



# ST GERARD HOUSE

*"Faith is not for overcoming obstacles; it is for experiencing them—all the way through!"*

*-Richard Rohr*

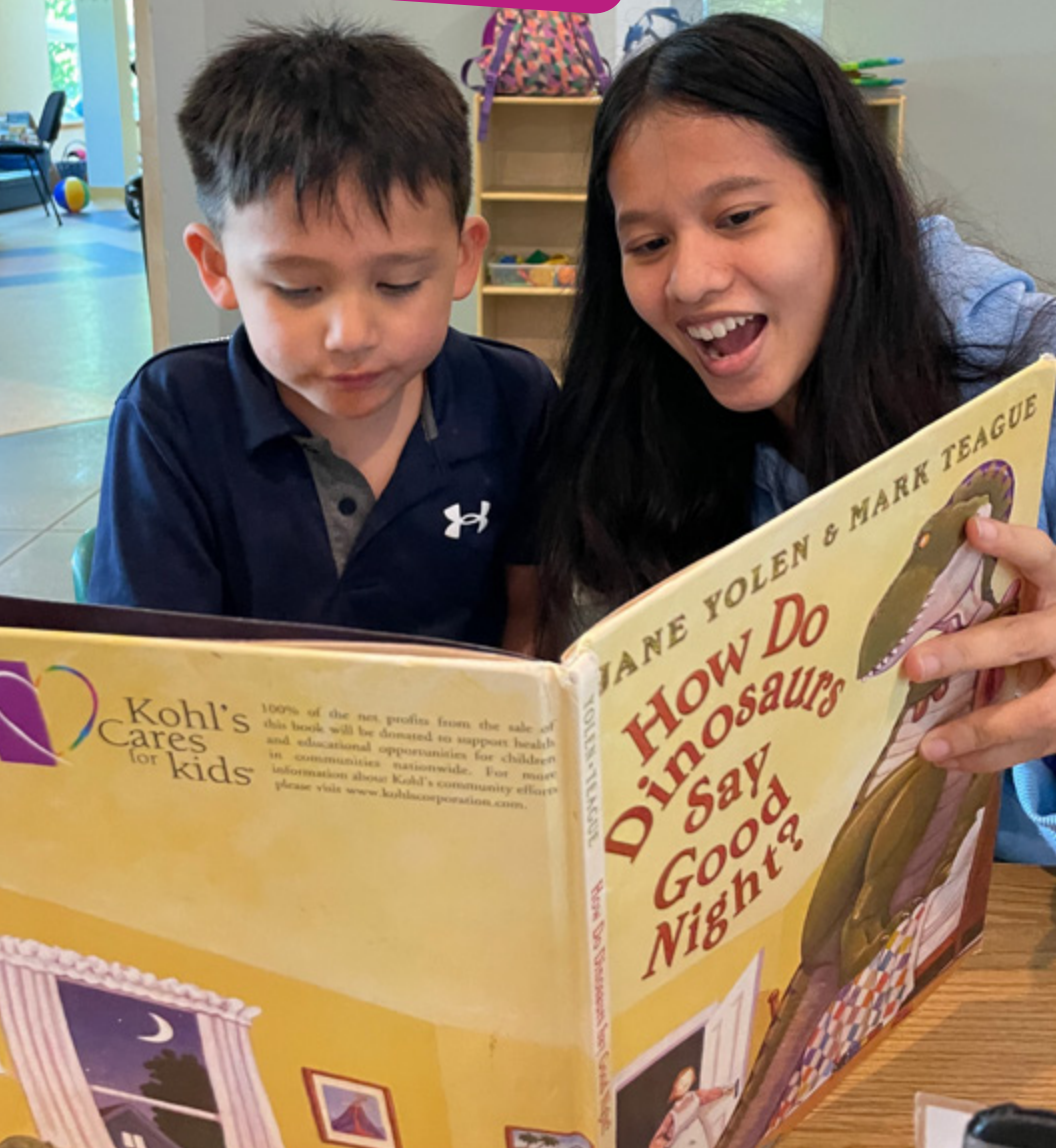


## 2023 IMPACT REPORT



## OUR MISSION:

To help individuals with autism & their families experience more joy and achieve meaningful life outcomes by providing evidence-based therapies, innovative programs and continuous advocacy.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER:



