

KIDS ON THE GO



2019-2020 Impact Statement

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Spring, 2021

Dear Friend of Kids On The Go,

As we spent the first few months of 2021 compiling information to share in our first Impact Report, I was presented with many moments that left me feeling humbled and grateful but most of all, incredibly blessed to be able to share all of this good news with you.

While the past year or so has brought darkness and uncertainty to many organizations, we are happy to report that Kids On The Go has persevered and maintained a commitment to safety and service to children with special needs and their families. The successful year we had in 2019, helped lay the groundwork for growth and stability that became necessary to survive in 2020. ***We wouldn't be here today without you, our donors and our friends whose encouragement, support and generosity not only sustained our operations but also provided hope for a brighter tomorrow.***

You may know that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many programs and services offered to children with special needs were eliminated or modified which left their families scrambling to find therapeutic programs that provided their children with structure and stability. Despite a brighter outlook, many of these programs have not returned to the degree and format they once were.

As our 23rd year of programming is upon us, families are once again depending on Kids On The Go so their children will keep moving forward. *Will you consider making a contribution that will make a significant difference toward our outlook and ability to serve?* Your commitment, no matter the size, will provide some overdue smiles to some of our community's most special members.

Please know of my sincere thanks for your consideration and help bringing us this far. I wish the very best for you and your family as we enter the next season.

Sincerely,

Kristy Piana Schena, M.S., CCC-SLP
Founder/Executive Director



Impact Statement

2019-2020

Kids On The Go: "Where Fun is Therapeutic"

Going Virtual

2020 brought expansion for KOTG in unexpected ways

Wow, what a year! I guess you can call that an understatement, but this year I saw and experienced things that I would not have if it were not for the circumstance that we were put in.

As a board we saw a dedicated and loving team of therapists coming together and scrambling to create new programming for a virtual world, and succeeding! I think that they even surprised themselves with the outcome of their efforts.

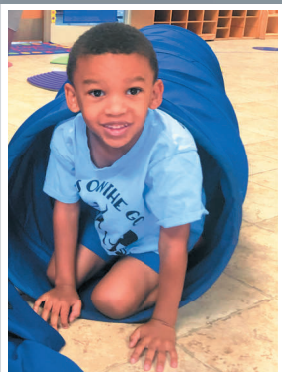
We experienced an outpouring of financial support in a time of financial hardship for many people. The KOTG fundraising team became Team Creative – engaging with our supporters and benefactors through new and innovative ways.

We saw our organization grow to help even more children with the opening of our first sister location outside of metro Detroit. Who starts a non-profit location in a pandemic?

Although 2020 was a challenging year, it showed us that the human spirit, with God's help, can rise above and succeed in any environment. I am proud to be a part of such a great organization and honored to serve as board chair. The other members of the board are so talented and caring that at most meetings I just sit in awe at their knowledge and can do attitude.

As I look forward to see what we accomplish in 2021 I just hope that at the end of the the year that I can again say, "WOW, what a year!"

Tony Shereda
KOTG Board Chair



MISSION

To recognize and facilitate the goals of children with special needs and to further develop their current skills through therapeutic and wellness programs for children and their families.

VISION

To provide a safe environment that will foster opportunities for growth, inclusion and provides valuable resources for our community.

