

THE CENTER FOR
DISCOVERY®

2020
ANNUAL REPORT



THE CHILDREN'S
SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
AT THE CENTER FOR DISCOVERY



“
We got up stronger – and
with more resolve than ever
before.”

PATRICK H. DOLLARD
CEO

Letter from Center for Discovery CEO **PATRICK H. DOLLARD**

Dear Friends,

Clearly there is only one way to describe 2020 - it was a year like no other.

Every single one of us – from our residents and day students, to our staff - were challenged like never before. And each time the crush of the life-threatening pandemic hit us, we got up stronger - and with more resolve than ever before. Never has a staff inspired more awe and gratitude.

Because our team had an existing pandemic plan in place, we were prepared with enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the start, along with established safety protocols. As a result, we were the first long-term residential care facility in New York State to close to outside visits, and then the first to open up with a new pandemic visitation plan in place. My team, nearly 1700 strong, faced a new reality. They worked on the front lines of the pandemic and lived with fear for themselves and their family. Suddenly getting ready for work meant dressing head to toe in full PPE. They were saving lives and we needed to do what we could to protect them. So we established a Staff Co-op Market to keep them out of public grocery stores, and a staff laundromat, where they could safely do their wash for free. The challenge of a pandemic of course created obstacles in fundraising and in state support. So without pause, we went to work and received government support from HHS and FEMA for our work on the frontlines.

Our transformative Children's Specialty Hospital also received an enormous vote of confidence from the federal government in the form of a \$35 million dollar low interest construction loan from the USDA. Construction will commence on the project in 2021, with a scheduled opening in 2022. This will truly put The Center for Discovery® on the map as a singular organization that provides help across the lifespan for children and families in crisis.

We have learned invaluable lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learned that being proactive saved countless lives. And being proactive meant our residents and staff were at the front of the line, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it became available in late 2020. We've also learned that we can't build back in the same way after this crisis - we must think even more about infection control, healthy environments, and overall resiliency on behalf of those in our care.

We have learned so much and yet we are still learning. But if there is one thing I will never forget, it is the bravery, the passion, and the power of the staff at The Center for Discovery®. They are truly the heroes of 2020.

It is an honor to work alongside them.



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to build a compassionate and connected community with cutting-edge care and education for the most medically complex individuals. Our team of innovators come from diverse disciplines in the fields of education, research, medicine, nutrition, farming, and the arts. Utilizing the latest science, data, and analytics, The Center for Discovery® has built a model that aims to **improve health and enrich life for all.**



OUR IMPACT

From its birth as the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Association of Sullivan County in 1950 to its expansion to the Human Developmental Services Center in 1980, The Center for Discovery® (TCFD, The Center) has been a force for astronomical growth in an area of New York State that has been declining for decades. In fact, TCFD may be the most consistent, long-term economic force in Sullivan County history.

Under the more than 40-year leadership of CEO Patrick H. Dollard, The Center, now employs nearly 1,700 employees across multiple disciplines.

Walking the 1500-acre sprawling campus which includes many sustainable buildings, landscaped walkways, playgrounds, performance spaces and fields certainly feels like a university which serves the most complex and often the most joyous 1,200 children and adults who come from 150 school districts across the state and nation.



1.77 BILLION
OF ECONOMIC IMPACT
FOR THE STATE OF
NEW YORK
(2010 - 2019).



“

Our plan was ahead of the curve and set a precedent for future pandemics in our population.”

DR. THERESA HAMLIN

President
of The Center for Discovery®

Letter from Center for Discovery President **DR. THERESA HAMLIN**

We prepare this report in the midst of the greatest worldwide healthcare crisis in more than a century. Our first and only priority remains the safety and health of our staff and the children and adults in our care.

I am humbled and proud of the extraordinary strength and support of every member of our leadership team, and every employee in each department across our ever expanding campus. We have had to make difficult and emotionally painful decisions these last twelve months. Our Board of Directors and families have been the foundation from which we have been able to build an expansive pandemic plan, create and quick start a vaccination program, protect employees with new benefits, and turn our Education, Integrated Arts, and Clinical Services departments in a completely new direction to virtually educate children who are often challenging to engage.

We entered the pandemic with a plan which was created following science and data several years ago, and for the last 12 months was adjusted daily by following science and data from our own area, the state, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This plan included extraordinary early steps. We knew the vulnerability of our residents. At the same time, **we watched communication from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) breakdown statewide.** More than 650 people in OPWDD care died across New York State. **Everyone on our campus lived.**

Our plan was ahead of the curve and set a precedent for future pandemics in our population, other centers, and beyond. Our work included:

Early education to staff about what a pandemic is and what each staff can do to prevent the spread of a virus -including wearing a mask well before the CDC recommended mask wearing; **Intensifying our disinfecting protocols; Examining shared spaces** to prevent community spread; and, **establishment of a COVID Crisis Team** in early February consisting of nurses and key administrators to lead through the pandemic; **Establishment of a COVID Database System** to track signs & symptoms of COVID related illness, track positive cases and contacts, examine return to work data and recovery data, and more; **Establishment of a 24/7 Call Hotline System** to avoid staff from coming to work if they are experiencing any sign or symptoms of COVID or have known exposures, and support those staff who cannot return to work and their families; **Establishment of reliable, weekly PCR Testing for residents and staff** as needed - facilitated through Northwell Health, and additional molecular and antigen rapid testing administered through our Article 28 Clinic; **a vaccination program at TCFD** with vaccines acquired early through the Federal Pharmacy Program for all of our residents and essential staff – making us one of the first DD organizations in New York State to vaccinate our children and adults; **Weekly communication with**



our local Public Health Department and Garnet Health Hospital which has ensured our residents, staff, and staff families receive the best and most appropriate care; and, **Assistance of vaccine distribution for the county and the mid-Hudson** through Westchester Medical Center.

Taking care of the disease spread couldn't be our only focus. On a routine basis, our nearly 1700 staff members work with the most complex individuals. Add in uncomfortable personal protective equipment, social distancing in a population that doesn't understand, spouses out of work, children out of school, elderly parents isolated in their homes, worldwide uncertainty and rising death tolls, and it was clear we needed to do everything in our power to support our amazing employees.