Resilience and fortitude are words that come to mind when I think of 2023. Resilience defined as the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties and fortitude is having courage to continue in spite of the challenge. Faith plays a major role in our mission and we leaned heavily on it last year to help us tap into our own resilience and fortitude. We started the year with a deficit from the lingering effects of covid and had to depend on cash reserves for operations several times.

Money was very tight and we had to make some tough decisions. The smartest thing we did was to invest in our dedicated team and stay the course.

This report will show that meaningful outcomes were being achieved every day and hundreds of lives were impacted. We overcame many obstacles in 2023 and just like the quote on the cover, faith allowed us to experience the challenges all the way through.

Autism is not news anymore and fortunately, we are not the only ones focused on treatment. There are other companies in WNC providing Applied Behavior Analysis therapy but I can honestly say that the compassion, quality programs and care for the autistic community at SGH is unmatched and the workplace culture is nurturing, engaging and supportive. Our excellent client outcomes are a direct result of this dedication.

You will hear the story of Vash told by his mom and learn of both of their journeys with autism. Our own Gabi Curley, BCBA, LBA shares her story of growing up with her ASD brother and finding her calling at an early age to serve other families. SGH would not have impacted nearly as many lives without the support of folks like you, and the foundations and businesses who care about supporting quality programs for autism. Our collective investments have paid off! St. Gerard House is standing on solid ground and poised for growth so we can address the greater needs of the hundreds of families waiting for a better path forward for their loved ones with autism. Thank you for being a part of this solution!

With Overwhelming Gratitude,

*Caroline Long Tindall*

Caroline Long Tindall, CEO



**ST GERARD**  
**HOUSE**

# 2023 Highlights

**20 & 32**  
PARTICIPANTS PARENTS

WERE SERVED THROUGH OUR  
FEED THE NEED PROGRAM

**725**  
PARENT TRAINING HOURS  
PROVIDED

**150**  
HOURS OUR FTN  
PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEERED  
IN THE COMMUNITY

**17**  
BEHAVIOR TECHNICIANS  
OBTAINED NATIONAL  
CERTIFICATION THROUGH  
OUR TRAINING

**25,404**  
HOURS OF 1:1 ABA  
THERAPY PROVIDED

**45 & 71**  
CHILDREN PARENTS &  
CAREGIVERS AT  
FAMILY GROUP  
NIGHT

**24**  
NEW BEHAVIOR  
TECHNICIANS TRAINED

**51**  
PARENTS/CAREGIVERS  
WERE PROVIDED 725 HOURS  
OF 1:1 PARENT TRAINING

**143**  
FAMILY INQUIRIES FIELDLED

**160 & 15**  
STUDENTS TEACHERS  
& STAFF WERE SERVED AT  
THE MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**30**  
BCBAS/BCABAS  
DEVELOPED AT SGH  
OVER THE YEARS

**95%**  
CHARITY NAVIGATOR  
SCORE



**ST GERARD**  
HOUSE

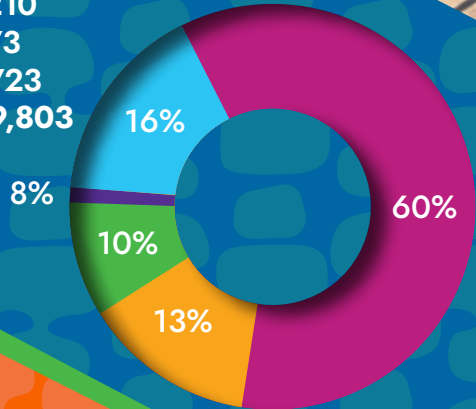
*"This program has changed our life for the better in a multitude of ways and is much appreciated. I've learned to be a better advocate for my child and others. To know when something isn't working, to look, listen, discover and create something that works for us. How to listen to my child and provide and model self care, respect and gentle kindness. I've learned not to compare but look at the needs of each individual child and family. Remembering [what] works for one, will not work for all."*