2020 Programs & Services

377

STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

47

PROGRAMS
OFFERED

33

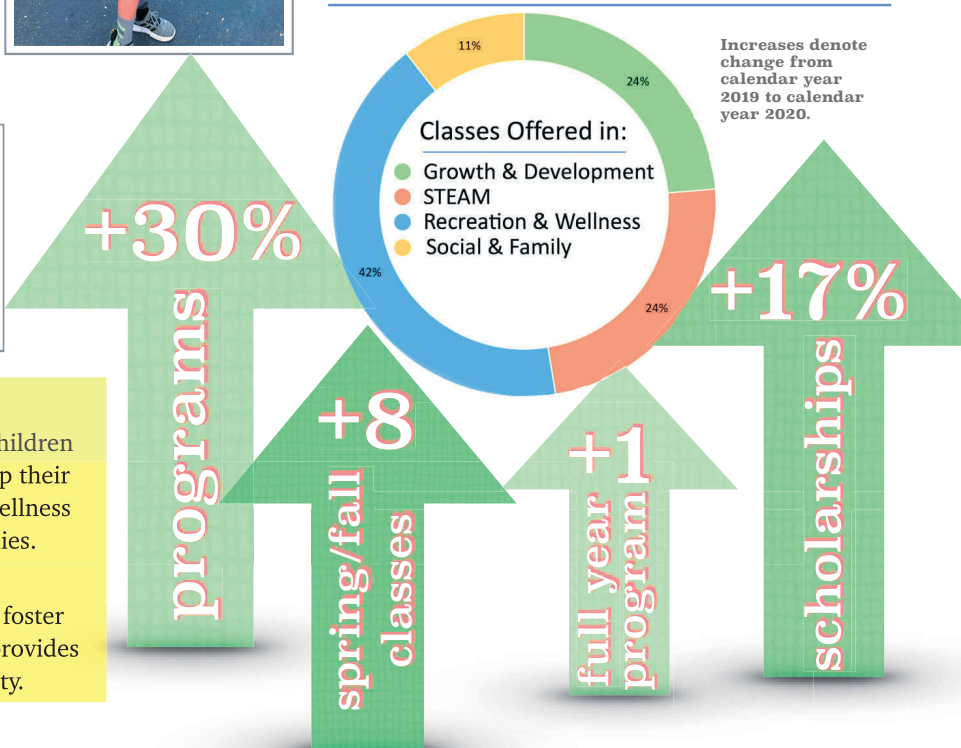
VIRTUAL
CLASSES HELD

14

IN PERSON
CLASSES HELD

1500

CLINICAL HOURS
PROVIDED



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Katie Shubnell,
Development Manager
Danielle Brosseau
Registration & Special
Events Coordinator
Kelley Daley, Administrative
Assistant

TRAVERSE CITY KIDS ON THE GO BRANCHING INTO NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Hi my name is Natalie Ramsey and I am the Regional Director of Kids On The Go Traverse City. As a pediatric physical therapist, I worked closely with KOTG in Metro Detroit before I moved to Traverse City in 2016. As a parent and healthcare provider living and working in Northern Michigan, I discovered that there were no summer camps in our region that provide free therapy to kids with special needs, and I strongly feel the children of our community deserve access to these types of services. So, in 2019 I partnered with Kids On The Go to build a new Traverse City camp program.



In our local school district, the TBAISD, over 3,500 children receive services during the school year. But, in the summer when school is closed, there are limited options and resources for these kids and families. The limited therapist availability, insurance restrictions, and high out of pocket costs prevent many kids from receiving summer therapy. But when kids aren't able to continue their therapy over the summer, they can lose a lot of the progress they achieved during the school year, and it sometimes takes months for them to catch up when school begins again in the fall. Kids On The Go camp fills this gap by providing a fun and therapeutic program for these kids at no cost to their families.

Our new Traverse City camp pairs local kids with professional therapists and provides programs that advance and enhance their mobility, communication, fine motor skills, and social skills. Our camp programs are all play-based and creative weekly themes. We're collaborating with local leaders, families, and healthcare professionals to foster opportunities for growth and inclusion for this incredible population of kids.

I invite you to visit our website—www.kidsonthegocampmc.com to keep up with the activity and growth of our programs in Traverse City. On behalf of all of us in Northern Michigan, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Natalie R. Ramsey, PT, DPT
Doctor of Physical Therapy—Pediatrics
Regional Director—Kids On The Go Traverse City

KOTG-TC Advisory Board

Julia Barresi
Heather Busch
Arthur Canfield

Kathleen Laraia
Dawn McConnell

Cindy Michelin
Lisa Miller
Paul Zimmer

SHARING ARTWORK & TELLING STORIES VIRTUALLY

As a pediatric speech-language pathologist, making sudden changes to lesson plans is more routine than not. Transitioning to all tele-practice sessions was a similar process. Making the shift, while sudden and unexpected, was not as challenging as one might expect. Fortunately, my students and I continued sharing laughter, literacy and toys easily in virtual sessions. Sure there was learning to be had related to how to handle the tech piece for students, but it all went rather seamlessly. Converting Storytellers was much of the same.