Our efforts to support our employees included:

Weekly webinars and an **all staff text messaging system** to keep staff updated about the COVID crisis, new policies to comply with CDC and DOH guidance, new and/or enhanced benefits; **Instituted additional pay for staff working in high risk situations** where there is a COVID positive person or direct exposure with high probability of transmission; **Instituted additional pay for working through the pandemic in the 24/7 residential environment** where the work requires close contact with others, and staff ratios are less intense; **Created a staff market and laundromat** for staff to use rather than having to be exposed to public facilities; **Made thousands of masks free** to staff and family members; **Extended our free Ride Share program** in which rides to and from home are available for free at any

time of the day or night; **Made financial counselling available** through Operation HOPE, Inc. financial literacy program; **Created a TCFD Cares program** for direct monetary support in times of true financial crisis; **Offered daily emotional and mental support** via Telehealth technology and our Psychology Team; **Offered virtual stress-busting videos and techniques** staff could use, learn and teach others; **Enhanced our TCFD referral rewards** for staff recommending new employees; **Expanded our career development opportunities; Expanded flexible scheduling options; Offered free school-age childcare;** and, **Enhanced starting wages** to the *highest* in the region.

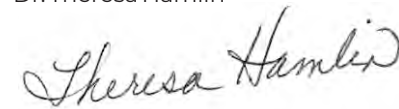
Keeping our workforce strong and all of our positions filled will be a major initiative this year. Healthcare is now considered a high risk work environment, and staff shortages plagued the field even before the pandemic. We have already initiated several new advertising programs and expedited the onboarding process. An expanded workforce will necessitate leadership training, certificate programs, and tuition reimbursement coordinated by a new People Operations department in collaboration with SUNY Sullivan.

At The Center for Discovery® we are always moving forward - pandemic or not - and so construction of our Children's Specialty Hospital will begin. It will be a program without equal in the country - designed to support the thousands of children with autism and their families in NYS who are struggling in the community and public school settings because of their complex medical and behavioral condition. In line with approval in 2019, our adult day programs

will be expanded to support our adults living in Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) Programs.

We intend to broaden our work with Northwell Health, as well as with our NYS and national government agencies and elected officials. Our robust research agenda will require new partnerships and funding. We will never waver from our commitment to unraveling the complexity of the people we care for, and developing new and more efficacious treatments to improve health and quality of life. We enter 2021 stronger, more flexible, humble, compassionate and united. The focus of our Center has and always will be all the individuals in our care and their many beautiful differences.

Sincerely,
Dr. Theresa Hamlin





Letter from Center for Discovery Board Chairman **EDWARD C. SWEENEY**

Dear Friends,

This year has taught us the essential life lesson that good health and community are everything. The global pandemic reminded us that we are defined by how we care for our loved ones, our neighbors, and the rest of humanity. And, that is why I couldn't be prouder of my work as the Chairman of the Board of The Center for Discovery®.

On a normal day, the 1,700 individuals from the support staff to the CEO himself, live each moment as if the words of missionary Mother Teresa were imbedded in their minds and hearts; "This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts." This year, dressed in personal protective equipment (PPE), and restricted by social distancing with hygiene protocols in place, they stared down the coronavirus and did everything in their power to keep the entire campus and every resident and colleague – happy, healthy, and safe.

The Administration had a pandemic plan before COVID-19 was even a threat. There was a stockpile of PPE before the rest of the world learned of that acronym. Training in proper suiting up and of disinfecting every surface on the 1500-acre campus began early. When New York State shut down, TCFD responded by opening up a Staff Co-Op Market and a free laundromat. The free Ride-Share program continued to shuttle employees to and from work at any hour of the day. And when husbands and wives began to lose their jobs due to COVID-19, the Administration answered by extending its emergency support via the TCFD CARES initiative. The Center was ahead of the curve in requesting vaccines, and creating and executing a vaccination plan. This organization loves its staff as much as each staff member loves every one of the 300 residents and 136 students who live and go to school at The Center.

All of this came at a great cost to The Center. Our work in recent years in Albany and Washington, D.C. helped a great deal in our application for FEMA reimbursement for supplies and lost revenue, a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and a groundbreaking low interest USDA loan for the upcoming Children's Specialty Hospital.

There is more work to do in 2021 as the pandemic continues its grip on the world. Still, I'm proud to report that despite the most challenging year in its more than 40-year history, the state of TCFD is strong. We see the other end of the pandemic tunnel – and it is a healthier, more creative, more innovative, more compassionate and yes, more loving Center for Discovery.

Sincerely,
Edward C. Sweeney
Board Chairman – The Center for Discovery®

“

...despite the most challenging year in its more than 40-year history, the state of TCFD is strong. ”

EDWARD C. SWEENEY

Chairman of the Board
of The Center for Discovery®

The Center for Discovery® **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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The Center for Discovery®

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Edward Giancontieri, Vice Chairperson

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President, Banking Industry (Retired)

Eileen Naughton, Director

Vice President of People Operations
at Google

Aidan Quinn, Director

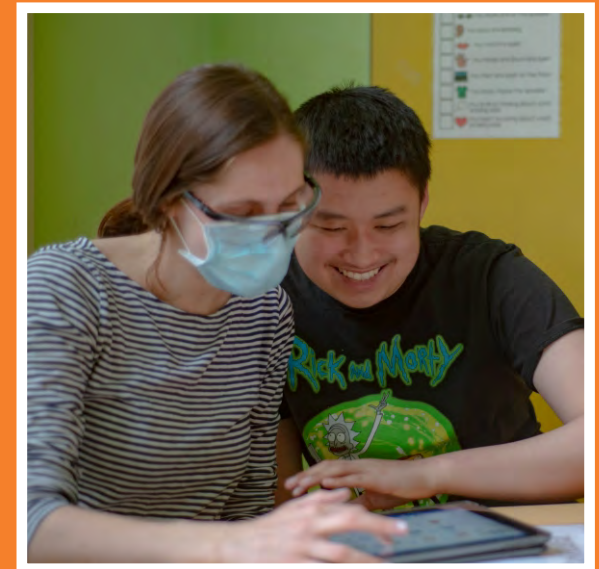
Actor

Arthur L. Thompson, CFA®, Director

Senior Vice President – Investments,
Wells Fargo Advisors

Allison Vella, Director

Director of Admissions, Saint David's
School



THE
CENTER FOR
DISCOVERY®

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PROGRAM
UPDATES

CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

Short-Term Assessment Center for Children with Complex Conditions

The Children's Specialty Hospital at The Center for Discovery will be built on the model of intensive assessment and treatment. The hospital will provide specialized assessment and short-term care for children with complex disabilities, such as autism, along with support and training for their families, caregivers, and school districts. This statewide resource for short-term stays will allow children to transition back to their home – and into their communities – which will reduce the need for long-term residential care. Essentially, this is a short-term, intensive residential treatment program.

