

20
25

Community Report



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, I remain inspired and optimistic despite the turbulence, disruptions, and division in our country. I remain absolutely anchored in the belief that every child deserves the promise of an exceptional start, and that delivering that promise depends on both empowering and supporting their families.

My optimism for our collective future comes from witnessing what is possible when people find common ground to help children and families thrive. This year, I have seen people on both sides of the aisle shake hands and come together through fundraising, political advocacy, strategic input, and as volunteers for our community. I have seen the miracle of our volunteers working to provide fresh and nutritious food

to more than 200 families every week. I celebrated the milestone achievements of single mothers as they graduated from college and secured better jobs – all made possible by reliable and high-quality childcare. I have seen the courage of our educators who show up every day for our children with smiles and love, despite the challenges they face in their own lives and the way society often overlooks the value they bring. And I have seen our partners coming together to make sacrifices for the community.

But also know, I have witnessed heartbreak: a single mother living in a car, trying to simply survive; hungry families who are waitlisted to shop in our no-cost market; and educators and staff who struggle to manage the trauma that comes with working to support under-resourced families. The need is immense, and we often struggle to have the impact we'd like.

Still, I hold fast in my view that Clayton can provide hope while helping people achieve their dreams. By opening our campus for deeper partnerships that help make our children and families more self-sufficient and resilient, we can, together, provide the necessary foundation. And perhaps that's the greatest lesson I learned in 2025 – that only together can we survive turmoil and division and help children and families thrive. Remember, these children are only children once, and now more than ever, they need us to come together.



Ever forward,

William Browning

President and Chief Executive Officer

Our Mission

Clayton Early Learning uses a multi-generational, place-based approach to give children an exceptional start while empowering families toward lifelong success.





Exceptional Start for Strong, Resilient Children

Building Bright Futures Through Early Literacy

Literacy and language development are central to early childhood education at Clayton, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and communication. Throughout the year, teachers evaluate every child's language and literacy growth and develop personalized learning approaches as needed. In the preschool years, children build essential skills through listening, speaking, reading, and storytelling. Conversations, songs, and shared books expand vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, and support early writing. Strong language development also builds confidence, social skills, and emotional expression, helping children share ideas and connect with others. Early literacy experiences at Clayton spark curiosity and imagination while preparing children for future academic success, as reflected in strong outcomes for kinder-bound children—88% met or exceeded expectations in language, and 89% in literacy.



+ Health and Wellness Services

- 100%** of children received nutrition assessments
- 86%** of children maintained a healthy weight
- 93%** of children received a medical exam
- 84%** of children received a dental exam
- 96%** of children are up-to-date on immunizations
- 100%** of children receive mental health consultation



Math Madness... Little Learners Make Big Plays

March is known for excitement, energy, and big wins, and Clayton preschoolers join the fun with Math Madness. Originally created by Clayton educators to boost math scores, Math Madness uses fresh, creative activities to demystify math—replacing intimidation with joy. Like March Madness, this focus on early math celebrates teamwork,

strategy, and practice through playful challenges, hands-on games, and discovery. Children explore counting, sorting, shapes, patterns, and simple comparisons that build confidence, curiosity, and school readiness. Early math strengthens problem-solving, memory, and logical thinking—essential foundations for future learning. By connecting daily experiences such as measuring snacks, counting steps, or sorting colors, children discover that math is everywhere. Overwhelmingly positive feedback from educators, parents, and children has made Math Madness a much-anticipated annual event, while offering families easy, stress-free ways to reinforce learning at home.



Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment

Total Enrollment

292

Early Head Start Children Served

139

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Children Served*

249

Head Start Children Served

As a % of Funded Monthly Enrollment

99.8%

Early Head Start

99%

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

99.1%

Head Start

100%

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

“ I love how Math Madness shows that math can be found in anything. We took the children on walks through the hallways to complete activities, turning everyday spaces into learning opportunities. Our team even became a little competitive—we found real joy in completing math challenges together and scoring points along the way.”

