference, featuring nationally renowned speakers with expertise in the field of intellectual disabilities.





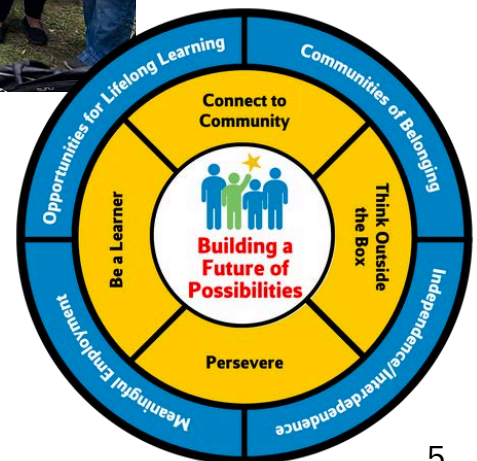
# Building a Future of Possibilities



The first Together is Better Walk and Celebration in 2008 raised \$13,000 as seed money to open Club 21's doors. The October 2024 walk raised \$310,284.



Club 21 began with babies and the First Steps program, developing new programs as our core population reached new life stages. Our First Steps program is still going strong with 97 families of babies aged 0-3.





# Building a Future of Possibilities



By understanding and teaching toward their specific learning profile, presuming competence, and using research and technology, most children with Down syndrome will become literate. The Every Child a Reader (ECAR) one-to-one literacy tutoring program began in 2009 and has increased literacy in over 100 K-12 students.



The Learning Program, an evidence-based educational program developed by the Down syndrome Foundation of Orange County to help children with Down syndrome succeed academically, was added to our pathway. We outgrew the program and in 2018, developed our own Stepping Up program that includes parent education and child learning opportunities specifically designed to support families of young children with Down syndrome as they transition from regional center to school district support. 30 parents and their children (18 months through early elementary school) participated this year.



# Building a Future of Possibilities



Children with Down syndrome often need help interpreting the social cues needed to build relationships and truly belong. In 2015, we developed Club F.U.N. (Friends Understanding Nuances), a social competencies program for 8-12 year olds that uses Social Thinking Vocabulary and concepts to enhance understanding and build social skills. In 2017 and 2018, we added The CREW (Middle School) to continue to build the social skills for fostering friendships with peers and Club Connections (HS-Age 25) for teens and young adults to learn social competencies and foundational skills (relationships, independence, employment) to help them achieve a life of their choosing. 98 students enroll each year and each class has a wait list.



Club 21 began by educating parents in the Down syndrome learning profile and equipping their child with the skills they need to succeed in school, but their educators need help too. We developed the Educational Partnership program in 2014 to provide teachers and parents with the resources they need so that children with Down syndrome can fully participate in inclusive classes with their neuro-typical peers. It is a three-tiered strategy: 1) Educate and empower parents; 2) Educate and provide tools and resources to educators; 3) Educate and encourage vision and leadership among school administrators. When inclusion is effectively implemented, research demonstrates academic and social benefits for all students; both those with special needs as well as neuro-typical students. Friendships develop, non-disabled students are more appreciative of differences, and students with disabilities are more motivated. Over the past 11 years, 154 parents and 529 educators from 80 schools/school districts have participated in this program.



# Building a Future of Possibilities



Our members' need for Individualized Education Program (IEP) support continues to grow as they face tougher negotiations with their school districts. We offered IEP workshops throughout the school year to 25 families and provided individualized IEP support consults as needed.

**S  
D  
P**

When a need arises, Club 21 finds a way to address it! In 2021, the State of California implemented a new Self Determination Program (SDP), providing more autonomy on how and where to spend funds for supports and more options for services than through the traditional regional center system. It is an overly complicated program for parents to navigate. In response, Club 21 developed Self Determination Learning Circles, a program to educate and equip families to understand and move into SDP if and when it better meets their needs. Since its inception in 2021, we have offered 11 Learning Circles with an average of 12 family participants and this year added an ongoing SDP Support Group with 20 family participants.



