
2023

ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

The Central Florida Dreamplex is a center and a community created specifically for individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Our programs include traditional and recreational therapies, adaptive sports, early learner education, out of school and adult respite care, vocational rehabilitation, and group fitness classes for the whole family.

We strive to maintain a unique and effective environment to address individual members holistically, allow them to build the skills required to reach their full potential, and prepare them to be participants in their natural environment. Having a space designed specifically for those with disabilities contributes to development of self- perception, creates a sense of group identity, and promotes the ability to alter perception of disability.

DAILY

Therapy Services
 Therapeutic School
 The Friendship Place
 After School Care

WEEKLY

Recreational Therapy &
 Group Fitness
 Vocational Sewing
 Adaptive Sports

SEASONAL

Sport Clinics (Monthly)
 Adaptive Swim Safety
 Lessons
 School Break Camps
 Social Events

YEARLY

Annual Gala
 Illuminate for Inclusion
 Lake Day
 Sport Clinics Awards
 Banquet



OUR VISION

Creating a community that allows all persons, regardless of ability, to achieve their dreams

OUR MISSION

Our faith-based mission drives us to include all individuals, regardless of ability, in sports, recreation, therapy, education, and employment, fostering a community of acceptance and support.

“ACCESSIBLE TO ALL”

"The Dreamplex has helped not only AJ, but our whole family. They have given us the tools and a community to help our son flourish. The love and support the therapists have shown our family is unmatched. The Dreamplex is truly a one of a kind place. It's a liaison between our community and those with extraordinary needs, helping to educate and make the community more accessible to all.



The resources, activities, and fellowship the Dreamplex provides is unlike anywhere else in our area. We cannot thank the staff of the Dreamplex enough for all they do. Their love and compassion goes far beyond just doing their job, they have a passion and true love for their patients and families."

-Jamie Ruley, AJ's mother

OUR PROGRAMS



TRADITIONAL THERAPY

Physical, Occupational, & Speech

DREAMPLEX THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL

A positive learning experience for all children



THE FRIENDSHIP PLACE

Adult care and respite for caregivers



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Adaptive & inclusive opportunities



VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Building independence through valuable skills



SOCIAL EVENTS

Enjoying life and celebrating diversity



OUR LEADERSHIP

2023

Central Florida Dreamplex Foundation

Board Executives

Amanda Bednarek Nethero
Susan Saunders
Mike Markland
Amy Gomes

Board Chair & President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Board Members

Dr. Odett Stanley-Brown
Tracy Stephens
Kristy Calloway
Bruce Haase
Sarah Klosterman

Shawn McNiel
Blake Moore
Lianne Robinson
Marla Smith

“MOTIVATED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE”

"The programs Araseliss (Mimi) is involved in helps her a lot both physically and mentally. She has been very motivated to leave the house and do the exercises. Playing and exercising has helped her to lose weight, from 189 to 150 pounds!"

I am forever grateful for the Dreamplex opening its doors for Mimi. I think that the Dreamplex has been a good idea and is giving parents and children with limitations the opportunity to develop their skills through activities and therapy. These opportunities are something the community needs and I hope the Dreamplex continues to grow."

-Mimi's mother

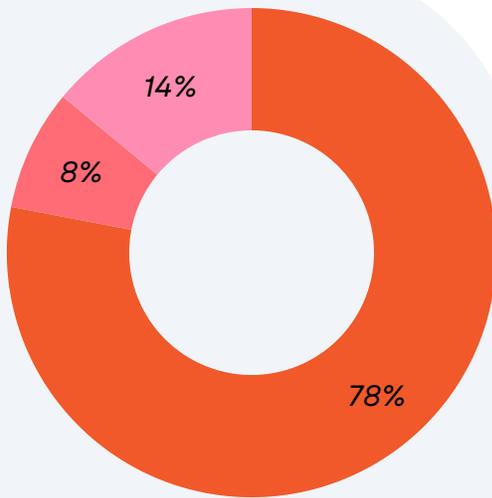


Photo: Mimi showing off her dance skills during Zumba

THE NUMBERS

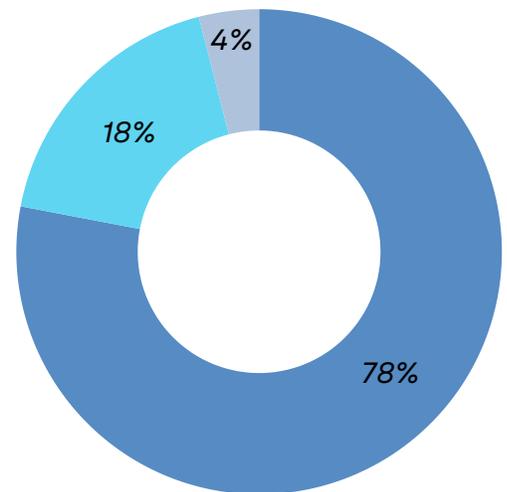
Expenses

- Direct Programs and Services
- Management & General
- Fundraising



Revenues

- Program Income
- Donations & Fundraising
- Grants



FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Jovanni is 13 years old and a longtime member of the Dreamplex family. He started receiving therapy at the Dreamplex at just a few months old. He was recently hospitalized for 5 weeks and his mom never left his side. Our Family Support Ministry became aware of this situation and wanted to bless him and his family once he was able to return home from the hospital. With funds from our Staff Giveback Program, we were able to surprise his family with a \$250 gift card for groceries and other necessities! Jovanni is back in therapy and thriving even better than before!



