



2023-2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

we
**IMPACT YOUTH
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES
BUILD COMMUNITY**
dream





The Dubuque Dream Center was established in July 2013 to build on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Dream by embracing, empowering, and unifying our community across racial and socioeconomic lines. The Dream Center is designed to provide programs that address the social, academic, and economic needs of youth and families in a coordinated, systematic structure.

This year's Annual Report will highlight our mission and the overall impact we've had on the lives of those we serve. We will also share highlights of our journey to establishing the Dubuque Dream Center Academy.

we are

DREAM

theme

[D]IVERSE

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.

[R]ELATIONSHIPS

Caring (in) Community

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.***

[E]DUCATION

School Connectors

School Connectors are Dream Center direct service staff who are trained in reading prescriptions and math improvement strategies utilized by area educators. School Connectors provide hands-on support for students and Dream Center Academy Teachers in the classroom.

[A]CTIVITIES

Dream Center Impact

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.

[M]ISSION 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 who desire to create long lasting relationships with one another in a way that provides an additional support system outside of immediate family members, further contributing to a unified and safe community.

MISSION STATEMENT IN ACTION

IMPACTING YOUTH

463

K–12th grade students served from 2013–2023
(From after-school and summer In Your Life Mentoring model)

70%

Average student enrollment retained each year

70%

Average of students maintained or progressed in Reading/Math Proficiency

95%

Of students graduated high school

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Established Child Care License to help low income working families utilize child care assistance for year-round program



Initiated Parent Focus Group to promote the importance of connection within community and allow platform for parents to provide feedback for DDC Strategic Planning

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Acquired former “Fulton School” to allow for capacity increase and community outreach



Formalizing Individual Family Assessment/Parent Resource Connection to ensure families’ needs are met



Established Dubuque Dream Center Academy in Fall 2024 to provide quality education in a more individualized and progressive setting

dream ACADEMY

Consideration to establish a Charter or Private School has been a part of the Dubuque Dream Center's Strategic Planning assessment and process since 2016. Our mission to assist students in Character Development and Reading and Math Proficiency continues to be our top priority. Considering the outcomes and academic success of students within our present model, this next phase as a private school will enhance our opportunity to increase the impact for our students that are in need of smaller class sizes, individualized and tailored educational styles, and motivation for academic success.

Learn more at DreamAcademyDbq.org



Journey to Private School:

JULY
2022

With support of the Community Foundation and NICC we hired a strategic planning consultant, Ali Fuller, to assist in expanding our present model to include a private school

APRIL
2023

Conducted Parent Focus Groups and community meetings to provide vision and receive constructive feedback

2022
SEPTEMBER

Visited several private schools across the Midwest and South to learn and observe operations

MARCH
2024

Applied for and received Accreditation through CSI (Christian Schools International), which is an approved Accreditation Agency with the state of Iowa

2023
OCTOBER

With the support of IACS (Iowa Association of Christian Schools), received training and consulting to establish policies and procedures to start and run a school

AUGUST
2024

First Day of School!
97 boys and girls enrolled K-7th grade

2024
JUNE

Began the process of recruiting and hiring teachers and administrators





THANK you

Grants

- City of Dubuque
- Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
- Dubuque County
- Dubuque Food Pantry
- Dupaco Foundation (R.W. Hoefer Foundation)
- Dubuque Racing Association
- McDonough Foundation
- The Wahlert Foundation
- United Way of the Tri-States
- US Bank Foundation

Dream Makers

The below individuals have fully sponsored one or more students since October 2023.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Dr. Edward & Patricia Alt | Brad & Jillayne Pinchuk |
| Butler Family Foundation | Phil & Judy Ruppel |
| Mike & Molly Dalton | Sisters of Charity of the BVM |
| Finnin Family Foundation | Sisters of St. Francis |
| Hauptert Family Foundation | Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM |
| Dan & Luann Hillary | Sisters of the Visitation |
| Kathy Kelly | Dick & Joyce Smith |
| Sharon Kress & Keith Cook | Jim & Marita Theisen |
| Keith Nilles | Bob & Donna Wahlert |
| John & Stephanie Ottavi | David & Nancy Wahlert |

LEADERSHIP *Team*

Robert Kimble
CEO/Executive
Director



Nellie Kimble
Operations
Manager

**BOARD
PRESIDENT**
Robert Kimble,
CEO/Executive
Director, The
Dubuque Dream
Center



MEMBER
**Racquel
McClellan,**
Development
Director, The
Dubuque Dream
Center

Cori Lieb
Business
Manager



Affrica Kimble
School Counselor

MEMBER
Chris Peterson,
Director of
Admissions
(Aviation),
University of
Dubuque



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

**Racquel
McClellan**
Development
Director



**Gabby Jean-
Gilles**
Child Care
Director

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



BOARD OF *Directors*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The role of an Academic Center Volunteer consists of tutoring, assisting with classwork, and providing genuine support for our students through building positive and consistent relationships during the school day. 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!

Volunteer today!

DubuqueDreamCenter.org/volunteer

BECOME A DREAM MAKER

Funding for Dubuque Dream Center Academy does not cover after school and summer fees. 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 ensure student fees are covered for the following year. Student Sponsorship funds cover after school & summer programming for families unable to afford the program but do not qualify for Child Care Assistance through the State of Iowa.



DREAM MAKER LEVELS

\$4,000

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!).

\$2,000

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

\$1,200

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 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

GET *involved*

