

A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair, smiling broadly. The child is wearing blue earbuds with a thin orange wire. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with green and blue tones. In the top left corner, there are three vertical lines in purple, green, and orange.

EXCEEDING
EXPECTATIONS

HEARTSPRING

DIALOGUE

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

When I think of Heartspring, I think of *light*. This light—in the guise of opportunities for employment or education, feelings of accomplishment in therapy and even hope for a brighter future—shines on many families in such a unique way.

My own family has been touched by this light. Our experience began years ago when one of my twin daughters was diagnosed with *auditory dyslexia*, which causes difficulties with distinguishing sounds, among other things. Like many parents in this situation, I immediately began searching for the services and guidance she would need to be the most successful. While she thrived in speech therapy, we noticed she was still struggling in school. The reason was evident; my daughter's teacher didn't know the protocol to best address her diagnosis. Something as simple as writing homework assignments on the board rather than calling them out, made a world of difference for her. There just wasn't a plan in place.

With the help and advice of therapists from Heartspring, we were able to implement a plan for the school and increase education for her needs among the professionals working with my daughter. Through my experience, the importance of awareness and education became clear. How many other children face barriers? It is our duty as parents and community members to create opportunities and learn how to make those appropriate adjustments to better serve children of all special needs.

It's remarkable what can happen when someone takes that education and turns it into something with tremendous impact. We have seen it in our international partnerships, specifically with autism-related services, where a mother, who has learned imperative skills from professionals at Heartspring, creates her own school, shares her knowledge and continues to build a greater awareness and advocacy never before seen in her country. Additionally, the recent outpouring of interest and willingness of our community to fill several positions on the Board of Trustees demonstrates the influence of this organization on a local level.

I'm continually impressed by the successes Heartspring has experienced. As we move forward, my goal for this organization is to be well-positioned for the future, and continue to be innovative and dedicated to providing the best care to children of all abilities.

Laurie Labarca

Chairman of the Heartspring Board of Trustees
Administrator - Hospital Operations
Via Christi Hospitals Wichita, Inc.



◀ Members of the Heartspring Board of Trustees at the 2013 Lights on the Lake launch party.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our Heartspring supporters,

Throughout the past year, members of the Heartspring organization have worked diligently to continue our reputation as one of the most cutting-edge facilities of its kind. Our ever-expanding data collection system has now made its way into our Pediatric Services wing, as well as into the hands of professionals in our community. Notably, graduate students at the Wichita State University Evelyn Hundren Cassat Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic are currently testing an external version of our innovative application. Through this partnership, we are able to harness more feedback for greater improvements. We hope to continue this expansion of our technologies to benefit other organizations that share our mission for children with special needs.

Heartspring's technology initiative continues to push the limits, growing further than we could have ever imagined. We recently acquired two robots—which could prove to be a key tool in teaching children with autism about human interaction. Known as NAO Humanoids, the robots are fully programmable; they can recognize objects and faces, speak, play games, dance and other interactive features. We are currently in the process of testing this new technology with our outpatient services and plan to introduce them into our school program. While these robots have garnered recognition from news outlets both nationally and internationally for their capabilities, our hope is that they will have a more profound effect on providing children with autism a better opportunity to learn and translate social interaction.

With the growing number of autism diagnoses, Heartspring continues to fortify the push for more programs suited to fulfill the need for effective programming in all departments. As an organization with a foundation built upon proven and evidence-based practices, Heartspring continues to emphasize the importance of staff training and education in our school. In September, every direct care professional received extensive training on structured teaching and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) methodologies. ABA is the application of the science of human behavior and involves systematically applying interventions based upon the principles of learning to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree. It demonstrates that the interventions employed are responsible for the improvement in behavior. This set of principles and procedures are among the few interventions that have been demonstrated to be effective for addressing the challenges for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. While we concentrate on this research-driven approach in our school, we are also implementing more programs for ABA within Heartspring Pediatric Services that are available to our community.

