

2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

TEN *years*

Dubuque Dream Center



OF IN YOUR LIFE MENTORING

A MINISTRY OF
 RADIUS CHURCH
DUBUQUE



The Dream Center was founded on July 23rd, 2013. Conceived by Robert Kimble (CEO/Executive Director), John Reeves of South Carolina, and Jay Schiesl. The Dream Center was founded to help strengthen the community in the downtown area of Dubuque, Iowa. We first opened our doors for programming in October 2014, serving 15 youth. We are committed to advancing Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of transforming communities by embracing, empowering, and unifying all community members.

The Dubuque Dream Center strategy — to Impact Youth and Strengthen Families — began with our In Your Life Mentoring model. On the foundation of genuine relationships, In Your Life Mentors are strategically connected around an individualized plan to provide a child with the assets they need to be successful in school and life.

The Dubuque Dream Center seeks to complete its' original 4th phase - Building Community - by utilizing the new acquisition of the former Fulton School to help build meaningful relationships with community members through events and resource connections.

DDC MODEL Strategic Phases

PHASE 1

Impact Youth | 2013–2018
Establish Youth Program Model

PHASE 2

Impact Youth | 2016–2018
Expand capacity to serve 200 youth

PHASE 3

Strengthening Families | 2019–2022
Sustain Youth Impact Model for working families

PHASE 4

Building Community | 2022–2024
Individual family assessment and support

The Dubuque Dream Center Complete 4 Phase Model is strategically planned to be established by 2024.

This year's Annual Report will highlight the growth and progress of the DDC since its inception in 2013, **celebrating 10 years of impacting those we serve.** We will also share our desire to sustain this mission and what the future plans are for expansion.



DIVERSE

Reflecting the Community

We are intentional in recruiting staff, mentors, and volunteers that reflect the community we serve. We seek to put our youth in a position to build relationships across racial and social-economic lines. Youth will experience what real community looks like.



RELATIONSHIPS

Caring (in) Community

When our program hours end, our impact only begins. Our mentors impact youth outside the walls of the Dream Center. We connect caring adults in the child's life to build a systematic community structure of people who genuinely care. It's not just programs, it's PERSONAL. Over 60% OF OUR MENTORS LIVE AND WORK IN THE RADIUS OF THE KIDS WE SERVE.



EDUCATION

School Connectors

School Connectors are Dream Center staff members who are trained in reading prescriptions and math improvement strategies, utilized by District educators, to continue teaching the school day curriculum. School Connectors visit students during the school day each week to encourage student success in the classroom and support the Dubuque School Teachers.



ACTIVITIES

Youth Enrichment

We are a Sports, Music, and Performing Arts Academy that provides youth with structure, discipline, responsibility, and skills they can continue in high school and college. Dream Center activities include basketball, choir, and dance.



