



the JOURNEY

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First ABA Program Graduate is Now “Indistinguishable From Her Peers”

Skye’s mother knew the signs. During her college years, Melissa Schumacher had worked at LifeScape in Sioux Falls supporting children with autism. At two years old, Skye spoke only a word or two at a time and exhibited echolalia—the meaningless repetition of other peoples’ words. There was low interaction and eye contact with others. She didn’t play in an imitative or imaginative way like her two older siblings, and she repetitively lined up toys, seemingly in her own world. Still, when Skye was diagnosed with autism at two-and-a-half, it was difficult news for Melissa and her husband Tim of Rapid City. They knew she would need specialized help to live a life of safety, connection, and independence.

The most effective help for kids with autism spectrum disorders is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), an evidence-based therapy recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Rooted in the science of learning and behavior, it seeks to increase behaviors that are helpful and decrease behaviors that are harmful or affect learning. According to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, demand for behavior analysts has increased by 5,852% since 2010 due to the increase in autism diagnoses. There just aren’t enough behavior analysts to treat the children needing help.

Fortunately, Skye had received other outpatient services with LifeScape, and was able to get into an ABA therapy opening at LifeScape in Rapid City soon after her diagnosis.

Others aren’t so lucky, and the waiting can be months or even years. With a growing list of kids awaiting outpatient ABA treatment, a nationwide shortage of therapists, and no training program in the state, LifeScape began work with the University of South Dakota in

“She loves to practice writing now,” says Skye’s mom, Melissa. “She loves to do crafts. She loves cutting and gluing—it’s a new thing for her.”



2019 to create a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. The program started its first cohort of six students in the fall of 2021. Two of the students are LifeScape staff and receive tuition assistance from the LifeScape Foundation through the Henry and Eleanor Carlson Family Staff Training Endowment.

The students all have a master’s degree in a related area such as education or a health or human services field. They will complete six graduate-level courses in sequence for two years, including summers, to finish in August 2023. The seventh course is 2000 hours of supervised fieldwork experience to prepare for the exam with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Depending on testing schedules, the first cohort should be certified and ready to serve by the end of 2023. A second cohort of students will begin the program this August.

Skye started ABA therapy at LifeScape just after her third birthday and began making progress right away. The goal was to increase her social, communication, imitation, daily living, and pre-academic skills. “It’s just fantastic what it did for her,” says Melissa. The Schumachers appreciated that the staff did parent training to reinforce ABA principles and that they worked with other staff to solve specific challenges, like food texture problems.

Tim and Melissa had two main goals for Skye – the ability to communicate her wants and needs, and for her to fit in with her peers. In two years, Skye had met both goals.

“When they talked about transitioning us out of the ABA program, I was panicky,” says Melissa. “I was afraid that when we stopped ABA she would lose ground. But I also knew they wouldn’t discharge her if they didn’t feel she was ready.” Skye was discharged last fall at age five, the Rapid City program’s first “graduate.” Melissa says she is now pretty much indistinguishable from her peers. “I don’t think most people who meet her would know that she has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. She has gone the whole school year without ABA services, and she’s doing great.”

The little girl who always played alone now has friends. “She’s now very social,” says Melissa. “She loves being with other people and wants to participate in everything. She loves crafting, which is a whole new thing for her. We have crafting materials everywhere!”

Treatment options in western South Dakota are especially scarce. For a more immediate solution there, the John T. Vucurevich Foundation granted \$282,000 in 2021 for a second team of behavior analysts at LifeScape in Rapid City. The team includes a Board-Certified Behavior

(continues on P3.)



Skye, shown here with OT Jess Moum, has graduated from ABA treatment, but still receives occupational therapy and physical therapy at LifeScape in Rapid City.

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From Our Chief Executive Officer



Steve Watkins
Chief Executive Officer

A few weeks ago, LifeScape's commitment to excellence in our services was affirmed by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) with a four-year Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation of our Adult Services area. This accreditation is for human service providers to ensure that person-centered philosophies are transformed into everyday practices. It requires that data be captured and used to measure the effectiveness of the supports that people receive. It is required by the state for our licensure to provide services to adults with disabilities.

Our association with the Council on Quality and Leadership, which is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities, goes back to 1979, when we became South Dakota's first agency to receive their national accreditation.