Jordynn Pernell
Toddler Lead Teacher

Empowered Families for Bright, Sustainable Futures

Partners in Learning

At Clayton Early Learning, parent and family involvement is central to every child's success. Upon enrollment, families partner with our team to create a Family Partnership Agreement—a living commitment that guides shared goals, communication, and responsibility throughout the preschool years. Parents are welcomed as experts on their children, offering insights that shape classroom learning and daily routines.

Clayton continuously identifies families' needs and interests, and in partnership with our Child Family Educators (CFEs), they set personalized goals and define next steps. CFEs then connect families to best-in-class resources supporting parenting, education, employment, housing, and food security.

This collaboration creates consistency between home and school, strengthens relationships, and builds children's confidence as learners. Parents grow alongside their children, gaining knowledge, leadership skills, and the tools to navigate school systems, laying a strong foundation for lifelong educational engagement and advocacy.

“ We know that children thrive when their families thrive. That's why we partner closely with families to work toward and achieve their own dreams.”

Emily Parkey
Director of Family Engagement



A Seat at the Table

Clayton recognizes parents as vital partners in their children's education, a belief that is reflected in the Policy Council, a cornerstone of our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Made up of parents and Clayton staff members, the Policy Council provides families with a meaningful voice in shaping programs that impact their children. Working closely

with Clayton's Board of Trustees, members help guide decisions about budgets, staffing, enrollment priorities, classroom experiences, and community partnerships. Through shared leadership, this collaborative body helps ensure programs truly reflect the needs, strengths, and hopes of the families they serve.

“ Being involved in decision-making at Clayton makes me feel important and included. I have a real voice in my son's school, and it's taught me how to advocate for him now and in the future. Clayton is a very transparent and open school. Parents are informed and genuinely involved, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to help shape my child's education.”

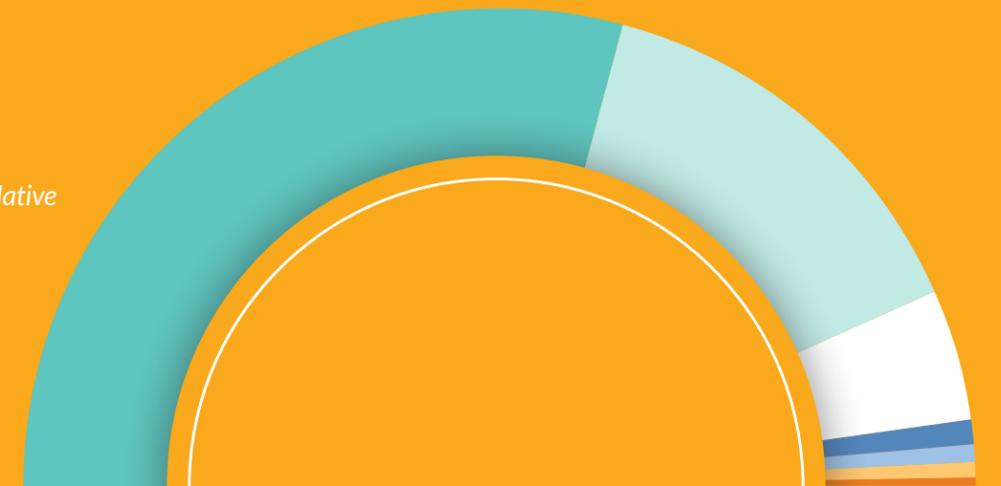
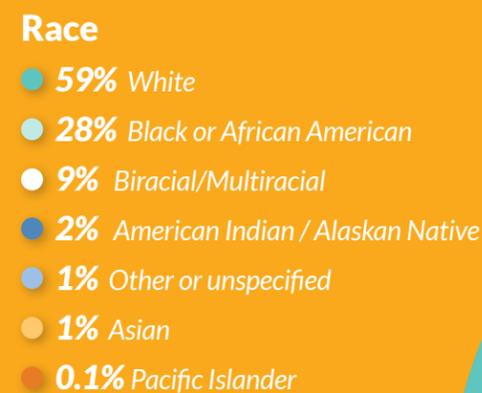
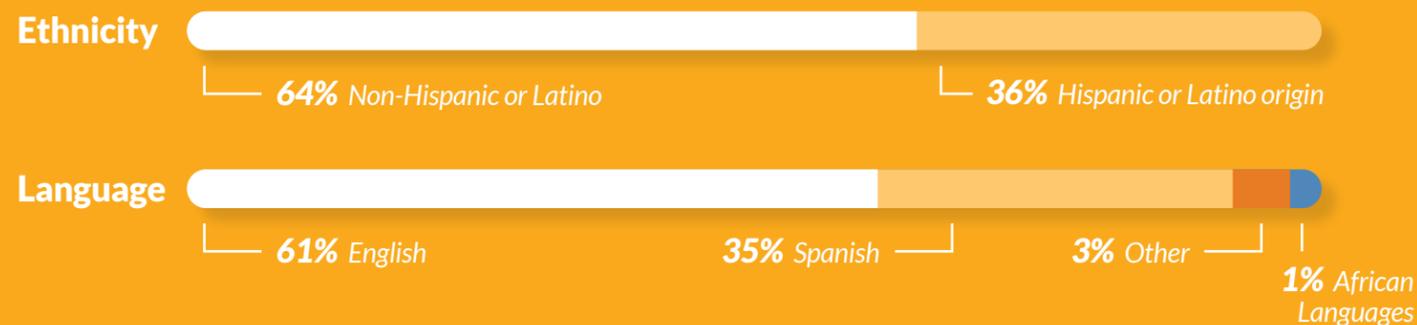
Chmura Smith
Clayton Parent & Policy Council Representative



