“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11
From the moment that faithful KidWorks’ supporters like you helped open the Dan Donahue Center in 2005, we were almost filled to capacity, serving daily hundreds of at-risk children, youth and their family members. This told us two things:

1) we are doing something right

2) the need is great in our area of central Santa Ana, the heart of Orange County.

So since that day, the question that friends like you have been asking is: What do we do with the nearly 300 children on the waiting list and the hundreds of others who have yet to sign up for urgent support?

Together with our supporters, we are steering children away from negative life choices including gang involvement, drug use, and dropping out of school.

Your belief in the power of education and the difference between a handout and a helping hand up is making all the difference in these young lives.

For the past 10 years we have dreamed with you, our supporters, about one day expanding the KidWorks Dan Donahue Center, to bring hope to thousands of more children and raise up the next generation of leaders from some of the toughest neighborhoods in our own backyard.

A recent opportunity has been presented to make this dream of growth and expansion a reality. In the next few pages you’ll see a glimpse of this opportunity.

Won’t you join us as a Dream Builder to help shape the next generation?
1993
Jayme and Larry Acosta launch the Hispanic Ministry Center. KidWorks is founded as summer Bible Club and mentoring program for children in the heart of central Santa Ana.

1999
With 120 children served at two apartment-based, year-round Homework Clubs on Townsend Street (1996) and Myrtle Street (1999), Ava Steaffens, an immigration attorney, is introduced to KidWorks and shortly after leaves her practice to become the office manager for Hispanic Ministry Center.

2002
KidWorks’ growth calls for it to incorporate as its own 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the leadership of Ava Steaffens.

2005
KidWorks moves into its first permanent home, a newly renovated 10,000 sq. ft. community center named the KidWorks Dan Donahue Center in memory of its esteemed friend and supporter.

2006
368 children, teens, and parents are served by the expansion of the after-school program to include teenagers and the addition of preschool and adult programs.

2011
KidWorks begins operating a third community center in the at-risk Bishop Manor neighborhood of Santa Ana, serving an additional 72 children, grades K-12.

TODAY
KidWorks serves 700 children, youth, and parents through weekly programs and reaches over 3,000 community members annually from three Neighborhood Centers.
Santa Ana is the capital of Orange County. It is the second largest city in the county and the one with the youngest median age. Considering the number of youth in Santa Ana, it is a city with much promise; yet it faces numerous challenges.

National studies have found that children growing up in overcrowded conditions are less likely to graduate high school and go to college. Santa Ana is the nation’s second most densely populated city (with populations greater than 300,000).

Only 52.9% of adults have graduated high school (2008-2012), making it among the most undereducated large cities in the country.

Only 15% of Latino graduates from Santa Ana Unified School District had taken the A-G course sequence that is required for admission to the California State University and University of California school system. Without access and enrollment in college-preparation courses in high school, young people can easily become disengaged and drop out of school.

**ACADEMIC**
- Only 55% of adults in KidWorks’ service area have a high school diploma.
- Santa Ana has the lowest Academic Performance Indicator (API) in the county.

**FINANCIAL**
- The average family enrolled with KidWorks has an annual household income of $22,000.
- 70% of Central Santa Ana households do not have a banking relationship (9.1% national average)

**SAFETY**
- At least 99 gangs exist in Santa Ana, and gang recruitment begins as early as nine years of age.
- Santa Ana Police Department reports 5,258 crimes per 100,000 residents, which is more than double the crimes in Orange County.

**HEALTH**
- 46.5% of Santa Ana children and youth have an unhealthy body composition, compared to 38.6% in Orange County.

Sources:
- U.S. Census, 2014
- CA Department of Education, 2013
- Santa Ana Police Department, 2014
- EdTrustWest, 2010
- UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2010
At the core of KidWorks is the power to change a single life and the power of that single life to change a family, a neighborhood, and the entire community.

The Building Dreams Campaign will purchase the building next door to the Dan Donahue Center to double our size and the impact of KidWorks in the community. Your generous contribution will transform more children’s lives and thereby transform the community of Santa Ana!

You can help purchase and renovate the new building which will be connected to the current Dan Donahue Center, thereby doubling our space and doubling the number of children, youth, and parents served! We will enroll an additional 700 participants. The need is urgent as there are currently close to 300 children on the waiting list for our after-school program!
The building expansion project will include the following features:

- Innovation Center
- Outdoor sports and recreation court
- Health Fit Lab
- Urban learning garden
- Technology Help Desk and Lending Station
- Learning Labs
- Volunteer Hub
- Multipurpose Room
- Stage
- Think Tank
- Recharge Station

Our program goals for 2015 are:

1. 100% of preschool students will be assessed as “Kindergarten-ready”
2. At least 80% of K-5th grade students testing below grade level in language arts and math will improve
3. At least 90% of high school students will graduate in four years
4. At least 90% of high school graduates will enroll in college
Since 2005, we have had over 1,600 registered participants and served over 15,000 community members through KidWorks programs and events. Since 2006, 100% of preschool students (384 of 384) have been assessed as “Kindergarten-ready.” In the 2013/2014 school year, 82% of K-5th grade students (89 of 109) improved their literacy as evidenced by Let’s Go Learn DORA. Since 2010, 96% of students in our after school program (65 of 68) have graduated high school and 83% (54 of 65) enrolled in college.

Over the past 21 years, we have advocated for and secured neighborhood improvements in pedestrian and bicyclist safety, affordable housing, community safety, quality of life, and parent engagement in schools.

“We support KidWorks because we can directly see the good that is created through our investment. KidWorks really does help produce super star kids that will be productive members of our society.”

Rick Rawlins, R&B Wire Products, President
While enrichment programs are being continuously cut from the public school system, at KidWorks our preschool-12th grade students participate in tutoring, art education, literacy development, STEM-based learning (STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), instrumental music, dance, and cultural programs.

We believe every person should be able to thrive in life. Our children, youth, and parents participate in quality of life improvement activities including nutrition education, gardening, healthy cooking clubs, soccer, dance, basketball, strength training, and baseball. Youth and parents also promote policy changes to impact building a healthy community.

Most of our students do not have a family member who has attended college. Our children and youth participate in SAT preparation classes, financial literacy training, college campus tours, job site visits, college application assistance, paid work experiences, and mentoring.

We believe that the power to transform at-risk neighborhoods lies within those same communities and that every child is born with God-given potential. We focus on character formation so that they can grow up into productive members of society. Our youth and parents are trained as leaders through partnerships with service groups, churches, government agencies, and businesses. They carry out community service projects and advocate for policy and systems changes important to the community.
“One of many things that I value about KidWorks is that it truly represents a model for how civic, corporate and church communities can work together with mutual respect for each other’s strengths and abilities to serve the common good.”

Steve Perry (The Sacred Harvest Foundation and Chair of the KidWorks Building Dreams Campaign)
A Challenge Grant
in the amount of $1,300,000
has been made by
Sacred Harvest Foundation

Steve and Susie Segerstrom Perry
And KidWorks’ Board of Directors

Building Dreams
$3,000,000 Goal
To double KidWorks’ impact.

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