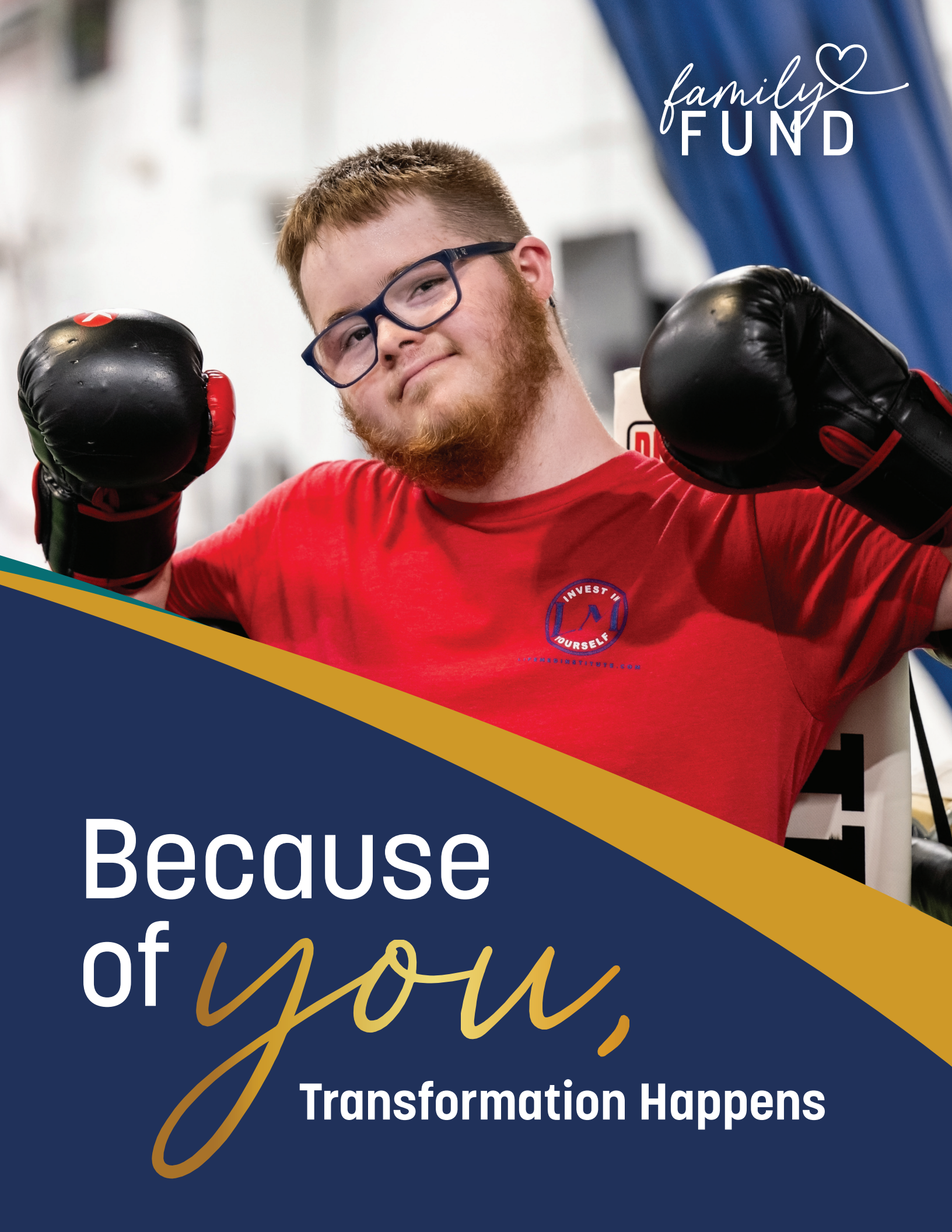


Because of *you*,

Transformation Happens



About the Family Fund

The Family Fund provides grants to Maryland families raising children with disabilities under the age of 21, helping them access therapies, adaptive equipment, educational programs, and other essential services that insurance doesn't cover.

From speech therapy to summer camps to mobility support, the Family Fund gives children opportunities to learn, connect, build skills, and enjoy the things that matter most to them.

Since its founding in 2017, the Family Fund has awarded more than $500,000 to hundreds of families. In 2026 alone, 116 families received $136,071. Every dollar distributed comes from generous donors like you.

Here's what that support made possible this year, and what it looked like in the everyday lives of the children and families who received it.

Mateo
Finds Joy at Camp

Mateo is a bright, energetic seven-year-old who loves being around people. He enjoys playful pranks and treats everyone as a friend. His mom, Blanca, loves his outgoing spirit, but her night shifts and daytime studies make it tough to keep up with his high energy—especially during summer break.

Blanca knew summer camp would be perfect for Mateo because it would give him a chance to make friends and burn off energy in a safe, supportive environment. But camp was expensive, and she wasn't sure how she could afford one that met Mateo's needs.