Photo: Jovanni, his mother, and Morgan, PTA.

OVER
1,200

Extraordinary People Served
at the Central Florida Dreamplex in 2023



859
SERVED

Traditional Therapies
(PT, OT, SLP)

180
SERVED

Recreation, Sports Clinics,
and Fitness Programs

71
SERVED

Adaptive Sports



68
SERVED

Dreamplex Therapeutic
School & DreamCare

57
SERVED

Vocational Sewing
and Friendship Place



A YEAR IN REVIEW



Sports &
Recreation



Community
Connections



Time to
Celebrate

DREAMPLEX GALA

Companies and community members came together for an 80's inspired evening featuring entertainment, dinner, and community. Guests enjoyed a live auction, silent auction, dinner, dancing, and a performance by our Dreamplex Stars Cheerleaders. Over \$56,000 was raised to support the Central Florida Dreamplex.



END OF SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION

Students and families of Dreamplex Therapeutic School celebrated the end of another successful school year with a red-carpet themed ceremony. Each student was recognized with a superlative and light refreshments were enjoyed by all.



PROTECTING & SERVING

The Clermont Police Department created the Adaptive Swim Scholarship to help in reducing the number of drowning or near-drowning incidents. The Central Florida Dreamplex distributed the funds amongst children with autism spectrum disorder in the adaptive swim program. Over 30 children with disabilities participate in the adaptive swim program each year.

CHEERLEADING

Our squad competed their best this year while making incredible memories. Not only did they perform at local venues throughout the Orlando area, but they took 1st place at the Special Olympics Area competition and advanced to State, which took place at ESPN's Wide World of Sports located in Walt Disney World.

END-OF-YEAR CAMPAIGN

Including the \$10,000 match from the Jack Kagan Foundation, over \$36,000 was raised during the Dream Team Campaign. Dreams turned into reality for parents of our clients, like Mason's mom, who stated, "my dream is that all people living with a disability and their families are able to one day have an avenue and a resource with an organization such as the Dreamplex."

TRACK & FIELD

Two of our Central Florida Dreamplex athletes, Mason Berry and Zach Holman, traveled to Birmingham, Alabama and set some personal records for themselves at The Hartford Nationals conducted by Move United. One of the athletes joined the MoveUnited USA team and competed internationally at the World AbilitySport Games in Thailand.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



Sports &
Recreation



Community
Connections



Time to
Celebrate

SUPPORT FOR SOUTH LAKE COUNTY

136 clients with disabilities benefited from the \$20,000 grant from the Community Foundation of South Lake through our recreational, sport, and swim safety programs. This scholarship provided opportunities to families who may not have been able to participate otherwise.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Chamber members attended a Business After Hours event at the Dreamplex Clermont location. Guests learned about all we offer to the South Lake community, took a tour of our facilities, and watched our Dreamplex Stars Cheerleaders perform, all while networking and enjoying food and beverages.

GRAND OPENING

The community and the South Lake Chamber of Commerce joined us to celebrate the grand opening of The Friendship Place in Clermont. Thanks to a very generous and anonymous donor, the Friendship Place is now open for adults with disabilities to meet others, participate in fun activities, and practice life skills while giving respite to caregivers.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Our Art Class decided to start off the giving season by writing notes and pictures for Operation Christmas Child. Their notes were given to Thrive Church Lake Nona and included in shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies, and other gifts to be delivered to children in need around the world.

RECOGNIZING OUR ATHLETES

Sports clinic participants and their families enjoyed dinner and awards to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the athletes during the Sports Clinics Award Banquet. The evening concluded with spirited dancing and photos with friends.

BASKETBALL

Our Orlando Magic Dreamers became an official NWBA (National Wheelchair Basketball Association) Junior Prep team and played their first NWBA game at the Queen City Classic tournament hosted by the Charlotte Rollin' Hornets in North Carolina.



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2023 was another action-packed and amazing year at the Central Florida Dreamplex! In July, we cut the ribbon at the Friendship Place, an adult daytime program at our Clermont location. The Friendship Place is directed by Pedro Rodriguez, and those who know him know that he is the perfect person to lead this effort! The program welcomes Friendship Place clients as well as clients who come with outside companion services agencies to participate in recreational, leisure, and life skills activities each day. We also finalized plans in 2023 to expand the Dreamplex Therapeutic School from K-8 to K-12 in 2024. Led by Shirica Gulledge, who joined us in 2023, the DTS is poised to excel in the years to come!