MISSION DRIVEN

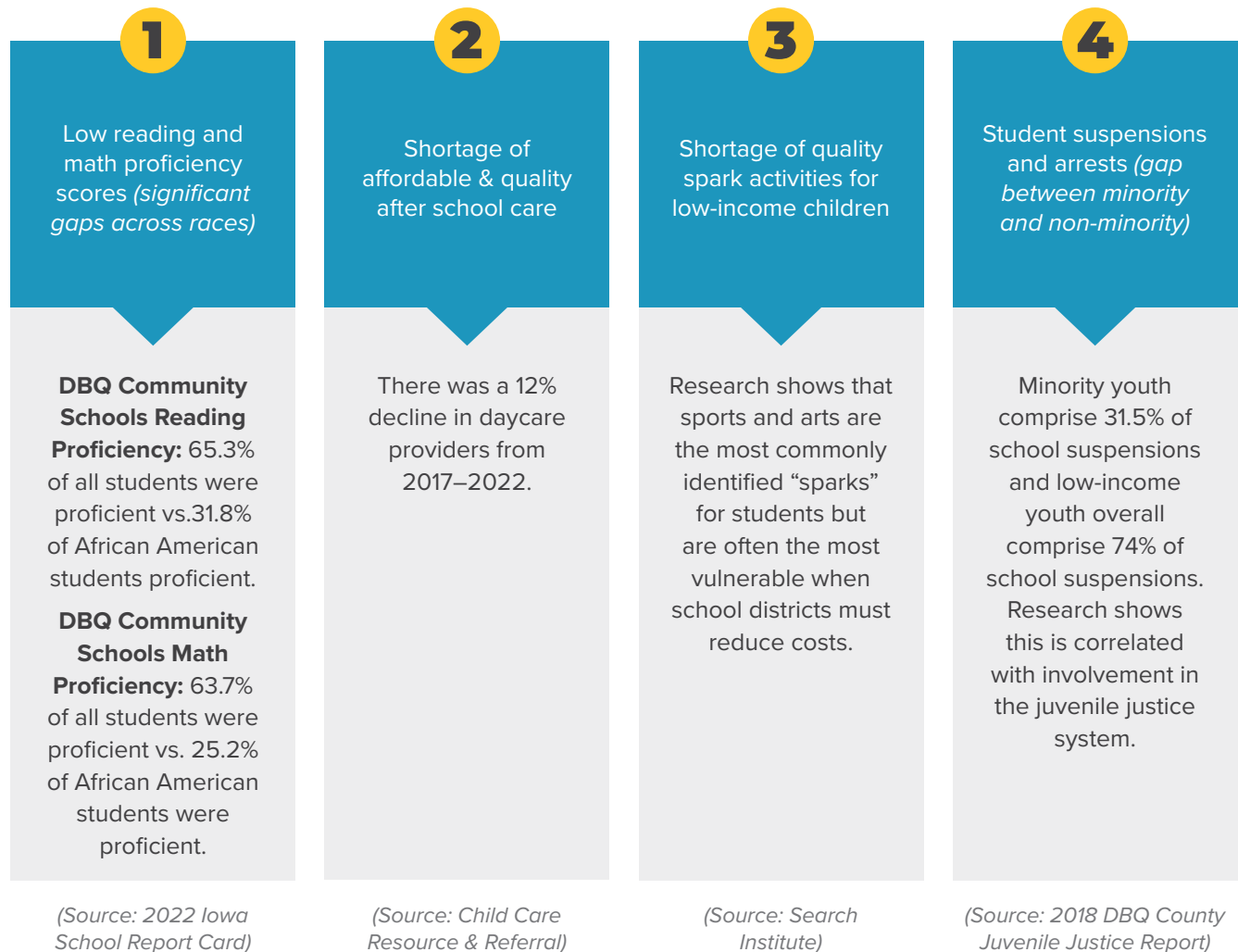
Building Community

We are intentional in building purposeful and healthy relationships with our students and their entire family. Our Parent Focus Group is comprised of parents that desire to be more involved with building the Dream Center. The connections built through this group create an additional support system for our families. Our desired outcomes for building community include contributing to a unified and safe community.

COMMUNITY *needs*

Over the past 10 years, with limited resources, the DDC managed to address some of the most critical needs of the community as it relates to youth and poverty prevention.

Needs addressed by DDC



— Continued on next page

COMMUNITY *needs*

(continued)

Needs addressed by DDC

Determinant	Dream Center Solutions
Economic Insecurity, Jobs, Living Wage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic model supports present workforce and strategically prepares the future workforce. • DC provides childcare, meals, and transportation for children of low-income and minority families pursuing careers and strategically prepares students for college or career. • DC is also structured to provide 30-40 jobs annually.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing transportation for children creates opportunities for children and parents.
Education & Skills Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream Center identifies students below reading and math proficiency in partnership with local schools and develops individualized plans to impact academic outcomes.
Physical & Brain Health Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Your Life Mentoring model provides social-emotional support for students. • Meals are provided for attending students.
Racial Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream Center's vision is focused on racial equity. The program primarily serves the African American population. 95% are minority and low-income students and families.
Affordable Safe Housing Shelters Safe Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream Center holistic model benefits the whole community. The program focuses youth on structured and quality activities, contributing to a sense of community and safety in the neighborhood. • Future plans include more neighborhood programming through the upgraded Fulton campus. • The Dream Center model empowers the community to impact their community. DDC Development in partnership with Alumni Network.
Early Childhood Learning, Child Care, and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream Center is a licensed childcare center, providing high quality childcare spaces for those who need them most.



