Ability KC is founded upon a valuable legacy of bringing together our community to build brighter futures. In 1947, under the leadership of Mary Shaw Branton, Jeanette Luhnow, and Jane Dick, the Cerebral Palsy Nursery School was established for children with complex abilities and needs. Simultaneously, Vivian Shepherd pioneered the opening of the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City (RIKC) for soldiers returning from World War II and individuals with disabilities in the broader Kansas City region. In 2015, the two organizations merged to become one, Ability KC. Over the past seven decades, Ability KC has risen to the challenges of the rapidly changing rehabilitation landscape, providing a model of care, culture and services that is a critical bridge for individuals to integrate into homes, schools, workplaces, and our communities.

The demand continues to rise with the growing acuity and complexity of injuries, illnesses, and disabilities. In our greater KC community and beyond, thousands of individuals experience life-changing injuries, illnesses, and disabilities each year. These individuals represent the rich diversity of our community—across all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses. If Ability KC did not exist, individuals and their families would have to travel to multiple places—and often a different city—to get the therapies and support they need, resulting in additional expenses, inefficiencies, and disparate care. This is why it’s important that we are ensuring our program innovation, technologies and campus support the quality and dignity in care being provided.

The good news is that together, we can and will do more to meet these needs. It takes all of us being at the table together, igniting conversations and understanding, innovating, and creating solutions. Ability KC is driven by the unwavering purpose for disabilities inclusion in our communities. While Ability KC fills an important gap in our greater KC community and beyond, no one organization does it alone.

On behalf of our entire Ability KC community, we appreciate the hundreds of community supporters, volunteers and partners that have been with us through our incredible mission journey over the past 75 years—we couldn’t have done it without you. Your support will ensure we continue to serve and meet the needs of the diverse populations of individuals in the Kansas City community for the next 75 years and beyond by identifying gaps, adapting, and innovating to provide a value-based model of care, culture, and services, bridging to quality of life.

Amy Castillo
CEO and Executive Director

In 2022, Ability KC provided almost $5 million in uncompensated, at-cost services for under-resourced individuals and families.
IMAGINE

Ability KC is an expert in value-based care and our model is person-centered, building bridges between healthcare and quality of life.

We provide job training, placement and driving services for individuals with disabilities, partnering with employers to create a thriving workforce.

Our comprehensive model and specialty services of assistive technology, augmented communication, neuro rehabilitation and mental health helps people return to work, school and their communities.

Ability KC gives children and adolescents with medically complex diagnoses the skills and resources they need for success in reaching educational goals—and in life beyond the classroom.

Since 1947, our mission has been strong in Kansas City at every juncture of life—from a child’s kindergarten readiness, to an individual returning to high school or work or to building and achieving a plan of independently living in their home and community.

The need is great, so we are fortunate you are with us to ignite change to help more Kansas Citians, together.
World War II veterans returned home with life-changing injuries, and across the country the need for rehabilitation services was overwhelming. In response, the Kansas City Health Council of the Council of Social Agencies conducted a study that recommended the development of the first comprehensive rehabilitation center in Kansas City to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. From this study, with the leadership of Vivian Shepherd and Eleanor Jones Kemper, the Rehabilitation Institute was founded, offering both medical and vocational services.

### 1947

At the same time, less than 10 schools existed in the country that would support children with disabilities, however, these children still faced inequities in accessing education. Mary Shaw Branton had a different vision for the future of children with disabilities in Kansas City. Together with Jane Dick and Jeanette Luhnow, they created The Cerebral Palsy Nursery School focused on preparing children with Cerebral Palsy for kindergarten through therapies, education and socialization.

### 1965

The school’s services were recognized under the professional division of Children’s Mercy Hospital pediatrics department. This marked the first direct merger in Kansas City of two Community Chest health agencies that were supported in part by the annual United Campaign drive. Enrollment more than doubled to 75 children served.

### 1971

The industry-leading expertise, forward-thinking and innovative services available at the Rehabilitation Institute garnered accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Institute was the first organization in the state to achieve international recognition in these areas of excellence.

### 1983

The first Groundhog Run was held at the Hunt Midwest SubTropolis and became the therapeutic preschool’s largest fundraiser.

### 1984

A new industrial shop was constructed where individuals with disabilities could participate in work experience opportunities and job skill development. The construction of this facility was funded by the Jackson County Board of Services, now known as eitas.
1992
The Institute established its physiatry residency program with the University of Kansas Medical School in an effort to share the expertise of our staff and enhance the recruitment of Kansas City’s top talent. Health Midwest identified the Rehabilitation Institute as a hub of expertise for medical rehabilitation.

**Partner:**
- University of Kansas Medical School

1999
A Capital Campaign was launched in 1996 to build the Children’s Center Campus, a hub where more than 300 children could access a unique environment with the benefits of shared resources that fostered each child’s development while contributing to the stability of the Union Hill neighborhood. Children’s TLC’s early intervention and preschool developmental programs received accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Young Children with Disabilities in the Kansas City School District and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education accreditations.