Encouraging awareness has also played a significant role in our organization's growth. Heartspring's special events remain one of the greatest tools to connecting with the Wichita and surrounding communities. The rise in support that began last April with the 2013 Autism CARE Walk has been unprecedented, and we have continued that success well into the 2014 fiscal year. We saw appreciable increases in participation and fundraising at PedalFest 2013 and a renewed excitement at our most recent Lights on the Lake. We cannot thank the community, our sponsors and staff enough for their immeasurable dedication toward our mission. It's because of you that this success and growth can remain an invaluable tool for families and children impacted by special needs.



Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Singleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gary W. Singleton, Ph.D., President & CEO

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT



Stephen Perry
Director of Educational Services

The Heartspring School has spent the past year continuing to strive for excellence and better our services.

The Student Employment Training Program has successfully found both on- and off-campus job training opportunities for approximately 80 percent of qualified students. We pride ourselves on working diligently to find the most appropriate environment to encourage success for each individual. Employment Training Coordinator John Santonil, classroom teachers and paraeducators are actively working to help prepare an additional nine students for this unique and beneficial program by the end of the school year.

We are also excited to congratulate one of our very own classroom teachers, Jennifer Daugherty, as one of *Exceptional Parent Magazine's* Exceptional Educators of the Year. This nationally-recognized award is an appropriate recognition of the dedication, commitment, creativity and excellence of the individualized educational programming that Jennifer offers to her students.

Heartspring's focus is always on providing the utmost progressive and accurate services to our students. In recent months, we provided a school-wide comprehensive training in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and structured teaching to both educational and residential staffs. Implementing strict ABA methodologies in all environments assures that only evidence-based or emerging practices will be applied to help assist in student programming and Individualized Education Program (IEP) development. Additional trainings will also be provided in the future, a key to ensuring best practices in our program.

Thank you to all of our parents for entrusting us with the care of their sons and daughters. It's truly an honor to be able to provide the best services for their success. I would also like to thank the community and local businesses for opening up your doors to allow our students the priceless opportunities to learn to thrive in the real world. Lastly, I would like to thank all of the Heartspring staff members for their steadfast dedication to providing the best support to our students, guiding them to an independent life.

≡ SWINGING INTO ACTION

Keeping students healthy and active is one of Heartspring's most celebrated goals. Through the Special Olympics and other organizations, Heartspring students are able to participate in sports such as softball, bowling, swimming, basketball and football.



⤴ KANSAS STATE FAIR

One of Heartspring's favorite annual field trips is experiencing the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kansas. All of the classrooms get the chance to enjoy fair food and carnival rides.



^ HOLIDAY CHEER

Every year, Heartspring students have the opportunity to participate in the holiday program, making it one of the most special events of the year. This year's theme was "Sounds of the Holidays," which included acts with students playing bells, drums and other instruments, as well as performances from Heartspring's choir, the Choral Sensations, and individual solos to holiday songs.



^ SKATING TOGETHER

Heartspring students had the opportunity to participate in a Skate Day at Carousel Skate Center in mid-November. While some students needed assistance, many Heartspring students glided their way around the rink with ease.

DEDICATED TO SUCCESS

It's been an active and rewarding year for Heartspring's residential services. We are proud of the hard work and achievements our students have made, and are grateful for the dedication of our home coordinators, home coordinator assistants and paraeducators who spend countless hours working with the students to achieve their goals.



Keith Robinson
Director of Residential Services

While many aspects of our residential program are consistent with what is taught in the classroom, our focus is shifted toward daily living skills, leisure skills and community involvement. Our students often go grocery shopping, make trips to the movie theater, and cheer on local sports teams, like the Wichita Wingnuts baseball team and Wichita Thunder hockey team. They also have the opportunity to explore their creativity at Paint the Towne, visit their favorite animals at the Sedgwick County Zoo and look at gorgeous scenery at Botanica Gardens. We strive to be an active part of the Wichita community, and we cannot thank the community enough for the endless support of our students and Heartspring's mission.