# Building a Future of Possibilities



A significant number of Club 21 families are now reaching young adulthood. We now know that there is a lot more “life” after high school, and once you hit that “adulthood” mark, there is a dearth of inclusive opportunities. In response, Club 21 has made the development of transition and adult programming a priority and increased the age limit for several classes to include older individuals. Club 21 provides a Transition 101 program for parents of 13-15 year olds, a Partners in Transition program for parents of 16 years and older, and an intensive Transition Boot Camp. Recently added programming for our young adults include:

- **Meaningful Life Learning Circles (18-30 yrs):** Virtual classes focused on skills to develop independence at home, at work, in relationships and community.
- **Adult Social Groups (18+ yrs):** Monthly outings and events with other young adults and neurotypical facilitators to foster friendships and practice social skills in authentic settings.
- **Young Adult Conference (18+ yrs):** One day conference that focuses on two important topics, relationships/dating and employment/entrepreneurship.
- **Independent Living Skills Academy (14+ years):** 8 week sessions of small group instruction focus on building a variety of skills like basic cooking and kitchen safety.
- **Person Centered Plans (16+ yrs):** Focus on the individual's strengths, needs, and preferences, rather than their deficits or diagnosis.





# Building a Future of Possibilities

## **THE IMPROVANEER METHOD**



In 2025, Club 21 became a licensed provider of The Improvaneer Method™ programming for teens and young adults. This program uses improvisation to build and improve skills that will greatly increase social and workplace opportunities for those of ALL abilities. Skills that are addressed include Eye Contact, Voice Projection, Problem Solving, Adaption to Change, Listening, Focus, Quick Thinking, Creative Thinking, Character Development and SELF CONFIDENCE.

## How Do We Do It?



How do we do it all with 4 full time and 5 part time staff? By contracting 32 teachers, therapists, tutors and interpreters to deliver our programming and utilizing 820 volunteers who assist in our classrooms and work at the annual Together is Better Walk and Celebration.

**Thank you Nancy for leadership and dedication to building a future of possibilities!**

# Audrey's Tribute to Nancy:



Audrey and Estelle Gray



**Some things are just better together...Coffee & Donuts, Chips & Guacamole, Club 21 and Nancy.**

**Together is better...this truth is everywhere at Club 21. It's inescapable from the moment you set foot on campus for Second Saturdays. It's more than words, Together is better, is a reality. It's the guiding principle of Club 21's community and culture.**

**Nancy has given us this gift. From floundering founding mother meetings at her house, until the most recent 16 year anniversary walk, Nancy has been all action not just words.**

**She has cried with us, gone to battle with us, and celebrated with us. She has believed in us. She has empowered us. With her one in a billion ability, to leave us feeling better, stronger, and more capable, than we did before we met her, she has taught us we can do this.**

**Thank you Nancy for being the visionary trailblazing force you are. Thank you for creating a community of action oriented, wise minds, and kind hearts. Thank you, for leaving us with the confidence and tools to make certain the legacy you've built will thrive.**

**As you prepare to pass the baton on your Executive Director position this January, please know we are Together and we are Better because of you.**

**Audrey Gray**



# Joy's Tribute to Nancy:



I was on maternity leave with my middle daughter in January 2010 and decided to visit my mom Joyce Webster where she volunteered as Director of ECAR at Club 21. I knew I had walked into something very special. I knew I wanted to be part of what Club 21 was doing. I became an ECAR tutor and from there, the whole trajectory of my life changed - classroom teacher for The Learning Program, starting Club FUN and being a part of CREW as well.