The Center for Discovery's Children's Specialty Hospital in Rock Hill, NY, will achieve one of the greatest unmet medical needs – at incredible savings to the local, state, and national economies. The groundbreaking and life-changing work of the Specialty Hospital will create a net savings of almost \$15 million dollars over five years, with continued savings that will grow over time. The Specialty Hospital will accommodate 18 individuals, each for an in-person stay of a maximum of six months, for a total of at least 36 different individuals each year. Large scale construction begins in 2021 with a show of federal support in the form of a \$35 million dollar low interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2021.

WE ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST 50% OF CHILDREN TREATED AT CSH WILL AVOID LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT.

The Children's Specialty Hospital will utilize all of TCFD's physicians, clinicians, educators, and other experts to fulfill its mission to advance care and enhance the lives of complex individuals, their families, and their communities at large.



“

The new Children's Specialty Hospital is a dream of everyone at The Center's and a dream of mine. New York needs short-term, in-patient assessment programs for children with complex developmental disabilities and we also need to be at the forefront of groundbreaking research and treatment and there can't be any better group to do this than The Center.”

SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER

School Districts
Served Across NYS:

150

Total Students:

284

Total Residential
Students:

155

Total Day Students:

129



▶ EDUCATION Lessons for Success

Sam's school days at TCFD were a very busy mix of academics, music, art, drama, exercise, and work on Thanksgiving Farm®. He loved the farm – particularly, the chickens – the most. Surrounded by a team of interdisciplinary experts who supported his every move, he was thriving. As the COVID-19 cases rose and NY shut down, he was suddenly home, and the Education team was in high gear redesigning, reimagining and shifting their dynamic, physically-engaged curriculum 180-degrees into a virtual community. Individualized education goals, live interaction, creativity, self-expression, and connectedness were some of the critical ingredients for this new format and its lesson plans designed by The Center's 51 teachers. In the fall, between the waves of the virus, the team even admitted new students and opened up a new school building. Our Education Department is the best there is. The recipe has been a success. Just ask Sam.

“

The Education Team is the embodiment of compassion. Never before has our son had educators who see his potential first and his challenges – second. Never before has he had a unified team on his side working together for his advancement – not only in the classroom, but in life. These educators are irreplaceable gems. TCFD is a treasure.”

Michele Arbogast

Center for Discovery Community Parent



Number of Residential Individuals:

171

Number of Residential Homes:

23



The Center for Discovery® was completely different than anything else we had seen. We felt like it was the Harvard of Special Education.



Vadim Mostovoy
Center for Discovery Parent

▶ PEDIATRIC RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Beautiful Diversity

2020 began with the usual flurry of activity. Tommy was preparing for the annual theatrical production. Jordan – was practicing dance for a recital. Nick was advancing his farming skills. And Kelsie was expressing herself through cooking. This is TCFD – beautiful diversity. When the pandemic led to quarantine, all of our teams worked hard to guide The Center’s Pediatric residents through the uncertainty and stress. In full PPE, our staff taught, cared for, and prepared nutritious meals for our pediatric community, and set up virtual holiday gatherings and in-person summer visits. And guess what? Jordan got her dancing in every day. Tommy performed in his first virtual play. Nick started an indoor herb garden. And, Kelsie’s working on a new recipe. What a team...

“

The Center for Discovery® takes the entire individual into perspective, but it's not just about academics. It's about the overall health and social and emotional wellness of the individual. I've seen many organizations, but this is very unique to The Center. ”

Maura Robinson
Center for Discovery Parent

▶ ADULT RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM Fulfilling Friendships

Imagine The Center's adults with complex conditions and their busy, rich lives filled with music, art, drama, dance, community service, work and academics on our bucolic rural campus and in the nearby community. We were determined to keep their lives as fulfilled and safe as possible, so when the quarantine began, we brought it all home in a combination of live and virtual activity. We radically enhanced staff assignments to minimize flow of personnel into homes and at the same time, we maximized training in personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning, and infection control. Layered in medical-grade masks, shields, gloves and gowns, our residential staff wore many hats in 2020 – but hands down the most important was – friend.



Number of
Residential
Individuals:

168

Number of
Residential
Homes:

23



“

"I wanted to let you know how grateful I am to all of you for engaging my son so wonderfully under such difficult circumstances. One clear benefit to this COVID situation has been getting to know all of you so much better than we would otherwise. I'm really grateful for all of the insights you have shared about my son's learning process."

Center for Discovery Parent

► CLINICAL SERVICES Real Time, Meaningful Work

While happy, engaged and active during his bustling school days at The Center, Kyle suddenly became confused, irritated and volatile when the pandemic forced his school program to go virtual. His clinical team, in constant contact with the family, immediately engaged. Kyle's Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, and Physical Therapist held live sessions with him and his parents to help teach and implement his school protocols at home. That's the kind of deep, meaningful work we were able to do in 2020. Our 65 clinicians assisted entire families in real-time with telehealth technology. Kyle is doing great and can't wait to spend time with the four new facility dogs adopted and trained by Center clinicians during the midst of the pandemic!

“

There is no place in the World that I would rather be.”

Angelica Marmanillo, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing Informatics

► NURSING

Benevolence Personified

Every day our nurses care BIG. Empathize BIG. Love BIG. In 2020, our nurses taught us the very heart of humanity - what it means to be completely selfless. When the pandemic shut down New York and The Center, in the most difficult of all working conditions, our nurses trained hundreds of their colleagues in safety, personal protective equipment and cleansing protocols. The team worked day and night checking temperatures, fielding a 24/7 hotline for sick staff members, performing PCR tests, talking to families and strategizing to stay ahead of the curve by establishing and continuously updating our own COVID-19 Database System. Then in the summer, our nurses, helped ensure safe, healthy family reunions and in the fall, they began to educate, plan, and execute a vaccination program at TCFD. Our nurses are benevolence personified.





► THE INTEGRATED ARTS Pioneering Creative Programs

Visionaries – that's our Integrated Arts team. Day and night, month after month, we create innovative programming in theatre, music, dance, horticulture, recreation therapy, and the arts for every classroom, residential home, and individual need at The Center. Self-expression is vital to our community, and every one of us on the Integrated Arts team made it clear the pandemic would not get in the way! We dug deep and pioneered the most creative programming in our history! Monthly themes, daily crafts, dance classes, virtual concerts, book and poetry readings, guest speakers and performers, art contests between houses, collaboration with our technology incubator – THINC – new recipes, live sound healing sessions, and the first TCFD virtual play – The Great Race - were just some of the offerings of our virtual synchronous and asynchronous delivery model.