**Partners:**
- Block & Co. Inc.
- JE Dunn Construction
- Kansas City School District
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Union Hill Acquisition
- Hallmark

2000
The high-quality learning opportunities available at the preschool were recognized and accredited for the first time by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for meeting national standards of educational excellence.

**Partner:**
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

2001
The Institute’s leadership regrouped and forged a path forward to become a Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF), empowering the Rehabilitation Institute to operate as an independent organization.

As transformational advancements occurred for medical services, vocational services continued to grow across the region. The Institute opened a new employment services office in St. Joseph.

**Partners:**
- Baptist-Lutheran Medical Center
- Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF)
- Independence Regional Health Center
- Menorah Medical Center
- Research Medical Center

2015
Children’s Therapeutic Learning Center and the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City formally came together as one organization, Ability KC, with one mission to build brighter futures for children and adults with disabilities.

2019
Ability KC expanded CARF-accredited services to include eight new programs:
- Adult Amputation Specialty Services
- Pediatric Amputation Specialty Services
- Adult Brain Injury Specialty Services
- Pediatric Brain Injury Specialty Services
- Adult Spinal Cord Injury Specialty Services
- Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury Specialty Services
- Adult Stroke Injury Specialty Services
- Pediatric Stroke Injury Specialty Services

CARF’s recognition of Ability KC’s expertise in amputation, brain injury, spinal cord injury and stroke positioned the organization at the forefront of care internationally.

**Partner:**
- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

2022
Ability KC celebrates its 75th anniversary, the thousands of lives changed, and the community impact of decades of service.

For 50 consecutive years, Ability KC receives CARF accreditation with continual innovation and expansion of services. This is the first year the therapy services available at the preschool received accreditation under the Pediatric Specialty Services.

Ability KC’s therapeutic preschool services receives re-accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for the 10th straight year.

Ability KC’s commitment to making Kansas City more diverse, equitable and inclusive leads to a partnership with the local Girl Scout Council. Curriculum is developed in collaboration with patient alumnus and Disability Influencer, Anna Sarol.

**Partners:**
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri
- Midwest Adaptive Sports
- Clay County Children’s Services Fund
- Platte County Board of Services

**Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City**

1990  2000  2010
“Preparing to go to college has been one of the hardest things that I have ever done. It’s a lot to go to college as an able-bodied individual, but when you’re disabled, there are so many factors that add to the stress and the complication of it. By receiving therapy at Ability KC, I gained an overall sense of confidence; I genuinely think that if I had not come here, I would never have the confidence or skills to go to a big 4-year university.”

Tatem
Former Ability KC patient

Supporting high patient acuity

Ability KC invests in our team’s expertise to support individuals with complex injuries, illnesses, and conditions, specializing in brain injuries, stroke, spinal cord injuries, and amputations, across all ages. This is a critical investment, as over the past few years, Ability KC has seen a rise in patient complexity and acuity. Acuity is a measure of a patient’s severity of illness or conditions, including but not limited to, the stability of physiological and psychological parameters and the dependency needs of the patient and the patient’s family. As people leave the hospital, they have a need for more intensive care, requiring skills and expertise that includes nursing, therapy, social work, and support services. Higher acuity will continue to rise. Ability KC continues to plan and invest in our value-based model of care, culture, expertise, and services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Condition Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>have impulsivity changes requiring supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>need assistance with toileting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>are dependent / require tube feeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11%</td>
<td>have swallowing precautions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>require constant observation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
75 years of serving hundreds of thousands with disabilities

OUTPATIENT MEDICAL REHABILITATION
Pediatric, Adolescent and Adult

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amputation*</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain Injury*</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal Cord Injury*</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke*</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CARF-accredited specialty programs

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**
Mary Shaw Branton Therapeutic Preschool and Integrated Therapies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional conditions to pediatric medical rehabilitation

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Employment Services and Ability KC Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain Injury</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE
Assistive Technology, Adaptive Driving and Neuropsychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain Injury</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia/Memory</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal Cord Injury</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Ability KC didn’t exist, individuals in our community would have to travel beyond Missouri and Kansas, working with different care teams, or they may not receive the services they need at all. It is often a misconception that this model of care and services is provided by others in the greater Kansas City area.

Our intensive and complex rehabilitation is individual-centered, designed to maximize care within one center yet extend services via technologies to homes and communities. We strive to advance our technologies and campus to match the level of quality of care being provided and ensure individuals are supported when they return to home and to their communities.

Ability KC supports a high percentage of underserved families in our community, with more than 42% being from Jackson and Wyandotte counties.