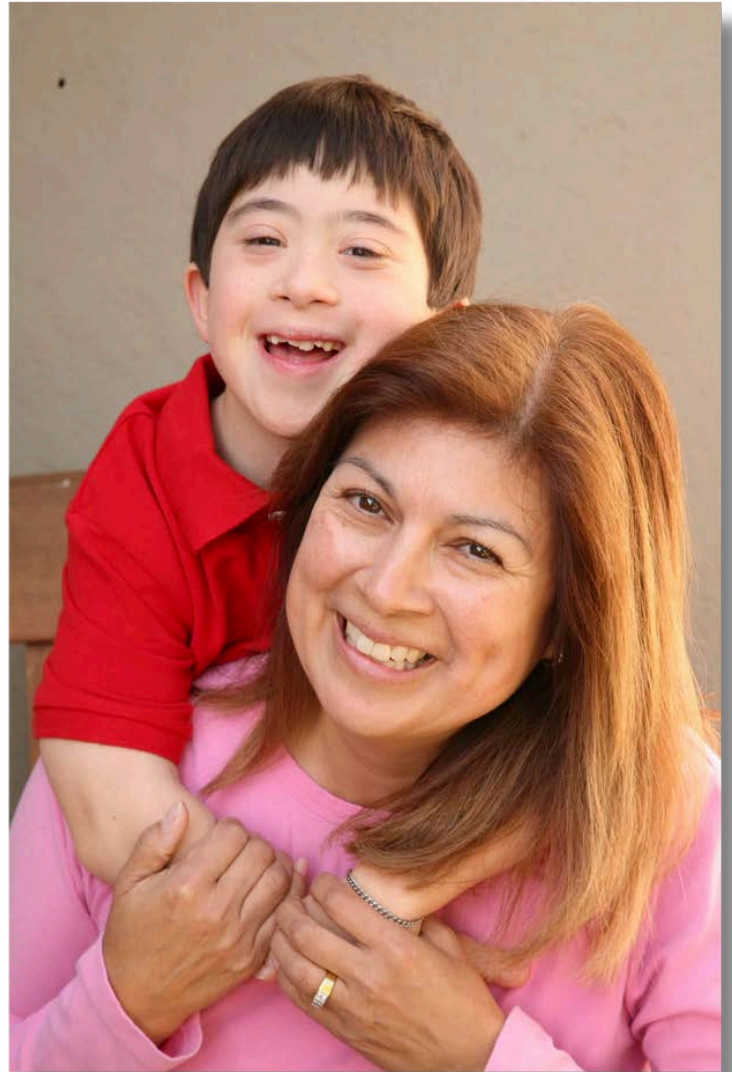
I clearly remember the day in August 2014 where Nancy sat down with me and told me that, with the growing number of programs at Club 21, they needed a Program Coordinator. I had come to love all things Club 21, but also felt insecure because I had no formal training in Special Education and was a preschool teacher by trade. But, through that conversation with Nancy, I chose to trust what she saw in me, even when I did not see it in myself. She has continued to be that visionary for me and my path at Club 21. She allowed me to learn alongside amazingly gifted parents, teachers, and staff. She has always been the one to encourage, push, lift up, and remind me that "I can do this!". There have been many days where I just lacked the confidence to do what this job required, and Nancy has always been the first one to listen, but then also redirect my lens. Club 21 is the best job I have ever had.

I am eternally grateful for that initial conversation with Nancy and for how full and rewarding my life has been for being so warmly welcomed into the Club 21 Community. I truly owe it all to her. Sure, my initial visit was just to visit my mom, but has turned into my life's passion all because Nancy used her gifts of connectedness and brought me and Club 21 together.

Joy Domingo

# Monica's Tribute to Nancy:

I met Nancy over 25 years ago at Gerrish Swim and Tennis Club. I was pregnant with our son Tim and did not know he had Down syndrome but knew it was a possibility. Her daughter Molly was then two and was having a grand old time in the baby pool. I struck up a conversation with her, and I made a new friend. Several months later Tim was born, and I ran into Nancy in the parking lot at Hastings Ranch Nursery school. I took her to my van and showed her my son. We both had tears in our eyes and bonded even further. Several years later I received a phone call from Nancy who suggested I join her and some other concerned parents who had discovered there was very little support or learning opportunities out there for our kids with Down syndrome. They wanted to learn and dream big. I told her I didn't want to start a school, and she assured me that was not the intention. Instead, Club 21 was born.



Monica and Tim Borquez

Nancy, I want to thank you for being my friend and inviting me to come along on this journey with you. You encouraged us to imagine and build a future of possibilities. Club 21 would not have all the programs designed for our loved ones with Down syndrome to live full lives if not for your vision and guidance.