“

...I have marveled at the way our staff has pivoted from moment to moment over the past year in order to meet the changing needs of our entire TCFD community and ensure meaningful, purposeful programming. And, they didn't just pivot, but they did so with so much grace...with flexibility, commitment and caring...and, dare I say it, with love....”

Conio F. Loretto III, MS, LCAT, MT-BC
Senior Director
Music Therapy, Integrated Arts Department

► PSYCHOLOGY

Stress Reduction for All

The Center's residents and students thrive in a predictable world. So, 2020 could have been even more uncertain if we didn't have the most innovative Psychology Team. Team members always work around the clock to help our community cope with astronomical levels of stress, anxiety, and fear. Then, add in a world that became quite foreign and isolated seemingly overnight. Our team held countless telehealth and phone sessions with family members unable to visit their loved ones and with staff working and living under incredible pandemic pressure, developed picture-based social stories to assist understanding and mold behavior, created desensitization protocols for mask-wearing in individuals who often do not like touch, and taught many, varied methods of stress reduction. Our indomitable Psychology Team kept our minds sound in 2020 – an immense task with a campus of nearly 1,700 employees, over 300 residents, and 600 parents and caregivers.

“

The Center is tailor made for your child. Everything here that your child is going to need, and will like, the staff incorporates and makes a part of their daily routine.”

Center for Discovery Family Member





Number
of Meals
Provided
per Day:

1900

► DEPARTMENT OF
NOURISHMENT ARTS®
Nourishing Body and Mind

At TCFD, we believe Food is Medicine®, so much so - we cultivate it from Seed to Belly®. Last year, like most, we began with our dietitians and chefs in our Department of Nourishment Arts® (DNA) crafting new plant-based recipes inspired by our Thanksgiving Farm® bounty. Our chefs on average make 1900-meals per day to feed every resident, as well as many students and staff. With the onset of quarantine, we centralized all of our chefs into two big kitchens for safety and efficiency—and to great success.

Our complex community and staff members did well in combating the virus. We believe we can in part, credit our food-forward, progressive standard of care and our hardworking DNA® team.

“

The Seed to Belly® nutritional plan is an integral part of the program because the gut-mind connection is very evident in individuals with Autism. As a result it can calm down a child and improve their whole wellbeing, just based on what they put in their body. ”

Center for Discovery Parent

“

When we got here, I was in awe. I was in awe of the environment and their approach. It's an approach that is all about sensitivity and dignity.”

Joann Mostovoy
Center for Discovery Parent

▶ THANKSGIVING FARM® A Banner Year for Production

Much of life at TCFD centers on our organic, biodynamic Thanksgiving Farm®. The year began with traditional winter cleanup, preparation for the growing season, and our beloved maple tree tapping by staff, residents, and students. For safety, resident participation in the fields and barns was curtailed when the virus began to rapidly spread throughout the state. Everyone missed working together. Despite the adversity, it was a banner year for production: 18 acres of vegetables, 950 laying hens, 105 head of cattle and 80 pigs which translated into thousands of meals prepared by the Department of Nourishment Arts® and a thriving Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) with over 300 members..





2020 Ride Share Highlights

12,777

Total Trips

\$178,878

Savings to Staff

► LIFE SAFETY, SECURITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND EARTH CARE

The Quiet Heroes

Our Life Safety Team members are our quiet heroes. Every day, every hour, our Safety and Security team was on patrol across the vast campus that is TCFD, ensuring our residents, students, and staff were free of danger. In 2020, our year-old Staff Ride Share program became a critical part of our pandemic plan. All year our drivers provided employees safe and sanitary local and long distance transportation to and from home, saving them an estimated \$18-20k each month in taxi fare, while creating lasting bonds. The drivers are supported by the Vehicle Maintenance Team and just like all of us – rely on the Earth Care team to keep the driveways, internal road and walkways clean, plowed, and landscaped - during any season.

“

One last thanks for every single person involved with The Center for Discovery® . No matter your department or position, your contributions are invaluable. Every spoke of the wheel that creates this magic is what is giving all of the students and residents a better life. ”

Center for Discovery Family Member

► ADMISSIONS

Beacons of Hope and Support

The Admissions and Transitions team had a strategic plan in early 2020 that included an anticipated shift in the TCFD landscape with a high volume of discharges, admissions, and transitions as well as a number of projects on the horizon. The pandemic forced this team - perhaps - more than any other to shift gears entirely. While new processes for intake, screening, admissions, discharges, and meetings were implemented, the need to support staff and families was immense. So, the Admissions Team, created a Family Information Hotline, and guided anxious families through months of not being able to visit and hug their loved ones in quarantine. It was difficult work requiring the tender touch of a team with lots of experience in communicating with families. The silver lining? Our families grew closer to us - and we grew closer to each other.



Current Staff:

1700

Hours Invested
in Training
Annually:

5000



► PEOPLE OPERATIONS

Navigating the Road to Success

Caring for all of those in our community requires great commitment on a regular day. Add in a global pandemic and it's easy to see exactly why our staff are extraordinary. Recruiting during these challenging times required rethinking by our Talent Acquisition Team. All interviews went virtual and so did our recruitment events. But that wasn't enough. Our team launched new hiring incentives for staffers and their referrals. The team provided fiscal support through Operation HOPE, and expanded emergency staff support through TCFD CARES. At a time when unemployment was astronomically high and families may have only had one income, TCFD ensured its staff members had the basic necessities, like food and gas, along with other essential supports and resources.

The job landscape changed in 2020, but our Talent Acquisition Team was ready to navigate the ever-shifting road to success.

Operation HOPE Financial Services:

Total Services:

3,430

Unique Individuals
Enrolled:

518



▶ OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Essential Support

Our Operations team is all action. Quietly, day and night our Operations and Facilities team members make the rest of our work possible. Before COVID-19 was even declared a pandemic, they sprang into action, procuring the personal protective equipment (PPE): masks, gowns, face shields, caps, and shoe covers that were essential for keeping residents and staff members safe and well. With a staff of nearly 1,700, this was a massive undertaking assisted by a daily tracking system, developed to estimate the projected “burn-rate” or use of PPE. The Operations team also made sure the air in the residential homes and Center buildings were more clean by pre-treating and changing all HVAC filters to MERV 11 or higher every 21 days.

