



Center for Developmentally Disabled

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[www.cddkc.org](http://www.cddkc.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Center for Developmentally Disabled Receives \$100,000 Donation towards Future Enrichment Center**

**Kansas City, MO (DATE):** Center for Developmentally Disabled (CDD) in Kansas City announced this week that it has received a lead gift of \$100,000 towards a \$1 million capital campaign goal. The \$100,000 lead gift was made by capital campaign committee member David Earls, whose son has lived at CDD's Lafayette Manor location for over a year. "CDD is a pretty remarkable organization," said Earls. "I am enormously pleased with the care my son is receiving. The level of care is better than I could give to him on my own as a single parent."

The charitable organization publically announced its capital campaign at a luncheon event Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> on the site of its future offices. The building, located directly across from the Truman Sports complex, formerly housed ITT Technical Institute. The luncheon featured a panel of speakers, including Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II and Mrs. Dianne Cleaver who are Honorary Chairpersons of the capital campaign.

The campaign aims to raise \$1 million to grow CDD's impact in the Kansas City area by creating a new Enrichment Center that will provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities a place to learn and practice daily skills. The center will feature a digital enrichment room, creative arts studio, employment simulation lab, and a social gathering space. The campaign will also fund the renovation of the building that will house 40+ administrative and program employees.

In 2016, CDD provided housing, life skills development, and life enrichment programming to 185 people, making it the largest provider of these kinds of services in Jackson County.

"My closest friend for the last four decades has a developmentally disabled young son," said Congressman Cleaver as he addressed the attendees of the August 24<sup>th</sup> luncheon. "I know the constant struggles they've gone through. Their constant thought is 'When we leave, who is going to take care of him?' Fortunately, his sister committed the rest of her life to take care of him. But not everybody is going to have that experience. So that's why we need you."



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1: Congressman Emanuel Cleaver and Mrs. Dianne Cleaver with Devero

The capital campaign has raised \$121,000 so far. “We are so grateful to those in our community who have already stepped up to show support,” said Sarah Mudd, President/CEO of CDD. “The generosity has been incredible. The commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff makes it possible to truly enrich the lives of the people we serve.”

Karrie Duke, chair of CDD’s Board of Directors and capital campaign chair, asked for the community’s support to reach the remaining \$879,000 needed to fully fund

the project. “For 25 years I have been mother to an engaging, creative, and bright young man who happens to have a developmental disability,” Duke said. “As a mother and a member of the Kansas City community, I am asking for your support in helping CDD achieve its fullest potential. Your financial contribution will help transform a building; but, more importantly, it will help transform the lives of fellow members of our community.”

The Capital Campaign Kickoff Luncheon was staged in the space where the future Enrichment Center will be located. The theme was “Developing a Brighter Tomorrow.” Among the guests were two individuals with developmental disabilities who receive services from CDD, Steven Devero and Liz Ashley. The event closed with a presentation by Devero, in which he personally gave each person in attendance a Coca Cola with an attached “Warm Fuzzy”, handmade puffballs with silly eyes that are meant to lift spirits when someone is feeling down.



2: Each attendee of the August 24th luncheon received a “Warm Fuzzy” to take home

Center for Developmentally Disabled is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that provides housing, residential care, health monitoring services, transportation, and life enrichment services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Kansas City area. Since 1942 its mission has been to support people with disabilities in achieving their fullest potential.

To learn more or make a donation to the capital campaign, contact Sarah Mudd at (816) 531-0045 or [smudd@cddkc.org](mailto:smudd@cddkc.org).