This year, several students successfully transitioned from Heartspring to return to their families or progress to adult programs in their home states. One of the best things about working at Heartspring are the relationships we are able to form with so many individuals and their families. While we celebrate their tremendous achievements, we also find these transitions bittersweet. Yet, the reward of witnessing and having a part in these defining moments is truly priceless.

Finally, I want to thank all of the families for allowing us to work with your children and to be a part of your lives. We look forward to the challenges and the triumphs of the upcoming year.

BEYOND OUR WALLS



53 STUDENTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED



AUTISM
MOST COMMON DIAGNOSIS



17 STUDENTS
FROM KANSAS



16 YEARS OLD
AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS

STUDENT FACTS



(Above) Brandon had the opportunity to visit staff members that used to work with him during his time at Heartspring. (Pictured) Workshop Coordinator Cheryl O'Brien and Lead Paraeducator Lisa Jones.



LIFE AFTER HEARTSPRING

Former Heartspring School student, Brandon, returned for a visit ten years after his transition. Brandon started the school program in 1996. His parents cried as they dropped him off, and he responded with "Don't worry, it's a good thing."

And a good thing it was. During his time at Heartspring, Brandon was the first student to transition into a local high school. He eventually became a full-time student at North High School, where he received his high school diploma. Brandon is also a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities and often does speaking engagements on behalf of the Springfield ARC (SPARC). He recently spoke in front of 365 people at a campaign kick-off event.

Today, Brandon lives in Illinois in a group home in the community. He started working at the Illinois Department of Transportation in what was originally an unpaid training position. However, he was recently added to the payroll! Brandon is also a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities and often does speaking engagements on behalf of the Springfield ARC (SPARC). He recently spoke in front of 365 people at a campaign kick-off event.

(Above) Brandon stands next to an art piece created in 1997 by the Heartspring students. Each student made a self-portrait out of clay. Brandon mimics his clay figure as he raises his hand.

NEW DISCOVERIES

Each year, Heartspring hosts a delegation from China through a partnership with the Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism. The program provides training and resources to individuals from all around China, many of whom are parents of children with autism and/or founders of their local organizations for autism-related services. Visiting the school allows them to see Heartspring's evidence-based practices in action—providing a true learning experience they can take back to their home organizations.



(Top) Visitors from China observe a classroom's small group activity. (Above) Heartspring Music Teacher Verlene Warner demonstrates how to use some of the instruments available in her classroom.

GOING THE DISTANCE



Each year at Heartspring, new triumphs are achieved, new relationships are built, new families and students are helped, and new hopes are realized.

This past year, through the World Reach program, Heartspring has directly impacted and provided trainings to professionals from programs in Bermuda, China, India, Nigeria and Uganda. Some of these professionals came to the Heartspring campus, while others received trainings in their home country.

Our organization's reputation has also flourished. Thanks to our ongoing relationship with our sister school program the Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism in Beijing, China and other continued partnerships, Heartspring's services and successes are being shared across the globe, increasing interest in our international trainings.

In February 2013, a special education professor from The National Taitung University in Taiwan made a short visit to our campus after hearing about us from a friend who attends the University of Kansas and volunteered as a translator for the Chinese Delegation in 2012. This professor was so impressed with Heartspring that she plans to bring six-to-eight students and a colleague from The National Taitung University to Heartspring for hands-on training and practical experience in July 2014. This trip will be partially funded by the Taiwan Ministry of Education.

The extent of how far Heartspring's services can reach continues to amaze me. Every day, Heartspring's mission touches the lives of children with special needs and it's an honor to be a part of this legacy.



Kristina Baker
Director of Admissions & Outreach

MAKING ROOM FOR GROWTH



Kimberly Becker
Director of Pediatric Services

The last fiscal year has been one of change and growth for Pediatric Services. We have added therapists to all service areas and increased the number of children we serve. We also awarded \$159,649 in financial assistance to 195 families to help alleviate some of the costs of therapies. We've worked incessantly to expand in the area of applied behavior analysis by adding a board certified behavior analyst and two assistant behavior analysts to better serve the high demand for this service.