“

He's achieving independence, which is so much of what we wanted for our son. ”

Center for Discovery Parent





▶ OFFICE OF STRATEGIC OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

Making it Happen

Transparent, honest communication is at the core of who we are and everything we did in 2020. When the pandemic began to sweep across the world, our Strategic Outreach and Partnerships Team created a comprehensive communications plan including weekly webinars, COVID hotlines, and interviews with experts. We left no question unanswered for our staff and families.

Work early in the year with state and national lawmakers helped The Center secure grants from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), FEMA reimbursement for supplies and lost revenues, and a groundbreaking low interest USDA loan for the upcoming Children's Specialty Hospital. We educated early about vaccine protection and began vaccinations before the year was out. By the end of 2020, TCFD's leadership was in the national spotlight on CNN!

THE STRATEGIC OUTREACH TEAM

MICHAEL ROSEN
Executive VP, Marketing & Strategic Communications

HELENA LE ROUX OHM, Ph.D.
VP of Strategic Partnerships

RICHARD HUMLEKER
VP for Development

ANNA KORNILAKIS
Development Consultant

GABRIELLE SCOTT
Senior Development Officer

COURTNEY GOLD
Senior Marketing Specialist

CHRISTOPHER ELLISON
Development Specialist

CARMEN WILLIAMS
Development Coordinator

DEAN MCMANUS
Senior Graphic Designer

JESSE WALL
Multimedia Specialist

KEVIN MESA
Graphic Designer

“

Our thanks to the residents and staff of The Center for Discovery® for making us feel so welcome. What wonderful people.”

Gary Tuchman
CNN National Correspondent

Hurleyville

SMALL TOWN | BIG IDEAS

► HURLEYVILLE

A Model of Inclusiveness

The hamlet of Hurleyville, NY, where TCFD has been reimagining and helping redevelop a truly inclusive community for the 21st Century, saw incredible growth in 2020.

Along Main Street, Main Street Mews, offers new retail space and modern apartment living. Italian specialties made from local ingredients are now available at La Salumina which opened during the height of the pandemic. And, the Tango Café, Executive Chef Tom Valenti's new endeavor, will soon open at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center for dining and catering.

And it will be even easier to walk off a big meal along the historic, beautiful Rail Trail in 2021 as it is slated to be extended, thanks to a \$200,000 State Municipal Facilities Capital Grant secured in fall of 2020 by former State Senator Jen Metzger.

Hurleyville, NY, truly is a model of inclusion for the rest of small town America.



► COLLABORATIVE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (CCHS) In Hurleyville, NY

The Homestead School and SUNY Sullivan are thrilled to announce an educational partnership with the intent to establish the Collaborative College High School (CCHS) in the hamlet of Hurleyville, New York. Blending an early college high school model with the Montessori approach, this new high school will offer an option unlike any other in the region.

CCHS intends to launch its program for grades 7-9 in the 2021-2022 school year. In September of 2022, CCHS intends to add tenth grade, followed by an additional grade in each of the two subsequent years. Ninth grade students may begin the process of selecting an area of study in collaboration with SUNY Sullivan, with tracks including healthcare, environmental sustainability, or liberal arts including theatre and graphic design. Students will have the option to dually enroll at SUNY Sullivan and work towards completing an Associate's degree upon high school graduation.

This collaboration is supported by The Center for Discovery®, who has been leading a comprehensive effort to reimagine what it means to be a fully inclusive and sustainable community in the hamlet of Hurleyville. The Technology Hub and Incubator (THINC) building in Hurleyville will transition into the Collaborative Hub, becoming the home-base for the CCHS students. Beyond the Collaborative Hub, students will have access to the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center, outdoor learning spaces, and a variety of other business and enrichment opportunities along Main Street. When on the SUNY Sullivan campus, students will have access to contemporary science labs, athletic facilities, a media arts studio, Mac lab for graphic design, and culinary arts kitchens.



About the Homestead School

The Homestead School is a private Montessori school focused on humanitarian and sustainable education, with a mission to nurture self-motivated students whose love of learning will carry through into a lifetime of responsible and constructive contributions to the well-being of their fellow humans and the Earth. For more than 40 years, the Homestead School has educated the body, mind, and spirit of children through experiential learning, while holding high standards in academics and character development.

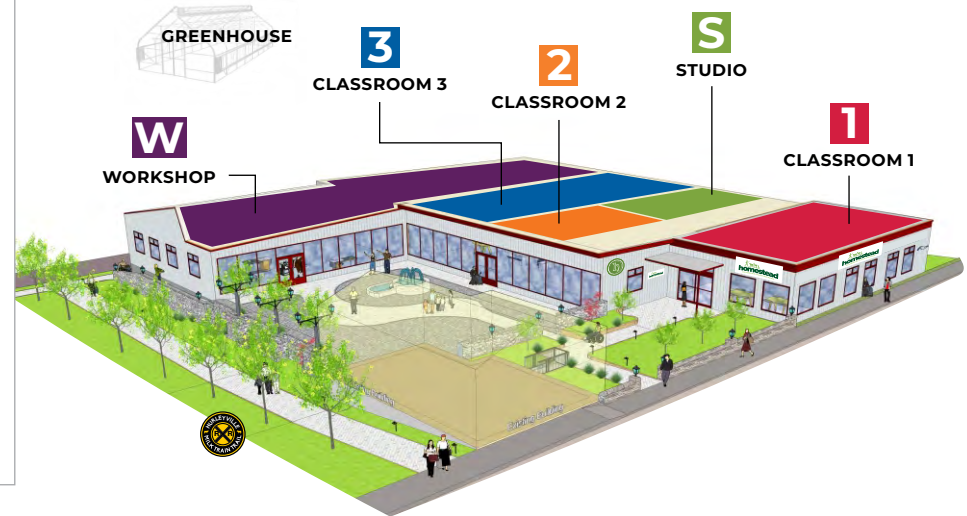
For more information, visit homesteadschool.com.



About SUNY Sullivan

Sullivan County Community College (SUNY Sullivan) seeks to educate, inspire and empower both SUNY students and the community at large. Through our excellent instructors and programs, we prepare students for exciting careers in a diverse and interconnected world. We also give back to the community as a whole — promoting environmentally sustainable practices and supporting positive economic change within Sullivan County and beyond.

For more information, visit sunysullivan.edu.