One challenge was prepping the literacy materials so they could easily be seen by students who would normally get a closeup view of the book I read to the class. The biggest challenge—and success—however, was with the students in a group class. All of my private practice sessions were one-on-one situations. Leading, moderating and keeping class on schedule with a group of students in a virtual setting was daunting but given just a bit of guidance and modeling, the students learned to interact well with each other, myself and co-teacher Lori Grosso. From a random observer, the first session might have seemed a bit chaotic with students talking at random,



interrupting others, not realizing they created audio feedback for the rest of the group, etc. By the second week, however, the students were already listening more to each other, responding well to group activities and interacting well with both instructors. The chaos had disappeared. Meanwhile, the students were growing, learning and sharing stories. They also discussed artwork for the Thinking Through Art portion and even began creating their own artwork. There are still random interruptions, but nothing more than what would happen in person.

Sara Martin, M.A. CCC-SLP
Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist
KOTG Storytellers



KIDS ON THE GO STORY TELLERS

Encouraging expressive language through stories & art!

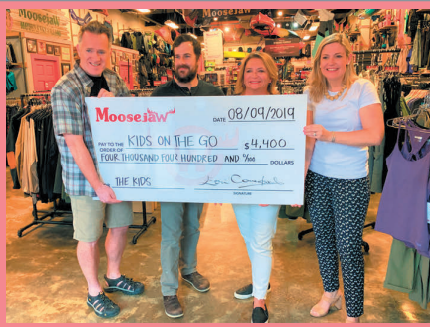


IN 2020, KOTG WORKED TO CREATE MORE THAN 12 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

"Kids On The Go is one of the most meaningful programs I have been a part of. I have seen firsthand the immeasurable impact the program has had on all of its participants. Even more remarkable is the way KOTG has inspired those like myself that have had the privilege of experiencing the program for even just one day. There are few organizations more deserving of recognition than KOTG for their years of selfless, life-changing work." -Jordan Morgan



Kids On The Go recently reapplied for the Ralph Wilson Legacy Grant. A \$20,000 grant awarded last summer funded 8 Fun & Fitness programs from June 2019 - May 2020 including: Bike Riding, Friendship Cheer, All Star Hoops Camp, Little Sluggers, Tennis, First Tee Golf, All Star Flag Football, and SOMIFit.



August 2019

Moosejaw donated \$4,400 following a shopping fundraiser designed to support KOTG programming.

The Kirt Foundation continued its support for the Students Help Students Literacy program with KOTG. The continuation was due to the success reported by parents and providers, Kirt Foundation founder, Rosemary Kirt, said. The goals of the foundation and KOTG align in many regards, which is part of what made it such a natural partnership, she said. The Kirt Foundation first funded the literacy program with KOTG in 2019.

March 2020

KOTG is now providing experiences beyond summer camp

KOTG celebrates a new partnership with The Children's Foundation of Michigan with a grant funding programs that begin in the Fall 2020 through Spring 2021. This grant funded health and wellness programs.

November 2019

The 20-20-20 campaign raises funds for Life Lessons Lab.

In November 2019, Johnstone & Johnstone real estate office in Grosse Pointe Farms named KOTG as the recipient of their annual Giving Tuesday fundraiser. The office did a soup-tasting event and 100% of the proceeds as well as a matching program from the parent company, Real Estate One, was donated to KOTG.

Teens to Work changes from summer only programming to year round. Participants began using the new Life Lessons Lab in summer 2020. The program aims to give students experience and practice with real life job skills in preparation for life beyond school.



Grants Received in 2020:

Michigan Humanities
The Kirt Foundation
The John and Marlene Ball Foundation
The Ralph Wilson Foundation
The Childrens Foundation
The Karen and Drew Peslar Foundation
The DeSeranno Foundation
The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club
United Wholesale Mortgage
Ascension Health
Adios Childrens Charities

In spring of 2020, KOTG opened the Life Lessons Lab at its Pare Non-Profit Center location in St. Clair Shores, Mich. The lab is a one-of-a-kind setting for the east side of the metro area featuring stations that mimic real-life scenarios, such as visiting the bank or going to a restaurant. It allows students to learn and grow interaction skills that are important to daily life and employment. The lab was funded in late 2019 through a targeted fundraising campaign.

"All Star Hoops Camp was a fun way for me to stay active and it was the first chance that I had the opportunity to learn basketball. I also met some good friends along the way."
-Jack Potter, Camp Participant



The Sunrise Rotary Peace Garden was a collaborative community project initiated by the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary. The project began with trees for the garden donated by the Rotary and Sparkman Landscaping. Rotarians and high school students from De La Salle Collegiate and Grosse Pointe North volunteered their time to clean up the garden. With the direction of Allemon's Landscape Center, they built raised flower beds in the garden. This a tranquil addition to the Nonprofit Center at Pare and a spot that will be utilized and enjoyed for years to come.

