Strategic Initiatives at Kids On The Move

Every organization needs to regularly reassess why it exists and where it will focus time, energy and money in the future. In 2016 Kids On The Move chose to apply for expansion for our Early Head Start program, strengthen the foundation of our Autism Center in preparation for geographic expansion, and bring on Friday’s Kids Respite as a pillar program – now known as Kids On The Move Respite Care.

Respite means “rest”. Divorce, stress, anxiety, exhaustion – these are all common issues related to caring for a child with special needs. Kids On The Move Respite Care gives parents a chance to decompress for a few hours while professionals and volunteers care for their child. Parents who have benefited from respite care know how critical it is to their emotional and physical health. Bringing Friday’s Kids Respite into the core programs of Kids On The Move will ensure its long term growth. We expect to be serving hundreds and perhaps thousands of parents in the next few years.

So much of what happens at Kids On The Move couldn’t happen without you – our community partners! Volunteers of every age are so critical to the ongoing success here. It could not take place with you.

Thanks for making Kids On The Move a special place for 31 years now. We’ll continue assessing our strategic initiatives with an eye toward focused service to the people who need it desperately. That is, after all, our mission.

Best wishes in the coming year to you and many others who support Kids On The Move!

Scott M. Bean, Chief Executive Officer
In 2016 Kids On The Move provided innovative, high quality, direct services to over 2,658 children challenged by developmental delays, autism and poverty.

Kids On The Move exists to support the development of young children and families in our community. Our major service programs include: Early Intervention, Respite Care, Autism Center, and Early Head Start. In addition, Kids On The Move contributes time and resources to create and sustain community-wide networks of support.

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Community Support Makes A Huge Difference

In 2016 there were 10,622 hours donated by 1,746 community members to Kids On The Move. Some of the volunteer projects included:

- Providing free child care for parent seminars
- Providing respite services
- Maintenance of our grounds
- Cleaning our building
- Helping with office work
- Painting our splash pad, some offices and our curbing
- One-on-one social skills mentoring with children in the childcare
- Making toys, blankets and infant hats
- Helping at our fundraising and community events

Local businesses had a lot of fun and raised money for kids through the annual Corporate Sports Challenge. They also brought groups to help at various events such as our 30th Anniversary Alumni party and the Haunted Half race benefiting Kids On The Move.

Other local businesses got involved on social media, acting as sponsors for Kids On The Move’s Giving Tuesday coloring page campaign. More than 100 people were recorded as participants for the coloring page campaign which resulted in an increased social media following and awareness for Kids On The Move.

Kids On The Move has received support from all sectors of the Utah County community, including governments, businesses, foundations and individuals both young and old. While maintaining our focus on our primary mission, in 2016 we also gave back to the community as follows:

- Friday’s Kids Respite Care was dissolved July 2016 and operations were assumed by Kids On The Move with little to no interruption in the care of the families.
- Noorda Library checked out 1,229 books in 2016 and 241 educational toys.
- Passport to Love met every Thursday and Friday in the fall of 2016 to provide free date nights with the purpose of strengthening marriages.
- Kids On The Move was consulted for the design of the Orem City All-Together Playground and representatives participated at the groundbreaking, construction and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.
- Kids On The Move licensed therapists provide clinical practicum experiences for multiple students from local universities.
- Kids On The Move is a provider of free Stepfamily training through a grant from Utah State University.
- Kids On The Move partnered with Eagle Eyes
- Hosted free tax preparation series (VITA) at Orem and Lehi locations, sponsored through United Way of Utah County
- Hosted United Way Everyday Learners at the Lehi location
Critical Support When It’s Needed Most

Since 85% of brain development occurs before the age of three it is critical to intervene early. The Early Intervention program, funded by our lead agency Baby Watch Early Intervention, provides support and services to families with infants and toddlers, residing within the Alpine School District, who have development delays, disabilities or diagnosed conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Down syndrome and Autism.

During the last fiscal year Kids On The Move Early Intervention had 1,237 new referrals. When we combine the new referrals with the children that were already actively in the Kids On The Move Early Intervention program during the last fiscal year, we served over 2,000 children.

Kids On The Move believes in providing Early Intervention services within the context of families; in the preferred language of the family; and focuses on building parental competence, confidence and enhancing parent-child relationships. This results in optimal outcomes.

