

*in pursuit of*  
**MORE**  
GOING BEYOND THE EXPECTED




**Educate**



**Empower**

**Build  
Hope**



arbor  
SCHOOL

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LEARNING BEYOND LIMITATIONS

**2024-2025  
Annual Report**

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**Be a Part**  
Get Involved



the an  
ARBOR  
WALK  
ember 16, 2024

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# Letter from the Director

## *In Pursuit of More*

Welcome, 2026! Almost exactly a year ago, in January 2025, I sent our Board of Trustees a small thank-you for their service, a book called *Unreasonable Hospitality* by Will Guidara. Maybe you've read it? If not – you must. It follows Will as he takes his NYC restaurant from highly ranked to number one in the world. While The Arbor isn't in the hospitality industry, the message resonated deeply: the very best experiences aren't created by doing what's expected; they're created by doing what's unexpectedly thoughtful.

For the past 38 years, The Arbor has made its mark on the special education landscape in Houston by helping children with significant special needs reach their fullest potential through education, empowerment, and hope for both students and their families. The educating and empowering parts of our mission are straightforward (not easy, not simple – but clear). They're supported by things you can measure: our student-to-teacher ratios, our curriculum, and our exceptional teachers, and therapy team.

But the "building hope" part? ***That's where the real magic happens.*** Yes, we're known for making a big deal out of our students' birthdays (as every school should). But throwing a birthday party for their parents? That's beyond what's expected – and it's the kind of personal, intentional care that sets The Arbor apart. And while it's one thing to accommodate a student's eating needs, it's another to use an air fryer at the school every single day just to make sure a student eats. That's above and beyond – and that's who we are.

***This past year has been marked by a pursuit of "more," and we've realized it isn't just a theme. It's an operating standard. It's a commitment to excellence, and it's here to stay.***

Looking ahead to 2026, more is already in motion. Growing for Good (pg.19) will expand our early adulthood classrooms and extend services to students up to age 22. A renovation project will allow us to open three new classrooms – and with them, more equipment and teachers, and most importantly, more lives changed.

Thank you for making it all possible. Your generosity is the reason we can dream bigger, serve more families, and continue creating the unexpectedly thoughtful moments that build real, lasting hope.

Sincerely,



JuliAnna Jelinek  
Executive Director



# Who We Are

## Mission & Vision

Founded in 1988, The Arbor School offers the most comprehensive special needs education program in Houston for children with a wide range of developmental delays, **six weeks through age 18**. The Arbor's program is based on the belief that **all children have an extraordinary capacity to learn** and will realize their greatest potential in a structured, purposeful environment. As such, The Arbor is committed to accepting students **regardless of diagnosis or lack thereof**.

From this commitment stems our mission to enable children with significant special needs to reach their fullest potential by *educating, empowering, and building hope* for our students and their families.

## Meet Our...

### Admin Team

**JuliAnna Jelinek**  
Executive Director

**Tricia Bingham**  
Director of Education

**Katy Sproule**  
Director of People Operations

**Laurel Keller**  
Director of Development

**Emily Miller**  
Grants and Outreach Manager

**Morgan DeBeir**  
Business and Facilities Manager

**Cassidy Rask**  
Administrative Assistant

### Board

**Jennifer Moore**  
Chair

**Charly Weldon**  
Vice Chair

**Leslee Murphy**  
Secretary

**Carrie Pearson**  
Treasurer

**Jeannie Able**

**Christina Morse**

**Patrick Murray**

**Lis Purdy**

**Anna Scholtes**

**Nathan Stedham**

**Mark Temple**

### Lead Teachers

**Sonia Arreaga**

**Mara Casarrubias**

**Miranda De Hoyos**

**Amy Huffman**

**Keisha Lee**

**Aqeela Manzar**

**Purdeep Matharu**

**Deidre Nieto**

**Carolina Odi**

**Jessica Ramirez**

**Madison Thurston**

### Therapists

**Lauri Dalton**  
Physical Therapist

**Maggy Herrmann**  
Behavior Support Specialist

**Karen Johnson**  
Occupational Therapist

**Megan Lamb**  
Speech Therapist



# Educate

hello



I instantly felt at peace at The Arbor. They know how to handle Brynley in her little outbursts, how to teach her, and how to feed her. It is just a weight lifted off our shoulders.

**CALEB AND LAUREN THURMAN  
ARBOR PARENTS**



# Our Impact



STUDENTS REPRESENTED NEARLY 40 ZIP CODES  
ACROSS THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA!



