

## Therapeutic Child Care Provides Hope for Child with Special Needs

Carol\* loved her daughter Lucy\* from the moment she was born. She loved watching her learn and grow before her eyes, and couldn't wait to see what the future would bring for her little girl. But as Lucy continued to grow, Carol began to worry that something was wrong. Child care programs were having trouble managing her daughter's behavior.

Lucy had developed speech and language delays that left her unable to communicate effectively with others. Not able to share her needs, Lucy would scream and cry in frustration. She also struggled with following directions, staying on task, and listening. Her behavior and difficulty communicating further led to problems interacting with other children her age.

Desperate to find the care her daughter needed, Carol was recommended to Children & Families of Iowa's Therapeutic Child Care (TCC) program. The program provides services to children with special behavioral and emotional needs in an environment specialized in meeting those needs. The goal of the program is to provide the children with individualized learning environments where they can develop at their own pace, and eventually be transitioned into general child care.

Right away, Lucy benefited from the program's excellent 1-to-4 ratio of teachers to children, as it provided her with extra attention other child care programs had been unable to provide. Staff were able to identify what kind of support Lucy needed to improve her behaviors, and she began receiving speech therapy to help her work on communicating effectively and appropriately. After conducting a vision screening, staff notified Carol that Lucy was also in need of glasses.

With the increase in attention and speech therapy, Lucy's communication skills began to improve. She has learned to express her ideas in the form of words and sentences, and as a result, has shown an ability to appropriately verbalize her needs and wants. These communication skills have in turn led to vast improvements in her social skills.

Today, six-year-old Lucy attends kindergarten along with the rest of her peers. She still receives some support after school in her TCC classroom, as it is smaller and quieter and continues to be a supportive environment for Lucy. Carol has excitedly watched Lucy grow and blossom, supporting and encouraging her every step of the way. She is thankful her daughter is now happy, healthy and ready to take on the world with the rest of her peers.

\*Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality



# Thank You to Our Tango Gala Sponsors and Donors!



Thank you to everyone who joined us at The Tea Room on April 22 for CFI's Tango Gala! With the help of over 250 participants, CFI raised over \$100,000 for lowans in need.

"Tango is a fantastic opportunity for community members to invest in programs that directly benefit lowans in need of safe shelter, mental health services, and other vital programs," said Amy Stapp-Arpy, CFI's CDO/VP of Development and Communications. "Every year I am impressed by the generous support the Foundation receives from corporate sponsors, individual donors and attendees. Special recognition is due to our honorary co-chairs, Julie & Andrew Middleswart, and the Tango Committee; we truly appreciate their commitment to CFI."



Top: Shana & Jeremy Harder  
Bottom: Bo & Nora Schatzberg

Thank you also to our event sponsors. Your support was vital to the Gala's success:

- Slater Law, P.C.
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- Sheri Avis Horner, In Memory of My Son, Randy Avis
- Don & Margo Blumenthal
- West Bank
- ITA Group
- Shazam
- Charles & Jaina Johnson
- Nyemaster
- Per Mar Security Services

# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with Children & Families of Iowa between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Kent Altena  
Tracy Amos  
Dani Anderson  
Heather Anderson  
Chelsea Arganbright  
Mary Besler  
Ali Bestell  
Trent Bildstein  
Katie Bostrtom  
Kate Bowers  
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Kelly Sloan  
Angie Strobel  
Vanessa Tamara  
Elizabeth Tonsi  
Megan Tucker  
Karen Vandenburg  
Sarah Wachter  
Chrsity Waters  
Tiffany Weieneth  
Krys Will  
Brandon Williams



# Des Moines Links Club Donates Positivity Bench

CFI's Child Development Center recently received a donation from the Des Moines Links Club - a "positivity bench" that was installed in the Center's playground. The donation also included a learning curriculum for children at the Center. The curriculum states that the positivity bench is a place to go when a child is feeling sad, lonely, or needs a friend to play with. Children are encouraged to be good friends to one another and support others who utilize the bench.

Thank you to the Des Moines Links Club for choosing to spread positivity at CFI's Child Development Center!