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)



This is Us: Demographics of Clayton Enrolled Children





Vibrant Campus for a Healthy, Connected Community



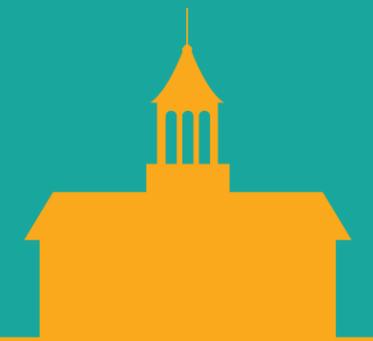
Investing in Comprehensive Family Health Care

Significant progress has been made toward establishing a comprehensive family healthcare clinic on the Clayton campus in partnership with Denver Health. Identified through our in-depth campus visioning process as a priority community need, this enhancement will expand access to adult primary care, pediatric care, pediatric and adult dental services, and behavioral health, supporting both mental and physical well-being.

Projected to serve 25,000 patient visits annually, the clinic will benefit Clayton families and neighbors across the surrounding community, reducing barriers to care and fostering resilience for children and parents alike. This year, funded by The Colorado Health Foundation, architectural drawings were completed, setting the stage for the first phase of a capital campaign to support construction. The clinic represents a key step toward our vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable campus where investing in the most vulnerable among us strengthens the entire community.

Partner Spotlight: The Colorado Health Foundation

Clayton Early Learning is proud to highlight The Colorado Health Foundation for its visionary support of community wellness. Through its funding of the initial architectural work for a new family health clinic on the Clayton campus, the Foundation helped lay the groundwork for expanded access to healthcare for our children, families, and neighbors. Quality healthcare is central to the vitality of any community, supporting healthy development, stability, and long-term success. By investing early in this transformative project, The Colorado Health Foundation is leading the way—demonstrating a deep commitment to prevention, equity, and the well-being of families today and for generations to come.



Strengthening Food Access:

The no-cost Clayton Cares Market provides families with a wide variety of fresh and non-perishable foods, household and school supplies, diapers and wipes, and more. This all happens in a welcoming environment that allows for a pleasant shopping experience and the simple dignity of choosing the groceries and items that best fit each family's cultural preferences and needs. This year alone* the Market distributed more than 105 tons of food to 527 families in our community. *Sept. 1, 2024, to Aug. 31, 2025



“Clayton’s partnership with Denver Health reflects what truly integrated care can look like, where education, family support, and primary care work together in one trusted space. We are proud to support this exciting project that will create a seamless experience for families in Denver, strengthening both child development and long-term health outcomes.”