Every family and child deserves services based on the best available evidence as well as the wisdom and knowledge of the experts in the field. Services are provided in natural environments and are embedded in the family’s daily routines, and demonstrate respect and sensitivity for all cultures and backgrounds.

We strive to provide our services with the knowledge that all families (with proper supports) have the ability to enhance their child’s learning and development. Well qualified, highly skilled, and well-trained professionals provided in-home therapy and parent training to close the developmental gap for infants and toddlers.
Crew’s Story

My family and I have benefited immensely through Kids On The Move Early Intervention. My son Crew was born with Down syndrome. I feel like Kids On The Move Early Intervention is a program all children in need of a little extra help would benefit from.

Having a child with any type of delay can be so frustrating as a parent. It was nice having a team of professionals who were there to help push and advocate for my child with me and teach me how to better prepare my child for the education system.

The benefit of this program not only encompasses the child, but parent, care giver, and siblings as well. I observed many occasions in my home where an older child observed a therapist working with Crew and then modeled those same strategies with their little brother later in the day during play. Playtime is the perfect foundation for many teaching moments for children of this age group. This program helps to model and teach parents the importance of incorporating concepts of learning through play.

Mackenzie’s Story

Our daughter Mackenzie was first evaluated for the Early Intervention program at Kids On The Move at 14 months old when she was not mobile. She had been diagnosed with Intractable Epilepsy and Chiari Brain Malformation.

Our physical therapist worked tirelessly to help with her low tone and get her walking by 17 months and crawling by 21 months. The Physical Therapist arranged for Mackenzie to have foot braces. Gayleen Bennett, our Speech Language Pathologist helped with eating difficulties and language skills. Our Occupational Therapist helped her with her cognitive development and Becky Brailsford, our Nurse taught us strategies to help her gain weight.

Between these various people from Kids On The Move Early Intervention and with getting Mackenzie’s Intractable Epilepsy under control, Mackenzie’s development has vastly improved. Just last week Mackenzie tested in the 50th percentile for her age in gross motor skills and in the 97th percentile for cognitive learning & language!

We work daily with Mackenzie on the skills that we would not otherwise know if it wasn’t for Kids On The Move Early Intervention and now it shows how far she has come. Kids On The Move as taught us and mentored us and we feel blessed to have had this service.
Our Newest Program: RESPITE CARE

Respite Care is a much needed and supported program in our community. With Respite Care becoming a permanent part of Kids On The Move, it has led Respite Care to be able to receive more community support and therefore set the groundwork to service more families annually throughout our community. This year Respite Care received monetary grants from various community partners such as Kids Village, NuSkin and the Steve Young Foundation.

Respite Care relies highly on in-kind donations; in 2016 we had 858 volunteers, which resulted in 3,432 hours of donated time. Many of our volunteers come from partnerships formed with local school districts and universities, such as the Alpine and Nebo School District, Brigham Young University, Dixie State University, Utah Valley University and The University of Utah.

As a program, Respite Care also benefited greatly from itemized donations such as sensory chairs donated by Joshy’s House of Hope, fine motor books donated by Utah Valley University students and handmade toys by local Boy Scout troops.

Kids On the Move Respite Care is grateful for all of the support it has received throughout the years. We strive to continue to serve the children in our community with the best care possible so that no family will be left alone with the monumental task of caring for their child with special needs.

I am a junior studying Sociology and minoring in Nonprofit Management at Brigham Young University. I enjoy photography, musical theatre, surfing and eating. I love being involved with volunteering at respite because of the amazing opportunities to help others and be a part of something great. My volunteering experience has helped me to see how nonprofits work and how I can make a difference. I hope to also become involved in nonprofit work, specifically with getting youth involved in serving others.

~ Katherine Jewell
Alex’s Story

Alex was born with Down’s Syndrome, congenital cataracts, and two open valves in his heart. Alex has had ten surgeries so far, enabling him to develop vision and repair his other health issues. Alex was on oxygen for the first three months of his life, was able to walk at age two and was able to use the potty independently at age eight. These are just some of the challenges we encountered while raising this special boy.

My husband and I are immigrants who came to Utah to pursue our studies. We decided to stay and raise our children in Utah so that Alex can have the best health care possible and the best special education possible.

