



Community Report



2024

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite quotes from Martin Luther King Jr. is, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Today, we are living through such times, where our values must be demonstrated through action.

At Clayton, our mission is to ensure every child receives an exceptional start while empowering families to unlock their potential. In these uncertain times, we must provide a safe, loving learning environment for children and offer unwavering support to families, helping them build hope, community, and a sense of belonging.



This work is driven by the dedication of our incredible educators, strong community partnerships, and a bold vision for the future.

This year, we embarked on a visioning process to reimagine our historic campus, blending its legacy with the needs of today’s community. Our goal is to create a vibrant, integrated hub of services that supports everyone in our city.

I’m also proud to share a milestone in our commitment to sustainability: Educare Denver at Clayton is now fully solar-powered. This partnership with the City of Denver will yield a \$1.1 million return on investment over the next 15 years and significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

At Clayton, we believe in the promise of tomorrow and that only by coming together can we achieve that promise. We believe in a place where purpose and partnership converge to create lasting change. For over 100 years, Clayton has been a refuge where lives are transformed and opportunities are realized. Today, we are evolving into a vibrant hub for our entire city, and together, we will create a legacy that shapes the future for generations to come.

Ever forward,

William Browning
President and Chief Executive Officer



A Vision for the Future

Clayton is driven by a bold vision for the future of our 20-acre campus, one that honors our rich history while redefining our role in the community. After a year-long visioning process rooted in the belief that we can do more, we are poised to share this plan with the community, inviting feedback and collaboration to refine it further. Our focus includes forging new partnerships in affordable housing, wellness, workforce development, nutrition, and the arts, all to complement our work in early childhood education while enhancing accessibility and service.

The first chapter of this vision is already unfolding. Our exciting new partnership with Denver Health will transform an under-utilized historic building into a state-of-the-art family health clinic, offering mental health, primary care, and dental services. With architectural design work set to begin in 2025, the clinic will provide essential, high-quality care to Clayton families and expand healthcare access for our neighbors in the surrounding community. Through strategic partnerships and commitment to our community, we’re transforming our campus into a thriving hub of health, opportunity, and connection for children and families.

Strong Children: Exceptional Early Childhood Education



The Language of Learning

Clayton uses the LENA® (Language Environment Analysis) system to provide rich, interactive experiences for children. This innovative tool tracks verbal exchanges, or conversational turns, between teachers and children throughout the day, offering real-time data on language development. More conversational turns lead to greater vocabulary expansion and cognitive growth. Clayton's instructional coaches analyze this data to identify areas for improvement, providing targeted coaching to help teachers create more dynamic, language-rich classrooms. This data-driven approach supports dialogic reading, which fosters back-and-forth exchanges that boost comprehension, critical thinking, and vocabulary, key elements of early childhood development.

“Our integrated coaching program harnesses classroom data as a powerful tool to guide teachers in real-time, ensuring that every moment in the classroom becomes a meaningful learning opportunity.”

Coressia Sanders
Continuous Learning and Data Coach

Early Intervention to Build Emotional Resiliency

Clayton's early childhood mental health team focuses on building resilience in young children, providing them with an emotional foundation to thrive. Using tools like Conscious Discipline® and the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Program, we create a safe, supportive environment. Strengthening protective factors helps children develop the skills to face life's challenges with confidence. The pandemic's lasting impact affects young children, who carry emotional burdens like grief and isolation. With an expanded team of behavioral specialists, Clayton integrates mental health services into all aspects of our work, giving children the tools to overcome adversity and flourish.