# 2023 FINANCIALS

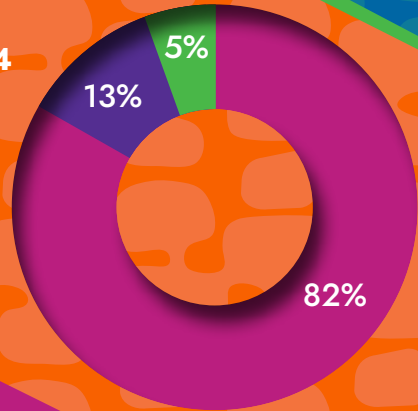
## TOTAL REVENUES

● Program Revenues:	\$2,626,693
● Donations:	\$578,304 (\$97,138 of total is In-Kind)
● Grants:	\$447,210
● Fundraising:	\$34,873
● Other:	\$692,723
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,379,803</b>



## TOTAL EXPENSES

● Program:	\$3,361,291
● Administration:	\$538,978
● Fundraising:	\$221,155
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,121,424</b>



*"Other revenues include receivables of \$650,000, not yet realized as of June 2024. Last year presented workforce hiring and retention challenges. This required a large commitment of our operational reserves but led to a stabilization of operations by year's close. We are now in the process of rebuilding those reserves." - Brad Ward, CFO*



## Terms & Definitions

---

**ABA | Applied Behavior Analysis is a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior.**

Behavior analysis helps us to understand:

How behavior works

How behavior is affected by the environment

How learning takes place

ABA therapy applies our understanding of how behavior works to real situations. The goal is to increase behaviors that are helpful and decrease behaviors that are harmful or affect learning.

ABA therapy programs can help increase language and communication skills and improve attention, focus, social skills, memory, and academics.

---

**ASD | Autism Spectrum Disorder** is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. People with ASD often have problems with social communication and interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests. People with ASD may also have different ways of learning, moving, or paying attention.

---

**BCBA | Board Certified Behavior Analyst**

A board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) provides ABA therapy services. To become a BCBA, the following is needed:

- Earn a master's degree or PhD in psychology or behavior analysis
  - Pass a national certification exam after 2,000 hours of supervision
  - Seek a state license to practice
- 

**RBT | Registered Behavior Technician**

ABA therapy programs also involve therapists trained and supervised by a BCBA. They work directly with children and adults with autism to practice skills and work toward the individual goals written by the BCBA.

# 2023 GUARDIANS OF HOPE

**Pledge \$1,000 or more  
a year for 5 years**

Anonymous  
Dave & Maureen Adams  
Jaime & Rosario Alanis  
Paul Alexander  
Tim & Sandra Almy  
Tony Amatangelo  
Oscar Amaya & Carolina Longines  
Carol Antonelli-Greco  
Ann Armstrong  
Asheville Pediatric Associates  
Catherine Baker  
Bob Bennett  
Benton Roofing, Inc  
Kathi Bivens  
Kenneth & Loretta Bivens  
Linda Bivens  
Charlie & Gwen Bowers  
Sharon Boyd  
Jennifer P. Brown  
Morgan Burke  
John Burton & Jan Letendre  
Rusty & Igna Carr  
Dan & Angie Collins  
Paul & Barbara Couvillion  
Virginia Craig  
Robert & Cindy Detamore  
Johnathan & Shannon Duvall  
Bob & Mary Ann Dylewski  
Patrick & Janet Faragher  
Mike & Georgie Farmer  
Mike Fischesser  
Rachel Fried  
Eloise Gamble  
Gayden & Janell Gauthier  
Michael Gordon  
Ed & Mary Beth Grealey  
Dr. Carol Greco

