

THE ELAINE CLARK CENTER 2023 SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN



*Show that you care by helping us
Answer the Call!*

DONATE TODAY!

(770) 458-3251

ElaineClarkCenter.org



The Elaine Clark Center

Exceptional. Empowering. Inclusive



OUR CALL

For five decades, the Elaine Clark Center has supported children with special needs and their families by providing an innovative model of education and therapeutic play.

The center was incorporated in 1969 and has since built a reputation of providing superior support for children with special needs that have traditionally been underserved in the Metro Atlanta area.

MISSION

Enable children of all abilities to become confident and contributing citizens of the community through an innovative model of education, therapeutic play and experiential opportunities.

OUR PROGRAMS

Inclusive Child Development

Children ages six weeks to five years old are supported to explore, learn, play and grow socially in a developmentally appropriate environment. The program features NAEYC & Bright from the Start Accredited childcare with Montessori, Reggio and Sensory Integration approaches in an inclusive environment.

HEART OF HOPE ACADEMY

Accredited K-12 transitional school for children with special needs emphasizing functional life skill training. Our school culture encourages a collaborative effort that engages the involvement of teachers, parents, students, therapist, consultants and other significant support facilitators.

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Intervention services are tailored specifically for children with special needs from 6 weeks to 3 years old. Interventions are conducted in a NAEYC accredited inclusive childcare environment.

OUT OF SCHOOL SERVICES

Recreation-based and developmentally appropriate activities for school-aged children. We offer After School Enrichment, Holiday Respite, and ECHO Summer Programs.

ECC LIFE

Vocational and life skill training for young adults age 15 to 25 years. The expectation is that our students will live, work, shop, play and socialize in integrated environments participating either independently or with accommodations.

WHO WE SERVE



Service Hub

We serve children and young adults with special needs from 6 weeks to 25 years old.



Our Reach

We assist families in the metro-Atlanta area, specifically the DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties.



Demographics

We serve children and young adults from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

- 43% Caucasian
- 36% African American
- 9% Multi-racial
- 5% Asian
- 7% Hispanic



Trained Staff

We are led by 35 caring professionals including an Executive Director, Social Service Coordinator, Therapy Team, Inclusion Specialist and Education Specialist.

WE ANSWERED HER CALL

FROM SURVIVOR TO SUPERHERO: MEET KEHLANI



“Kehlani is an angel! Her presence makes you smile and shows you a “true warrior” in real life,” Kehlani’s father Kierre proudly boasts when describing his daughter’s warm demeanor and strength. Kehlani was diagnosed with Type 1 Lissencephaly, specifically Miller-Dieker Syndrome, when her mother, Kristin, was 31 weeks pregnant.

Lissencephaly also known as “smooth brain,” is a rare brain malfunction in which the brain does not develop properly with the folds and ridges of a typical brain. This condition only affects 1 in 100,000 pregnancies. Children with smooth brains often experience seizures, are unable to walk, talk, or eat on their own, and have shortened lifespans.

Kehlani was not expected to live past birth. Kristin was devastated when she learned of Kehlani’s diagnosis. “We had just had a beautiful baby shower days before, and I was so excited to become a mom, but never did I imagine having a child with special needs,” Kristin said. But with support from her mom, Kehlani’s father, and trust in God, she has remained strong and dedicated to giving Kehlani the best life possible.

Today, Kehlani is a 21-month-old warrior who has already beat the odds against her. Her father, Kierre, describes her as “God’s chosen one.” “Kehlani’s diagnosis isn’t a disability, it’s a superpower! Her ability to overcome the odds and thrive to be the beautiful young lady that she is has been amazing to experience,” said Kierre.

Kehlani has challenges as she is non-verbal and cannot sit or eat without assistance. She has a feeding g-tube surgically installed and sees a neurologist, gastroenterologist, and pediatrician every 3-6 months. However, those challenges don’t stop her ability to smile and warm up a room.



To address Kehlani’s challenges, she was enrolled at The Elaine Clark Center in August 2022. “I was looking for a place that was going to help Kehlani continue to thrive and make progress. I was also looking for small class sizes so she would get the individualized attention that she needs each day,” said Kristin.

The Elaine Clark Center has provided support in the form of therapeutic services, specialized care, and assistance with applying for medical aid. “They introduced us to the scholarship program, which has been such a blessing. They also provided us with all the necessary resources to apply for Katie Beckett Medicaid,” said Kristin.

Kehlani’s family has had a weight lifted off their shoulders since Kehlani started attending the Center. Kehlani’s grandmother, Angela, has been a very present support system for Kehlani and her parents. Angela describes her feelings toward the Center as “pure joy.” “With Kehlani’s condition, I was initially concerned that people would not know how to care for her or if she would get needed special attention. All concerns were quickly dispelled as the care for Kehlani, and her progress has been more than we could have hoped for. It helps Kehlani to be around other kids and caring adults and it lends to less anxiety as we work during the day,” said Angela.

Kehlani’s care at The Elaine Clark Center would not be possible without a scholarship. “A scholarship to my family means so much. It allows us to use those extra funds that we would have to use for enrollment towards Kehlani’s specialized formula, medications, doctors’ visits, and accessibility equipment that she needs,” said Kristin.

HOW WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?



The Elaine Clark Center



FRANK CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The **Frank Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in 2001 to make sure income didn't bar any students with special needs from receiving the services they need.

The scholarship fund is reserved for families of students with special needs with additional financial need, as identified by income verification. However, a scholarship has more than monetary value. A scholarship gives families the relief and peace of mind that they can afford safe, quality care no matter their financial situation. We need you to **Answer the Call** and help us continue to assist children of all abilities.

Will you **Answer the Call** and make a donation to change the lives for our students?



**CALLS
WE'VE ANSWERED...**


- **\$488,454** in funds generated from the Frank Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund since 2000
- **\$5874:** average scholarship amount
- **88%** of Recipients received referrals
- **76%** of recipients received Therapeutic Intervention
- **24%** of recipients received daily Nursing Care
- **3296** Days of Service
- **5482** Meals Provided

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SCAN HERE TO ANSWER THE CALL



WAYS TO DONATE:

- Recurring Scholarship
- One-Time Scholarship
- Apogee Scholarship Fund

LET'S ANSWER THE CALL TOGETHER



The Elaine Clark Center has been **Answering the Call** since 1969 to help students with disabilities. However, our children still need adapted services to help them unlock their full potential. Public schools and typical childcares have never been able to provide highly individualized services. The Elaine Clark Center provides the individualized care necessary for our children to successfully develop into confident contributing members of society.

We need you to **Answer the Call** and help us continue to assist children of all abilities.



BECOME A SCHOLARSHIP DONOR, AND JOIN OUR AMAZING LIST OF SUPPORTERS!

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