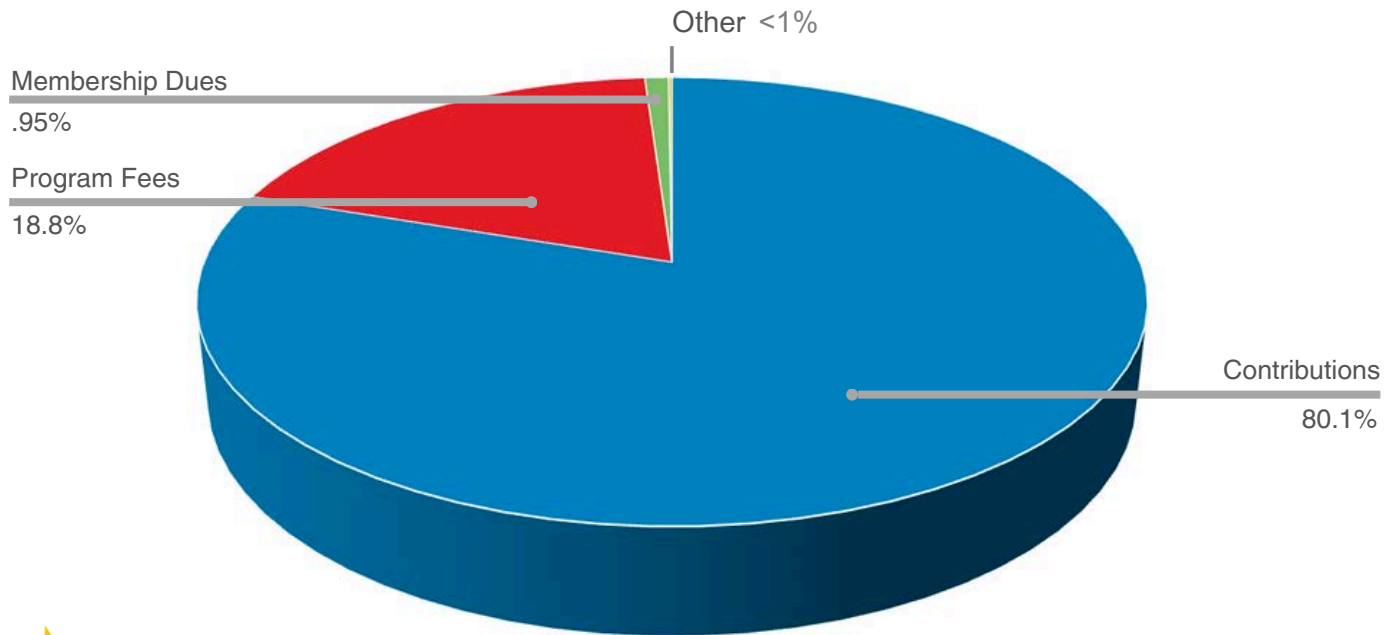
I wish you the very best in your retirement.

Monica Borquez



## SUPPORT and REVENUES

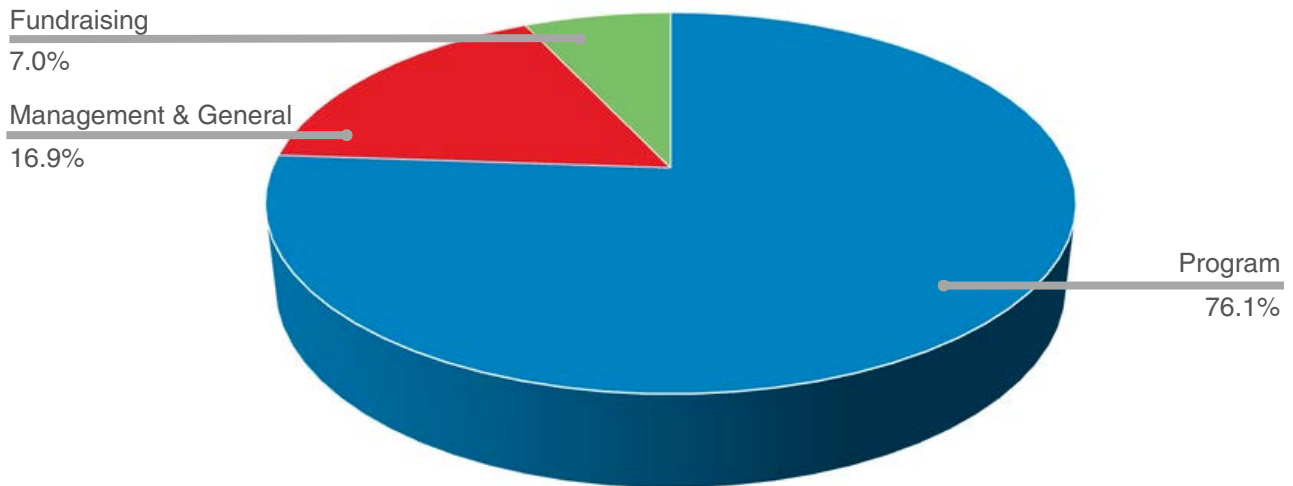
Contributions	\$686,186
Program Fees	\$160,691
Membership Dues	\$ 8,155
Other	\$ 1,216
	<hr/>
	\$856,248