“

When you put together extraordinary compassion plus tireless dedication and the highest levels of expertise, you create an environment in which people thrive. What makes The Center for Discovery® special is not only that ability to put those precious elements together, but to sustain that incredible level of care 365 days a year and seamlessly carry that responsibility in the face of extreme challenges.

”

Denise Lombardi, Center for Discovery Parent

The Center for Discovery's STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

➤ GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS:

TCFD is a New York State designated Center of Excellence for complex disabilities, the largest Children's Residential Project (CRP) program in NYS, the preeminent leader in innovative models of care, and a participant in NYS's Industrial Hemp Agricultural Research Pilot Program. Agency partners include:

- NYS Department of Health (DOH)*
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)*
- NY State Education Department (SED)*
- NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York State Justice Center
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

*Regulatory Bodies

➤ ORGANIZATIONAL Partnerships:

The Center for Discovery® partners with various organizations to advance assistive technology, expand access to adaptive sports and recreation activities, support environmental and farmland conservation, and improve community health outcomes.

Organizational partners include:

- Google.org
- American Portfolios
- SUNY Sullivan
- Operation HOPE
- World T.E.A.M. Sports
- Open Space Institute
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Sullivan 180
- The Homestead School
- Sullivan County Public School Districts
- Sullivan County Public Health



The Center for Discovery's STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

► Academic and Research Partnerships:


The Center for Discovery® has engaged in groundbreaking research for more than a decade. Current areas of study include: the development of Smart Homes and advanced technology to improve outcomes for adults with autism; the use of medical marijuana for drug-resistant epilepsy; and the advancement of data analytics to develop personalized medicine. Academic and research partners include:

Number of Trademarks (Registered & Pending):



21




University at Buffalo
Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences



Juergen Hahn, Ph.D., Professor & Department Head, Biomedical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute





Stephan Rechtschaffen, M.D., Co-founder, OMEGA Institute; CEO, Blue Spirit





The Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) Empowerment Program at Emory University Georgia Tech









Terry Katz, Ph.D., Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine



Tor Savidge, PhD, Associate Professor, Pathology & Immunology and Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine and Principal Investigator, Neuroimmune-Microbe Interactions, Texas Children's Hospital



David Beversdorf, M.D., Professor of Radiology, Neurology, and Psychological Science, University of Missouri



Jeffrey Lombardo, PharmD, BCOP, Associate Director of the Empire State Patient Safety Assurance Network, Research Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo



Rune Simeonsson, Ph.D., MS,PH., Professor and Chair of Psychology Department, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill



Gari Clifford, Ph.D., Biomedical Informatics at Emory University and Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology


Ruth Ann Luna, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pathology and Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine and Director of Medical Metagenomics, Texas Children's Hospital



Nicole Withrow, Ph.D., MS, RD, Nutrition and Dietetics, University of Northern Colorado



Sridevi Devaraj, PhD, DABCC, FAACC, FRSC, CCRP, Director, Clinical Chemistry and Point of Care Testing, Texas Children's Hospital


Kara Gross Margolis, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University; Pediatric Gastroenterologist, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia

Orrin Devinsky, M.D., Director of the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center and the Saint Barnabas Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery (INN)

John Ratey, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School





▶ NORTHWELL HEALTH AFFILIATION

Working Better Together

In early 2020, we entered into an invaluable partnership with Northwell Health, New York State's largest health care provider with over 75,000 employees and a network of 830 hospitals and care centers.

The affiliation agreement, signed in January 2020, began with technical guidance on internal policy development, including ways to work together to better meet the needs of individuals with development disabilities and medical complexities, including Autism. As the pandemic grew, Northwell Health's care providers shared clinical expertise on the virus, its spread, its impact on different medical profiles, the best treatments as they emerged, and vaccine development – thus allowing The Center to better plan, prepare and treat its medically complex residents and staff members.

Northwell Health was instrumental in conducting PCR and antibody testing for the entire Center for Discovery community.

“

The Center for Discovery® shares our values of providing extraordinary care through a program of continual innovation, education and a commitment to excellence.

We look forward to working together with them to provide a full continuum of medical and behavioral health services that help enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and medical complexities.”

Michael J. Dowling

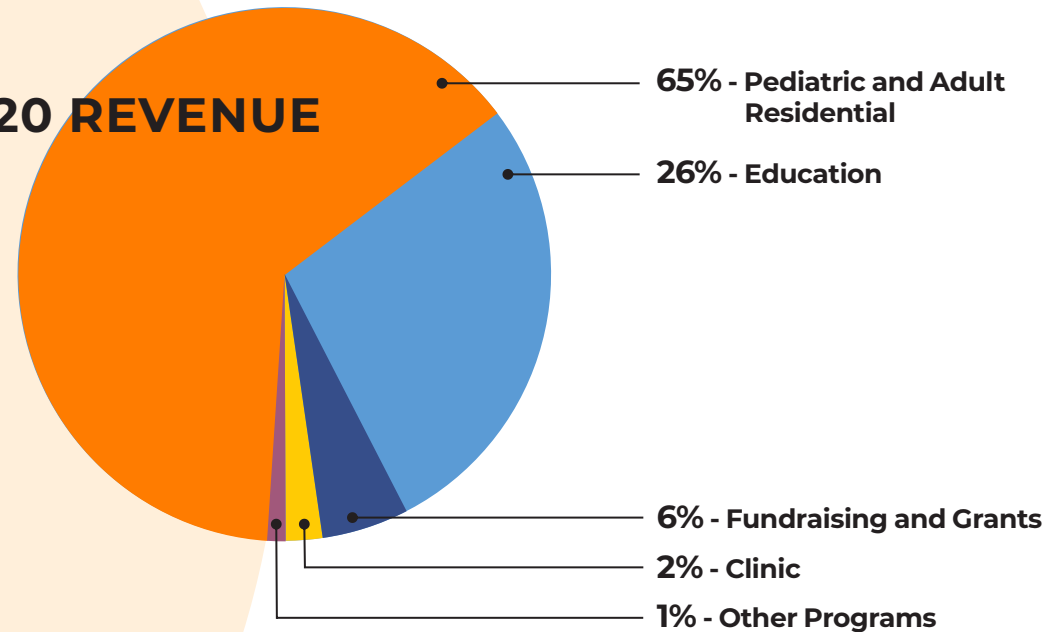
President and CEO of Northwell Health.