We are driven to offer the best assistance to children and families in all aspects by providing resources and training throughout the year. Parent Information and Training workshops equip families and professionals with valuable information on a variety of subjects related to teaching and working with children who have special needs. These sessions are free and available to the public on a monthly basis. Additionally, the pediatric services professional staff members have also visited other organizations, schools, church groups and university classes to present on a wide-range of topics.

Completion of the Heartspring Treehouse and Therapeutic Play Area has increased our ability to serve children in a more natural setting. Therapists are able to teach children and families how to generalize skills learned in a more natural outdoor environment. Our next goal is to certify this space as an "outdoor classroom."

As we move forward, our goal for the next year is to expand telemedicine training, services and clinics for families in remote areas, or areas in which services are unavailable. We are excited to continue to provide intensive individual services to a variety of children from Kansas and beyond.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2013,

\$159,649

IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
H • E • L • P • E • D



FAMILIES

AAC LIBRARY CHALLENGE GRANT

the wichita community foundation
victor murdock fund



⚡ CHALLENGE CONQUERED

Donors rose to the challenge to contribute \$2,200 to qualify for a matching grant from the Wichita Community Foundation and the Victor Murdock Fund. A total of \$4,400 was donated to Heartspring Pediatric Services AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) Library, which provides communication devices that enhance or supplement a child's natural speech. Thank you to the overwhelming support provided by our generous donors and the Wichita community.

≡ LUNCH PREPARATION

While participating in their weekly social group, Will (pictured below) had the opportunity to practice eating lunch in the school cafeteria in preparation for kindergarten. As typically picky eaters, the kids in the group spent their lunch time learning how to tolerate smells, foods and new tastes. They tasted each food and rated it on a color-coordinated number scale, ranging from 0 (did not like it) to 5 (loved it).



⋈ MILITARY FAMILIES

Consistent therapies are important to every child diagnosed with autism. Heartspring Pediatric Services currently provides various therapies, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to 100 military families. ABA is an intensive form of therapy which provides a more consistent and individualized approach than traditional therapies.

2012 RESULTS
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

//// //// //// //// //// //// //// //// //// //// //// ////
\$20,603



pedalfest
heartspring pediatric services

Thank you to all of our participants, sponsors, donors and volunteers! PedalFest took place on August 26, 2012. All funds raised from this event benefit children and families receiving therapies through the Heartspring Pediatric Services Financial Assistance Fund.



2012 LIGHTS ON THE LAKE



THANKS TO YOU,
\$74,381

from  LIGHTS ON THE LAKE will
BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

All funds raised from Lights on the Lake will contribute to the Heartspring Pediatric Services Financial Assistance Fund, which helps local families afford valuable therapies.

"IT IS EXCITING &
MEANINGFUL TO
HAVE OTHERS
CELEBRATE JUDAH'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
WITH OUR FAMILY
ON A DAILY BASIS."

KATHERINE, JUDAH'S MOM

(Top) Judah laughs as the toy in his hand makes cow noises in occupational therapy.

(Above) Judah celebrates as he successfully completes a task during speech therapy.

MAKING STRIDES

"One...two...three." Judah smiles as he carefully counts his steps through his physical therapy task. He giggles incessantly as he reaches the end, where he drops a plastic ball into a slot and watches it swirl down a slide as his reward. After watching the ease it took for him to take those steps, it's hard to believe that six months ago, he couldn't walk on his own.

"A parent always remembers their child's first steps, and we will never forget Judah's. We were so proud of him, but no one was as proud as he was of himself," Katherine, Judah's mom, said.

These defining moments haven't always come easy. At birth, Judah was diagnosed with severe low muscle tone and mild to moderate hearing loss. His parents quickly faced the reality that he would not meet the milestones many infants and toddlers do. They visited with specialists and physicians to find what services would best suit his needs. Then, shortly after turning three years old, Judah was diagnosed with autism.