LifeScape is still CQL's longest-standing accredited service provider, but their periodic reviews are not taken lightly. The four-day, on-site survey involved an in-depth examination of our systems, practices, and records. This included both virtual and live tours of homes and day programs, plus numerous in-person focus groups that included Direct Support Professionals, self-advocates, frontline supervisors, families, and other state providers.

The most noteworthy feedback from CQL was regarding the quality of care our supervisors and Direct Support Professionals provide. Our staff demonstrated that our services are truly rooted in the LifeScape values of Integrity, Compassion, Respect, Safety and Wellbeing, Excellence, Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility.

In these incredibly challenging times of a global pandemic, inflation, and historical workforce shortages, it is very encouraging to have a nationally recognized accreditation team affirm that our commitment to our Mission, Vision, Values, and Culture is producing high quality outcomes for the people we support. CQL sets the bar high and we are proud to have met and exceeded the mark. Mary Kay Rizzolo, President and Chief Executive Officer of CQL affirmed that LifeScape is "focused on what really matters to the people they support and are successfully designing their services so that people can realize their goals and dreams."

Although this accreditation is specific to Adult Services, it reflects on the entire organization's commitment to our mission of empowering people to live their best lives. The LifeScape family is so blessed to have such a committed staff, and we are blessed again to have such committed supporters like you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With Sincere Thanks,

Steve Watkins
LifeScape CEO

Lee and Cheryl: A LifeScape Love Story

The moment Cheryl cherishes most from her wedding day is when her future father-in-law walked her down the aisle and she first saw Lee, waiting for her at the altar. The processional was an Irish folk tune, and she had on new white cowboy boots to go with her wedding dress. She and Lee had picked out their flowers and music together and invited family and friends to share in their joy.

They walked out as a married couple to the Beatles "Here Comes the Sun." Lee says he most enjoyed the celebration afterwards—with plenty of good food, love, and laughter.

Lee and Cheryl's wedding on June 18 in Sioux Falls was 13 years in the making. Lee says there was a spark between them "from day one" when they met in Day Services at LifeScape. Over the years they've enjoyed fishing, movies, concerts, and dinners out. Now they are settling into married life, getting used to calling one another "my husband" and "my wife." Lee enjoys keeping their homelife going smoothly, and they make their supper together after Cheryl comes home from work. It's a good life they are building together. LifeScape has been there since day one of their love story and will continue to be there whenever needed. We wish them many happy years together.



Lee and Cheryl on their wedding day.

*...there was a spark between them
"from day one" when they met in
Day Services at LifeScape.*

MaKeigha Molstad, 18, works a puzzle with Lead Teaching Assistant Sarah Olson in the residential area at LifeScape in Sioux Falls. MaKeigha is from Rapid City.



Community Partner:



Vern Eide Motorcars Gives Back

The relationship between LifeScape and Vern Eide Motorcars began long before they hosted the block party following this summer's Rock 'n' Roll Rally for LifeScape. It's involved years of volunteerism by their staff, plus sponsorships and other support for our fundraising events.

Last summer, six staff members came out in the July heat to wheelbarrow, shovel, and rake a four-inch layer of mulch onto the new playground installed at LifeScape's Autism & Child Development Center. The 2.5-hour project made the playground safer for kids who might fall during play. While they were at it, they also assembled a storage shed and anchored it to the cement pad. THEN, they cleaned up the parking lot with brooms and leaf blowers to make our space inviting for patients and their families.



Vern Eide volunteers with their finished projects for LifeScape's Autism & Child Development Center – placing a mountain of mulch on the playground and building a shed.

“At Vern Eide we have a culture of giving back to our community, and that can be in a huge variety of ways, too,” says Vern Eide Web Director Tom Borchard. “Sometimes, the way we give back is just by getting our hands dirty and sweaty and doing the hard work. Doing the hard work is just what we do.”

Our maintenance staff greatly appreciated having these tasks covered, and our therapists were happy to have the playground available for therapy and the shed up and ready for off-season equipment storage.

Last fall, Vern Eide Mitsubishi/Marine hosted a Trunk or Treat Halloween event for children in the community, and invited LifeScape to come and hand out candy and give families the opportunity to learn more about our services.

