

# **OUR MISSION**

Kindering embraces children of diverse abilities and their families by providing the finest education and therapies to nurture hope, courage, and the skills to soar.



# **Embracing Children of All Abilities**

As one of the largest neurodevelopmental centers in the Northwest, Kindering plays a leadership role in creating a more equitable world where people of all abilities, identities, and backgrounds belong and thrive. In 2023, we have been proud to: 

Measurably improve developmental outcomes for children

- ✓ Add classroom space to keep pace with community needs
- ✓ Expand our CHERISH™ training program to serve children in foster and kinship care statewide
- ✓ Strengthen our programs based on participant feedback, and more

### **EMPOWERING CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

In the 2023 State Legislative Session, families helped us successfully advocate for a \$2.4 million budget proviso for early support services. These services consist of things like physical, speech, and feeding therapies for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities—not just at Kindering, but across the state! Because early supports are delivered at a critical stage of early brain growth, they can have an enormous positive impact on long-term development. At Kindering, 57% of children receiving services exit at age 3 no longer eligible for special education.

# **ERADICATING BARRIERS**

No child should miss out on services due to systemic barriers. In 2023, we covered uncompensated care costs to ensure no family is turned away due to personal finances or lack of insurance coverage. Many of our programs are designed to support marginalized groups, including children in child welfare, families experiencing housing instability, and immigrant and refugee families. These services are made possible thanks to community investment. For example, through a partnership with KidVantage, Kindering delivered over 450,000 household items like diapers, clothes, and toys in 2023 alone.

### **EMBEDDED IN OUR COMMUNITY**

In September, we celebrated the Grand Opening of our expansion campus at the Redmond Together Center, where we are one of the largest tenants in a hub of 20+ non-profits and hundreds of units of affordable housing. At full capacity, this campus will help us serve many more children and families every year. It also allows Kindering to expand certain high-demand services in Redmond for the first time, such as an inclusive preschool, specific services for children on the autism spectrum, and *Kids*Clinic pediatric therapy for children up to age 11.

### STAYING ACCOUNTABLE TO FAMILIES

Every year we review our quantitative program outcomes data as well as more qualitative feedback from surveys, exit interviews, and focus groups to continually improve our programs. Here is what parents shared in our 2023 survey:

- 97% of parents report applying techniques learned at Kindering in their homes
- 94% say their Kindering team was sensitive to their home culture
- 77% report feeling more equipped as a caregiver



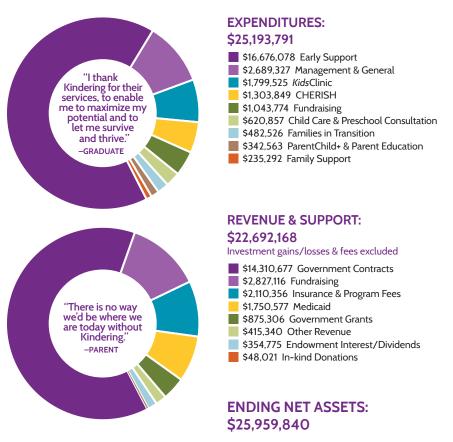
"We are positive. We are very hopeful.

We see positive changes already."

—HATTY, ACACIA'S MOTHER

When Hatty and her husband Alain left the Democratic Republic of the Congo for Brazil, and then the United States, their daughter Acacia was just a baby. In Brazil, Acacia had thrived, speaking French and Portuguese. But by the time her family arrived in America, she seemed to have lost her ability to articulate words. Her parents grew more concerned when she also began to struggle with self-regulation. At the time, the family was sharing a single-room home in a transitional housing facility. At 34 months old, Acacia received her first developmental evaluation at Kindering as part of our Families in Transition program. Soon, Kindering therapists were visiting the family to provide speech-language therapy. Together, they helped Acacia speak more clearly and develop her socialemotional skills.

# "The professionals we saw very much helped us understand our child better." —ALAIN. ACACIA'S FATHER





16120 NE 8TH ST BELLEVUE, WA 98008

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