CHALKBEAT

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Insights to Impact

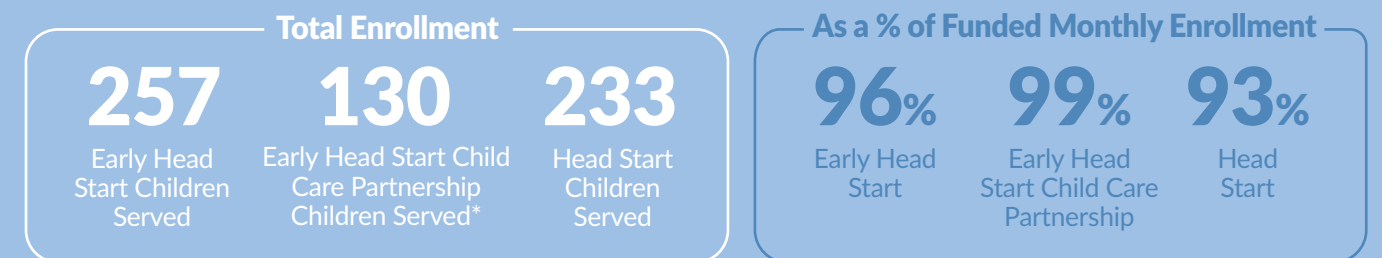
How Data Empowers Classroom Excellence

- 1 Ongoing Data Collection from Teaching Strategies Gold®, LENA®, Devereux Early Childhood Assessments, and others
- 2 Data Analysis by Education Directors
- 3 Analyzed Data provided to Education Managers and Coaches
- 4 Education practitioners receive data-informed coaching for optimal teaching

Health and Wellness Services

- 100% of children received nutrition assessments
- 73% of children maintained a healthy weight
- 93% of children received a medical exam
- 79% of children received a dental exam
- 90% of children are up-to-date on immunizations
- 100% of children receive mental health consultation

Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment



100% Children at Clayton Who Qualified for Early Head Start, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership, and Head Start Services



Strong Families:

Comprehensive Support for the Whole Family



CLICK HERE
TO WATCH

“ Our work goes beyond just supporting children. It’s about uplifting entire families and breaking cycles of hardship. We take the time to build trusting relationships, understand each family’s unique needs, and provide resources that make a real difference, and that’s what drives me every day.”

Jaquelin Hernandez-Perez
Child Family Educator



“ Play and Learn has given me a village. It’s not just about my kids—it’s about me, too. I’ve met other moms, shared stories, and learned that I’m not alone. I feel like I’m home, surrounded by people who get it because we’re all in this together.”

Genesis Olivo
Play and Learn Parent

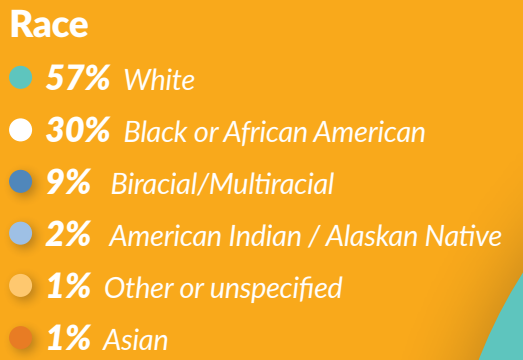
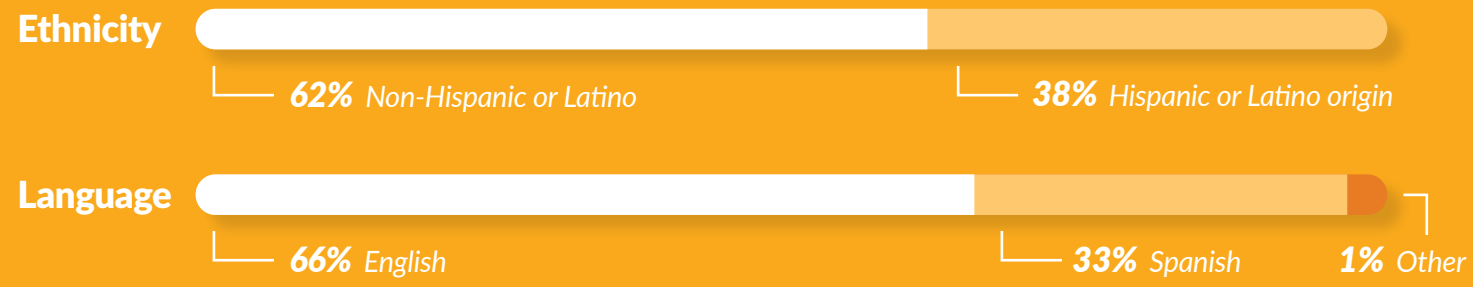
A Family-Centered Approach

Clayton Play and Learn supports parents and caregivers of children from birth to age three, providing the knowledge and resources to build a strong foundation for success. By creating nurturing environments, the program promotes healthy development, strengthens family bonds, and fosters supportive communities. When children engage in high-quality activities and receive responsive interactions, the benefits extend beyond the early years, positively impacting health, education, and social outcomes. In 2024, five groups operated in local community spaces, offering families opportunities to connect. Through twice-weekly sessions, facilitators guide parents in activities like reading and play, building confidence and supporting their child’s development.