That's when Heartspring came into the picture. It was clear that Judah required the structured and consistent services that Heartspring Pediatric Services could offer. He now attends physical, occupational and speech therapies regularly, as well as receives Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Since beginning therapy at Heartspring, Judah has learned to communicate and verbalize his needs, a major stepping stone for his family.

"Judah has matured and gained positive skills necessary to improve his quality of life," Katherine said. "He continues to learn and experience new things daily. He is happy, makes eye contact and is more comfortable around larger groups of people."

One of the most significant changes his family has experienced is their ability to venture out into the community more frequently.

STRIDES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 >>



(Above) Judah laughs as Occupational Therapist Mimi French blows bubbles toward him.



(Left) Judah plays catch as part of his physical therapy schedule with Physical Therapist Cheryl Jabara.

EMBRACING a community

✓ AUTISM AWARENESS

The 6th Annual Autism CARE Walk took place in Old Town Square in downtown Wichita, Kansas. Approximately 2,000 people gathered to promote awareness for autism spectrum disorders, the largest attendance in the history of the event.



WHO'S YOUR
1 IN 88?
autismcarewalk.org



✓ EXCEPTIONAL ADVOCACY

After finding out that they were this year's Autism Ambassadors, Charlie and Katie wrote an inspirational speech to share with their classmates, peers and teachers. Their focus is on the importance of autism awareness and seeing an individual for their unique qualities and talents. For Charlie and Katie, advocacy is one of the greatest tools we can use to make a difference in the lives of the many individuals impacted by autism spectrum disorders.

The 2013 Autism CARE Walk theme, "Who's Your 1 in 88?" isn't about highlighting the individual, it's about the families, friends and peers who can advocate on their behalf. Awareness is a community effort and it's important to remember that we can all make a difference by educating ourselves and others about autism.

2013 AUTISM
CARE WALK

THANK YOU

to the **2,424** participants,

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

for raising more than

\$68,000

for autism awareness

✓ COMMUNITY HEROES

For the first time, the Autism CARE Walk was moved to a central location in Wichita. The Wichita Police Department and other members of the community helped navigate the crowd through the walk route, with some participants stopping to say “hi.”



(Above) Top fundraising team, Cessna, stands proudly with their flag. The group raised nearly \$10,000 for the Autism CARE Walk and was one of the largest teams for the event.

THE CORE OF CARE



Connie Erbert
Director of CARE & Autism Outreach

The Community of Autism Resources and Education (CARE) Program staff continues to provide programs, outreach training and consultations to the Wichita and surrounding communities. We also continue to develop and disseminate information focused on building the capacity of families, local communities, organizations, agencies and businesses to support individuals across the autism spectrum in typical school, home, work and community settings. In short, the CARE program aims to embrace the community with resources that ultimately

enhance the lives of those impacted by an autism spectrum disorder. Rather than promote one method or intervention, the CARE program endeavors to address the unique and specific needs of the individual by providing resources, programs and training on a variety of evidence-based strategies and methods. The CARE program’s mission is based on three core components:

AWARENESS: A fundamental understanding of autism as expressed by individuals with autism.

ADVOCACY: The facilitation of advocacy on the part of parents, guardians, family members and caregivers.

INTERVENTION: To nurture and develop appropriate, evidence-based support systems that allow for individuals with autism to successfully participate in all public and personal social interactions to the greatest extent possible.

Finally, the CARE program delivers services to individuals that often, “fall through the cracks” of the educational system. These are individuals with a diagnosis of autism, but do not qualify for special education services. They might be able to achieve academically, however, they struggle with areas such as social skills, emotional regulation, organizational skills and the ability to advocate for themselves and their needs. For this population of individuals, the CARE program provides individualized supports to best prepare them for the transition from high school to higher education, independent living, employment and interpersonal relationships.

THE NUMBERS.



David Dorf, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

The financial reports of the 2013 fiscal year are a reflection of the progress and solidity of Heartspring's programs and community support. While Heartspring's school census remained steady throughout the year, pediatric services continued to grow, specifically in terms of autism related services.

