



# KIDS CAN

COMMUNITY CENTER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

At Kids Can Community Center,  
our mission is to educate,  
engage, and inspire children  
through early  
childhood care  
and out-of-school  
experiences.



# From the CEO

As I reflect on the past year, one word comes to mind - thankful. I am thankful for the generosity of our community who continues to contribute their time and resources to ensure we succeed for our kids. I am thankful for our families who entrust us with the well-being and education of their children. I am thankful for our incredible staff who work tirelessly year-round to make sure Early Childhood Education, Out-of-School, and Mentor programs deliver quality experience and fun, of course!

In December 2023, I celebrated my 25th anniversary with the organization. To say I am proud of everything this organization, staff, and board have accomplished in the past two decades would be an understatement.

During the last few years, we have seen the childcare crisis in the news and receiving attention from state and local elected officials. Despite the spotlight, there is still a lot of work to be done. I remain determined to continue pushing childcare to the forefront of local and state advocacy work to ensure every family has access to quality care when they need it.

Thank you for your dedication to the success of our children and their families.

With gratitude,



Robert Patterson  
Chief Executive Officer



# Early Childhood Education

Kids Can serves children ages 6-weeks to 5-years old in our Early Childhood Education program. In existence for nearly a century, our state-licensed program utilizes Creative Curriculum as the core teaching component.

We are an active participant in Step Up To Quality, a program through the Nebraska Department of Education and Health & Human Services that helps families identify early childhood providers who demonstrate a commitment to quality care. Kids Can was awarded a Step 5 status and is one of only three centers in Omaha at this highest achievable level.



In the 2023-2024 school year, 116 children attended our early childhood program, open every weekday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Using research-based curriculum and learning-through-play, we strive for all children to reach their potential.

Last year, 92% of students were physically ready, 83% were socially and emotionally ready, and 85% were academically ready for kindergarten.



# Out Of School Experiences

Last year, our Out Of School program served 1,167 children, a 10% increase over the prior year. Our center site continues offering the widest variety of programs, including before and after school with transportation to nearby schools, plus full-day programming when schools are closed. We operate eight Out Of School sites at local elementary schools: Benson West, Conestoga, Druid Hill, Gilder, Miller Park, Minne Lusa, Nelson Mandela, and Wakonda Elementary



Schools. We also offer full-day summer programs at our center in South Omaha and Miller Park in North Omaha.

Kids Can provides all students access to the latest and greatest in STEM activities. Our proprietary STEMsmart Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Strength, Music, Art, Reading, and Tutoring) curriculum, implemented by our dedicated STEM Coordinator, skillfully combines the core STEM subjects with other important subjects, skills, and focus areas to create

innovative and engaging activities students can enjoy regardless of their personal interests. LEGO robotics, drone soccer, and 3D printing highlight the program's robust offerings to students both at our Center site as well as our afterschool elementary sites. The goal of our programming is to improve social skills, develop curiosity and future focus, and establish the positive habits and behaviors necessary to be successful in school and life.



Last year, 71% of students reported developing a future focus/growth mindset, 62% reported positive peer relationships, and 75% experienced an adult who cares.



# Mentoring At Kids Can

Our mentoring program is back and stronger than ever with over 20 dynamic duos of matches roaming the halls of Kids Can every week. Mentors and mentees chat, play, bake, laugh, create art, and experience science projects, all while building lifelong friendships, modeling positive behaviors, and building confidence.

Matches meet at our main site after school, spending an hour of 1-on-1 time per week. This small time commitment can make a world of difference in the life of a child, instilling poise, sharing wisdom, and building trust. Next year, our mentoring program plans to expand to our school sites, allowing more kids to find that special match regardless of where they live or attend school.

To learn more about mentoring a child or to schedule a tour to see the program in action, contact Julie Madsen at [jmadsen@kidscan.org](mailto:jmadsen@kidscan.org).