Dream Center’s direct service staff are called School Connectors. School Connectors are the Dream Center activity coaches and mentors who are also responsible for overseeing youth academic and character development outcomes. School connectors supervise and instruct youth at 3 Stations; Academic Center, Club Sports or Music & Performing Arts Activity, & Meal Mentoring.

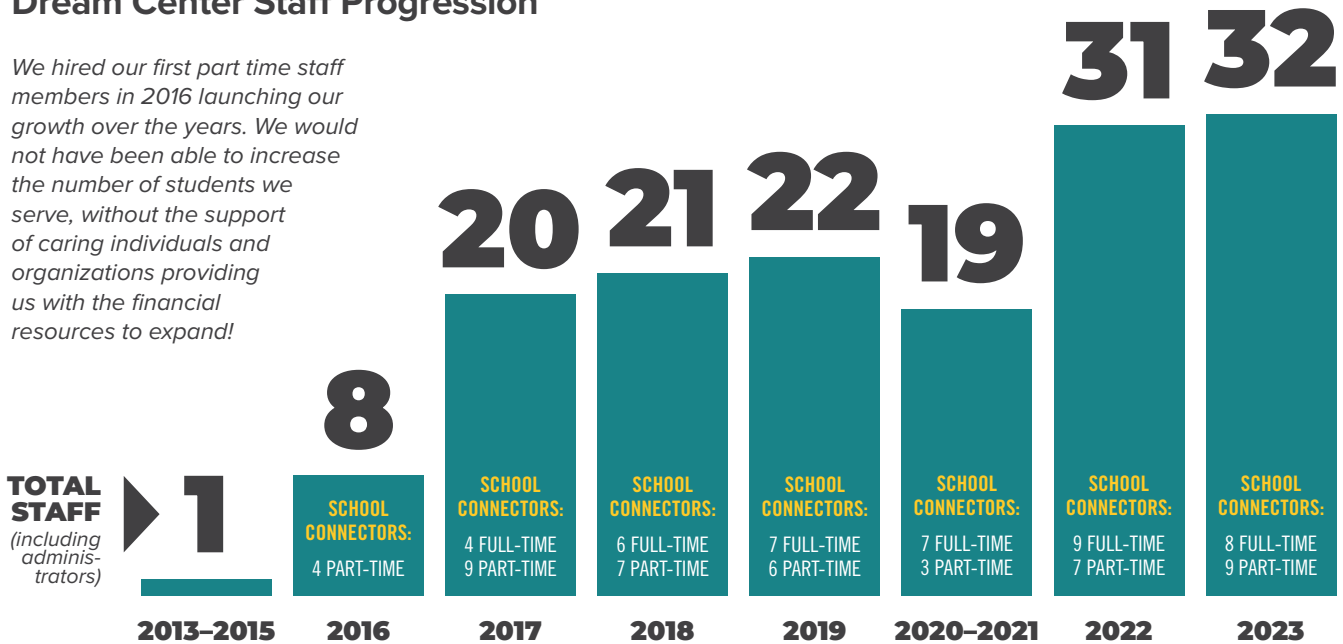
Each School Connector is responsible for a Team. A Team is a Sports or Music and Arts Team such as

a Dance Team or Choir. Our goal is to have a 10:1 ratio of students per School Connector for quality impact.

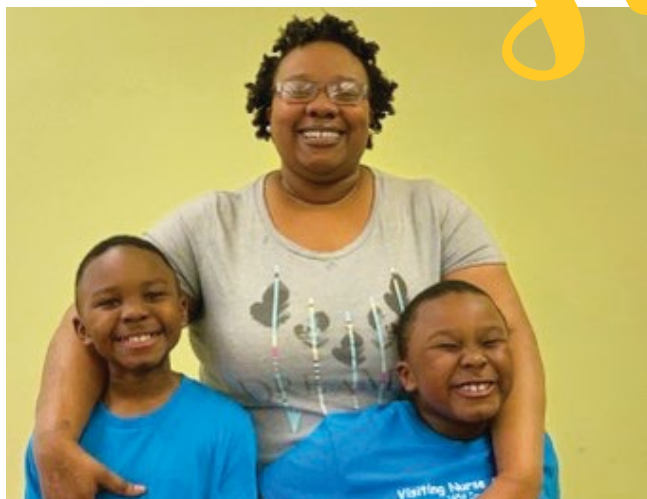
The Dream Center has full-time and part-time School Connectors. Full-time Connectors are Dream Center staff who oversee Dream Center programming after school and conduct school visits during the school day to support teachers and students they oversee at each school site. Part-time School Connectors are School Teachers/Paraprofessionals who work after school at the Dream Center.