In the past fiscal year, we were fortunate enough to see a substantial improvement in our investment income. The market value of agency

investments, endowment and foundation funds contributed to nearly \$1 million of the overall increase in revenue. Additionally, our focus remained dedicated to our clients and students, as more than 90 percent of our expenditures were related to program services.

Our financial position as of June 30, 2013 remains sound and secure. Heartspring continues to be debt-free, giving testimony to

the demand for resources and services for individuals with special needs. As we move forward, our plans to maintain those imperative services remain unwavering.

We are truly grateful for the financial support of our community. Your commitment to our mission allows us to provide services at the highest quality to our deserving clients.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Net fee income** increased 1.8 percent while **program expenses** increased by 2.2 percent.
- **Management, general and fundraising expenses** comprised only 8.4 percent of agency expenses.
- **Program** expenses accounted for more than 90 percent of overall expenditures.
- **Total assets and liabilities** demonstrated a nearly 10 percent decrease.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY * ENDING ON JUNE 30

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

	2013	2012
Gross Fees	\$17,006,088	\$16,598,255
Contractual Adjustments / Financial Assistance	(3,146,041)	(\$2,981,637)

NET FEES **\$13,860,047** **\$13,616,618**

Contributions	\$767,954	\$808,522
Legacies and Bequests	\$211,064	\$155,575
Investment Return / Change in Market Value	\$1,168,854	(\$7,127)
Other	\$79,365	\$92,218

TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT **\$16,087,284** **\$14,665,806**

EXPENSES

School	\$11,812,116	\$11,686,210
Pediatric Services	\$2,029,352	\$1,855,346

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR PROGRAM SERVICES **\$13,841,468** **\$13,541,556**

Management & General	\$857,366	\$840,710
Fundraising	\$406,216	\$409,212

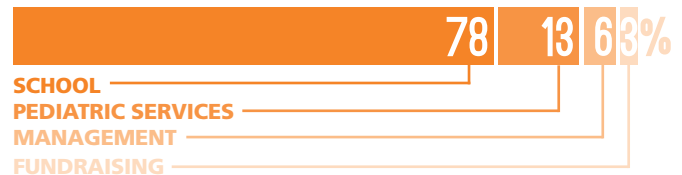
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$15,105,050** **\$14,791,478**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$982,234** **(\$125,672)**

NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$30,531,170** **\$30,656,842**

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR **\$31,513,404** **\$30,531,170**

expenses

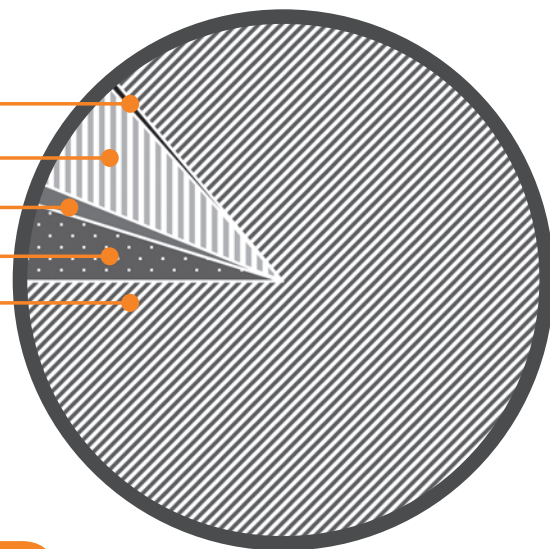


(Below) Lewis the Duck from Homewood Suites in Wichita visits the students at Heartspring. Lewis brought books to share with the classrooms. Other community visitors have included the Wichita Thunder hockey team mascot, Thunder Dog and members of the United States Air Force.