Pictured above (left to right): Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Valeska Buie, Mary Lynne Jones, Jacquie Easley-McGhee, Janice Lane Schroeder



Left: Sarah & Dan Connolly  
Top Right: Ali Bestell & Tracy Amos  
Bottom Right: Dani Anderson



# Child Development Center Continues Renovation Project



Children & Families of Iowa recently began construction at the Child Development Center to establish a physical space for its new Family Engagement Department. The renovation includes: construction of a therapy room, family development advisement office, family therapy space, Child-Parent Psychotherapy observation room, and improved Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. These renovations will allow for CFI to offer wrap-around care for the children and families served by the Child Development Center, providing access to many vital services in one central location.

The first phase of renovation was made possible by a generous grant from the Polk County Board of Supervisors. Renovations will continue throughout 2022 and are projected to be completed late 2022.



# SAVE THE DATE



**Thursday, October 6, 2022**  
**A.H. Blank Golf Course**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**

Children & Families of Iowa's Ladies Golf Invitational Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at the A.H. Blank Golf Course in Des Moines, Iowa. Funds raised at the Ladies Golf Tournament will allow Children & Families of Iowa to continue to improve the lives of at-risk Iowans with a focus on services for domestic abuse survivors.

The event will feature a four-person scramble tournament, silent auction items, raffles, and a donation drive of personal care items for individuals staying at CFI's domestic violence shelter. A complimentary raffle ticket will be given for each personal care item donated at the tournament.

Registration is open now! Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/3JhSb3Z> to sign up today!



Scan to register!



# Welcome

## New Board Members

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to incoming board members!



Laurie Mardis, IMT Insurance  
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Solutions Insurance Company  
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Kara Wilson, PricewaterhouseCoopers  
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*Board of Directors*



Sonia Parras Konrad, Law Office of  
Sonia Parras PLLC  
*Board of Directors*

# THANK YOU

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Members

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Jill Thompson Hansen  
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Brent Walker  
*Board of Trustees*

†Deceased

# THANK YOU

## Tribute Gifts

The following gifts were made to the Foundation for Children & Families of Iowa between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. To make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend or organization, please complete and mail the enclosed donation envelope or visit [www.givetocfi.org](http://www.givetocfi.org)

### IN HONOR OF

**Sean Abramowitz**  
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**Jessica Gruber**  
*GreenState Credit Union*

**Penny Krause**  
*Belinda Krause*

**Connie Shimp**  
*Mike Knapp*

## Thank You for Joining Us at Family Tees!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Toad Valley Golf Course on June 8th for our Family Tees Golf Tournament! The day featured two tournaments, mini-golf, hole challenges, and a silent auction. Congratulations to the winners of each flight and hole challenge:

- **Flight 1 (4-7 years old):** Jason & Griffen Sparks
- **Flight 2 (8-10 years old):** Michelle Dix and Jaden Erickson
- **Flight 3 (11-13 years old):** Jon & Jackson Hummel
- **Afternoon Flight (age 14+):** Jon Hummel, Dan Hawks, Joe Gerot, & Brent Kimble
- **Marshmallow Best Shot:** Carter Mulcahy
- **Simulator Bullseye Challenge:** Jon Hummel
- **Fastest Hole:** Patrick Simon Team
- **Pink Ball:** Bryan Johnson Team
- **Longest Drive:** Jon Hummel
- **Closest to the Pin:** Gretchen Frazier

Thank you to the sponsors of the Family Tees Golf Tournament:

- EMC National Life
- Equitrust
- Tito's Handmade Vodka
- E5 Group, LLC
- Jenny Moats: Keller Williams
- Johnston Development Corporation



Left: Todd & Dana Strother,  
Gretchen & Chris Frazier



Right: Ann Smisek & Nina Strong

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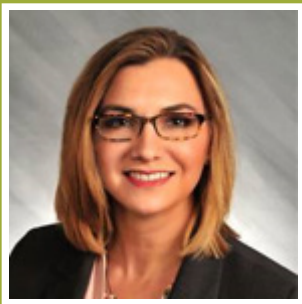


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Chris Frazier  
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2022-2023

## Foundation Announces Board Leadership Transition

On July 1, 2022, the Foundation board of trustees announced Chris Frazier of EMC National Life Company as the incoming president of the board of trustees. Frazier is the Vice Chairman, President, and COO of EMC National Life Company.

Frazier replaces Ann Smisek of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Smisek specializes in Government Law and Education and leads the Collective Bargaining/Labor Practice Group.



**Amy Stapp-Arpy**  
CDO/VP of Development  
and Communications  
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**Foundation for  
Children & Families of Iowa**  
515.697.7972 or [www.cfiowa.org](http://www.cfiowa.org)

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