Alex started going to Friday’s Kids about ten years ago (now Kids On The Move Respite Care). The only extended family we have in Utah is my husband’s brother, so it has always been very difficult to find someone we trusted and who knew how to care for Alex.

When we take Alex to Friday’s Kids, we know that he will be watched by a trained volunteer who will play with him one-on-one the entire time under the supervision of a nurse and coordinator. Knowing Alex is safe and well taken care of is a huge relief.

During the 3.5 hours Alex is at Friday’s Kids, my husband and I would go grocery shopping, clean the house, go to a movie, do an activity with our other two children that would be difficult to do if Alex was there, and sometime we just relax and take a break at home. Taking care of Alex is our number one priority, 24/7. Our other two children are older than Alex and they have always participated in caring for their little brother. Once in a while, it’s really beneficial for all of us to focus on something else, to focus on our interests, to give undivided attention to our other children, and to replenish our batteries (so to speak).

Friday’s Kids is not only respite though, it’s much more than that. It’s a place where our sweet boy can go and feel loved, and important. When he gets there, Alex feels like a star! He gets to have a friend who genuinely cares about him, and wants to play with him. Ever since he started saying words, Alex tried to say “Friday’s Kids” and “play with friends.” He looks at the calendar and counts down the days until he gets to go. Seeing how happy he is to go really warms our heart, because Alex doesn’t make friends like a regular kid would. Please know how much we appreciate your contribution of time and money that make it possible for families like ours to receive much needed respite, and for special children like Alex to have a safe place where they can have fun in a nurturing environment.
Autism Center Expansion

Kids on the Move’s Autism Center continues to prosper thanks to the generous backing and partnerships from community support.

Throughout 2016 the Autism Center received donated sensory boards that help with self-regulation tactics and provide stimulating independent play. We received weighted blankets which help with sensory regulation, and exemplary sensory bags that we shared with all of our children and their families.

Additionally, Kids On The Move was honored by community donations from families such as: books, clothing items, toys, and board games. These much needed donations replaced many heavily used toys and books. This allowed us to rotate the toys we have in our inventory to ensure our children are not satiated on the stimuli we have in the center.

Our greatest monetary community support this year has come from a loving family that allows us to expand our Autism Center to the entire State of Utah via Tele-health. A large amount of children on the Autism Spectrum in Utah live outside the Wasatch metropolitan area. Many of these families do not have access to any sort of evidence-based interventions. The lack of resources forces some families to travel hours each week to access treatment along the Wasatch Front. Our Autism Center expansion will allow us to alleviate the stress and burdens that come from either lack of treatment or limited access to treatment. This generous donation will allow KOTM Autism Center to empower more families in ways that has never been done in the State of Utah.

Throughout 2016, Kids On The Move Autism Center has seen a tremendous amount of success and growth. Increasing from two BCBA’s to seven and one BCaBA, the Autism Center is equipped to better serve the autism spectrum disorder and developmental delay population in the most effective and efficient manner. While applied behavior analysis and its technologies continue to advance, we continue to see miracles happen with the 64 children we have served this year.
Westin’s Story

When Westin was one year old the doctor referred us to Kids On The Move Early Intervention program where we had different therapists come to our home a couple times a week to work with Westin. The therapists helped him to crawl, to walk and to start signing a few words. They gave us tools to help him and help his sensory needs. They also educated us on child development and autism. As his parents, we felt helpless to give our little boy answers and assistance as he would scream and cry with no understanding as to what he needed or wanted. We were clueless regarding autism is; we had thought we had a healthy little boy who was just developmentally delayed.

When Westin started Kids On The Move Autism Center, we had learned some techniques from our Early Intervention therapist to help him communicate and navigate life, but he was still really struggling. He still was screaming and wasn’t the steadiest walker or eater. He would have sensory overloads (which we didn’t realize at the time) that would contribute to his frustration and the almost constant shrills and screams. After only six months at The Autism Center Westin was eating better, communicating better and was overall so much happier because he was given and taught the tools he needed to function in life more effectively.

He still has a long way to go, but what the therapists and staff at Kids On The Move have done for Westin and us, his parents, is indescribable. Their love for these sweet children and patience with them is amazing. You can see it when you’re there. I was terrified to leave Westin for more than six hours, five days a week. I remember thinking, “I’ll know he’s treated right if he’s happy when I take him each day and happy when I pick him up.”