Dream Center Staff Progression

We hired our first part time staff members in 2016 launching our growth over the years. We would not have been able to increase the number of students we serve, without the support of caring individuals and organizations providing us with the financial resources to expand!



STUDENT *Success*



The Jones' Family

Jayden has been involved in the Dream Center since 2018 when Jayden started to attend as a 3rd grader. The following year his brother Jaysen joined as a 1st grader. Over the past several years there have been many accomplishments for the Jones' family to celebrate that include: Jayden receiving the American Legion Award in 5th grade, Jaysen making a successful transition to a new school with the closure of Fulton Elementary last school year, and their mom, Lauren, graduating college and passing her nursing boards. All of this was possible with the positive relationships and support system the Dream Center has provided to this family.

Cheyenne Brown

Cheyenne has been involved in the Dream Center since the 2016–2017 school year when she first started on the Dream Center Dance Team as a 3rd grader. Cheyenne has been a committed student in the program and has built positive relationships with the staff and volunteers. During the COVID school online learning year, all the important people in Cheyenne's life were able to rally around her and provide support to ensure she continued to succeed in school and in life by supporting her with online learning. Cheyenne is now a high schooler giving back to the Dream Center by mentoring younger Dream Center students through our Youth Career Development Program.



Isabela Campa

Isabela has been enrolled in Dubuque Dream Center since she was in 3rd Grade, Spring 2019. In elementary school she was on an IEP for math and reading. She transitioned to middle school on an IEP, but with Dream Center support she was able to remove her IEP during her first trimester. She received a 4.0 GPA for 4 trimesters in a row!

STUDENT *success*

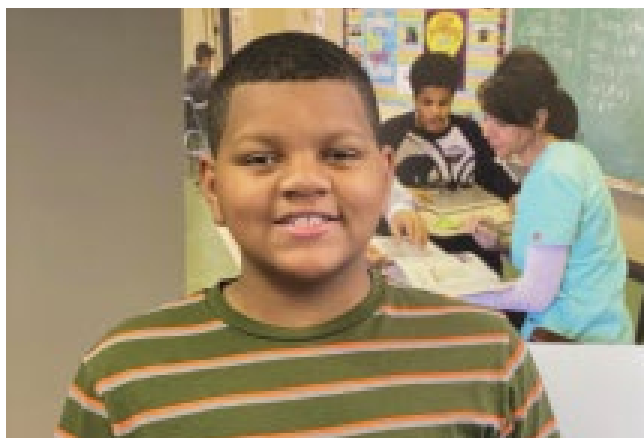


Daquon Lewis

Daquon is a Dubuque Dream Center Alumni. He was one of the original students of the Dream Center in 2013-2014 school year. He participated through his senior year of high school in 2019. Daquon is currently attending Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa on a basketball scholarship. He is majoring in Sports Management.

Jayden Hoskins

Jayden is a Dubuque Dream Center Alumni who was one of the original students of the Dream Center during the 2013–2014 school year. He participated in the Dream Center through elementary school, middle school, and high school, where he graduated in Spring 2022. Jayden is currently attending Northeast Iowa Community College and giving back to the Dream Center by serving as a School Connector for the 3rd and 4th grade boys basketball team. Jayden's loyalty and commitment to the students he mentors has been amazing to watch evolve over the years.