Jennifer Hensley  
Richard Herman  
Christine Hicks  
Edward & Erin Hill  
John Jacobi & Barbara Hodik  
Amy Lynn Holt  
Carole Hoyt  
Randy & Alice Hunter  
Steve Harbison  
Louis & Priscilla Haynes  
Beth Anne Knudson  
Lynn Ives  
Antoinette Jacobs  
Marty & Bernice Kalb  
Alex Kealy  
Patsy Kever  
Glenn & Ellen Kinsey  
Bill & Joan Lapsley  
John & Jen Liberatos  
Jerry & Darla Lindeman  
Bernd Linder  
Kerry Lindsey  
Nancy Long  
Lurie Investments Inc  
James & Kelly Longman  
Robert Lyon  
Jerry & Corrine Maier  
Jeff & Jane Malec  
Jim & Kay Mann  
Eleanor Martin  
Dave & Stacey McFarland  
John & Dorsa McGuire  
Laura Meherg Teel  
David Meyer  
Jane Miller  
Jim & Margaret Miller  
Catherine Neff  
John Ogden

Thank you for your  
commitment to changing lives!

Ogo Okpala  
Kevin & Mary O'Neill  
Gregory Page  
Will & Lynn Penny  
Evelyn Pezzolla  
Yates & Marisa Pharr  
Ann Plumlee  
Jack & Juleann Randles  
Jim & Bonnie Rash II  
Jim & Jennifer Rauland  
Dr. Charlotte Riddle  
Roy & Arlene Riley  
Jesse & Charlsey Russell  
Karl & Mary Schultz  
Mary Segal  
Teddi Segal  
Bob & Kelly Slebonik  
James & Diane Smelker  
Kelli & Jason Spector  
Leon & Stephanie Spitz  
Helen Standing  
Mike Tanner  
Janice Theron  
Colin & Janet Thomas  
Jay & Nancy Thorndike  
Pat Thummel  
Frank & Caroline Tindall  
James & Mary Beth Trunk  
Brian & Megan Walker  
Katharine Walton  
Toinette Wilkinson  
Christa Willey  
Phillip & Julie Wilmot  
Larry & Sandra Winecoff  
Steve Wyatt  
John & Kathy York



## 2023 CHAMPIONS OF HOPE

**Fulfilled 5 year pledge  
or have given greater  
than \$25,000**

Patricia Albrecht  
Tony Amatangelo  
Bo & Mary Boteilho  
Jack & Judy Brinson  
John Burress  
Ruth A. Conway  
Gayden & Janell Gauthier  
Dennis & Ada Gough  
Robert & Glenda Gussman  
Tom & Sue Fazio  
Jack & Molly Fitzpatrick  
James & Cherie Flores  
Katsey Long  
Nancy Long  
Norman & Rosemary McCann  
Jan Mounger  
Tom & Lee Mulligan  
Mark & Heidi Nash  
Kevin & Mary O'Neill  
Karl & Mary Schultz  
Steve Wyatt

## 2023 FAITHFUL FRIENDS

**Monthly Donors**

Dave & Maureen Adams  
Denise Bellefeuil-Jenkins  
David & Heather Boeke  
Benton Roofing, Inc  
Lucy Butler  
Andee Burton  
Sarah Carpenter  
Gabrielle Curley  
Robert & Susan Danos  
Sally Dickson  
Jane Dockendorf  
Tamara Evans  
Shelby Gale  
Lee Leubbe  
Scott Garner & Jeff Morton  
Dave & Julie Johnson  
Kim Jordan  
Conner & Allison Long  
Roger & Linda Madson  
Marjorie Susannah Martin  
Ellen Nolan  
James Ritzen  
Karl & Mary Schultz  
Suzanne & Jon Sherrill  
Alexandra Thomas  
Will Wilson



*"Thank you to each and every St. Gerard House team member for all you do, as you contribute to the success of this wonderful program."*



In 2020, during the pandemic, Courtney realized her two-year-old son wasn't speaking or expressing what he wanted like other children. As an adult on the spectrum, she herself did not speak until age 4. Tim's lack of speech resonated with her own delay.