The Dreamplex also saw its adaptive sports programs take giant steps forward with the addition of track & field, and with our youth wheelchair basketball team participating in its first ever season as part of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)! Our adult sled hockey team completed its first ever

competitive season as part of the Southeast Sled Hockey League, and our power soccer team continued training in its goal to begin competition in 2024.

We also resumed social events in 2023 that were not held during the pandemic, and added two new signature annual events for Dreamplex families. The first was a casual and fun-filled Lake Day that allowed families to enjoy a day of swimming, boating, and tubing (for the more daring!) with thanks to our friend, Sean Kilgus. The second new event was our Dreamplex Awards Ceremony, which celebrated the achievements of our recreational clinic participants. These events will be larger in 2024 to include more families. The Dreamplex community is a special one that we want as many as possible to be a part of, and these events give us opportunities for fellowship, encouragement, and leisure. While I've highlighted some of the newer programs to Dreamplex, we can't overlook the "older" and ongoing programs that take place at the Dreamplex on a daily basis. Our therapy services are the



-Cameron Gomes,
Chief Executive Officer

backbone of the Dreamplex, and we have to thank our site directors, therapy department leads, therapists, and administrative staff for all they do to serve so many individuals and families throughout the week. The same goes for our school teachers, aides, after-school care and camp staff who carry out the Dreamplex mission with great care.

We also recognize and thank our supporters and donors for their contributions in 2023. You are as vital to carrying out our mission as anyone else in the Dreamplex family. Thank you for your ongoing support in turning dreams into realities for children and adults with disabilities throughout Central Florida!

OUR SUPPORTERS

TOP DONORS

**A FRIENDS'
FOUNDATION**



Katy Bailey
Albert & Nelda Banker
Frank & Marla Smith
EcoTech Environmental

Patricia Flood Family
Philanthropic Fund
Benny & Susan McLean
Clermont Police Department

Bonnie Estell
Amy Gomes
Paul & Cynthia Owens
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

Antonio C. Gomes
Billy & Barbara West
Cameron & Sarah Gomes
Dr. Kevin & Jill Cox

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Stephanie Darmoc
Larry & Phyllis Muller
Brad and Tara Banker
Gregory Young
Scott Saunders/ABC
Prosthetics
Believe Pediatric Physical
Therapy
Beverly Bailey in honor
of Susan McLean
Holman House Honey, Inc.
April Tibado
Jeffrey Hosko
Paralyzed Veterans of
America - Central Florida
Ryan and Angel Haumschild
Ray & Renee Phares

Jonathan Torres
Suelen Froes
Bagwell Lumber Company, Inc.
Citizens Bank & Trust
Mike & Carissa Latham
Kurt & Carol Rodriguez
The Carnovali Family
Branden Sprenger
Eric & LouAnn Estell
Susan Saunders
Capo Security, Inc.
Herbert Ley
Panda Express
Charles Hudson
Acacia Vierbicky
Diana Jacome
Thomas Lane

Teresa Wilhite
Eleanor Clark
CarMax Cares Foundation
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Barbara Banker
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Joy Sturtevant
Lisa Quintana
Melissa Young
Dan & Sandra Richardson
Margaret Sokolowski
Elyssa Joyner
Ryann Harkless
Ian Gomes
David Shelton
Helen Lewis

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

TRADITIONAL THERAPY

Physical, Occupational, & Speech

Therapeutic equipment is always needed and appreciated for our clients to reach their fullest potential.

View our Amazon Wish Lists at www.cfdreamplex.com/support

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Adaptive & inclusive opportunities

Adaptive Sports Sponsor
Support one of our competitive adaptive sports teams - wheelchair basketball, power soccer, sled hockey, & more!

"Buddy-Up"
Volunteer to assist at one of our sport clinics - soccer, basketball, flag football, volleyball, & more!

THE FRIENDSHIP PLACE

Adult care and respite for caregivers

Coming Soon!

Visit our on-site cafe for fresh coffee and baked goods, prepared with care by our clients!

DREAMPLEX THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL

A positive learning experience for all children

"Sponsor a Student"
This program supports the education of students with diverse neurological and physical diversities in a school that supports their individual abilities and goals.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Building independence through valuable skills

"Sew a Better Future"
This program gives clients an opportunity to gain valuable skills and empowerment through hands-on sewing training.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Enjoying life and celebrating diversity

Illuminate for Inclusion, Annual Gala, Summer Lake Days, Holiday Celebrations, & More

Volunteers and Donations are needed and appreciated!



Become a Volunteer
volunteer@cfdreamplex.com
www.cfdreamplex.com/volunteer



Become a Sponsor
Contact Jennifer Buchanan, Chief Development Officer
jbuchanan@cfdreamplex.com or 954-778-9177