Ben Sanders

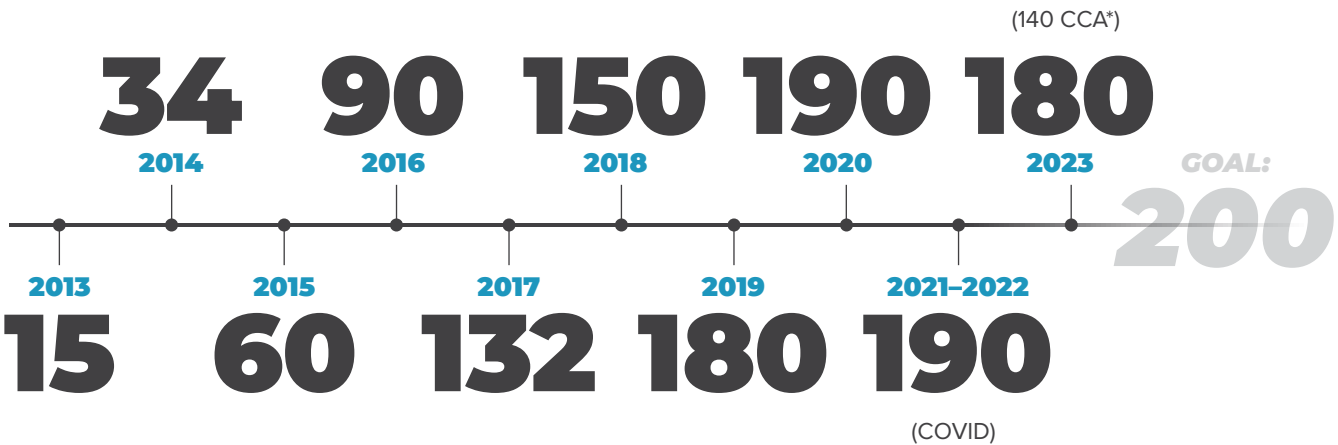
Ben has been enrolled in the Dubuque Dream Center since Spring 2019 when he was in 4th Grade at Audubon Elementary School. When Ben first started the program as an elementary school student, he was quiet and laid back. During the Covid19 school transition schedule, Ben's family chose the Hybrid learning option, which Ben struggled with. The Dream Center engaged to support Ben and he improved from failing most of his classes to finishing with a 3.5 G.P.A. Last summer Ben served as a student mentor through our Youth Career Development Program.





The D.D.C. enrolls students to participate in programming by grade. We assess and develop each individual student based on their Developmental STAGE in their Academic and Activity progress. Over the past 10 years, we've registered and served 463 students in total!

Youth served: K–12th



In 2022, we received our Child Care license and were approved for enrollment of 140 children. We are diligently working to secure all 140 spots with students who qualify for Child Care Assistance through the Department of Human Services.

**Child Care Assistance*

DREAM CENTER

impact

The Dubuque Dream Center Impact Model is designed to influence academic and character development outcomes of public-school students.

In 2016, we began our strategic partnership with the Dubuque Community School District by sharing outcomes and exchanging data for the students enrolled in our program. We determine academic requirements based on School District Standards and we measure progress based on School District measuring tools.

We established our Youth Employment, College and Career Preparation Program in 2019 as our original Dubuque Dream Center students were transitioning into College and Career age. Students enrolled receive an individual career assessment, soft skills development, and job & career readiness training in partnership with Local Colleges.



The DDC impact continues after high school graduation through our Alumni Network in partnership with N.I.C.C., Four Mounds, and Dubuque Works.

ACADEMIC

82%

Of kids made progress in **Reading**

92%

Of kids made progress in **Math**

COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION

Stats below include alumni students that graduated high school between 2019-2023.

95%

Of students graduated high school

60%

Of students are attending college

35%

Of students are pursuing careers

SUSTAINABILITY

focus

Since its inception the Dubuque Dream Center has primarily received over 70% of its revenue from private donors. Although these funds have paved the way for our growth, the reality is this funding method is not sustainable for a large portion of revenue.

The Dream Center received its Child Care license in August 2022 as a strategy to establish diversified revenue sources. We received a license capacity of 140 students. The initial research completed to verify need, income status, and projected revenue (with the help of Child Care consultants) of the present students we serve revealed a successful plan, however, since the inception of this process many of our families are being denied DHS assistance regardless of low income status. This has created a very urgent need to identify other sustainable streams of revenue for the Dream Center creating a larger purpose for purchasing Fulton School.