R U G H L Y  
**75 VOLUNTEERS**

HELPED TO ADVANCE  
THE ARBOR'S MISSION

THE ARBOR IS COMPRISED OF STUDENTS WHO  
REPRESENT A WIDE RANGE OF DIAGNOSES.

**33% RARE GENETIC CONDITIONS**

**32% AUTISM**

**14% DOWN SYNDROME**

**21% OTHER DIAGNOSES**

*\*There is overlap in some listed diagnoses*



**974** GOALS MASTERED

**1,951** OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED



**1,196**  
**DONORS**  
HELPED RAISE  
**\$1,429,267**

**\$288,150**

AWARDED IN  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SUPPORT

CLASSROOM RATIOS



NEVER EXCEED

**2:1**

**60**

STUDENTS  
SERVED, WITH  
ROUGHLY  
30% GIRLS &  
60% BOYS



# Empower





I think that the hardest part for any parent of a child with special needs is really finding that community and feeling like you belong. I love the interactions that I have with the other parents, even if they are in the halls. There is a sense of community even if you don't know who they are, even if they are in another class. There is a sense of joy when you see another child succeed and you get to celebrate the joy and what they achieve and accomplish as they grow at The Arbor. It is definitely a sense of family!

**CHASE AND BREANNA RANDOLPH**  
**ARBOR PARENTS**



# Our Program

## *Journey through The Arbor*

The Arbor Program is separated into two groups, based on age: The Primary Program and the Secondary Program.

**The Primary Program** serves infants through age 12 and focuses on five main areas to educate the whole child: *cognition (academics), communication, self-help skills, and gross motor skills.*

**The Secondary Program** serves students from 13-18 years old. This program continues to develop academics while also emphasizing a variety of skill sets to prepare our students for the years to come, including *pre-vocational skills, transitional skills, life skills, and social skills.*

While each student is unique, a journey through The Arbor's program from infancy through early adulthood might take the following path.



2

### 4-8 YEAR OLD ROOM

After transitioning from the 0-4 year old room, a student would move into our 4-8 year old room. In this room, our students will continue to develop academics, but also hone in on self-help skills, fine and gross motor skills, and communication.

### 8-12 YEAR OLD ROOM

While each room will vary based on the students in that room (whether a 6:3 or 6:5 student to teacher ratio), in our 8-12 year old rooms, our students develop a greater focus on academics, and they begin the earliest skills needed to learn vocational training when they advance to our Secondary Program.

3



### 0-4 YEAR OLD ROOM

Our earliest program begins with our 0-4 year old room, serving children from infancy through four years old. In this room, our students work on strengthening the earliest stages of cognition and gross motor skills.

1

6

### TRANSITIONAL SKILLS

Growing in transitional skills means helping our students prepare for success in the years ahead. Our transitional skills focus takes our students in the community to practice everything from grocery shopping to ordering and paying for their favorite ice cream!



7

### PRE-VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Our students partner with a variety of corporations and organizations to grow in vocational training - a huge focus for our Secondary Program. Some of our current partnerships include CW Plastics, Memorial Assistance Ministries, Kingsland Baptist Church, Kids' Meals, and others!

5

### LIFE & SOCIAL SKILLS

Throughout the Secondary Program, a huge focus is helping students to grow in life and social skills – making the bed, doing the dishes, folding the laundry, reading social cues, growing empathy, problem solving, etc.

4

### SECONDARY PROGRAM

After advancing through our Primary Program (ages 0-12) students move to our Secondary Program (ages 13-18). In this program, students continue their academic journey while also focusing on life and social skills, transitional skills, and pre-vocational skills.



8

### MORE TO COME...

Our next great adventure is just on the horizon! The Arbor is looking forward to expanding to age 22 in the coming year. Flip to page 19 for more on this exciting expansion!





# Build Hope



The Arbor School is giving me the freedom to realize that Jaxson is so much more capable than I give him any credit for, but the school puts him on this platform of “no, he will do it, and he is able to.” So all these things we were told he would never do, and then things I thought he would never do, The Arbor School is giving me permission to see those things.