The first couple of weeks were hard. He was sad to be left by his mom and dad but would also smile at his therapists. When we picked him up he was happy and giggling most of the time (remember, he usually screamed all day).

After a couple of weeks of him getting used to it, he would squeal and kick his legs in excitement when we would turn off the road down the driveway to Kids On The Move. That was when I knew this was the best decision we could have made for our child.

Words do not describe our gratitude for this amazing organization. The lives they bless and touch are incredible and I just wish they could touch more and give to more families what they have given to our family and Westin. They have given him a life. A life far from screaming and crying because they give him the tools he needs to grow with to be a happy, functioning little boy and one day, hopefully, an adult who can contribute to society.
Early Head Start Helps Families in Need

Here are a few this year’s Early Head Start achievements and statistics:

- 293 children and expectant mothers have been served over the last year
- 213 total families have been served over the last year
- 72% of our families are comprised of two parents
- 21% of the children have an individualized family service plan (IFSP) in place to help with intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 83% of our families participated in one or more educational or family services, such as parent education, health education, or crisis intervention
- 70% of our children qualify at 100% of federal poverty while only 7% of our children come into the program as over-income
- 90% of staff have a bachelor’s degree or higher, with all staff meeting Head Start requirements
- 759.30 hours were donated to Early Head Start and in-kind donations totalled $10,630.50

Medical and Dental Home

During 2016 our Early Head Start team prioritized the importance of helping families establish both a Medical and Dental Home. Based on the simple understanding that physically healthy children are children who are ready to learn, the EHS team set out to make this simple idea of a consistent family medical provider the rule instead of the exception. We are proud of our team’s achievement of 99% of our EHS participants having a Medical Home, a place of continuous medical services.

Working in tandem with the establishment of a medical home, comes the idea of the establishment of a Dental Home. Again returning to the idea that continuous and systematic care of children as they grow is an important step to long term overall health and education, EHS set out to ensure the establishment of a Dental Home as well. With our strong commitment to the Medical Home idea, as a program we were able to assist parents in establishing their family’s Dental Home, with 94% of children having this basic service established.
Victoria and Velvet’s Story

We have been fortunate enough as a family to be involved with Kids On The Move for over five years. We began with our older daughter who is now in kindergarten and now our younger daughter Velvet who is about to enter head start in February. We had just moved from California and we really had no friends or family in Utah. Needless to say it was a difficult transition. The program has provided many resources to help us find things we needed in the community. Also we are grateful that we were able to attend the events and activities provided by Kids On The Move where we were able to meet other families, learn different life skills and make friends.

In regards to all the great things the program did for our daughters, it helped them immensely. We have had wonderful and amazing Family Educators like Jocelyn Martinez, Besi Paongo, and Beatriz Trejo. They did a magnificent job in helping both Victoria and Velvet with developing strong motor, cognitive and social skills by using fun engaging, creative and educational activities. The skills that Victoria learned helped her to have a smooth transition to kindergarten and she is excelling as one of the top students in her class. As for Velvet she always looks forward to her Fridays when Beatriz her family educator comes to visit. She is also growing, learning and developing new skills and we are confident she will do great when she begins Head Start.

The family educators really have been amazing not only with our kids but to our entire family. They have provided us with tools as well as motivated us when we needed motivation. They have been kind, intelligent, patient, loving and giving. We can’t thank them and the Kids On The Move organization enough.
Fatherhood Program Progress

Back in the beginning of 2015 Early Head Start made the commitment to an internal Fatherhood program. As a team we recognized that sometimes we failed to invite fathers into the program as fully as we did mothers. Armed with the idea that fathers could be persuaded to be more active, and hence fulfill their natural role as an educator of their children, we hired a part-time Fatherhood Specialist to engage fathers more in this natural role. During 2016 Early Head Start partnered with Utah State University to provide a structured curriculum-based experience for our fathers to learn positive parenting and basic child development skills. It was great to see two cohorts of fathers participate in these six week classes, in which they learned, practiced, and were mentored by other fathers on how to be more engaged.

Through our dedicated efforts of activities, classes, and mentoring conversations, Early Head Start saw more overall father participation in monthly meetings and various program activities.