Earlier this summer, Vern Eide Mitsubishi/Marine hosted the block party that followed the poker run for our Rock 'n' Roll Rally. They provided space in their parking lot for the live bands, vendors, and picnic tables for guests, helped with set-up and tear-down, and made a donation to LifeScape!

We are grateful for the creativity and constant support of Vern Eide in partnering with LifeScape to help empower people to live their best lives! We look forward to many years of partnership into the future!

From Our Foundation President



Jessica Wells
LifeScape Foundation President

Most everyone is waiting for something...waiting in line, waiting for results, waiting to hear if you got the job, waiting for the next time you get to see loved ones. There is value in waiting. It gives us time to reflect, slow down, savor and observe the world around us. It can be frustrating and upsetting at times, too. For the 260 children and their families waiting for autism evaluations or treatment, there is a heavy price. For these children, every day waiting is a day of falling behind their peers.

Autism now occurs to some degree in about one of every 54 births. It is estimated to cost the public \$1.4 million to \$2.4 million per person for a lifetime of education and care. Early intervention with Applied Behavior Analysis treatment costs \$240,000-\$400,000 for four years of treatment, which has been statistically proven to materially impact a person's ability to integrate into society, saving a minimum of \$1.2 million per person with autism. Skye's story, on the cover of this newsletter, is a testament to that success!

LifeScape is grateful to the Hamsters USA for their continued support of children in western South Dakota and to the John T. Vucurevich Foundation for their \$282,000 grant to recruit and retain a full autism team of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and five registered behavior techs in Rapid City. We are also grateful for our partnership with the University of South Dakota School of Medicine's new master's certificate program for Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA). It is the only two-year master's certification program in the United States that provides the classroom instruction in the same program as the supervised clinical practice. Thanks to Henry and Eleanor Carlson and the Carlson Family Staff Training Endowment at the LifeScape Foundation, five students each year will have scholarships for tuition costs.

Waiting can be beneficial at times. Children waiting for life-changing services isn't one of them. We are grateful for the partnerships, donors, and staff who make success like Skye's possible for more and more kids in South Dakota. Participating in LifeScape's events, sharing this newsletter, connecting a friend with our mission, and including LifeScape in your estate plan all help address the need and keeps children from waiting for transformative care.

Leave a Legacy

Imagine leaving a legacy that will help provide lives of dignity and fulfillment for countless people with disabilities. Through your estate planning, you can make a difference far into the future, while providing tax advantages now for yourself and your family. As you review or write your will, consider including a charitable bequest for the LifeScape Foundation. The assets you provide will be carefully invested, and only the interest is used. In this way, your gift will continue to provide for individuals with special needs indefinitely. Your attorney can advise you on the language to use. It is commonly worded as below:

I give, devise, or bequeath to the LifeScape Foundation, a South Dakota corporation, for its real purposes, all (or a fraction) of the rest, residue, or remainder of my estate whether real or personal.

For more information on how you can help those supported by LifeScape—even beyond your lifetime—please call the Foundation office at **(605) 444-9800**.

Cover Story (continued)

Analyst (BCBA) and five Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT). When Skye began ABA therapy, there was one team of therapists at LifeScape Rapid City, with 69 kids awaiting treatment. The addition of the second team has reduced the waitlist to 52 children.

Skye's ABA progress took two years – two critical years that will set the foundation for her independence and success as an adult. When Skye was first diagnosed, her parents wondered if she'd always need to live at home with them. "I'm not worried about her future now," says Melissa. "This has given us a whole new outlook on her future."

Thank you for not waiting to make a gift to LifeScape!

Jessica B. Wells
LifeScape Foundation President

Teen Bounces Back after Rare Illness with Help of LifeScape Specialty Hospital

By Guest columnist Cory Heidelberger

We came to LifeScape at what felt like a very grim time. Two weeks earlier, our daughter Katarzyna had been preparing for the end of seventh grade and a big family vacation to Winnipeg. Suddenly, she had suffered cardiac arrest and hypoxic brain injury. In two weeks at the hospital, she had made stunning progress, coming out of a coma, getting off the respirator and feeding tube, starting to speak and feed herself again. But when the doctors determined she could move to LifeScape for rehab, we had no idea how much of her nervous system she could rebuild, how much of her muscle control and cognitive ability she could recover. Katarzyna couldn't walk or get herself out of bed. She could speak, but not much above a whisper. She could feed herself but only with difficulty, with a weak grip on the spoon and unsteady aim. Her vision was fuzzy, and her energy was low. We didn't know when she'd be able to come home, or what life at home would be like for her, or whether she could look forward to anything like a normal teenage life or, ultimately, independent living. We didn't even know what had caused her cardiac arrest, let alone whether it would happen again and do even more damage to her small body.