Lifelines of Hope

Clayton recognizes that poverty limits a child’s potential but believes every child deserves a strong start. Our multi-generational approach supports both children and their families, empowering them to thrive. Clayton’s Child Family Educators (CFEs) build trust-based relationships with families, connecting them to medical, mental health, housing, and practical support. They equip parents with tools to break cycles of hardship and create sustainable, healthy futures. By partnering with families and using data-driven insights, we help parents set goals, address needs, and provide tailored support, reducing stress and fostering resilience for a strong foundation for children’s success.

This is Us: Demographics of Clayton Enrolled Children





Strong Community: Innovative Solutions for Every Family

EMBRACE Building a Resilient Community of Educators

EMBRACE is a pioneering initiative supporting early childhood educators' mental, emotional, and professional well-being. In a time of increasing stress and burnout, EMBRACE integrates mindfulness practices into educators' lives, helping them navigate the emotional complexities of their work with clarity. Enhanced with personalized coaching, the program equips educators with tools to reduce stress, build resilience, and manage daily challenges. EMBRACE has impacted teachers at Educare Denver at Clayton Early Learning and nationwide, resulting in gains in areas like executive functioning, mindfulness, and self-compassion. By investing in educators' well-being, EMBRACE strengthens early learning communities for future generations.



“I wish every educator had the chance to experience this—it changes how we manage stress, reduces turnover, and ultimately, helps us show up better for the children we serve.”

Lead Teacher
Educare Flint

Partner Spotlight: PNC Grow Up Great®

PNC is committed to early childhood education because it believes in the life-changing impact of a strong foundation. That's why supporting children and families at Clayton Early Learning is one of their top priorities. One of the most meaningful ways PNC has supported Clayton is with the gift of music. Through a collaboration with Inside the Orchestra, PNC helped make possible a series of live, interactive musical performances, a first-time experience for many of the children. PNC's generosity also extends to hands-on volunteer work, with employees contributing their time to various activities and events that enhance Clayton's work for children and families. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of PNC Grow Up Great®, the company's early childhood education initiative, a new Sensory Garden is under construction on the Clayton campus. Set to open in June 2025, this state-of-the-art outdoor learning environment will provide a dynamic space to explore the natural world.

“We believe that providing a strong foundation through high-quality early childhood education sets young children on a path toward a lifetime of success. PNC is proud to partner with Clayton Early Learning to help ensure a brighter future for every child.”

Ryan Beiser
PNC Bank Regional President for Colorado



Strengthening Food Access:

The no-cost Clayton Cares Market provides families with a wide variety of fresh and non-perishable foods, household and school supplies, diapers and wipes, and more. This all happens in a welcoming environment that allows for a pleasant shopping experience and the simple dignity of choosing the groceries and items that best fit the individual cultural preferences and needs of each family. This year alone, the Market distributed 76 tons of food to more than 500 families.



NEWS



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9NEWS



THE DENVER POST

Giving to Clayton

Visionary Partners

Our most generous supporters who have made transformational gifts this year.

William Browning
Marcus & Wendy Divita

Kevin & Mindy Hoffman
Tom & Cydney Marsico

Daniel Prager
Steve & Cindy Schulz

Changemakers

Supporters who have made a significant investment in our work.

Brent & Wende Abrahm
Scot & Susan Blake Smith

Jessy Clark & Travis Garrett
Donna Lynne

Curt & Heather Reimann

Community Builders

Philanthropic leaders strengthening our programs.

Nicole Adair
Christine Benero & Brad Busse
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Becca Bracy

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Advocates

Committed donors helping us build a brighter future.

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Sturm Family Foundation
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Agriculture
Virginia W. Hill Foundation
ZOMA Foundation

FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

The Gift of Time

Businesses and organizations from across our community lend their time and talents to support our beautiful, historic campus and the children and families we serve. Their volunteer efforts bring new energy and resources to our mission, and we are deeply grateful for their support. In 2024, we were pleased to welcome community volunteers from Big Green, Ernst & Young, Huntington Bank, KeyBank, Kroenke Sports & Entertainment, Lake Middle School, Mortenson Construction, PCL Construction, Peak Period, PNC Bank, Public Education and Business Coalition, Sage Hospitality Group, Swigert International School and YellowDog Design.