47%

CHILD CARE
ASSISTANCE

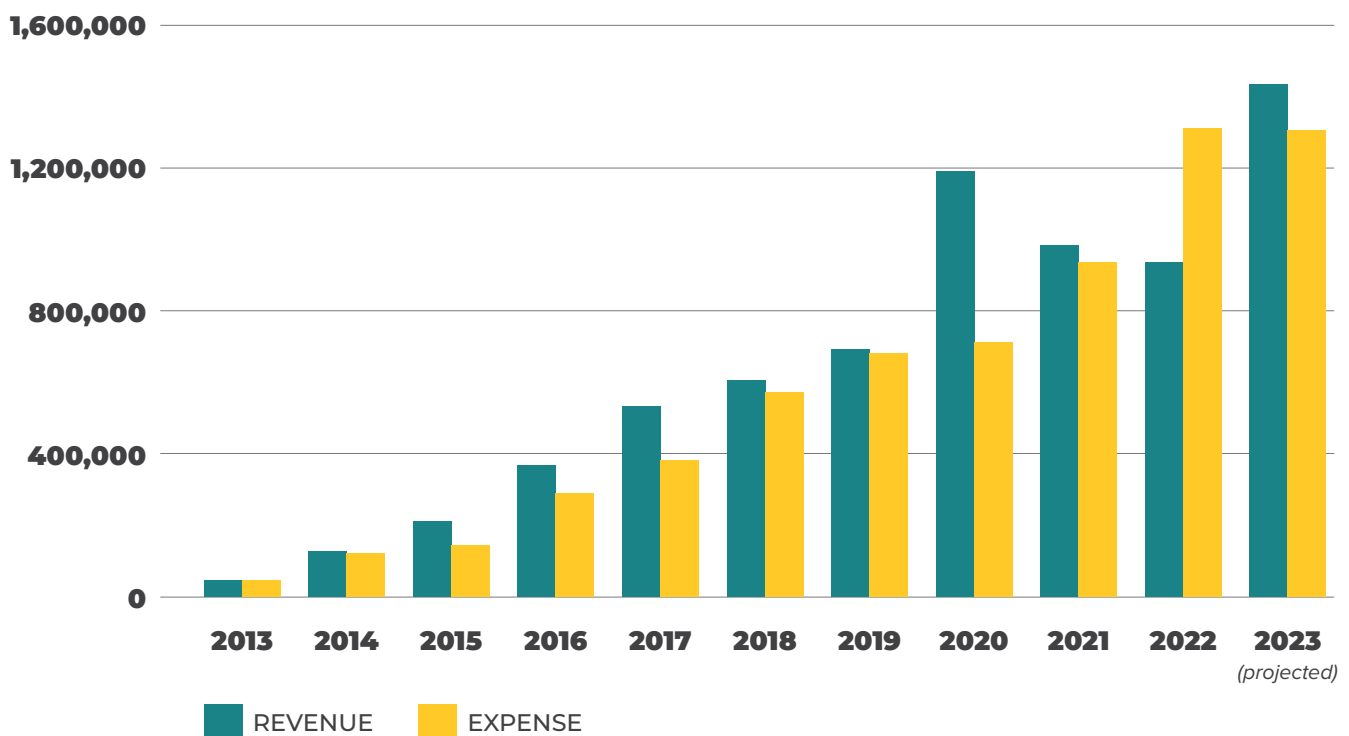
33%

PRIVATE DONORS

20%

GRANTS

Dream Center Revenue & Expense Progression





FULTON SCHOOL

vision

Purpose and use of Fulton School

1

Support present capacity for activity and office space

2

Serve an additional 200 students and families through expanded activities and our community center model

3

Support equity of services to families in North-end neighborhood

4


Future College and Career Prep Private School

Annual and Capital Campaign focus 2024–2025

1

School function and quality upgrades:

 Upgrade Heating and Cooling System

 Upgrade classrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, gymnasium and windows

 Renovate performing arts and studio space

 Renovate Fitness Center

 Renovate present gymnasium

 Build additional gymnasium and court space

2

140 Students Sponsored for 2024 and 2025



DREAM MAKER LEVELS

\$6,000

Sponsors one student through a FULL YEAR of Dream Center Programming (includes holistic services such as Continued School Day Curriculum, Healthy Meals, Skill/Character Development and more!).