Once enrolled in preschool, it was hard for Tim to participate meaningfully with other students. He wasn't making friends and would slam cabinets interrupting instruction.

The preschool recommended Tim be evaluated for an IEP through a local elementary school. Tim's pediatrician also recommended testing him for autism.

Tim was attending a public special education program and receiving occupational therapy and speech therapy when he enrolled at St. Gerard House. Courtney believes services have not only

helped her son but her health as well. Tim is speaking more now, writing, and uses the bathroom independently. He enjoys the playful interactions with behavior technicians at SGH. Tim is still working on developing friendships;

"It's not an overnight process," shares Courtney.

**“Growing up in the 90s, I did not have services, it was really tough to get the help I needed. I was really thankful to get Tim the help he needs so he doesn't have anxiety about life, so he can enjoy being a kid.”**

Since being at SGH, Tim no longer slams cabinets. In the fall of 2024, he will return to public education. “At Kindergarten registration, he looked over the classroom then sat in a chair ready for

instruction,” says Courtney. Tim excels in math, loves to build things, and enjoys reading non-fiction. Courtney is hopeful about his future. “I am very proud of him and the person he has become. Growing up, I was afraid of talking to people because I was different. Tim plays with others and doesn't care what people think of him. He has courage.”



*“As a parent with autism and raising a child on the spectrum, I understand Tim. There is a connection there. We understand the way each other thinks.”*

“Tim is graduating from Grotto I this summer and will be going on to public school. He has made great strides in our program. When he first started in 2021, he scored 21.5 points of 170; just 12% of his milestones were met for his age. In 2023, his score increased to 106 out of 170 or 62% of his milestones met. In June 2024, we will complete his final evaluation and I can’t wait to see what he will score.”

- Bertha Medina, Chief Operating Officer



**The Grotto Therapeutic Center** is a year round, intensive program that provides individualized behavioral, academic, and social skills training for children ages three - 21 through Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. Each child's curriculum and progress is regularly monitored and evaluated through a rigorous data collection system.

*"The team's boundless positive energy, genuine care for the children, and mutual joy in their work create an uplifting atmosphere. Their positive outlook on life and challenges is contagious and encouraging."*

**Discovery** is a small group learning environment for school aged children with autism. It utilizes the principles and techniques of ABA to build pivotal skills and guide learners towards achieving meaningful life outcomes.

The curriculum focuses on:

- building social skills
- communication
- community participation
- prevocational and/or academics
- self-regulation and emotional health

*"They really know my child and tailor his goals to him personally. We always feel welcome and involved in his plan."*

## Parent Satisfaction Survey

**Grotto**  
**94%**

**FTN**  
**93%**

**FGN**  
**97%**

*"They are like family, they truly want the best for my son as well as the rest of our family. I don't know what I would do without you all. You are God sent to our son and our family and I am so grateful!!"*



**Feed the Need (FTN)** embraces the growing number of young adults (16 and older), who are aging out of support programs by teaching pre-vocational, self help, and social skills through the platform of gardening, culinary, fine art, and volunteering in the community. Participants also practice mindfulness and exercise on a daily basis to promote healthy habits and decision making. This program fosters sustainable, long-term solutions for competitive employment and productive integration into the community.

*"They seem to genuinely love my son and are great communicators. The program is active and creative and my son has never been happier in his life!"*

**Family Group Night (FGN)** is a free monthly support meeting for the entire family experiencing special needs. The meeting begins with a catered meal where families share stories and resources. SGH cares for children of all needs and ages, so parents can participate in the presentation.

*"Thanks for providing this space and evening to learn and connect with others."*



I came to St. Gerard House in 2022 and currently work as an ABA Supervisor in the Grotto 1/1.5 program. I have an older brother who has ASD, and I still remember many of his early therapists by name. They served my brother and our family with such compassion and made a lasting impact on our lives. I knew, from a young age, that I wanted to do the same one day for families like mine.