Fueling the Economy

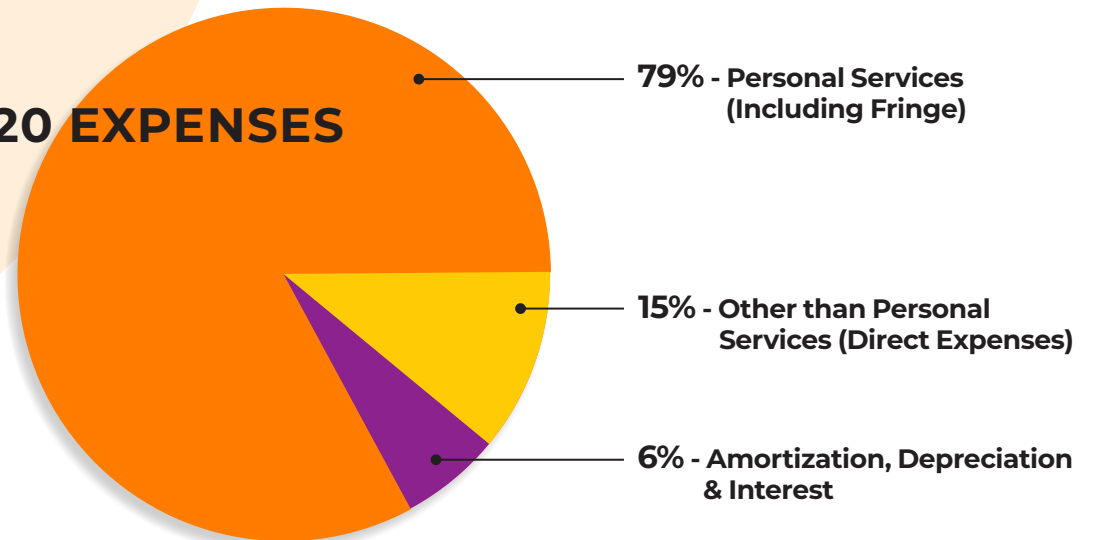
Between 2010 and 2019, The Center for Discovery® has generated \$1.77 billion of economic impact for the State of New York. In 2019, The Center directly employed 1,667 people, and it had total operating expenditures of \$126.1 million - including real estate purchases of \$853 thousand. The Center's total economic impact is even larger when the combined effect of TCFD's operations and employment (and employee spending) on other local and regional business are factored in, as 79% of TCFD employees reside in Sullivan County. TEconomy Partners, LLC, estimates that TCFD generated \$249.7 million of economic activity for the State of New York in 2019 through total direct, indirect, and induced impacts; supported 2,367 jobs with \$137.1 million in compensation; and accounted for \$13.2 million in state and local tax revenue.*

*This economic impact was undertaken by TEconomy Partners, LLC. The base year of analysis for this update is 2019. This update estimates the "economic footprint" of The Center for Discovery® on Sullivan County and the State of New York.

2020 REVENUE



2020 EXPENSES



*These numbers have not been audited.



The Center for Discovery® is our family's philanthropic priority. The organization's comprehensive vision for complex care has been transformative for my brother and our family. What is more, through initiatives like its research partnerships and the Children's Specialty Hospital, The Center has the potential to powerfully improve the lives of so many others. What happens here truly does matter everywhere.



NELLY BLY-AROUGHETI

Board Member and Co-chair,
Board Development & Endowment Committee

▶ **PHILANTHROPY**

2020 reminded the world what's important – family, friends, connection – and good health, some of the very seeds from which The Center for Discovery® has grown for more than 40 years. This year as we kicked off an endowment campaign to help secure our future, we also established a new way to plant seeds for future generations at The Center. The Thanksgiving Society is our first-ever planned giving effort to ensure our deep roots continue to grow for our community.

Thanks to so many of you, our Now More Than Ever campaign, that we launched in response to the pandemic, secured record levels of support. This was especially crucial, as we were unable to hold our 2020 gala due to the pandemic.



“

It's everything you want as a parent – your child is allowed independence and has a great sense of purpose. That's what The Center for Discovery® provides. It's given us the freedom as parents to do right by them and get them on the right path.”

“My son is constantly advancing his skills in the classroom, on the farm, in music and dance studios, and in the public during outings and community work. We can see him growing in self-sufficiency every single day.”

”

Thomas and Elizabeth DeSoye, Center for Discovery Parents

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 CHAMPIONS

DIAMOND LEVEL - (\$200,000+)

Michael Arougheti and Nelly Bly Arougheti
Gerald and Janet Carrus Foundation
The Kushlefsky/Weiner Family
Kenneth and Kim Raisler
The Spark Fund
Dolores Storch
S. Donald Sussman
The Taft Foundation
Robert and Susan Wright

PLATINUM LEVEL - (\$100,000 - \$199,999)

Craig Chesley and Eileen Naughton
Gail Gartenstein
In Memory of Victor Gartenstein
Andreas Hildebrand and Katie Wright
Aidan and Elizabeth Quinn
Matthew and Julie Richardson
David and Jill Robbins
Paul and Maura Robinson
Gregory Tresness and Barbara Huntress Tresness
Richard and Allison Vella

GOLD LEVEL - (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

JoAnn Atlas
CIT Group, Inc.
In Honor of Ellen Alemany
Joseph Faber & Sumy Daeufer
and Jill Faber & Eric Shapiro
Friends of Will, Inc.
In Honor of Will
Denis Goldenberg
Jeffrey and Eva Kittay
Robert and Denise Lombardi
Carol and Ben Monderer
Averell and Gigi Mortimer
Vadim and Joann Mostovoy
Douglas Rodriguez and Caroline Bienstock
Jeffrey and Deborah Stevenson

SILVER LEVEL - (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Daniel and Patricia Abelson
Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation
Lawrence Becker and Jane Weber
Carolina Dukceвич Family Fund
In Honor of Cesare Casella
David M. Goldenberg Family Charitable Fund
In Honor of Jacob
Ernst & Young LLP
In Honor of Ellen Alemany
The George Link Jr. Foundation, Inc.
In Honor of Joel and Monica Forman
Google Matching Gifts Program
Fundraiser by Eileen Naughton and Justin Forman
Thomas and Nancy Lancia
Mary and Kathleen Harriman Foundation
Mary W. Harriman Foundation
The Michael Weiner Trust
In Honor of Jacob
Mutual of America
Matching Gift via Marguerite Wagner
Network for Good
Donations from various Facebook Family Fundraisers
Timothy Ross and Anna Kornilakis
Peter and Nancy Saretsky
Daniel and Alison Singer