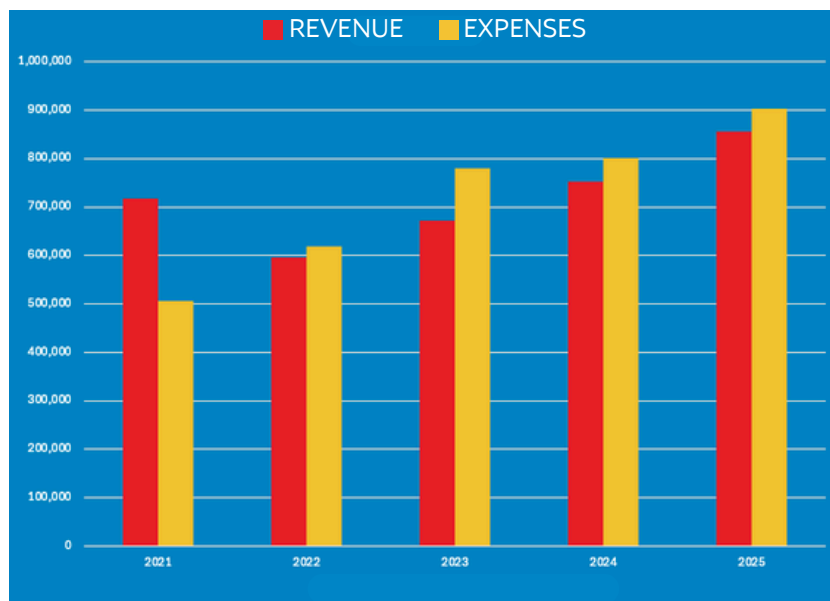
# EXPENSES

Program	\$687,216
Management & General	\$152,533
Fundraising	\$ 63,259
	<u>\$903,008</u>



The Board designated net assets for use in securing the Organization's stability and continuity and for the development and growth of programs. At June 30, 2025 and 2024, \$325,000 and \$325,000, respectively, are board-designated for operating reserves for six months of budgeted expenses and \$105,848 and \$151,658, respectively, for program enhancements and development.

## 5 YEAR OVERVIEW



YEAR	REVENUE	EXPENSES
2021	\$716,933	\$506,352
2022	\$596,001	\$618,649
2023	\$671,811	\$779,961
2024	\$752,340	\$800,989
2025	\$856,248	\$903,008



# October 26, 2024



**\$10,000 +**

Daniella's Dreamers (Rea)  
Iron Aiden (Ricin/Locsmandi)  
Molly B Golly (Litteken)  
Team Candelora  
Winnie Win Win (Ruggeri)



**\$2,000 +**

Everyday Magic (Olivarez)  
Jack Attack (White)  
Neo's Matrix (Arthur)  
Ryan Zadak  
The Walking Ted (Brown/White)  
USC Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy (Enriques)



**\$5,000 +**

Brandon's Brigade (Magarino)  
Chasing Ace (Pedersen)  
Chloe's Busy Bees (Walch)  
Sunkist Growers (Harris)  
Team Elliot (Steadman)  
Team Peacore  
Tim's Tribute (Borquez)



**\$1,500 +**

Devon's Devoted (Mallari)  
Ella's Entourage (Abbondanza)  
Rhys's Rockstars (Lynx/Schott)  
Soaring with Enrique (Gonzalez)  
Super Shiloh (Davis/Brown)  
Team Aurorasaurus (Chung)  
Team Emmanuel (Martinez/Garcia)  
Team Holly (Dempsey)  
Team Nadia (Duenas)  
Team Olivia Vittoria (Lemus)