# Can Do Awards

The Can Do Awards, presented by Verizon, took place on May 2, 2024, and honored those making a difference in our community:

Can Do Provider: Carime Ruvalcaba, sponsored by Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

Can Do More Here: Shanketta Newsom O'Neal, sponsored by American National Bank

Can Do Junior: Josue Jacinto Salazar sponsored by Bellevue University

Can Do Future: Anayeli Martinez Real, sponsored by Wells Fargo

Can Do Mentor: Jacob Mendoza, sponsored by Union Pacific

Mark your calendars for May 2, 2025, for next year's event. For more information, contact Mike Joyce at [mjoyce@kidscan.org](mailto:mjoyce@kidscan.org).



Photography by Debra Kaplan

# Kids Can by the Numbers

Last year, 1,283 children attended our Early Childhood and Out-of-School programs. You can learn more about the demographics of our participants below:



Age:	
6-weeks to 5-years old	11%
6-years old to 13-years old	89%

Ethnicity/Race:	
Black/African American	49%
Latinx/Hispanic	24%
White/Caucasian	16%
Multiracial	8%
Asian	2%
Native American	1%

Free/Reduced/Paid Meal Status:	
Free or Reduced	50%
Paid Meal	50%

Annual Household Income:	
Under \$30,000	52%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	29%
Over \$50,000	19%

Center Subsidy/Private Pay	
State-Subsidies only	24%
Subsidies + Scholarship	7%
Private Pay + Scholarship	30%
Private Pay only	39%





# Kids Can Financial Statements

Kids Can Community Center’s 2023-24 audit was conducted by Bland & Associates The full audit and Form 990 are available upon request. (Includes some funds for the capital campaign.)



## Statement of Activities 2023-24

Support and Revenue:	
Earned Revenue	2,932,006
Foundation Support	1,683,934
Special Events	167,909
Investment Income	143,017
Contributions	54,597
Gain on sale of assets	8,500
Income Total	\$ 4,989,963
Expense:	
Early Childhood Education	1,778,513
Out Of School Programs	3,215,650
Community Programs	117,411
Management and General	262,273
Fundraising	161,493
Expense Total	\$ 5,535,340

## Statement of Financial Position 2023-24

Assets:	
Current Assets	4,665,988
Property & Equipment	10,009,066
Other assets	589,463
Assets Total	\$ 15,264,517
Liabilities & Net Assets:	
Current Liabilities	304,191
Net Assets w/o restriction	14,868,966
Net Assets w/ restrictions	91,360
Liabilities/Net Assets Total	\$ 15,264,517



# 2023-24 Board of Directors

Thomas Behrendsen  
Jane Franklin  
Shannon Hite  
Jessica Hollister  
Brad Hove  
Sammi Kaiser  
Jaikrit Kandari  
Angie Kelso  
Rebecca Kleine

Kristin Lund  
Scott Moulton  
Lindsay Neemann  
Gina Ponce  
Diana Prauner  
Marcos Rodriguez  
Monica Wells  
Hannes Zetsche



# Advisory Council

Avi Atholi  
Cristina Castro-Matukewicz  
Nancy Edick  
Cesar Garcia  
Roger Garcia  
Jo Giles  
Laura Jana

Sarah Ann Kotchian  
Emiliano Lerda  
Mary Lopez  
Dianne Lozier  
Carol Russell  
Katie Weitz

Kids Can is proud to be a Platinum level on Candid/GuideStar, a Best Practice Partner through Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, and Four-Star organization on Charity Navigator.



# You Can Make A Difference

We invite you to like us, follow us, and invite others to join us on our social media platforms. You can help others in our community learn about all we do to educate, engage, and inspire children.

**Volunteer:** Whether you make a commitment to mentor for a year or choose to read a story to our preschoolers, we couldn't accomplish our goals without your time and talent. We need volunteers like you!

**Donate:** Because of you, Kids Can is able to help many children in our community. Your donations help fund scholarships, materials, programs, and operations at all of our sites.



**Shop:** We have a variety of easy-to-donate programs such as our wishlists at Amazon and Target or give while you shop at Baker's or using Together A Greater Good (TAGG).



**Follow:** See Kids Can in action by following us on social media. Use @KidsCanOmaha on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn to see the impact your investment makes every day.



@KidsCanOmaha



Kids Can Community Center  
[www.KidsCan.org](http://www.KidsCan.org)  
402.731.6988