Best of 2024: A few of our Favorite Moments



International Mud Day News | Rocky Mountain PBS

On International Mud Day, Clayton celebrated the joy of discovery as children dove into beautifully messy imaginative play while embracing the wonders of nature in its squishiest form! Little hands and feet slopped through the mud to discover how play can spark creativity, build fine motor skills, and encourage collaborative problem-solving. With every mud pie and stick sculpture, the celebration reminded everyone that the best learning often happens when we're free to get a little dirty!



Teaching at Clayton VIDEO

Exceptional early education begins with exceptional teachers. Clayton's team of dedicated educators brings a wealth of skill, patience, and love to every classroom. Through a commitment to excellence, they nurture curiosity, foster growth, and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. At Clayton Early Learning, educators do the heart work to create an environment where every child is seen, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

Teacher of the Year VIDEO

At the annual Taste of Clayton event, Christine Benero of Mile High United Way presented the 2024 Charlotte M. Brantley Teacher of the Year Award to Rosine Niyoyishura, whose deep commitment and compassionate care serve as a powerful example of the impact educators can have on their students and community. Benero noted, "Rosine has demonstrated exceptional dedication, creativity, and effectiveness, indelibly impacting the healthy development and well-being of hundreds of children."



Little Moments: Big Dreams

In the classrooms of Educare Denver at Clayton Early Learning, magic happens in the smallest of moments. Every day is filled with breakthroughs, from mastering new academic skills to taking the first steps toward making new friends. These tiny miracles may seem simple, but they are the building blocks of confidence, curiosity, and growth, laying the foundation for lifelong learning.



Taste of Clayton

Taste of Clayton 2024 was a record-breaking celebration of community, generosity, and the heart of early childhood education. Supporters from all corners of the Clayton community united to raise vital funds and support for children and families. As the best-attended and highest-grossing event in its history, the evening's success was a testament to our community's support for Clayton's future.

NEWS | Colorado Politics



Clayton Early Learning Statement of Financial Position

6/30/2023 (With Summarized Information for June 30, 2024)

Assets	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,639,187
Grants and Contributions Receivable	1,521,970
Accounts Receivable	371,363
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	195,346
Investments	42,721,763
Beneficial Interests in Assets Held by Others	1,147,072
Property and Equipment	9,326,584
Total Assets	\$58,923,285

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$425,509
Accrued Payroll and Other Liabilities	862,406
Deferred Revenue	63,317
Total Liabilities	\$1,351,232

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	
Undesignated	\$4,275,497
Board Designated	22,386,406
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	9,326,584
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	35,988,487
Total Net Assets	\$57,572,053

Commitments

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$58,923,285
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The financial audit for FY 2023-24 of Clayton Early Learning, done in compliance with the OMB Compliance Supplement, resulted in a clean audit (unqualified opinion) with no findings.

Clayton Early Learning Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2023 (With Summarized Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2024)

Revenue and Support	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2024
Program revenue			
Federal Government Grants	\$8,070,052	-	\$8,070,052
Private Grants and Contributions	1,077,264	1,228,709	2,305,973
State and Local Government Funding	6,618,774	-	6,618,774
Contract Revenue	250,529	-	250,529
Tuition and Fee Revenue	79,407	-	79,407
Total Program Revenue	\$16,096,026	\$1,228,709	\$17,324,735
Rental Income	\$454,159	-	\$454,159
Special Events Revenue	159,712	-	159,712
Less Direct Expenses	(147,087)	-	(147,087)
Other Income	10,118	-	10,118
Net Assets Released Due to:			-
Spending Policy Appropriation	998,030	(998,030)	-
Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	881,609	(881,609)	-
Total Operating Revenue and Support	\$18,452,567	(\$650,930)	\$17,801,637
Expenditures			
Program	\$14,821,533	-	\$14,821,533
Campus Facilities	844,002	-	844,002
Administrative	3,318,482	-	3,318,482
Fundraising	1,026,350	-	1,026,350
Total Expenditures	\$20,010,367	-	\$20,010,367
Net loss from operations	(\$1,557,800)	(\$650,930)	(\$2,208,730)
Non-operating Activities			
Investment Return, Net	\$2,470,899	\$2,138,887	\$4,609,786
Change in Net Assets	\$913,099	\$1,487,957	\$2,401,056
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$35,075,388	\$20,095,609	\$55,170,997
Net Assets, End of Year	\$35,988,487	\$21,583,566	\$57,572,053



“ *When we invest in children and families, we invest in the heart of our community. Every child deserves the chance to grow, explore, and dream without limits.”*

Cindy Schulz
Chair, Board of Trustees

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Clayton Early Learning

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