BRONZE LEVEL - (\$5,000 - \$24,000)

360 Family Office Advisor, LLC
Alexandra Rose Tozzi Memorial Foundation
AMC Networks Inc.
In Honor of Bob Wright
American Portfolios Holdings, Inc.
Diana Bensoul
Bloomberg L.P.
Matching Gift via Max Abelson
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Marsha Champion
In Honor of Suzanne Hoefler
Joan Chess and Ann Engelland
John and Melanie Clarke
In Honor of Alex & In Memory of Michael Corcoran
The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan
Robert and Ann Cowen
Crystal Family Foundation
In Honor of Ashley
The David R. and Patricia D. Atkinson Foundation
In Honor of Arthur and Denise Thompson
John and Alicia DiCalogero
The Donald and Barbara Zucker Foundation, Inc.
In Honor of Joel and Monica Forman
Filingeri Electrical Contracting Corp.
In Honor of James and Kerri
Myra Fisch
Joel Forman and Monica Belag Forman
Roger and Cheri Gardner
In Honor of Friend's of Will 24 Hour Run
Geoffrey Garin and Debbie Berkowitz
In Honor of Tommy
Steven and Lauren Gartenstein
Jordan Glaser
GoFundMe
Fundraiser by Missy Oratz
Eva Goldenberg
In Honor of Jacob
Martin and Perry Granoff
Diane Greble
Hildegard Gruenbaum Katz
In Honor of Jacob
Brian and Mary Hartnett

Philip and Patricia Holland
Paul Hutter and Marguerite Wagner Hutter
The Hyman Levine Family Foundation: L'Dor V'Dor
In Honor of Matthew
Glenn Kaplan and Evelyn Rodstein
Martin and Rachele Kaufman
In Honor of Joel and Monica Forman
Steven and Cindy Kief
Rudd Kierstead and Susanna Wenniger
Harold and Petria Loewenstine
In Honor of Grace
Eric and Karen London
Long Island Employee Benefits Group Ltd.
Lucy Lyman
In Honor of Oliver
Jacqueline Mackay
Patrick Mackay
The Management Group
In Honor of Bob Wright
Marsal Family Foundation
Elliott and Bonnie L. Mayefsky
Tony and Nancy McElroy
Kristen McLaughlin
John R. Milligan and Rob Gravis
Liliana Mostovoy
William and Barbara Myslinski
Stefano Natella
New York Life Insurance
Matching Gift via John and Vincent DiCalogero
Khurram Nomani
PEPSICO Foundation
Matching Gift via Brian Hartnett
Scott and Randi Pomerantz
Robert Postma
In Honor of Ashley
Hal Reiter and Brenda Malloy
In Honor of Zeke
Laurance Rockefeller
Michael and Jane Rosen
Richard Rosen and Orly Adelson

Roma M. Karp Foundation, Inc.
Marti and Lisa Sassi
Vernon and Lynn Schwartz
Emilia Sherifova
Stanley and Anne Silverstein
Regina Stern
In Honor of Zachary
Mayo Stuntz, Jr. and Elizabeth Cohn Stuntz
In Honor of Zoe and Tommy
Stuntz Family Foundation
David and Debra Sullivan
John and Elaine Tinghitella
Arthur and Denise Thompson
George and Alice Todd
William and Helen Travers
University of South Carolina Darla Moore
School of Business
In Honor of Ellen Alemany
Frank Uzzo
In Honor of Jacob
Laura Uzzo
Mark Uzzo
In Honor of Jacob
Vincent J. DiCalogero Associates, LLC
Wilson and Emily Warren

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list, we may have unintentionally made an error. If this is the case, please accept our sincerest apologies and notify us at your earliest convenience.

*Please note this list included donors who contributed a total amount of \$5,000 or higher in 2020. This list does not include gifts in kind.

The Center for Discovery's DECADES OF SUSTAINABILITY



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION:

- ▶ **1981 - Birth to Five Symposium**
Symposium held and focused on the effects of environmental toxins on infants intrauterine
- ▶ **1995 - Nature-Based Curriculum**
Nature-based school curriculum commences
- ▶ **1995 - Thanksgiving Farm® CSA**
Thanksgiving Farm® Community Support Agriculture (CSA) opens
- ▶ **2004 - Stonewall Preserve Farm Development**
Sustainable development begins with Open Space Institute (OSI)
- ▶ **2006 - USDA Organic Certification**
Thanksgiving Farm® CSA receives USDA Organic Certification
- ▶ **2007 - Environmental Clean-Up**
Clean-up of Sullivan County Department of Public Works (DPW) site in Harris, NY
- ▶ **2009 - Demeter Certification**
Thanksgiving Farm® receives Demeter Certification (Biodynamic)
- ▶ **2011 - Tutto Bene Farm**
Addition of Tutto Bene Farm with Open Space Institute (OSI)
- ▶ **2013 - Sweet Hill Farm**
Addition of Sweet Hill Farm to TCFD
- ▶ **2013 - Rail Trail**
Renovation of 9.2 mile accessible Rail Trail begins
- ▶ **2014 - Open Space Land Conservation Award**
Award given to TCFD CEO, Patrick H. Dollard
- ▶ **2017 - Self-Sustaining Farm**
TCFD becomes self-sustaining farm system

BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

- ▶ **2003 - "Green" Cleaning**
Introduction of "Green" cleaning products, procedures, and construction practices introduced Center-wide.
- ▶ **2004 - Discovery Health Center**
Opening of the Discovery Health Center - a NYS Article 28 Clinic - the first healthcare building in the Country to be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) - and recipient of USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.
- ▶ **2004 - Biodiesel Demonstration Project**
Purchased first of many energy-efficient vehicles for Center use
- ▶ **2006 - Energy Reduction Initiative**
Began Energy Reduction Initiative with new lighting policy
- ▶ **2010 - Michael Ritchie Big Barn**
Michael Ritchie Big Barn for Environmental Health and Education opens; receives LEED Platinum certification from USGBC in 2011.
- ▶ **2011 - Photovoltaics (Solar Panels)**
Completion of three renewable energy projects
- ▶ **2021 - Photovoltaics (Solar Panels)**
Ongoing installation of 20 acres of solar panels on TCFD site

“

If you place your child at The Center for Discovery®
they will blossom in ways you cannot imagine.

”

Carol Finnin-Omoigui, Center for Discovery Parent

HEROES



WORK HERE

#WhatHappensHereMattersEverywhere





2020
ANNUAL REPORT