The LifeScape therapists and doctors went to work right away testing and rebuilding Katarzyna's abilities. From the start, the staff were honest and hopeful. They told us exactly what strengths and weaknesses they found as they evaluated our daughter's condition, what they thought they (and we) could do to help, and how much function she might be able to regain.

LifeScape quickly got Katarzyna into a routine of physical, speech, and occupational therapy. They got her working



(Left) Katarzyna was 13 when admitted to the Medical Rehabilitation Program in the LifeScape Specialty Hospital. She's shown here with Physical Therapist Becky Schmitz, who helped her learn to walk again.



(Right) Now 16, Katarzyna is back to her regular activities and is able to easily manage her diagnosis.

"In six weeks, LifeScape literally got our daughter back on her feet. LifeScape also got all three of us back on our emotional feet."

out in the gym and the pool. They added music lessons so she could rebuild the connections between her brain and her hands with the familiar activities of playing piano and cello.

In the first week of rehab, when Katarzyna got sick during morning exercises and again during a blood test, one of our doctors finally diagnosed the root cause of the cardiac arrest—Addison's disease, a failure of the adrenal glands that leaves the body unable to produce the cortisol it needs to deal with stress. A few days before her cardiac arrest, Katarzyna had gotten sick after a dance recital. We had thought she was just fighting off a nasty cold. Maybe she was, but fighting a cold is stress that requires cortisol, and without cortisol, stress becomes deadly. She experienced an Addisonian crisis, in which her heart and other organs shut down. Our doctor and the LifeScape staff helped us learn the treatment for Addison's disease: steroid pills three times a day to replace the missing cortisol and help her body deal with stress, occasional up-doses when she knows some unusual stress is coming, and an emergency injection pack always at her side in case she experiences some sudden weakness.

Dealing with Addison's was relatively simple. Repairing the damage caused by the Addisonian crisis, the cardiac arrest, and the hypoxic brain injury was much harder. Katarzyna had to work harder physically, mentally, and

emotionally than she ever had before, just to command her nerves, her muscles, and her mind to do simple things and to keep a positive attitude amidst such challenge and uncertainty.

LifeScape helped Katarzyna deal with that challenge and uncertainty. After a few weeks, LifeScape had her upright and taking a walker around the halls. We were able to take her outside, out to Falls Park, even out for a little shopping and a meal or two out. Those trips outside were vital: they showed her and us that she would be able to live outside of a hospital bed, that with a little accommodation and care, she could get outside and do normal things.

LifeScape provided important services that we could not have provided ourselves at home or found in our hometown in Aberdeen, three hours away. For six weeks, LifeScape accommodated our desire to have at least one of us at Katarzyna's side throughout her rehab. My wife and I worked shifts, one of us spending half a week at LifeScape with our daughter, helping her throughout the day and night, while the other spent some time in Aberdeen at work. My wife and I would tag up at LifeScape mid-week and Sunday, taking a few minutes to catch up with each other and with the staff on our daughter's condition before we would switch places, one staying, one heading back up to Aberdeen.

In six weeks, LifeScape literally got our daughter back on her feet. LifeScape also got all three of us back on our emotional feet. They were honest about the caution and limitations Katarzyna would have to live with, but they were also honest and hopeful about our daughter's ability, with the right ongoing rehab and attitude, to get back into her teenage life.

We brought Katarzyna home to Aberdeen in mid-July. She went to school with her walker in August. She went to school with just her cane after Thanksgiving. By January, she ditched the cane. She resumed her piano lessons, played cello in the middle school orchestra, and passed all of her eighth-grade classes. She's gone on two big family vacations to Colorado and California. She's dealt with the stress of the pandemic and a move to a new city and new school. She's painting her own bedroom and planning to become a landscape architect.

Our daughter has come from near death to living her life. LifeScape showed Katarzyna how she could live that life.

Ambassadors Grant Funds For Needs, Dreams, and Fun!