June 2020

Peace Garden dedication.

“Griffin has Cerebral Palsy and Autism so the opportunity to be on a team was never in our cards until this program. When Griffin is on the court with the other players, he transforms into a team player. He listens and watches the coaches do the drills. Griffin tries his best and is encouraged by his teammates. The support from the coaches and the therapists is encouraging and at the end of the camp, I can honestly say I see a boost in Griffin's confidence.”

Regan Wright, Parent



United Wholesale Mortgage chooses KOTG as the recipient of its third quarter Pay It Forward Program. More than \$3,000 goes to support programming.

Dec. 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday kick off event by Johnstone & Johnstone.

LET IT SNOW*

For the second year in a row, KOTG was the recipient a Giving Tuesday fundraiser by Johnstone and Johnstone real estate office in Grosse Pointe Farms. The office hosted a “Let It Snow” event Dec. 1, 2020, on behalf of KOTG. With matching funds from parent company Real Estate One, Johnstone & Johnstone donated more than \$13,000 to KOTG to support programming.

Sept. 15, 2020

The annual IIBEC Golf Outing raises more than \$24,000 for KOTG.



The International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC) donated \$24,800 to KOTG following a record-breaking golf outing. The organization's annual event typically involves close to 200 golfers but this year it was limited to 100 golfers due to the pandemic, IIBEC President Terry Owens said. Despite the change, it was a record fundraising year. As president, Owens was able to choose the charity recipient and KOTG was an easy choice. “It's close to my heart,” Owens said, noting he has a son who is now a young adult with Asperger's and recalling the lack of options for services and help when he was young.

The Karen & Drew Peslar Foundation supports Kids On The Go for the fourth consecutive year with \$17,500 in donations.



Winter 2021

KOTG collaborated with Special Olympics of Michigan to bring SoMIFit & Young Athletes virtually.

“My son has been involved with Kids On The Go for 12 years. All of us have watched him grow and change. He has always needed purpose to overcome his learning difficulties. “Teens to Work” gives him this. He is a hands on guy. The staff really cares and provides the step by step instruction necessary for him to be successful. The projects build his confidence and independence. The group of teens provides the peer to peer interaction and friendships he misses in his everyday environment. He enjoys preparing for his future and is thankful for the “Teens to Work” program.” —parent

When Kids On The Go expanded from summer-only services to offering services throughout the year, “SoMIFit”—a fitness program first started in 2019—was one of the first programs to be offered in other seasons. It promotes fitness, offers social opportunities, increases confidence and overall well being.

KOTG Establishes Diversity Committee

Cultivating inclusion, breaking constraints for growth

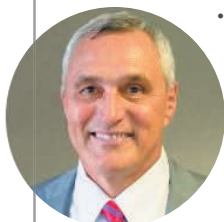
In addition to staying true to our mission, our goal at Kids On The Go is that the programs we offer and support we provide to the children with special needs and their families reflect the areas of greatest need and relevance in our society. Whether it be starting a program that is a trending extra curricular activity or highlighting a subject that is a popular topic among the special needs community, we strive to stay knowledgeable and informed as we promote growth across our organization.

In our world today, it is abundantly clear that ensuring a culture of diversity is key to our future and necessary for us to cultivate a feeling of inclusion. At Kids On The Go, we want every child/family who could benefit from our programs to know they are available and have access to them. As a result, we have formed a diversity committee made up of professionals with unique experiences on building awareness, providing direction and making connections that fosters the breakdown of cultural constraints and stereotypes. We are very hopeful that through this effort, we will open new doors and work together to promote this important message of inclusion among our community.

Along with our administration team, Kristy Schena and Katie Shubnell, we are proud to have three individuals committed to our efforts and this committee.



•Darien Harris, Director of Player Engagement at Michigan State University Football and a member of the KOTG Honorary Board of Directors. As a part of Darien's role at Michigan State, he provides the football players a platform to share their experiences with racism with the goal of providing a perspective that is relatable to those who haven't had personal experience with this injustice.