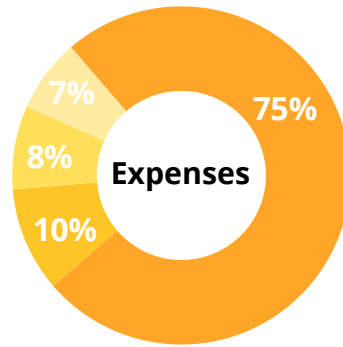
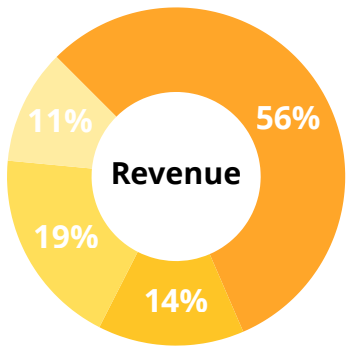
**JIMMY AND LESLIE SIEGEL**  
**ARBOR PARENTS**



# Our Progress

## Financial Snapshot

The Arbor's revenue comes from the generosity of corporations, foundations, and individual donors, as we receive no government or United Way funding. The following information reflects income received and expenses paid from August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025.



- **Tuition and Fees**  
\$1,903,031
- **Foundations & Corporations**  
\$485,900
- **Individual & Event Giving**  
\$642,915
- **Other (Restricted, etc.)**  
\$364,578

- **Programmatic Operating**  
\$2,420,680
- **Administrative**  
\$330,679
- **Fundraising**  
\$263,249
- **Instructional Support & Therapy**  
\$250,706

**Total Revenue FYE 2025: \$3,396,424**

**Total Expenses FYE 2025: \$3,265,314**





# Our Growth

## Fundraising Report

Our deepest appreciation is extended to those who made philanthropic gifts supporting The Arbor School. We couldn't do this without YOU! Your support helps to make so much possible for our students and families. This year was by far our greatest financial story, with 1,196 donors. Thank you for helping to make it possible.

The fundraising report recognizes event sponsors and donors who gave \$500 and above between August 1, 2024 and July 31, 2025.



### Fun Walk Sponsors

**Fall Festival Fanatic**  
CRC

**Sweet and Savory**  
Christina & Steve Morse\*

**No Tricks, All Treats**  
BP Corporation of North America  
Gatewood Family Foundation  
Price Stedham & Family

**Autumn Amusements**  
The Compton Family  
Executive IT Help, Inc.  
The Moore Family

**Pasture Patrol**  
Jeannie & Trey Able

**All the Hoopla**  
M-Rand Construction  
The Temple Family

**Toe Tappin' Tunes**  
Arch-Con Corporation  
Del Monte Realty  
The Moreno Foundation  
The Morris Family  
Macari & Neil Potter  
Bret & Anna Scholtes



### Cornhole Sponsors

#### Airmail

Aspire Wealth Advisors  
Malone Legacy Foundation  
Tennessee Titans  
Texas Financial Group

#### Ace

David Z. Mafrige Interests  
FYM Study Group  
Ocean Toes Bookkeeping  
One America Financial  
TLD Trinity  
US Anesthesia Partners



### Run For A Reason

Anonymous (1)  
Truett & Julie Allen  
Mike Duhon  
Pete Ed Garrett  
Todd & Lisa Gremillion  
Caroline Hadlock  
Houston Marathon Foundation, Inc.  
Jason & Emily Johnson  
Katie Karim^  
Nicole Kinsey  
Charlie Marling  
Todd & Sue Price  
Ryan & Lis Purdy  
Will Shappley  
Mike & Mary Stedham  
Elizabeth Theut  
Ruthie Thom  
Matt & Jessica Trozzo  
Joe Vaughan  
Jeff & Jenny Venghaus  
Heidi Vogel  
Keele Waguespack  
Lynn & Ashley Webster  
Randy Wilson



## Foundation Support

The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation  
Christian Brothers Automotive Foundation  
Paul E. Andrews, Jr. Foundation  
Strake Foundation  
The Moreno Foundation  
The R.E. "Bob" and Vivian Smith Foundation  
The LeRoy Thom, Jean Thom, and T-L Foundation Inc.  
The Woodforest Charitable Foundation



## Growing Futures Giving Society

### Limitless Visionaries

Josh & Melissa Judd  
Felix & Madeline Moreno

### Stewards of Hope

Anonymous (1)  
Judy Andrews  
Anthony & Gina Bahr  
Andy & Susan Billipp  
Will & Stacey Hardy  
Dave & Karen Klenzendorf  
Joel & Jennifer Moore  
Minh & Tanushri Nguyen  
Melia Randolph  
Mike & Mary Stedham

