



We are very proud of our impact which is reflected in the smiles of our participants as they gain new skills and renewed confidence in partnership with our therapy horses and our instructors. Joy and hope are in the eyes of parents who watch their children, who struggle daily with a variety of physical, emotional, cognitive and developmental challenges, experiencing life-changing programs at Dream Catchers. For 26 years, Dream Catchers has been committed to providing quality programs with best practices through the dedicated efforts of our staff, volunteers, Board and Advisory Board Members. Our services continue to expand in scope and creativity. We accomplish exceptional results because of the *generous support* of our donors, sponsors and volunteers.

YOU make this positive impact possible!

We are proud of our participants who inspire us with their courage, perseverance and their spirit. We are proud to offer unique programs with well trained staff and priceless equine partners. Dream Catchers' beautiful 22 acres, held in trust and in loving memory of Cori Sikich, offers a bucolic retreat from today's busy world of technology, traffic and timelines. Time stands still when a child, who has looked forward all week to one hour at Dream Catchers, can cheerfully walk into the barn and forget about painful physical therapy, scary appointments at the hospital, or struggles with schoolwork which seems easy for other children. And we are forever grateful to the late Angie Johnson, as Trustee for the Roy R. Charles Trust, along with her husband, Wade L. Johnson, MD who directed the capital improvements creating our state-of-the-art facility which serves our families.

Our programs are focused on achieving results that translate into new skills for home, school or work. Dream Catchers' certified professionals create lesson plans that focus on measurable objectives and include engaging activities to assist our participants in meeting their short term, long term, and life goals. Our financial goal is to secure sustainability for decades to come and your support is helping us make progress toward this goal! Your support helps families lead better lives. ***Your donations, sponsorships, grants, legacy gifts and volunteerism are creating compelling impact!*** Through their powerful testimonials, the parents of our participants share how your generosity enables us to change one life at a time, one family at a time... Please read Aidan's story as shared by his Mom Eve on the reverse side of this cover page for our Annual Report...

This is “Why”

About 3 months ago a colleague of mine, Bunny Young ([A Better Place Consulting](#)) invited me to join her to take a walk along the Richmond Canal. This walk and what I’m about to share with you, has had a significantly positive impact on our little boy, Aidan’s life.

You see, Aidan has DiGeorge Syndrome. It’s also one of the 22q chromosomal disorders, specifically known as 22q11.2 deletion syndrome; it’s the smallest deletion on the 22nd chromosome. There are a wide range of symptoms and defects that come with this syndrome.

And while by the time Aidan was 2 years old, he had gone through 12 surgeries (we almost lost him twice) and more than 4 months in the NICU we consider ourselves grateful. There are children with 22q11.2 who have severe symptoms and health conditions. We are grateful to have been able to turn that page in Aidan’s story and move on to helping him strengthen his behavioral and development capabilities...enter in Bunny’s recommendation for [Dream Catchers Therapeutic Riding Center](#).



My husband and I knew from the first interaction that Aidan had with the Dream Catchers team that it was going to be a good experience for him. His therapist was asking all the right questions to get him fully assessed for the right therapy. It has been so encouraging to see Aidan’s speech improve in such a short amount of time. The horses that he rides, ground him and focus him so he can feel at ease to take in what his therapist is trying to teach him.

We know it’s working because of the response that Aidan has with the horses, with the therapists and with their amazingly empathetic team. Sounds crazy, but children on the spectrum seem to have a 6th sense for good natured people and from the moment Aidan stepped foot on the Dream Catchers farm – we knew it was a safe place for him with people that not only cared but ‘got him’.

Every child is different and every parent has their “Why” for what works to help their child; this is the short story of our why – why we started therapy with Dream Catchers, why Aidan is doing so well with his speech therapy sessions, why we remain grateful to Bunny for the introduction and why we are so very appreciative of the entire Dream Catchers team. We hope you find your WHY at Dream Catchers too.

~ Aidan’s Mom, Eve