Liz Charles
Senior Program Officer, The Colorado Health Foundation

Giving to Clayton



Visionary Partners

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

William Browning
 Marcus & Wendy Divita
 Chris & Ulcca Hansen
 Tom & Cydney Marsico
 Larry Mizel
 Daniel Prager
 Katie Reilly
 Scot Smith & Susan Blake-Smith



Changemakers

Supporters who have made a significant investment in our work.

Nicole Adair
 Becca Bracy
 Mark Browning
 Lisa Gonzalez
 Micah Guard-Levin
 Kevin & Mindy Hoffman
 Kieffer Voss
 Steve & Sheryl Ziegler



High Impact Grant Partners

Strategic Investors Supporting our Community

Alliance for Early Success
 Anschutz Foundation
 Beacon Fund
 Bonfils Stanton Foundation
 Buell Foundation
 Carson Foundation
 City and County of Denver
 Colorado Access
 Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
 Colorado Garden Foundation
 Colorado Health Foundation
 Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
 Direct Effect Fund
 DaVita
 Deloitte
 ENT Credit Union
 City & County of Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency
 Global Technology Industry Association
 Healthy Food for Denver's Kids
 Helen McLoraine Endowment Fund
 KeyBank Foundation
 Kroenke Sports Charities
 Mile High United Way
 Morgridge Family Foundation
 Mortenson Family Foundation
 Nordstrom Foundation
 PNC Bank Foundation
 Save the Children Action Network
 Sidney E. Frank Foundation

Snell & Wilmer
 Sturm Family Foundation
 Virginia W. Hill Foundation
 Younggren Family SRI Fund
 US Department of Agriculture
 US Department of Health and Human Services:
 Administration for Children and Families - Office of Head Start
 Health Resources & Services Administration - Maternal and Child Health Bureau
 ZOMA Foundation

*** For a full list of our generous donors, please visit our website.**



Community Builders

Philanthropic leaders strengthening our programs.

Candice Bundt
 JoAnn Cambuzzi
 Katy Driscoll
 Kent Glassman
 Lyman R. Ho
 Jane Ingalls
 Lynn Johnstone
 Patricia Martinez
 William & Marilyn Plummer
 Steve & Cindy Schulz
 Leslie Simms
 Rich & Laurie Staky
 Meredith Wenskoski
 Bert Williams



Advocates

Committed donors helping us build a brighter future.

Marco Abarca	Joe & Sara Hoelscher
April Audain	Abby Humphrey
Jesse Blatner	Jim & Gerri Keeley
Buck & Janelle Blessing	Sobia Khan
Layne & Amy Bracy	Scott Luedke
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Joshua Freedman	Jeremy Ross
Kevin Gould	Jack & Konnie Thompson
Cindy Halaby	Enid Wade
Jacqueline Hall	Ellen Yu
John Hersey	Tom & Rocio Zeiler
Barry & Arlene Hirschfeld	



Volunteerism: The Gift of Time

Our extraordinary volunteer, Abby Humphrey, was honored with the Everyday Hero award from Denver7! As a dedicated volunteer for the Clayton Cares Market, Abby has been a driving force behind providing our families with access to fresh, nutritious food. Her deep understanding of early childhood education and the importance of a stable home environment has fueled her commitment to ensuring that the Market thrives.



The Best of the Year: A few of our Favorite Moments



Honoring a Legend

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After nine years of dedicated service as a Clayton Trustee, including two terms as Chair, Cindy Schulz’s exceptional leadership was marked with the naming of a room at Clayton in her honor. Friends, family, and Clayton supporters gathered for a special reception to celebrate her lasting impact on our mission to serve children and families.



Sensory Playground Opening

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We were thrilled to unveil two brand-new sensory play areas at Clayton, designed to connect our littlest learners with the natural world! Provided through the generosity of PNC Bank and their Grow Up Great® initiative, the immersive, nature-inspired spaces aren’t just playgrounds; they’re thoughtfully crafted environments that foster development and spark curiosity.