**\$2,500 +**

Estelle's Angels (Gray)  
Mighty Maddox (Calvillo)  
Mighty Miles Smiles (Lu)  
Nathan (Gandolfi)  
Team Hank (Sweeters)  
Team Love (Greer)  
Team Max (Seiner)  
Team McLaughlin  
Team Smiles (Delgado/Medow)  
The A Team (Gutierrez)



# October 26, 2024



**\$1,000 +**

Amanda Grace (Grassedonio)  
Benny Hom (Brown/Hom)  
Calie Cats (Jennings)  
Down With Josh (Morente)  
Gabrielle Allstars (Caldwell/Murdock)  
Haru (Martinez)  
Helen Team (Aguirre/Terrones)  
Honor's First Birthday (Balsamo-Gillis/Gault)  
James' Pack (Lohmeyer)  
Kindred Spirits (Gang)  
Nathan Chan (Su/Chan)  
Talk to Me (Garcia)  
Team Andres (Romo)  
Team Hectorito (Gonzalez)  
Team Jenna (Jimenez/Krawiec)  
Team Zach (West)  
Walk with Joy (Domingo)



**\$499 and Under**

A Tribe for Naima (Guese)  
Aidan's Walkers (Cano)  
AJ Lam  
Dawn Treader (Valenzuela)  
Ella Chow  
Friends of the Club (Serio)  
Josiah (Ocegueda)  
JuliaP (Ufa/Piotrowski)  
Kassie's Spark (Trigonis)  
Lea's Squish Squad (Viray)  
Liv's Lovelies (Adams/Falconer)  
Olivia Rose (Hernandez)  
Smiles for Jorge (Garcia)  
T21 Cubs (Gomez)  
Team Abby (Conde)  
Team Good Times! (Wetch)  
Team Lincoln (Rodriguez)  
Team Tomas Parra



**\$500 +**

Bao Down (Treadwell)  
Christian's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday (Hladek)  
Club Connections  
Elias' Angels (Abrego)  
Enzo Inc. (Delgado)  
JD's Green Team  
Kayla's Cheer (Barker)  
Kye's Legends (Toledo)  
Super Maya (Vasquez)  
Team Arrow (Trotter)  
Team Changemaker T21  
Team Chiara (Pedersen/Mazzilli)  
Team Levi (Foley)  
Team Reyes (Kulzer/Reyes)  
Team Ryder (Shields)  
Travis' Tour (Kennedy)

# Thank You to our Donors

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



## Benefactor - \$100,000+

Anonymous



## Champion - \$20,000+

Anonymous

Sherwood Foundation  
Von der Ahe Foundation



## Visionary - \$15,000+

Edwards Family Fund  
Jamie and Rob Knauss \*  
The Green Foundation  
The Greenelight Foundation



## Advocate - \$10,000+

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Anonymous  
Jeanne and Rob Case  
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Samantha and Peter Knight  
Tessa and Kenton Nelson  
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Kelli and Kevin Rea  
San Marino Woman's Club  
The Warburg Plncus Foundation  
Vanaman German LLP  
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## Believer - \$5,000+

Anonymous

Colleen and Steve Boyer  
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Carol and Carlos Magarino \*  
Ruth and Bill Neelans  
Pasadena Community Foundation  
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Melissa and Spencer Walch



## Developer - \$2,500+

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Linda and Mark Roberts  
Elaine and Lawrence Sherwood  
Stephanie and Howard Sherwood  
Lori and Ronnie Steadman  
Caryl and Jim Tyberg  
William T. and Susana D. Huston Family Foundation



# Thank You to our Donors

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



## Supporter - \$1,000+

Apple  
Michael Bauerfeind  
Berns Team Blessings, Inc.  
Julie Blackshaw  
Monica and Fred Borquez  
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Andrine Cleaver  
Lisa and Randall Cole  
Sally and Bob Corlett  
Dana and Albert R. Broccoli Charitable Foudation  
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Wilfred Lenmann  
Cynthia and Lauren Luczyski  
Frank Mabante  
Niru Madduri  
Joan and Patrick McLaughlin  
Cheryl and Evan Medow  
Martha Moreira  
Margaret Morrow



