



## One Step Closer: DSG Receives \$100,000 Grant for Lifelong Learning Campus Campaign

In support of the Lifelong Learning Campus capital campaign, DSG was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant. This gift—from a local Foundation that requested not to receive special publicity—is a catalyst for DSG’s efforts in raising the \$772,000 by April 2021 to secure a \$350,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation.

“We are incredibly grateful for this investment that will impact generations of people with Down syndrome,” said Mike Frazier, President, DSG Board of Directors. “This act of generosity will serve as the wind in our sails as we build momentum to fully fund this capital project through philanthropic support.”

DSG now has \$1,240,000 committed to the Lifelong Learning Campus campaign through philanthropic efforts.



## Lifelong Learning Campus

The 11,000-square-foot Campus will offer space for people of all ages with Down syndrome to receive therapeutic services; gain employment and independent living skills; be creative; use technology; make friends and work together. The total project budget is estimated at \$2.5-million.



**5916 Dearborn**

(the building adjacent to current space)

“We continue to be humbled by the generous support of our mission and the belief in our vision for the people we serve,” said Jason Drummond, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer of DSG. “We are coming together as a community to change the life trajectory of people with Down syndrome, now and for generations to come.”

*To track the latest progress for the Lifelong Learning Campus campaign, check out our fundraising page!*

# Growing to Provide... Lifespan Services

## Introducing Pathways Playgroups

DSG recognizes early childhood is a critical period as it lies the foundation for outcomes across the lifespan. In addition, we have received requests from families with young children for new services and we want you to know, we hear you!

While on-site services have slowed in this time of quarantine, our Pathways therapy team has been designing a new service for young families: Pathways Playgroups. Pathways Playgroups will occur in a specially designed and dedicated space at our new Lifelong Learning Campus at 5916 Dearborn in Mission, KS.

Pathways Playgroups are designed to promote the development and learning for children with Down syndrome, ages 1.5-6 years. These playgroups will provide facilitated opportunities for your child to practice key developmental skills in the context of play and exploration, while also socializing with other children.

Parents and caregivers of children 0-6 years old will receive a survey via email soon to gauge your interests and needs. It is important we have your current and complete information so we can customize our services.

To ensure you receive our upcoming communication, please visit <https://mykcdsg.org/get-connected/> to complete your profile.

### You Made a Difference!



Support the Lifelong Learning Campus

Thank you for helping DSG raise \$14,990 on #GivingTuesdayNow in support of our Lifelong Learning Campus!

Whether you made a gift or shared our social media posts—you made it happen!

Your commitment to the success of our Lifelong Learning Campus campaign will impact the families we serve now—and for generations to come!

“Pathways has provided a support system to enhance my daughter and our family’s life. They have provided hope—and the tools they equip us with—are priceless. They are patient and celebrate our successes with us. My daughter, husband, and I walk out of our sessions a little taller. Pathways is the best investment our family has made this year.”

~Penny, Mother of a 10-year old with Down syndrome

## Meet Our Team: Marie Leathers, MOT, OTR/L, RBT, Occupational Therapist and Registered Behavior Technician



### What is your role at DSG?

My primary role is to provide occupational therapy (OT) services to self-advocates (people with Down syndrome) through Pathways (DSG’s therapy services). As an OT, my primary goal is to maximize independence and participation in meaningful occupations. Occupations are what people want to do, need to do, or are expected to do within a person’s daily life (e.g., playing, self-care tasks such as dressing, cooking, shopping, having a job, going to concerts, etc.). In addition, I provide behavioral support as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT).

### What brought you to DSG?

Two years ago, I had the incredible opportunity as an OT student to complete my fieldwork at DSG and contribute to the design of Pathways. I knew that my journey at DSG had to continue and could not imagine working anywhere else.

### What’s your favorite part about your job?

There are so many aspects that I love about my job, but my utmost favorite is the invigoration. Every day I am inspired and energized by DSG’s families, self-advocates, and my colleagues to dream big, turn those dreams into reality, and support self-advocates to live their best lives.

### What do you want our DSG families to know?

Through my personal life with my dad, I have experienced the challenges of navigating the complex world that is tied to having a disability. What ultimately fuels my passion is the goal of trying to make those complexities easier. I am quite familiar with the feeling of not knowing “what I don’t know.” What I now know and after coming to DSG, I have wished that there was a DSG equivalence to my dad’s disability—adding to our “village” of supports.

### Anything else you would like to add?

I am beyond grateful and as much as it is my aim to teach, I learn from DSG’s families and self-advocates as much as you learn from me. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your lives!

### Teens (ages, 12 - 17)

- Register for June 3, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 3, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 4, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 4, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 10, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 10, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 11, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 11, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 17, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 17, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 18, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 18, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm

### Teens - continued (ages, 12 - 17)

- Register for June 24, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 24, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for June 25, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for June 25, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm

### Adults (ages, 18 - 21+)

- Register for June 2, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for June 9, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for June 16, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for June 23, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for June 30, Zoom 7-8 pm

### Central Missouri (Teens & Adults)

- Register for June 2, Zoom 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Register for June 9, Zoom 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Register for June 16, Zoom 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Register for June 23, Zoom 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Register for June 30, Zoom 4:30 - 5:30 pm

**VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING:**  
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE) DAY PROGRAM

Online: **TOMORROW, June 2, 7 – 8:15 PM**

**Register>>**

# On the Horizon

## Mission Moment

While adjusting to homeschooling due to COVID-19, one of our families requested support teaching money skills to her teenage son, Matthew. This is a goal that both school and Pathways have been supporting.

One idea that I suggested was to create a chore system to not only work on money skills, but also to help with independence related to household chores. This would also contribute to his vocational development (e.g., understanding the concept of getting paid, following a list of duties).



Matthew's Mom, Laura, ran with the idea and created her own chore chart with payments assigned to each for Mathew to use as a visual guide!

Laura shared: "So far, our routine has been to get paid as each chore is completed, then bag the coins at the end of the day and put them with the next day's schoolwork. During math time, we sort the coins; put them in order; then either count them or trade them in for different coins first."

"He then records the total on his ledger and adds up the total. He's very excited that he can buy something with the money some day," added Laura. "This is THE BEST activity and one blessing to come out of our pandemic time!"



~Marie Leathers, MOT, OTR/L, RBT, Occupational Therapist