On April 20th, the LifeScape Ambassadors gathered for their favorite day of the year – the Wish List distribution meeting! This is when the Ambassadors grant their fundraising proceeds to projects for children and adults at LifeScape.

With MallWalk as an online event for the second year in a row and the “One Autumn Night” event not held at all due to the pandemic, the Ambassadors were very pleased to grant \$83,573.08 in wishes.

“We were pleased to be able to provide help for adults needing assistance with their rent payments, food costs, and clothing needs,” says Wish List Chairperson Cindy Haiar. “With the cost of living so high, we know we are helping provide that safety net for people who really need it.” Many other Adult Services needs this year were met by other funding sources, so the Ambassadors were able to fund all of the requests from Children’s Services. The list of grants is below— items for the classrooms, specialty hospital, outpatient and more. Besides many practical grants, the Ambassadors were excited to grant wishes for recreational activities like swimming, softball, and rental of inflatables for a special occasion.

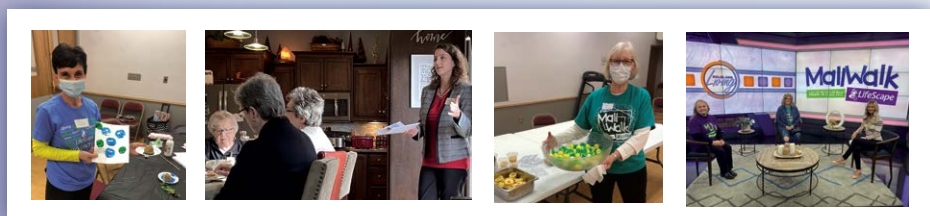
The Ambassadors are now getting ready for One Autumn Night, set for Friday, September 30 and MallWalk—which will be in-person this year—on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

Fundraising is not all the Ambassadors do, though – there are opportunities to volunteer and advocate, there are monthly luncheons with speakers, and there are social gatherings. LifeScape deeply appreciates the work of the Ambassadors, which was long a women’s group, but has now expanded to include men. Their efforts for LifeScape truly make them Ambassadors for our mission.

The Ambassadors have the fall social to kick off their program year on Monday, August 15th. Monthly meetings are the third Monday of the month at LifeScape Children’s Services at 26th and Holly. To get involved, email Ambassadors@LifeScapeSD.org



LifeScape CEO Steve Watkins accepted the 2021-2022 fundraising check from Ambassadors’ President Deana Kruger.



Ambassadors Fund New Girl Scout Troop



A LifeScape staff member is working with Volunteer Services to establish a Girl Scout troop at LifeScape. The troop would include girls served by LifeScape and girls from the community. If interested in learning more, contact Occupational Therapist Michelle Sinning at Michelle.Sinning@LifeScapeSD.org

2022 Ambassador Grants to LifeScape

Adult Services

- Arcade game – Ms. PacMan*
- Passes to Wild Water West*
- Medicine ball, exercise ball, dumbbells, & yoga mats*
- Puzzles & board games*
- Yard games*
- Gardening materials*
- Rent assistance
- Food assistance
- Winter coats & warm clothing

Children’s Services

- Supplies to start a Girl Scout Troop
- Yearbooks for LifeScape school students
- Switches & switch-activated toys
- Track ceiling lift/ambulation system
- Feeding therapy supplies

Children’s Services

- Lockable computer carts
- AbleNet Big Red switch for classroom
- Tap-It interactive learning station
- iPads
- Bath chairs & commodes
- Mats for sensory room
- Wego 7A speech-generating device
- Rented inflatables
- Summer picnic experience
- Midco Aquatics passes for every child in residential services (Sammy’s Fund**)
- Wild Water West passes
- Splash pad inflatable sprinkler, kiddie pools, & Slip ‘n’ Slides
- Miracle League participation fees
- Rehadapt floor stand for communication device
- Winter coats & warm clothing

Outpatient Centers

- Therapy toys
- Speech therapy tools
- Feeding therapy supplies
- South Paw Steamroller Deluxe
- Bike with training wheels
- J Tech Pager System
- Pediatric furniture
- Faux fish tank
- Window decals for ABA therapy

Other

- Volunteer t-shirts

*Granted by the Ludgate-Love Adult Services Fund.

