

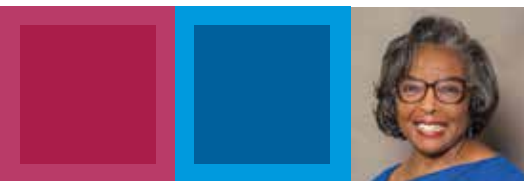
CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF KIDSPACE'S HOME

A place for children and parents



**HOUSE
OF RUTH**

Hope Starts Here



Dear Friend,

Three years ago, we opened the doors to a brand new facility for our nationally accredited child and family development center, Kidspace. This new space, designed specifically for the children and families we serve, truly reflects the quality of care we have provided since 1990. Today, we have a building that every child and family could walk into and feel proud of—a place that I would want for my own child.

Thank you to each of you who supported the Kidspace capital campaign to make this transformation possible. And thank you to everyone who supports the programs and staff of Kidspace each year.

More than a building, Kidspace provides the environment and programming needed for children and parents alike to foster their potential. With your support, we offer hope—creating a level playing field by providing the resources, support systems, and nurturing surroundings every child needs to thrive.

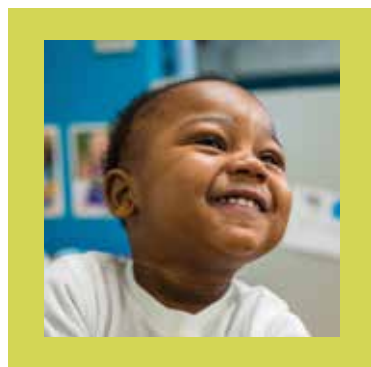
Today, it's my honor to share with you an update on the growth that occurred over the past three years.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we continue to look forward—to invest in the programs and staff at the heart of it all. We will continue to chart a path forward that prioritizes the well-being and potential of every child in our care, ensuring that they all have the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for standing with us in our collective promise to provide these children and families with the hope, possibilities, and opportunities they deserve. Together, we are making a difference.

A handwritten signature of Sandra L. Jackson in black ink.

Sandra L. Jackson, D. Min., M.S.W., LICSW, LCSWC
President & CEO





BEFORE



AFTER



Khloe's Story*

Below is her personal testimonial, as told by Khloe.



I was adopted into the House of Ruth family when my daughter was just a couple weeks from her first birthday. She is now six years-old and in the first grade; and has two little brothers enrolled at Kidspace. My journey started when I was ready to go back to work and needed a safe space for my daughter to go. At the time, I was going through a domestic violence situation and her safety was my only priority. My friend referred me to Kidspace, and I called them the same day. Mrs. Sharon, their Family Engagement Specialist, was my point of contact and has been like a second mother ever since. She made me feel so comfortable with her warm welcoming from our very first meeting.

Currently one of my greatest roles is being a part of our parent healing circle at Kidspace. We meet once a week and practice mindfulness techniques to help relieve our stress, anxiety, depression, and improve our overall mental health. It's a no-judgement zone. Even though I still attend individual therapy to work on myself, my healing circle is now a part of my village, and I am grateful for them.

The teachers and staff at Kidspace have been there for me and my children for many years. I have cried on their shoulders when times were tough and become excited to express my great news like going back to work or perfecting a new skill. The advice they give is always sincere and from the heart. They are so proud of my accomplishments and push me when I feel I've made mistakes. I am really surrounded by the best of the best.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy. The included photo may not picture the individuals featured in the story. The photo is of actual House of Ruth program participants.*

Measuring Our Impact

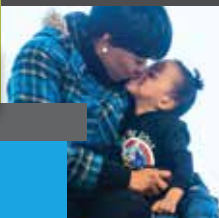
In our first three years in the new facility...

192

CHILDREN SERVED

(Ages 6 weeks
to 5 years)

KIDS



245

PARENTS SERVED

SPACE



WHEN FULLY STAFFED, THE
TOTAL OF 10 CLASSROOMS
CAN SERVE UP TO

84

CHILDREN ANNUALLY.

77%

OF KIDSPACE CHILDREN
SERVED FOR AT LEAST
12 MONTHS MET ALL
THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL
MILESTONES

(average across
the three years)



Accredited by the
National Association for
the Education of Young
Children

Rated "High Quality"
by D.C.'s State Office of
the Superintendent of
Education

LEED Silver
certification

The Kidspace Team

A dedicated, full-time team provides the exceptional, trauma-informed care the children and parents at Kidspace deserve.

**MUSIC
THERAPY**

**FOUNDATIONS
GROUP**

**FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**

**SPEECH &
LANGUAGE
THERAPY**

**PARENTS
COMMITTEE**

**MULTI-
GENERATIONAL
THERAPY**

**TEACHING
STAFF**

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY**

**ADMIN-
ISTRATION**

**CULINARY
STAFF**

"I love being able to help children find their voice and watching them grow. This new facility is bright and brings light to everything we do at Kidspace. I'm appreciative of all of the amenities that this facility affords us."