- OTHER • 0.5%
- INVESTMENT RETURN • 7.3%
- LEGACIES & BEQUESTS • 1.3%
- CONTRIBUTIONS • 4.8%
- NET FEES • 86.1%

REVENUE



BALANCE SHEET * CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT JUNE 30

ASSETS

	2013	2012
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$668,229	\$311,027
Accounts Receivable (Net).....	\$2,014,243	\$2,104,660
Prepaid Expenses and Other.....	\$288,927	\$139,891
Investments.....	\$13,164,443	\$13,095,738
Contributions Receivable.....	\$20,944	\$35,000
Interest in Assets held by Wichita Community Foundation.....	\$4,699,146	\$4,330,917
Land, Building, Equipment.....	\$11,654,506	\$11,611,024
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$32,510,438	\$31,628,257

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable.....	\$125,365	\$255,619
Accrued Compensated Absences.....	\$453,670	\$421,968
Other Accrued Expenses.....	\$407,364	\$407,017
Deposits and Advances.....	\$10,635	\$12,483
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$997,034	\$1,097,087

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted.....	\$27,197,773	\$26,476,746
Temporarily Restricted.....	\$1,637,010	\$1,375,803
Permanently Restricted.....	\$2,678,621	\$2,678,621
TOTAL NET ASSETS.....	\$31,513,404	\$30,531,170

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS..... \$32,510,438 \$31,628,257



GROUP EFFORT

The women of Wichita State University's Gamma Phi Beta continued their support of Heartspring and its programs. Their signature "Grilled Cheese with GPhiB" event raised more than \$4,500 in November 2012, and most recently raised more than \$5,400 this past November. Thank you Gamma Phi Beta for your ongoing support. The funds raised from this event will benefit families and individuals impacted by autism spectrum disorders.

COMING HOME



Gretchen DiGiovanni
Director of Development

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the new Director of Development for Heartspring. Becoming a part of the Heartspring team feels like coming home. Many Heartspring staff members have been a part of our “village”—the one that helps my husband and I advocate for a son with special needs and provides support and interventions for the entire family. My fundraising experience and education, along with a personal passion for the Heartspring mission, put me on a natural path to this point. I could not have asked for a better job.

I now get to witness miracles that our donors make happen every day—from a toddler who demonstrates imitation skills for the first time while receiving ABA therapy in Pediatric Services, to a parent from China gaining confidence when he receives the tools and training to make a difference for his child. I smile when I hear about The CARE Program and two of its individuals who were made honorary captains at a varsity football game to promote autism awareness for both schools. It’s amazing to be able to speak to a former student of the Heartspring school who returned for a visit after graduating ten years ago. After once requiring full-time supervision, he now travels independently on an airplane, lives on his own and has a job. All of these success stories happen because of partners like you.

After 80 years, Heartspring and its supporters are still committed to making a real difference in the lives of children with special needs by putting them on a path toward greater independence.

To continue to deliver promising outcomes for those we serve, we must be able to offer research-based therapies and obtain accessible, innovative technology that helps children engage and become active learners. We must also promote continuous improvement to develop and train Heartspring staff, and provide outreach and financial assistance to families who are navigating a complex special education and strained health care system.

Your support remains essential to the mission of Heartspring. Please enjoy reading about the year’s successes and consider what your gift can do – and celebrate what your gifts have already accomplished.

✓ DREAM REALIZED

The Heartspring Treehouse & Therapeutic Play Area ribbon-cutting event was held in August 2013. The completion of this project came with the help of many members of the community. Greg Gough, Christian, and Judy Ahrens (pictured below) cut the ribbon at the event. Greg Gough, husband of the late Diane Gough, a long-time speech therapist at Heartspring, also performed the ribbon cutting for the Diane Gough Memorial Garden next to the treehouse. Christian, a child who receives services at Heartspring, took it upon himself to start his very own “bucket project,” collecting donations from neighbors, family and friends to help make the treehouse a reality. Judy Ahrens, president of the Kansas State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) sorority represented the lead donor organization for this project.