**Granted by the Jeff & Erin Horstmeyer family in memory of their son, Samuel John, who passed away in 2010.

Arts Intern Brings a Summer of Creativity to LifeScape

Art connects. Art equalizes. Art brings joy. All of that was on full display recently when 12 Citibank employees came to do art with adults supported by LifeScape. The project was making garden steppingstones out of concrete, decorated with colorful stones, shells, buttons, and faux jewelry. The activity was led by arts intern Jacklyn Laprath of Colome, SD, who is pursuing an Arts in Health Certificate from the University of South Dakota's College of Fine Arts.

Her internship is being served through LifeScape's Center for the Arts. Artistic Director Jamie Richardson has set up a schedule for Jacklyn to work on arts projects with kids and adults each weekday through early August. "Since I run the program alone, having an additional set of hands to bring these opportunities forward just helps us to create more and more opportunities for creativity, friendship, and working towards our mission of helping people to live their best lives," says Jamie. "Every day is better when we include more creativity and fun!"

The Arts in Health certificate program is under the direction of USD Professor Ariadne (Ari) Albright. Through four 400-level classes, students learn to use the fine arts to help develop patient care tools to assist medical professionals in patient treatment. Jacklyn is also seeking a degree as a Speech-Language Pathologist. "I want to be able to incorporate this into my future speech therapy sessions to help facilitate communication," says Jacklyn. "I look forward to bringing together my two loves, art and speech."

After a pandemic hiatus of over two years, the Citibank volunteers were thrilled to be back for in-person time with LifeScape friends. "It's my favorite day of the year," says Carmen Ruhlman of Citibank. Another Citibank employee cut her vacation short to be able to attend. The group has been volunteering with LifeScape for seven years. Other Center for the Arts activities are making post-pandemic comebacks, too. Camp Bravo, the children's all-abilities performing arts camp, will be back next summer, and Camp Create, the artists retreat for adults with disabilities, will happen in September and February. Jamie hopes CFA can stage a musical production in the next few months, and a fun, new offering is musical theater watch parties for adults. Jamie found that many adults supported by LifeScape love the genre but haven't had much exposure to it. So, a subscription to the streaming service Broadway HD will keep the monthly gathering in musicals for a long time to come.

The LifeScape Center for the Arts is funded by a bequest from the Althea Louise Kelly Center for the Arts Endowment.



Children and adults supported by LifeScape are getting daily arts experiences this summer thanks to an arts intern. Left to right, Center for the Arts Artistic Director Jamie Richardson, Lauryn Pederson with art she's just created, Arts Intern Jacklyn Laprath, and Citibank volunteer Laurie Moran.

"After two long, quiet years for the program, we are thrilled to bring the Center for the Arts back into full swing. The arts bring so much joy, and who couldn't use more joy?"

-Jamie Richardson, Center for the Arts Artistic Director



Steve Bruggeman of the Sioux Falls Sledge sled hockey team takes the ice at a recent game in Sioux Falls. The adult team is sponsored by LifeScape subsidiary RISE Custom Solutions, which treats some of the players through prosthetic and wheelchair services.

A Life of Independence: Pathways Student Transitions Into Adulthood

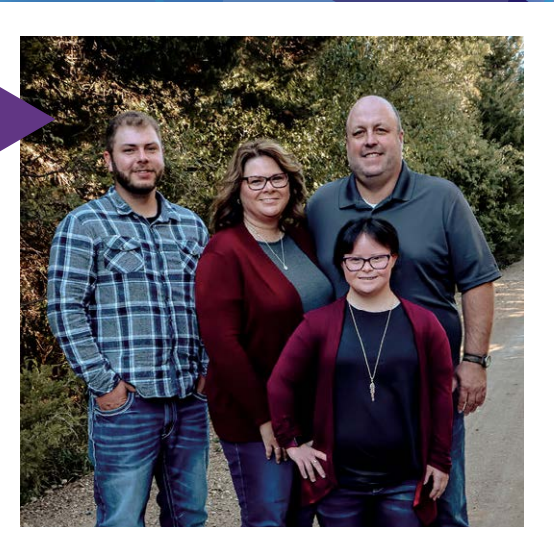
When Carly Van Roekel's older brother left their hometown of Ethan, SD, for college, she knew she wanted the same kind of independence. "She wanted to be able to move away from home and go to college and not live with mom and dad," says her mom, Jolyn. "She wanted to do what other kids do."