When Blanca learned about the Family Fund, she was relieved to discover it could help pay for camp. She applied right away. When she received the grant, she felt grateful and excited for all the opportunities camp would offer Mateo.

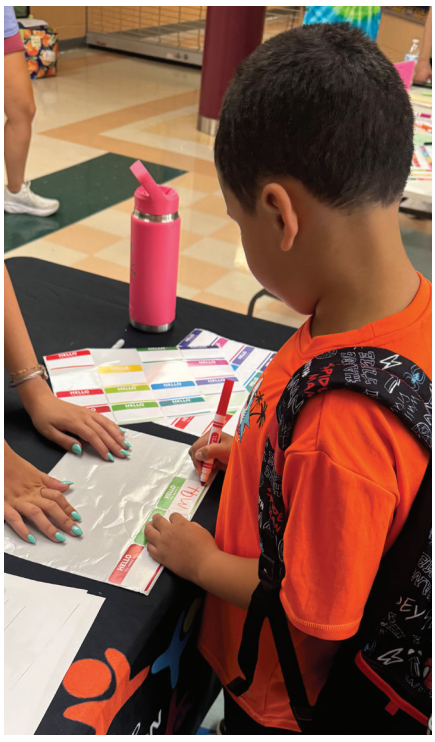
Finding the right summer camp for Mateo was important. He needed a place to connect with kids who could relate to him and be guided by supportive adults. Blanca felt at ease when she found a week-long camp run by specialists. "He was around professionals who understood him, and that really mattered to me—that he'd be safe and that they'd respect his experiences," Blanca shared.

Camp was a wonderful experience for Mateo. He especially loved the field trips to the movie theater and bowling alley and couldn't wait to tell his mom all about them. He also enjoyed arts and crafts and had a blast with the giant parachute.

Throughout the week, Mateo made new friends, tried new things, and channeled his energy in positive ways.

Attending camp gave Mateo a fun way to maintain a routine while school was out. Without the structure of school, he seemed less upbeat, but camp helped him feel happy and excited again. He loved it so much that he immediately asked if he could go back next year.

The Family Fund gave Mateo the chance to make those memories, build friendships, and be himself—and gave Blanca peace of mind so she could focus on her studies. ▪



> "Without this fund, I wouldn't have been able to send Mateo to summer camp. The week he attended made a huge difference in both his life and mine.
>
> Blanca, Mateo's Mom



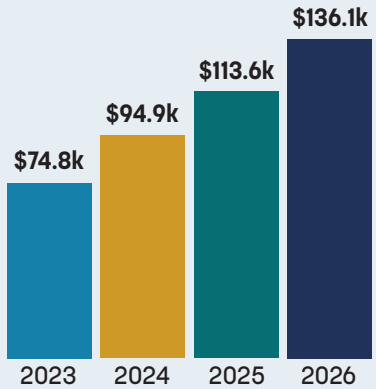
Your Impact in Numbers

116
families received support

$136k
in grants were distributed

$518k+
has been granted since the Family Fund's founding

Grants Awarded Since 2023



What You Supported

We received over 470 applications in 2026. Some of the top requests included:

Specialized Therapy

Supporting targeted therapies that help children develop or refine skills, build independence, and gain confidence.

Specialized Equipment

Supplying adaptive technology, mobility aids, and other essential tools that help children move, learn, and engage with the world around them.

Technology

Providing children with access to technology that opens opportunities to learn new skills, improve their communication, and participate more fully in daily life.

Swimming Lessons

Enabling children to develop essential water safety skills, strengthen their bodies, and experience the joy and freedom of being in the water.

Thor

Discovers What He Can Do

Thor has always defied expectations. When he was young, it wasn't clear if he would ever walk or talk. Today, he's an accomplished swimmer who still surprises his family with what he can do.

For the past three years, he's been part of RISE for Autism, a specialized support group that offers activities, outdoor adventures, and social time tailored to his needs. The program has given him a place to thrive, surrounded by peers who understand him and staff who bring out his best.

The program isn't covered by insurance, so his parents pay out of pocket—a real challenge when raising two other children.

"Sending Thor to these programs is expensive, even though they help him so much. At the same time, we have to think about our other children and their needs," his father explained.

The Family Fund helped cover additional sessions, easing some of that financial pressure and allowing Thor to keep participating in a place where he could learn, connect, and challenge himself.

As Thor spent more time in the group, his confidence grew.

He's always been a little shy, but now he's opening up in new ways—greeting the cashier when they go shopping and making friends more easily. His family is seeing a whole new side of him.

After learning about cooking in the group, Thor has taken a real interest in it at home. He helps put away groceries, watches his mom cook, and asks questions as she prepares meals. He even warms up his own oatmeal in the morning.

"Thor is becoming more independent every day. He puts his clothes away, gets ready for the next day, and brushes his teeth on his own. He's also stepped into his role as a caring big brother, watching over his siblings and playing with them while we look on with pride," his mother said.