SPECIAL recognition

VELMA WALLACE FUND

Many children will benefit from nearly \$200,000 left to Heartspring by the late philanthropist Velma Wallace. “The First Lady of Cessna,” who died in July of 2012 at the age of 95, carried on after the 1989 death of her husband, longtime Cessna Aircraft executive Dwane Wallace, by donating her time and treasure to seemingly countless efforts relating to the arts, culture, children, education and more. Wichita and Heartspring will long reap the rewards of her gifts that have meant so much to so many.

donor SPOTLIGHT

SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS



⤴ ENDURING PARTNERSHIP

Every year, employees at Spirit AeroSystems pull together to bring holiday cheer to the Heartspring School students. Through the Adopt-a-Classroom program, volunteers from Spirit fulfill each classroom's wish list and provide presents to each individual student. This ongoing partnership began in 2006 and goes far beyond the holiday season. In recent years, Spirit has become one of Heartspring's largest corporate contributors. Other employee involvement opportunities include Community Spirit Days, where groups of volunteers assist in campus duties, such as washing windows among other needs, and participating in Heartspring special events. Spirit AeroSystems has also been a major sponsor for Lights on the Lake since 2010 and has provided multiple Good Neighbor Fund grants to Heartspring, including a recent \$50,000 grant to Heartspring Pediatric Services. We would like to thank Spirit AeroSystems and its generous employees for the continued support to Heartspring and its mission to helping children with special needs grow and learn on a path to a more independent life.

(Above) Volunteers from Spirit AeroSystems after delivering gifts to the Heartspring students in December 2013.

⤵ REMEMBERING HEARTSPRING

The number of contributions by legacies and bequests rose from \$155,575 in fiscal year 2012 to \$211,064 in fiscal year 2013. Thank you to the individuals and families that have included Heartspring in your estate plans. We are honored and grateful for the support of children with special needs.

LEGACIES &
BEQUESTS

✔ STRIDES (FROM PAGE 11)

"Before [Heartspring], we wouldn't do the things that other families do so often, such as going out to eat, for fear that Judah would have a 'meltdown' due to over stimulation, or not being able to tell us what he wanted," Katherine said.

Unable to communicate his needs, Judah's frustration would often hit a boiling point.

"Don't get me wrong, a lot of kids without special needs have meltdowns and throw temper tantrums in public..." Katherine said, "Society may see those things as bad parenting [instead of understanding the circumstances]; that is why it is so important to educate and raise awareness. Because of Judah's major accomplishments, we are able to do more things as a family knowing that Judah will be able to participate and enjoy it."

Judah's success has also flourished at school. Judah attended an early childhood class three weeks before the school year ended. His parents met with teachers to set up an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to plan his goals for the summer.

Three months later, the IEP needed to be updated—Judah was already exceeding the goals they had set.

"Judah's teachers and therapists were so pleased to see Judah walking and talking and communicating," said Katherine, "It is exciting and meaningful to have others celebrate Judah's accomplishments with our family on a daily basis."

As Judah continues his journey, one thing is for sure—he has his family cheering him on.

"As parents, we all want the best for our children and that doesn't change when you have a child with autism. We want Judah to have the best quality of life possible and Heartspring has helped us provide that. Together with Heartspring, we will continue to push Judah to excel and reach high expectations."

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Music Teacher and Vocational Trainer Verlene Warner has been a devoted member of the Heartspring team for more than 30 years. Verlene was recently recognized as the 2013 Distinguished Achievement Award Winner by the Kansas State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority.



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Heartspring Teacher Jennifer Daugherty was honored as one of *Exceptional Parent Magazine's* Exceptional Educators of the Year and was featured in the September issue. Jennifer exemplifies the passion and drive of our educators and their dedication to the Heartspring mission.



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Each year, Oral Health Kansas recognizes outstanding service providers, volunteers, advocates and policy makers who contribute to improving the fabric of the state's oral health system. The Heartspring School was awarded 2013 Outstanding Organization of the Year for Dental Excellence by Oral Health Kansas.



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Wichita's *Splurge!* Magazine recently selected local nonprofits to collectively represent the 2013 "Person of the Year" in its December issue. Heartspring is honored to be highlighted among other successful nonprofits in our area.



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