Born with Down Syndrome, Carly always had a strong independent streak. With the elementary school across the street from home, she walked to and from school on her own. Everyone in her small town knew her and looked out for her. In high school, she was active in extracurriculars, including basketball, chorus, and band. Jolyn and her husband Jason talked a lot to Carly about her post-high school plans and checked out several options. "We let her pick where she wanted to go, but her dream was to live in Sioux Falls," says Jolyn.

They landed on LifeScape's Pathways to Life Specialty School in Sioux Falls, which helps 18- to 21-year-olds learn skills for adulthood. "Pathways was the best option," says Jolyn. "She could move out, get an apartment, and still be monitored by staff." Carly was accepted into the program, and Jolyn and Jason moved her in August 2020 to her LifeScape-staffed apartment complex. "It was hard, because it was during COVID, and we couldn't go into her apartment. We brought her stuff and staff moved her in. But she was SO ready to be an adult. She waved goodbye to us and walked away. We stayed overnight in Sioux Falls to be sure she was okay, but her staff said she was fine, and she has been ever since."

Jolyn says Pathways really helped Carly grow. "I was just so impressed with the amount of knowledge she picked up so fast. She seemed so grown up the next time we saw her." Pathways helped Carly learn to grocery shop, cook independently, manage money, and do laundry and cleaning. She got a paratransit bus pass and learned to use it. She did a lot of volunteering and has had two jobs. One was with Nothing Bundt Cakes, and the second was at Sanford Hospice, where she worked one morning a week putting together patient folders.

Carly with her parents and brother.



"Carly has been a joy to have at Pathways," says Education Program Specialist Shelly Bohy. "She is such a hard worker and has become a great advocate for herself."

Carly loves music and singing, and adores her older brother, Tyler. She enjoys bike rides and competing in Special Olympics. She goes home to stay with her parents about once a month, and especially loves family camping trips. Now she's at another transition point: at 21, she has just graduated from the Pathways program. "Her community is at LifeScape; she's comfortable there and she has SO many friends," says Jolyn. "She is so happy." Carly will continue to live in her apartment with her two roommates, will continue her job at Sanford Hospice, and will attend LifeScape's Day Services for adults. As her mom says, "She'll continue to live and belong in the community." Carly says she's looking forward to Adult Services: "I can do coloring and art. I have friends there."

"It's taken a lot of stress off us wondering about her transition into adulthood," says Jolyn. "It's been such a relief for us, knowing she's there. It means a lot to know that she's safe and happy."

To learn more about the Pathways to Life Specialty School at LifeScape, call (605) 444-9559 or email admissions@LifeScapeSD.org

Upcoming LifeScape Events!

July 16, 2022: Christmas in July Toy Run/Poker Run. Funds raised buy Christmas toys for kids at LifeScape, delivered in December by Motorcycle Santa!

July 22-24, 2022: 53rd Annual Winner Elks Rodeo. Three days of classic rodeo events at the Winner, SD Fairgrounds to benefit children's outreach services across South Dakota.

September 16, 2022: HomeSlice Hope for the Hills Mediathon-Rapid City. The six HomeSlice Group radio stations will air uplifting LifeScape stories of hope to benefit LifeScape, Rapid City. 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

September 17, 2022: 4th Annual LifeScape Cornhole Tournament. To be held at the Spearfish Holiday Inn, with tourney play beginning at 11:00. Early-bird entry fee is \$50 per team and \$25 per solo player. Proceeds help kids at LifeScape Rapid City.

September 30, 2022: One Autumn Night. The LifeScape Ambassadors will host an evening of fun at the Country Club of Sioux Falls with live music, a silent auction, dessert auction, and the raffle of a beautiful quilt. Tickets are \$50 per person with proceeds going to Wish List needs at LifeScape.

February 4, 2023: MallWalk 29. After two years of cyber MallWalk, we'll be back at the Empire Mall to Walk 'n' Roll for LifeScape! LifeScapeMallWalk.org will open for registrations and fundraising in November! Presented by the LifeScape Ambassadors.

Third Monday of the Month, September through May: LifeScape Ambassador Meetings. The Ambassadors support children and adults through activities and fundraising. 11:45 luncheon meeting with speaker. Our meetings will return to LifeScape's Children's Services location at 2501 W. 26th Street in Sioux Falls. Contact Ambassadors@LifeScapeSD.org to get involved!