At SGH, we live out our mission of helping individuals with autism and their families experience more joy and achieve meaningful life outcomes every day. Our staff are committed to providing high quality, compassionate care.

My favorite part of my day is interacting with clients and seeing them learn new skills. Even something seemingly small to some, like asking for a toy, can be so empowering for someone who has not yet found their voice. It never gets old, seeing how a client's face lights up as they access new skills, new environments, and new opportunities to find joy.

As an ABA supervisor, I have been inspired by the collaborative spirit of our clinical team and am especially grateful for our Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs). They are the backbone of the program and work so hard to implement high-quality therapy each and every day. SGH has set up an environment that aims to invest in direct support staff through frequent ongoing training, supervision, and continual support. I believe this is essential to being able to serve our clients well.

My hope is that St. Gerard House will continue to be a safe space for individuals and families navigating ASD - that we will be there to lean on during the more difficult times and to celebrate all the milestones and moments of joy.

-Gabi Curley, M.A., BCBA, LBA

# **A Special Thank You** to the following organizations for your collaboration and overall support of our mission!

## **2023 GRANTORS & PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS**

City of Hendersonville  
Community Foundation of Henderson County  
C. River Stone Foundation  
Dogwood Health Trust  
Henderson County  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Kinsey Family Advised Fund  
Knights of Columbus  
Ladies Aid Society of Flat Rock  
NC Department of Health & Human Services  
Slick Family Foundation  
St. James Episcopal Church  
The Ireland Family Foundation

## **2023 LUNCHEON SPONSORS**

Vannoy Construction  
Advent Health  
330 Partners  
Champion Comfort Experts  
Carolina Village  
LS3P  
Stott's Ford  
Mast General Store  
Benton Roofing  
BGW  
Colton Groome  
First Citizens Bank  
Knox Law  
Morrow Insurance  
Pepsi  
S&A Strauss Attorneys PLLC  
WNC Dental  
Flowers by Larry  
Hubba Hubba Smokehouse  
Jeff & Jody Rutter and the Flat Rock Hospitality Group  
Tryon International Equestrian Center

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Appalachian Pinball Museum  
Blue Ridge Humane Society  
Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County  
Daddy Mac's Downhome Dive  
Fireside Mini-golf  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Henderson County Public Library  
Hendersonville Co-Op  
Highland Lake Gardens  
Immaculata Catholic School  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
Meals on Wheels  
Parks & Recreation of Henderson County  
Rachel Naso Dennis  
Sow True Seed  
Tarheel Lanes Bowling  
The Mountain Community School  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
United Federal Credit Union  
United Way Day of Caring  
We Rock the Spectrum  
Wild Wing Cafe  
WNC Nature Center  
YMCA Hendersonville

*"I just want to say thank you to the St. Gerard House and all of their staff for all they do for our children and our community."*



**ST GERARD  
HOUSE**

## Board of Directors 2023

Kelli Spector, Chairman  
Julie Wilmot, Vice Chairman  
Joe Ward, Treasurer  
Lee Mulligan, Secretary  
Maureen Adams, Past  
Chairman  
Tom Brackett  
Bob Lange  
Jan Letender  
Dave McFarland  
Dr. Ogo Okpala  
Mary O'Neill  
Michelle Stills

## Advisory Board of Directors

Pat Robinson, Chair  
Mike Farmer  
Marty Kalb, Esq.  
Jerry Lindeman  
Bill Jansen, Esq.  
Mary Schultz  
Brian Long  
Dorsa McGuire  
Dr. Charlotte Riddle  
Bob Slebonick  
Duke Schell

# SAVE THE DATE

**August 30, 2024**

**Ninth Annual Art in Bloom**  
The Gallery At Flat Rock

**April 2, 2025**

**15th Annual First Words  
of Hope Luncheon**  
Blue Ridge Community College  
Flat Rock, NC



**ST GERARD  
HOUSE**

620 Oakland Street  
Hendersonville NC 28791

**828.693.4223**

stgerardhouse.org



**DONATE NOW**