The skills and experiences Thor's gaining will carry over into his everyday life as he continues to grow and come into his own. ▪

> We're so grateful for the support... It's helped Thor build his skills, make friends, and grow more independent. Every little step adds up, and you can see how proud he is of everything he's able to do.
>
> Thor's Father



Bethany's

Confidence in Math Is Adding Up



> Thank you from the bottom of my heart... Bethany is going to flourish. She'll have more opportunities, and this support will help her thrive—now and in the future.
>
> Maria, Bethany's Mom

Bethany loves to learn. She's always looking for ways to be creative, use her imagination, and discover how the world works. At school, her curiosity shines—whether it's social studies, science, or art, she finds something to enjoy in every subject.

Math became a challenge when the material grew more difficult in third grade. Maria, Bethany's mom, saw how hard her daughter was trying and knew extra support could help. But with modest incomes and two other young children to care for, she and her husband worried about affording a tutor.

With support from the Family Fund, Maria was able to arrange weekly sessions with a tutor who truly understands Bethany's needs and teaches in a way that works best for her.

Bethany's tutor makes every session fun and engaging, using play and imagination to explain tricky math concepts. They come up with catchphrases and share plenty of laughs. "We call it Math Club. It's something Bethany is excited to be a part of," Maria said. "She's learning, but she's having so much fun that it doesn't feel like learning."

With her tutor's support, Bethany is building foundational math skills and learning how to solve problems. She leaves each session with a new sense of what she can achieve, feeling more confident in herself and her ability to do math well.

"It's hard as a parent to see your child struggle in school," Maria said. "But watching Bethany make strides in math has meant everything. She has a new attitude about the subject and is starting to see that she can work through problems, even when they're challenging."

True to her love of learning, Bethany still enjoys math even when it's tough. Because of the Family Fund, tutoring is doing more than helping her learn—it's boosting her confidence and showing her that challenges are opportunities to grow. ▪

Tanner Reaches Out Through Music

In 2025, the Family Fund provided Tanner the chance to attend weekly music therapy sessions—opening up new ways for him to connect with his family and sparking an interest in music. One year later, those sessions continue to support his growth in ways that have amazed his parents.

"What a difference a year makes," said Rachael, Tanner's mom. "The growth over the past year has been incredible: his confidence, his vocalizations, his relationships. It's just been really special."

Before each session, Tanner runs to his therapist with a big smile. His favorite instrument is the piano, and he always pulls out the stool first so that they can get started. "He's really connected with the piano," Rachael said. "He understands the notes and how pressing the keys with different pressure changes the sound. He's playful with it. It's become a way for him to communicate."

Tanner loves playing songs on the piano, but sometimes he's in the mood for drums instead. That's been another wonderful change—he's beginning to take the lead in his sessions in ways he never did before, exactly the kind of self-advocacy and independence his parents hoped to see.

Tanner's relationship with sound and communication keeps evolving. He's becoming more comfortable using his talker (a speech-generating device), even at school, and he's starting to vocalize more. Recently, he told his parents, "I love you," for the first time, a powerful moment for the family.

From his parents' point of view, music therapy is clearly making a big difference for Tanner. His family wants to keep him enrolled as long as they can. Thanks to the Family Fund, which provided more sessions in 2026, Tanner can continue doing an activity he loves—one that's having a lasting, positive impact on his whole family. ▪

> "I hope you understand that a donation like this is truly life-changing; it tells a child, 'I believe in you. I know you can do this.' For Tanner, it's opened up a world of music. Seeing the light in his eyes and the joy it brings—we are forever grateful.
>
> Rachael, Tanner's Mom





Thank you for your support.

The Family Fund doesn't just benefit the child who receives the grant. It benefits the whole family and eases much of the financial pressure in everyday life.




















CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
AUSTYN WILLIAMS
COACH KIA
COACH IAN


CAMP FAIRLEE



How to Stay Involved

Mateo's summer fun, Thor's independence, Bethany's growing confidence, Tanner's progress—each breakthrough happened because of supporters like you. But behind each success story is an honest truth: these opportunities require ongoing investment.

Children with disabilities often need consistent access to specialized therapies, adaptive equipment, and inclusive programs. Starting early and sustaining that support can change a child's life.

The Family Fund is 100% fueled by generosity, and every gift, no matter the size, creates life-changing opportunities for children and families.

Because of you, children are building confidence, families are finding hope, and communities are becoming more inclusive.

Together, we can ensure every child has the chance to learn, grow, and thrive.



Give Today
Your donation directly supports children with disabilities and their families, providing access to therapies, adaptive equipment, and opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

Become a Monthly Donor
Ongoing support ensures more families can count on the Family Fund year after year.

Make an Endowment Gift
Create a lasting legacy by investing in the long-term future of the Family Fund, ensuring children and families will have access to life-changing resources for generations to come.

Share Their Stories
Spread the word by sharing Family Fund stories with your network. Awareness is a powerful tool for growing support.



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You are creating opportunities

for children to learn and grow.

To get involved or learn more, contact us at **development@fello.org**

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