### Foundation Builders

Iris Allen  
Brian Anderson<sup>^</sup>  
David & Kristin Anderson  
Emily & Stuart Bodden  
Travis Chaffin Memorial Benevolence Fund\*  
Stacie & Howard Chapman  
Rick Conley  
Susan Connell\*  
Justus Corley  
Tara Deneke

### Foundation Builders

(Continued)

Frank & Rhonda Gracely  
Diana Harper  
Ty & JuliAnna Jelinek  
Caitlin Keller  
Joy Kuebler  
Christina Leshner  
Victor & Kelly Litwinenko  
Debra Martinez  
Stephanie & Mike Miertschin\*  
Brendon & Deanna Murphy  
Paul & Alyx Penland  
Mary Pollock  
Marci Reistroffer  
Jonathan & Tammy Richards  
Ben & Ashley Rodgers  
Kimberly & Ryan Roth  
Charlie San Miguel  
Bret & Anna Scholtes  
Nathan & Kristen Stedham\*  
Steve & Sandy Taylor  
Lane & Stephanie Tobola  
Rich & Tiffany Tyler  
The Varadi Family  
Kelli & Brian Wright

## Legacy of Hope Luncheon

### Underwriters

The Arbor School Board of Trustees

### Challenge Gift

Trey & Jeannie Able\*  
Joel & Jennifer Moore\*

### Donors

Anonymous (1)  
Sharon Appel  
Lynn Aven  
Douglas & Iris Beatty<sup>^</sup>  
Jarrod & Sandra Compton  
Sharon DeLorenzo\*  
Justin Whitmel Earley  
Elizabeth More Eubank  
Jana Forastiere  
Amy Goldstein  
Betsy Goldstein\*  
Chris & Heather Halaska  
Amy Hampton  
Amy Hubbard  
The Huber Family  
Kingsland Baptist Church  
Rachel Kreitz  
Catherine Lee  
Terry & Doris Looper\*  
Jack Lynch  
Kris Madorsky  
Amanda Malone\*  
Felix & Madeline Moreno  
Malcolm & Becky Morris\*  
Chase & Breanna Randolph  
Marci Reistroffer  
Rick & Cynthia Rigoni  
Karen & Zack Rigoni  
Tracey Rogan\*  
Jalal Sawani  
Cherie Schoppa  
John & Izzy Schulte  
Jimmy & Leslie Siegel<sup>^</sup>  
Shauna Steffen  
Mark & Tracy Temple\*  
Drew & Laura Tingleaf  
Kimberly Van Gundy  
Tom & Elissa Varadi  
Audrey Winkle

## Raise the Roof

Anonymous (1)  
Orlando & Kari Alvarez<sup>^</sup>  
Joaquin Duke Anderson<sup>^</sup>  
Blake & Amy Boyter<sup>^</sup>  
Mike Ghobrial<sup>^</sup>  
The Inman Family<sup>^</sup>  
Susannah & Janak Kulkarni<sup>^</sup>  
The Leonard Family\*  
Deb Merrill<sup>^</sup>  
Jennifer & Mike Minnis<sup>^</sup>  
Ashley & Lynn Webster<sup>^</sup>  
The Basarowich Family<sup>^</sup>  
Kristin Huff<sup>^</sup>  
Michael Porter  
Kevin Reeves<sup>^</sup>  
Ron & Sheri Vogel<sup>^</sup>

## General Donations

Anonymous (1)  
Crystal Cole<sup>^</sup>  
John & Mary Daly  
Gary & Denice Foose  
Tony & Mary Gracely  
International Connections of Houston  
Brett & Magda Kingsley\*  
Mark Kuehl  
Steve & Christina Morse\*  
Patrick & PJ Murray  
Benjamin & Megan Pollock  
Russell Reynolds Associates  
Anna Virene  
Watson Family Foundation

# Going Beyond *Plans for the Future*

After moving into our campus in 2021, we planned to extend our age from 12 to 14 but found a vast need to expand further and support our students through age 18. We converted space to make it possible, but with this unforeseen expansion, we have run out of room only four years into our new campus. In order to meet the needs of our students, our Board of Trustees is pursuing a renovation project that will address the following concerns - demand for our program, limited space, and a lack of accessible programming after 18 years old.