Ability KC has experienced an increase in need from counties as far as western Kansas and central Missouri to southern Iowa and northern Oklahoma.
Impact thousands of lives by working together

Ability KC’s therapy model is a purposeful and comprehensive center-based design of necessary therapies supported with medical supervision, case management and social work, neuropsychology, and transition services across an individual's life continuum. Through our partnership with CARF International, we are recognized as a value-based care leader and partner with them to showcase our model around the U.S.

Successful Adult Independent Living Skills (SAILS) is a program for individuals that have advanced from our day program. Patients in SAILS work toward independent living after an injury or illness and no longer need nursing.

EXCEL is a custom-tailored fitness program that focuses on cardiovascular conditioning, strength and flexibility matched with individuals’ physical abilities.

* Successful Adult Independent Living Skills (SAILS) is a program for individuals that have advanced from our day program. Patients in SAILS work toward independent living after an injury or illness and no longer need nursing.

** EXCEL is a custom-tailored fitness program that focuses on cardiovascular conditioning, strength and flexibility matched with individuals’ physical abilities.

Through our model, individuals experience **low rehospitalization rates**, well below the national standard of 15%.

A majority of individuals Ability KC serves have more than one condition.
“Prior to coming to Ability KC, I really don’t know what the next step would have been for me after getting done with therapy and looking ahead to getting back into the workforce and other aspects of daily living. The therapists here seem to just have that vision of being able to guide you in that right way to push you to do things you may not have thought about with therapy. I have learned every day is a journey and to just keep going, put your best foot forward, and never give up.”

Sharif
Current Ability KC patient
Thank you to our generous donors

$100,000+
The Rehabilitation Institute Foundation
Paulette Smith
United Way of Greater Kansas City

$50,000-$99,999
Ann & Gary Dickinson Family Charitable Foundation
Susie Haake*
Craig H. Neilson Foundation
Sarli Family Foundation

$25,000-$49,999
Kirk Foundation
Oppensteins Brothers Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee
Edward F. Swinney Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

$15,000-$24,999
Falling Forward Foundation
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J.E. Dunn Construction Company
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Mercury Club of Kansas City Norquest Family Trust

$10,000-$14,999
BlueScope Steel Foundation
Ina Calkins Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Capital Electric Construction Co., Inc.
Peter Gattermeir
Richard H. & Charlotte G. Orear Charitable Foundation
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Jeanne & Charlie Sosland

$5,000-$9,999
The Able Gamers Charity
Altec Industries
Austin Tile, Inc.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
Blue Ridge Bank & Trust Co.
The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation, Inc.
Robert & Amy Dunn
Facebook
Connie Faucheux Irrevocable Trust
Geico Lenexa
Hallmark Corporate Foundation
Hartley Family Foundation
David Hunt
Linda Jordan & Michael Shteamer
Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation, UMB Bank, N.A., Trustee
R. C. Kemper Charitable Trust, UMB Bank, N.A., Trustee
Kross Family Fund
Jacob L & Ella C Loose Foundation – Greater KC Community Foundation
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Bonnie & Douglas Pearson
Sarah Pence
Cappy & Peter Powell
Lindsey Roy & Aaron Eusterwiemann
Cathy & Michael Schultz
Seaboard Corporation
Sosland Foundation
U.S. Engineering

$2,500-$4,999
Ability KC Auxiliary
Bally’s Kansas City
cdesigngroup
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Amy & Michael Castillo
CBIZ
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Susan & Tuck Spaulding
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Jeff White
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Trina Kahl
Kansas City PBS
Blythe Lauder
Vicky Leonard
Theresa & Darryl Levings
Hugh Libby
LightEdge
Ida Mae Long
Morgan Family Foundation
Babs & George Morris
Moss Adams LLP
Numotion
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Megan & Andrew Pence
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Shamrock Trading Corporation
Tamara Smith
Sosland Companies, Inc.
Sports for Kids Foundation
Monica & Brad Steinle
Stinson LLP
Swagelok Kansas City
Polly Thomas
Thompson
UHY LLP
UMB Bank
Jean & Don Wagner
Suzie & Michael Wiley
Winbury Operating, LLC
(aka Colliers International)

$500-$999
74 Harley Street LLC
Michele Ahem
Elizabeth Badger
Richard Ballentine
Matt Begoische
Betty Rae’s Ice Cream
Joan Bishop
Benjamin Blake
Bliss Associates, LLC
Cheryl & Barrett Brady
Janice Brooke
Buttonwood Financial, LLP
CBC Real Estate Group
City Wide Facility Solutions
Company Kitchen
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Mary & Morgan Shay
Leslie Trammell
United Access
The Whole Person, Inc.
Susan & John Wilson
Work Dynamics, Inc.

*Deceased
Impact = mission + sustainability

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
In millions; years end December 31

LEADERSHIP

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Get involved!

Join us to continue the positive impact in our community and in the lives of many, next year and beyond.

Donate | Volunteer | Sponsor an Event | Join Our Team

www.abilitykc.org