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Kathleen and Ken Turknette \*  
Ilene Weist  
Mary and Rick Whiting  
Priscilla and John Wickersham  
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Teresa Wilde \*  
Katherine and Joel Zadak



## Partner - \$500+

Tara and Gaetano Abbondanza  
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Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Janice and Mike Bell  
David Beringer  
Audrey Bloom  
Claire and William Bogaard  
Sherry and John Brauer  
Janet Brown  
Alexander Brown

# Thank You to our Donors

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



## Partner - \$500+ (cont)

Sharon and Lorenzo Brown  
Jessica Lu-Buetow and Scott Buetow  
Laura and Mike Call / Pacific Business Technologies  
Marian Chen and Sam Chia  
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David Colella  
Karen and Nick Cull  
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Malissa Graham and Paul Foley  
Samantha Gandara  
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Margie and John Green  
Sharon Hanson  
Risa Shapiro and Michael Horkachuck  
Ruth-Ann Huvane  
Wendy Jacoby  
Toni Jaramilla  
Andrea Johnston  
Laura Lopez Contreras and Fadi Kattar  
Peter Kleinick  
Mark Lamalfa  
Suzana Larsen  
Helen Lavelly  
May and Bren Mallari  
Natalia Pederson Mazzilli and Miguel Mazzili  
Kristin Candelora McElwee and Tim McElwee  
Nora McLaughlin  
Patricia Bauer and Edward Muller  
Natalis Inc dba Ritual  
Janet and Ray Nickel  
Faith Halverson Olson



## Partner - \$500+ (cont)

Judy Packard  
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Nicole Rasic and John Palacio  
Jennifer and Dean Pappas  
George Peacore  
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Heather Robison and Malachy Walsh  
Terry and Ian West  
Lynnette Ziegenfuss



# Thank You to our Donors

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



## Friend - \$250+

Diana Lu and Stefan Agregado  
Cynthy and Dave Ardell  
Cris Areskog  
Laurie and Ron Bahar  
Samantha Bandstra  
Paula Bard  
Nancy and Robert Berger  
Dirk Binder  
Joannes Boman  
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Lisa and Chris Carey  
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Zak Far  
Diane Farr  
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Lisa and Tim Fraser  
Montana and Grant Frum  
Gina and Eric Gandolfi  
Angela and Enrique Gonzalez  
Estela and Hector Gonzalez  
Elizabeth Greulich  
Janet and Michael Hards  
Jaida and Chris Harris  
Marianne and Randall Hill  
Heather Brown-Hom and Jeffrey Hom  
Caitlin Hurtado  
Janet and Bruce Kahn



## Friend - \$250+ (cont)

Rebecca and Miles Kulzer  
Kevin Lee  
Stacy and David Lessing  
Trini and Hong Liu  
Nancy MacIntyre  
Alexander Marotta  
Christie and Michael McIntire  
Ashlyn and Mike McIntosh  
Loreni Delgado and Zachary Medow  
April and Tim Mullins  
Nancy and Steve Norris  
Rachel O'Donnell  
Chelsea and Richard Olivarez  
Paula and Jim Orlandini  
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Natalie Weatherford  
Victoria and William Webster  
Vivianna and Ron Welflin  
Kristy Brown and Cameron White  
Janice and Geoffrey White  
Sara and Brian Woolf  
Pamela and Robert Zadak  
Tracy Zavala

### \*Matching Gift

This report includes gifts received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. 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 the Club 21 Office so that we may correct our records.









### **Mission Statement:**

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

### **Core Values:**

1. Raising Expectations (Vision)
2. Family/Educator Support (Educate)
3. Innovation (Think outside the box)
4. Building Community and Support (We all belong)

### **Proven Process:**

Club 21's Educational Pathway -  
we equip and train at every step of the pathway

### **Our End Goal:**

1. Opportunities for Lifelong Learning
2. Independence/Interdependence
3. Communities of Belonging
4. Meaningful Employment

FOLLOW US:



## Club 21 Learning and Resource Center

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