The ***Growing for Good Campaign*** will allow The Arbor to:

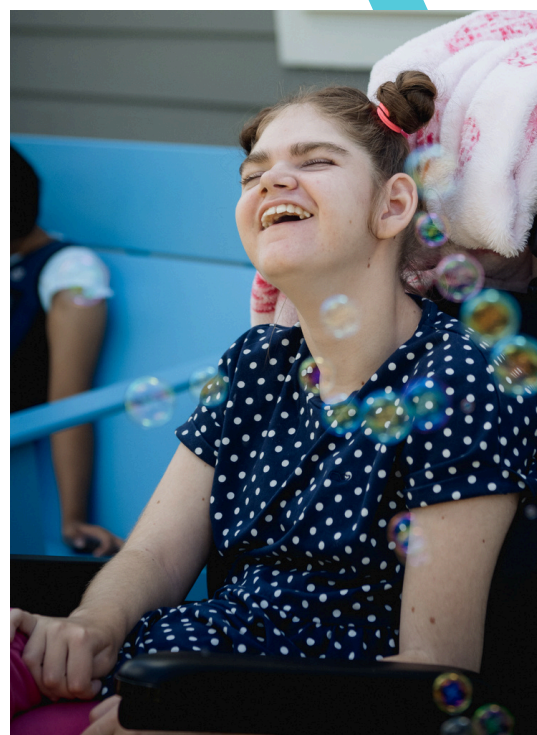
**1. Provide a permanent Secondary Studio.** Upon moving into our current campus, a classroom was converted to a mock studio apartment, outfitted with everything needed to learn independent living skills. This renovation will create a permanent home for the Secondary Studio.

**2. Have space for Vocational Training.** We currently use our multipurpose room to practice vocational training. This renovation will give a dedicated space for our students to partner with local businesses and practice vocational skills.

**3. Create a Therapy Room.** This renovation holds plans for a Therapy Room so our Speech Language Pathologist, Behavioral Support Specialist, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist can work with students for 1:1 instruction.

**4. Open Three Classrooms.** This project will allow us to convert our multipurpose room into two classrooms and revert the space that currently houses the Secondary Studio back into a classroom, effectively giving three new classrooms.

**5. Extend our Secondary Program to age 22.** This final age extension will allow us to match the age supported by Texas public schools and support our students into early adulthood offering our parents a way to fill a program void for their child.



# Renderings

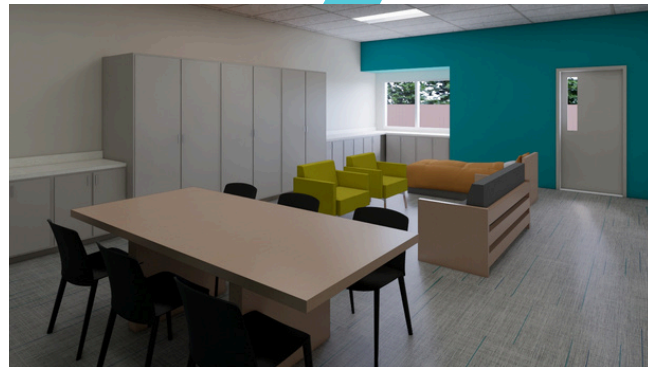
*Vocational Training Room*



*Classroom for Ages 18-22*



*Secondary Studio*



A philanthropic gift can be made to The Arbor School through various options for the Growing for Good Campaign. Please contact us at 713.322.7394 or [giving@arbor.org](mailto:giving@arbor.org).



**Educate  
Empower  
Build Hope**

# Be a Part of Something BIG

## Get Involved

We would love to stay connected and have you get more involved at The Arbor! Read more for ways that you can be a part of something BIG!

### Learn More

The Arbor offers the most comprehensive special needs education program in Houston for children with a wide range of developmental delays, 6 weeks through age 18. Through its mission, The Arbor strives to educate, empower, and build hope for children with significant special needs and their families. To learn more about our school, view our admissions process or meet our team, scan the QR code or visit [arbor.org](http://arbor.org).

### Donate

Every donation, no matter the amount, made to The Arbor supports all that we do. Donations support the operations of the school from supplies needed to enhancements to equipment, scholarships to make our program accessible, teacher development, and more. To make a one-time donation, or to join the Growing Futures Giving Society, scan the QR code or visit [arbor.org/donate](http://arbor.org/donate). Donations are 100% tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

### Stay in Touch

The Arbor has many stories and happenings to tell, and we want to make sure you are signed up to be in the know! Our monthly newsletter keeps you in the loop on upcoming events, ways to get involved, student stories, and more. To sign up, scan the QR code or visit [arbor.org](http://arbor.org).



[arbor.org](http://arbor.org)



Donate



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