During the 2016 program year 51% of our fathers participated in Family Needs Assessments and Family Goal Setting. On top of that level of engagement, we saw 48% of our father's engaged in child development activities such as home visits and parent-teacher conferences. While we continue to monitor the engagements of fathers in the program, we recognize the impact these investments in Fatherhood has made.

EHS fathers are awesome and working together as part of a parental team, their child’s future outcomes will only rise higher.
Dad’s Matter

Early Head Start moms are deeply involved in program activities. They attend various events, like Playschool and Parent Committee. Some even volunteer on the Policy Council, where they take an active role in programmatic decisions. But, as a father in the Kids On The Move Early Head Start program, it may be more difficult to find ways to be engaged.

That’s why the Fatherhood Program continuously looks for ways to involve fathers. This month, Early Head Start became a host for a course called Fathering with Love and Logic, through Healthy Relationships Utah.

Every Wednesday, sixteen dads rearrange their schedules, get off work early, and give up their evening to come to Kids On The Move and learn skills that will help them be more effective parents. “It’s nice that it’s just us, the dads, instead of being a family activity,” said Inmer Perez, whose daughter, Velvet, has been in the EHS program since she was born. The lessons are interactive, and dads engage each other in group discussions and active modeling to break up the lecture. The strategies that are taught aim to help fathers avoid power struggles with their children, teach responsibility without losing their child’s love and put an end to begging.

Suman Ledalla has three daughters, the youngest of which has been enrolled in EHS for a year. “It was the phrase that first made me really interested. Love and Logic, I really like that,” Ledalla said. “Real life situations with children are complicated, so the tips and tools we are learning here are very important.”

It has been beneficial for dads like Suman, to practice translating textbook scenarios, into real life principles that can be applied to a wide variety of parenting situations. Stu Eisenberger, and daughter Sofiya, have been in EHS for a few months. “Honestly, I felt like, if I really want to be a good Father, I need to try to do something about it,” he said. Based on the success of this first round, EHS will continue hosting the course at least once per quarter, for as long as possible.

~ Devin B. Martinez
Child Care Center
Benefits from Donations

Our Child Care was originally created to serve the beautiful children of our very dedicated staff and has now expanded out to community serving 47 children currently. We have three classes; an infant class, toddler class and preschool class. We serve children from two months to six years of age. Our teachers are well qualified and passionate about their work here at Kids On The Move. They are constantly in the creative mode with new ideas and activities to assist the children in their mental, emotional and physical growth.

Child Care has been gifted with some beautiful and practical donations from our parents and Eagle Scouts. For instance the lovely James E Christensen painting was donated by the Tasmin Friel family. We are in immense gratitude for the most generous gift Tasmin spontaneously donated. We appreciate so much the parents of all the precious little children with their donations of buttons, yarn, art supplies, cheerios and so many more items.

The Eagle scouts have been very kind to us in providing us, through their hard work and talents, with items such as a lemonade stand, a water wall, a mosaic wall, refinished benches, a weaving loom and many more things to come such as a dramatic play stage, a magnetic board, 2 marimbas, a set of drums and stepping logs all for our little achievers. We owe a huge thanks to all these people. Our hearts are so full of gratitude we can hardly contain it. These gifts of the heart from their labor of love will keep on giving for years and years to come. Our lives are indeed blessed by the open hearts of so many it would be impossible to mention them all. Every act of kindness strengthens us and motivates us as teachers to do better caring and guiding these future leaders.
Izzy’s Story

Izzy was born six weeks prematurely and resided in the NICU for the first 2 ½ months of her life. For the next six months she had to use GI tube in order to receive enough nutrition. When Izzy was 18 months old and still not able to walk, her doctor recommended Kids On The Move. I was thrilled to learn that they also provided day care and enrolled Izzy in Ms. Lacey’s class. Kids On The Move had the equipment and Ms. Lacie had the patience to work directly with Izzy to help her develop the strength to start walking. Within just a couple of months, I received a video from Ms. Lacey of Izzy taking her first steps.

Since that time, she has had several exceptional teachers that has helped her to catch up. I cannot express how important Kids On The Move has been to our family; knowing that even though I have to work, Izzy receives the best of care from Kids On The Move.
Finances are audited annually and the reports are available online at KOTM.ORG. Our audit found no findings for the 2016 FY.
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empowering families, one kid at a time