Election Day

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Election Day at Clayton wasn’t your typical political affair; it was a celebration of young voices! Preschoolers cast their votes in a playful yet meaningful election to choose a new breakfast treat for the school menu. With mini voting booths, *I Voted* stickers, and big opinions, the event highlighted the importance of making choices, using your voice, and being part of a community. It’s a reminder that every voice matters—no matter how small!



Futures Grow Here Gala

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What an unforgettable evening at the Futures Grow Here Gala! Special guest speaker, Jimmie James shared his incredible journey from a childhood in the Jim Crow South to becoming a successful executive and the first person to play America’s 100 greatest golf courses in a single year. The night was also a celebration of Clayton’s ongoing work to support children and families, complete with dinner, music, and community spirit.



Charlotte M. Brantley Teacher of the Year

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Eva Pasterkamp received the 2025 Charlotte M. Brantley Teacher of the Year Award at the Futures Grow Here Gala. Eva, an exceptional lead teacher for infants and toddlers at Clayton, was honored for exemplifying excellence in early childhood education. In presenting the award, community leader Arlene Hirschfeld beautifully summed it up: “Eva works tirelessly to build a strong, loving foundation for her students, one rooted in care, consistency, and joy.”

Clayton Early Learning Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2024 (With Summarized Information for June 30, 2025)

Assets	2025
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,688,576
Grants and Contributions Receivable	1,726,402
Accounts Receivable	287,716
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	173,215
Investments	44,862,683
Beneficial Interests in Assets Held by Others	1,238,403
Property and Equipment	9,725,957
Total Assets	\$61,702,952

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$428,082
Accrued Payroll and Other Liabilities	973,668
Deferred Revenue	96,377
Total Liabilities	\$1,498,127

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	
Undesignated	\$4,649,930
Board Designated	23,272,168
Invested in Property & Equipment	9,725,957
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	37,648,055
With Donor Restrictions	22,556,770
Total Net Assets	\$60,204,825

Commitments

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$61,702,952
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The financial audit for FY 2024-25 of Clayton Early Learning, done in compliance with the OMB Compliance Supplement, resulted in a clean audit (unqualified opinion) with no findings.

Clayton Early Learning Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2024 (With Summarized Information for June 30, 2025)

Revenue and Support	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2025
Program revenue			
Federal Government Grants	\$8,292,644	-	\$8,292,644
Private Grants and Contributions	1,042,990	579,575	1,622,565
State and Local Government Funding	6,732,789	-	6,732,789
Contract Revenue	165,866	-	165,866
Tuition and Fee Revenue	86,620	-	86,620
Total Program Revenue	\$16,320,909	\$579,575	\$16,900,484
Rental Income	\$487,237	-	\$487,237
Special Events Revenue	192,215	-	192,215
Less Direct Expenses	(82,994)	-	(82,994)
Other Income	68,197	-	68,197
Net Assets Released Due to:			-
Spending Policy Appropriation	937,577	(937,577)	-
Satisfaction of Donor Restrictions	952,856	(952,856)	-
Total Operating Revenue and Support	\$18,875,997	(\$1,310,858)	\$17,565,139
Expenditures			
Program	\$15,171,802	-	\$15,171,802
Campus Facilities	693,482	-	693,482
Administrative	3,496,420	-	3,496,420
Fundraising	448,826	-	448,826
Total Expenditures	\$19,810,530	-	\$19,810,530
Net loss from operations	(\$934,533)	(\$1,310,858)	(\$2,245,391)
Non-operating Activities			
Investment Return, Net	\$2,594,101	\$2,284,062	\$4,878,163
Change in Net Assets	\$1,659,568	\$973,204	\$2,632,772
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$35,988,487	\$21,583,566	\$57,572,053
Net Assets, End of Year	\$37,648,055	\$22,556,770	\$60,204,825



“Early childhood is where strong communities begin. When we invest in the whole child and support the whole family, we don’t just change individual lives, we build lasting stability, opportunity, and resilience for generations across our community.”

Tina Martinez
Chair, Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Nicole Adair, Secretary

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