- LaJune Pandy, speech and language pathologist





When Brenda arrived at Kidspace in 2023, she had fled six years of abuse—with three children—the youngest just 7 months. After years of feeling invisible and isolated, she never dreamed of finding a welcoming community that would support both her and her children.

A teenager and pregnant, Brenda found herself estranged from her family—her only lifeline the father of her child. Over the next six years, Brenda began to realize that his “expressions of love” were actually abuse. Now with three children, she found her voice and her courage in a conversation with a compassionate stranger.

That stranger referred Brenda and her children to Kidspace.

Like many, Brenda came to Kidspace focused on childcare—professional staff in a beautiful, enriching environment. Over time and with many conversations, she discovered the network of support available to not only her children but also her. Kidspace became a lifeline, connecting her to financial literacy resources, mental health services, and developmental support for her children. With each day, Brenda grew stronger and more confident—realizing that she and her family were no longer invisible.

“I never thought any of this was possible,” Brenda shared. “Kidspace made me feel visible and important again. House of Ruth has no idea how much they’ve changed my life.”

At Kidspace, Brenda found safety, security, and a sense of belonging. She is now enrolled in IT classes—setting a foundation for a stable and independent future. Her older children are thriving in private school. And she has a bold new plan: to purchase a home for her family within the next five years.

MedstarGeorgetown

Multi-Generational Mental Health Services

As of July 2022, mental health therapy is available onsite at Kidspace to both parents and children on an ongoing basis, thanks to our partnership with MedStar Georgetown Hospital Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Early Childhood Innovation Network.

442 therapy sessions have been provided to parents and children since 2022. Services and programs offered include:

In-class
observation
and follow-up
guidance to
teaching staff

Onsite autism
spectrum
disorder
screening
with licensed
psychiatrist

Seasonal
festivities like
the pumpkin-
carving contest
with dads

1:1 and group
therapy
sessions for
children and
parents

Foundations, a
parent wellness
teaching and
coaching series

Wellness
assessment with
each family during
enrollment

Mommy
and Daddy
Playdates

Georgetown
Mental Health
Community
Service Worker
certificate
program

ÁŞÉ
Community
Circle, a parent
wellness group

Therapies



Supportive Learning Environment

Kidspace meets the psycho-social needs of vulnerable infants and children by providing trauma-informed care. Each new child undergoes a developmental assessment using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), and all students are screened once a year.

Therapists provide both 1:1 therapy and therapy in a classroom setting. The children's progress is monitored daily by their teacher and discussed frequently with each child's parents.

2,842

**SPEECH
THERAPY
SESSIONS**

1,360

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY
SESSIONS**

457

**GROUP MUSIC
THERAPY
SESSIONS**



Listen in on music therapist Ms. JJ's morning song

"Good morning
The music has begun
Let's have some fun"



Curriculum

"Play is the language,
and toys are their words."

*Shamara, licensed professional
counselor utilizing the Theraplay
model at Kidspace*

Learning and Growing

At Kidspace, we meet the highest standards for creating a developmentally appropriate learning environment. In addition to our trauma-informed therapy offerings, we nourish growing minds and bodies.



Creative Curriculum: Kidspace uses the highly regarded and well-researched Creative Curriculum for Preschool and the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Two's. It emphasizes fostering nurturing environments, play-based learning experiences, and hands-on investigation where students explore and discover at their own pace. In conjunction with the Creative Curriculum, Kidspace follows the District of Columbia Common Core Early Learning Standards.



Raising a Reader: Each week, every child takes home a bag with three to five books. When they bring back the bag, they are provided a new set of books.



Nutrition: Every child receives nutritious and fresh breakfast, lunch, and snack. We strive to include fresh fruits and vegetables each day.



Play: With a multipurpose room for indoor play and two outdoor playgrounds, there's plenty of space for creativity and growth.

Community Partners



From in-classroom support to engaging activities for families, the over 20 community partners at Kidspace provide an array of support services to enrich offerings for children and parents.

Through UPO's Foster Grandparent Program, seniors with caring hearts provide guidance, support, and love to the littlest of Kidspace children.



FRESHFARM provides the produce for breakfast and lunch; cultivates an edible garden with the children; and hosts fun-filled cooking demonstrations.

Inspired Child bring arts education into Kidspace classrooms and provides teacher trainings. The 2024 residency included Dancing with Babies for infants and Rainbow dance for toddlers.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS...

- A Wider Circle
- Children's National Health System
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- College Park Speech and Language Clinic
- Hurley and Associates
- First Book
- Prevention of Blindness Society
- Teachstone
- National Children's Museum
- Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program
- DC Public Schools
- And more...



"I love seeing their little faces light up... they enjoy me, and I enjoy them."

Frances, a UPO Foster Grandparent

COME SEE

the transformation for yourself

Take a personal tour of Kidspace with our Kidspace Program Director Tara Villanueva and our new Chief Development Officer Megan Cooke.



Book your tour at
development@houseofruth.org or
call 202-597-5801.



You can also walk
through the halls
of Kidspace in this
video tour.