Get details on all these events at www.LifeScapeSD.org, or call the LifeScape Foundation at (605) 444-9600.

Charitable Giving Potential in a Down Market

Why donating stocks may align with your philanthropy



Kameron Nelson, CFRE
Director of Major Gifts

Even in a declining market environment there could still be reasons to consider giving from your investment portfolio as part of an overall charitable strategy. Your financial advisor or a charitable planning specialist can help educate you about efficient ways to support your favorite charities, like LifeScape, while potentially reducing your tax burden.

Generational Philanthropy

Jeff Hilgenberg, a local Sioux Falls community leader, knows just how mutually beneficial a gift of stock to a charity can be. "My first introduction to LifeScape was that my maternal grandmother, Arlene Grassel, bequeathed a gift to [LifeScape] in her will. She just really had a heart for kids born with a tough hand to play. She felt like that's where she wanted to take the good fortune that they had and help others," says Hilgenberg.

"My grandparents, John and Arlene, were farmers during the Depression. And they knew what a tough hand looked like. Through hard work, they were very successful and were able to help others," says Hilgenberg. "It made me want to find out more about the organization."

"LifeScape's mission is one that they uniquely provide. There's really a crack in the system for kids and adults with disabilities to get the life they deserve, and LifeScape provides that. That's where my wife's and my hearts were – to make that gift, along with my parents, Dan & Karen Hilgenberg," says Hilgenberg.

Through strategic planning, the Hilgenbergs gifted stock to LifeScape in support of our ongoing efforts to empower people to live their best lives. And you can too!

Six-month-old Norah sits in her mom's lap as Physical Therapist Monica Christensen takes measurements to help determine if a cranial remolding helmet is recommended. Cranial helmets are used to treat infants with flat areas on their heads.

Long-term Appreciated Stocks

Despite the recent market volatility, many of your investments may have current values that are significantly higher than when you purchased them due to long-term gains over the past decade. It is widely suggested that if you have charitable intent, you may want to consider gifting appreciated securities directly to your preferred charity rather than selling them and contributing the after-tax proceeds. This, of course, is not the case for any stocks trading at a loss.

By donating long-term appreciated stocks to LifeScape, you will generally be able to take a tax deduction for the fair market value of the contribution if you itemize deductions. This could potentially eliminate the capital gain tax rate of up to 20% depending on your income, thus increasing your gift and your tax deduction.

Donated Stock to Complement Cash Giving

Many donors like making quick cash contributions to their favorite organizations. It also is understandable that some may prefer to keep owning their stocks until a recovery from a down market.

The CARES ACT increased the limit to cash giving. This gave generous donors a nice tax incentive to increase their cash giving to nonprofits. You may consider donating shares of appreciated stock. Cash that you would have otherwise donated to LifeScape may be used to purchase the same amount of stock you donated, which in turn, increases your cost basis in those investments. This strategy is a form of cost dollar averaging and helps reduce your tax bill later on after the investment is sold.

As always, be sure to check with a trusted financial advisor prior to making any financial decisions.

Needs & Dreams Wish List

Your gift helps change lives.

Here's what your gift can buy for the kids and adults supported by LifeScape:

Big Dreams

- Mount'n Mover High-Tech Device Mount
- Ultrasound Imaging System

\$2,500

- Rent Assistance
- Food Assistance

\$1,000

- Wall-Mounted Mat Table
- Steamroller Ramp

\$750

- Adaptive Aquatics Scholarships
- Horsepower Fees

\$500

- Hearing Assistive Device
- Medical Bill Assistance

\$350

- Mobo Triton and Mobo Triker Pro

\$200

- iPod Touch
- GoTalk 4+ AAC/Communication Device

\$100

- Language Builder Picture Cards
- Visa Card for essential daily living needs and community activities

\$50

- Hy-Vee or Target Gift Card
- Jelly Bean Switch

\$25

- Men's/Boy's Underwear
- Restaurant Gift Cards
- Arts and Crafts Supplies

If you wish to donate for one of the above needs, please check the item you'd like to fund, clip this form, and send it with your gift to LifeScape Foundation, 2011 W. 26th St. - Suite 201, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

Or visit LifeScapeSD.org/donate, enter the donation amount, and note in the Comments section what you're funding.

**Thank you
for your
generous support!**



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