•David Thomas, Thomas Financial Company, L.L.C., is one of twelve authors who collaborated to write [Creating Positive Race Relations](#). As an author, David shares his insight on recognizing those in our culture, especially African Americans who have been left on the outside looking in. Inspired by his faith, David is drawn to helping others in a welcoming manner and will help direct our team at Kids On The Go with resources to increase access for our programs.



•Anjala Trotter is an elementary school educator and mother of a child with special needs. Anjala is in a unique position as she can offer both personal and professional guidance to families of children with special needs. She has a pulse on the, in many cases, limited resources that are provided to families and will help the team at KOTG by making introductions and ensure awareness of our organization is provided to all those who may be interested.

We look forward to seeing the contributions these individuals will bring to our team. We invite others to consider joining the group and our commitment to ensuring access and inclusion for all.

2020 Partnerships

Students Helping Students Literacy

The Henry Ford

First Tee Golf

Open Spot Theatre

Gigi's Playhouse Detroit

The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

South Lake Schools

Chandler Park Golf Club

Assumption Cultural Center

Special Olympics of Michigan

Extra Credit Union

Allemon's Landscape Center

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club

Ways to Support KOTG Everyday!

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com>

Kroger Rewards:

www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Rewards Number: 90659.

Cloverleaf Pizza: 2nd Monday of each month
10% of sales given back to Kids On The Go.

CARS: www.careasy.org/nonprofit/kids-on-the-go or 855-500-RIDE

We Are Here Foundation: 586-615-9247

Mother Waddles: motherwaddles.org/313-WADDLES

Kids On The Go

As a non-profit pediatric program designed to provide special needs children (3-17 years) with physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies at no cost to the child's family. A program like this is rarely covered medical benefit and often too costly for private payment. Because of the generosity of our sponsors, Kids On The Go has provided more than 3,000 scholarships to children in the tri-county area. Your tax deductible donation can be made in Honor or in Memory of someone. Donations should be made payable to Kids On The Go and mailed to: Kids On The Go, 23500 Pare St., #10, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 OR can be made on our website at: www.kidsonthegocamp.com.

"The results of philanthropy are always beyond calculation." Miriam Beard

GIVING SOCIETY LEVELS

\$500-
\$999

\$1,000-
\$2,499

\$2,500-
\$4,999

\$5,000-
\$9,999

\$10,000-
\$14,999

\$15,000-
\$24,999

\$25,000+

Kids On The Go gratefully acknowledges the following financial contributions which reflect cumulative giving between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020. Whether you are a new donor to Kids On The Go or a seasoned benefactor, we are sincerely grateful for your support and proud to recognize your generosity.

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

Community Foundation For Southeast Michigan/
Ralph Wilson Legacy Fund
Anonymous Donor

VISIONARY PARTNER

Allied Printing Company
The Children's Foundation
Great Lakes Chapter of RCI, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Atanas Ilitch

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Childrens Charities at Adios
Howard and Howard
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The Kirt Foundation
Perri Family Foundation
The Karen & Drew Peslar Foundation
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Kiwanis Club Of Sterling Heights High Noon Club
Kiwanis Club Of Utica-Shelby
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The Wentzloff Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Wujek
Ms. Kathy Ann Young
Wally's Frozen Custard

Offerings Grow During Pandemic

KOTG continued offering classes for children throughout the year

Despite shelter-in-place during a global pandemic, Kids On The Go was able to not only continue programming for students but also grew in 2020. Classes may have looked a little differently than typical but staff was able to transition so students wouldn't miss out.

Some classes were offered virtually while others were conducted outside during the summer months. Not only did the staff respond and transition well but the students thrived as well.

KOTG was able to offer more scholarships in 2020 than the previous year, which meant more children across the state were able to receive extra support.

Additionally, Teens To Work transitioned from being a 6-week summer program to a year-round program. The program was the only indoor class during the summer and utilized KOTG's Life Lessons Lab, which was opened earlier in the year following the funding campaign in late 2019.

In 2020, KOTG was also able to offer more classes beyond its summer concentration. Additions were made to springtime and even more additions were offered in the fall.



**IN 2020: SERVED
MORE THAN 350
STUDENTS ACROSS
5 COUNTIES OR
39 CITIES.**

- **WAYNE**
- **MACOMB**
- **OAKLAND**
- **GRAND TRAVERSE**
- **LEELANAU**