\$4,000

Sponsors one student through a 9- MONTH school year session of Dream Center Programming.

\$2,000

Sponsors one student through a SUMMER session of Dream Center Programming (includes full day structured programming and transportation).

\$500

Supports one student's enrichment activities for a FULL YEAR of Dream Center programming (includes athletic tournament/ league expenses, field experiences, performing arts equipment).

\$150

Supports one student's Academic & Character Development Curriculum for a FULL YEAR (includes classroom materials and supplies).

GIVING OPTIONS

The Dubuque Dream Center also offers these additional ways to give:



One-Time



Monthly



Multi-Year Pledge



Stock Donations

Donate today!

dubuquedreamcenter.org/donate

HELP MAKE *dreams* COME TRUE

We need the community's help in making the dreams of the children we serve come true. We are asking you to become a Dream Maker!

A Dream Maker is an individual or organization that desires to see a student reach their fullest potential by sponsoring their tuition costs related to the holistic services they receive at the Dubuque Dream Center. This system is designed to help support low-income

families that do not qualify for DHS child care assistance and cannot afford the costs of the program, but have ambitions of seeing their children succeed in life.

Our Annual Student Sponsorship Campaign runs from October–December each year to secure tuition for the following year.



Grants

City of Dubuque	GreenState Credit Union
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque	McDonough Foundation
Dubuque County	Schoen Family Charitable Trust
Dubuque Food Pantry	United Way of the Tri-States
Dubuque Racing Association	US Bank Foundation
Greater Dubuque Development	The Wahlert Foundation

Dream Makers

The below individuals have fully sponsored one or more students this past year.

Andrew & Debi Butler	HyVee
The Butler Family Foundation	Sharon Kress & Keith Cook
Linda Claussen	Keith Nilles
Tim & Christine Conlon	John & Stephanie Ottavi
Andy & Anna DeWitt	Phil & Judy Ruppel
Alex & Yindra Dixon	Team Heartfire & Mark Dyer
Dubuque Bank & Trust	Jim & Marita Theisen
Rommel & Donnelle Fuerste	Bob & Donna Wahlert
John & Mary Gronen	Kathleen Weber



photos taken by Ashley of Rae of Light Photography

LEADERSHIP Team

1 Robert Kimble
CEO/Executive
Director

2 Nellie Kimble
Operations
Manager

3 Racquel McClellan
Development
Director

4 Cori Lieb
Business Manager

5 Molly Huhn
Grant Writer

6 Tim Gaffney
Facility Manager

7 Michelle Sheridan
Academic Center
Coordinator

8 Gabby Jean-Gilles
Child Care Director

9 Affrica Kimble
School Counselor

BOARD OF directors

1 Board President
Robert Kimble,
CEO/Executive
Director, The
Dubuque Dream
Center

2 Member
Dave Cushman,
Morrison Brothers
Co. (Retired)

3 Member
Chris Peterson,
Director of
Admissions
(Aviation), University
of Dubuque

4 Member
Racquel McClellan,
Development
Director, The
Dubuque Dream
Center

5 Member
Dr. Andy DeWitt,
Great River Oral
Surgery (Retired)

6 Member
Mark Dyer,
CEO/President,
Hawaii Mainland
Administrators &
Court One Athletics





GET *involved*

There are many ways that one can get involved in the life changing work happening at the Dream Center, starting with becoming an Academic Center Volunteer! The role of an Academic Center Volunteer consists of tutoring, assisting with homework, and providing genuine support for our students through building positive and consistent relationships. If YOU would like to be a Dream Center Academic Center Volunteer or if there are other skill sets and talents that interested individuals would like to utilize at the Dream Center, please visit our website and complete our online volunteer application!



RADIUS CHURCH
DUBUQUE

We are also in need of volunteers for Radius Church's Children's Ministry. If you have a passion for children ages 0-4 years old and would like to assist our child care team on Sunday mornings, we encourage you to apply at the website below. Please include Radius ChildCare as your area of interest.

DubuqueDreamCenter.org/volunteer