





Mission

We transform lives by addressing the holistic academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of the neurodiverse community.

Vision

Enable every neurodiverse person to have an exceptional human experience.

Values

COURAGE: We are never afraid to try new ideas. We stand up for others

CREATIVITY: We innovate, invent, and apply the best thinking in our programs and methods.

COLLABORATION: We work together across disciplines to achieve better outcomes.

ACCOUNTABILITY: We take initiative, we are factual, we accept feedback humbly, and we assume responsibility.

CELEBRATE THE NEURODIVERSE: We tailor our work to meet the unique needs of every person we serve.

TENACITY: We persevere with patience.



WELCOME!

Kim Snow and Bob Tift, EdD

Dear Franklin Center Community,

It has been an exciting and transformative year for our organization, as we officially changed our name from Academy of Whole Learning to Franklin Center and moved into our first permanent home in Golden Valley. This transition allows us to better support our growing program areas and establish ourselves as a holistic center for families with neurodiverse children.

We are also proud to have completed our Unlock Potential Capital Campaign, raising over \$13 million to buy and renovate our new campus. We were thrilled to celebrate these achievements with a Ribbon Cutting celebration and an Evening of Appreciation event, where we honored our top donors and amazing staff. We are grateful to all of the generous donors who contributed to this campaign and made this new chapter in our history possible.

This year also marked the departure of our Executive Director, Wyayn Rasmussen, EdD, who dedicated the past 10 years to growing our organization and establishing many of our new program areas. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Our program areas have continued to thrive and serve a broader base of neurodiverse children and young adults. In May, Franklin Academy graduated eight seniors, some of whom continued onto our Capstone program while others ventured out into jobs or post-secondary education paths. We were also fortunate to welcome a new Principal, Kim Strandemo, who brings a wealth of education experience from around the world to our team.

Franklin Therapy has continued to excel in providing individualized care to children on the autism spectrum and with other neurodiversities. They have thrived in our new building, which allows for both individual and group spaces to meet the unique needs of each child. We are continuously working to reduce our waitlist for these services and recruit additional staff so that we can serve even more neurodiverse children.

Our adult education program, Franklin Capstone, has also experienced growth both in participants and in programming. Our Friday social outings and various volunteer activities are always popular with our participants, and we have also expanded our Vocational Rehabilitation services to provide both our participants and other community members with job and skills support.

Overall, it has truly been an amazing year at Franklin Center. Our success is the result of the hard work and dedication of our students, participants, families, alumni, donors, staff, and Board of Trustees. We are grateful to everyone who is a part of the Franklin community and look forward to building on this success in the coming year.

Thank you for your support.

Kim Snow

Executive Director

Bob Tift, EdDChair, Board of Trustees

CURRENT BOARD AND LEADERSHIP

Leadership



Kim Snow Executive Director



Wyayn Rasmussen, EdD Retired Executive Director



Mike FaethDirector of Capstone



Carly KortuemDirector of Strategic
Advancement



Kim Strandemo, MEdPrincipal



Katie Thormodsgaard, MSW, LICSWDirector of Therapy Services

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CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS!

The *Amazing*Legacy of
Executive Director
Wyayn Rasmussen



Wyayn Rasmussen, EdD Retired Executive Director

After a decade of extraordinary service, Executive Director Wyayn Rasmussen, EdD, retired at the end of July.

When she joined, the organization was a small school, and didn't have all grades K-12. With her vision and drive, she developed a strategic plan, secured accreditation, and helped increase enrollment five-fold.

Her vision went beyond a school, leading to many new services, including the mental and behavioral health clinic (now Franklin Therapy), year-round enrichment programs (Franklin Enrichment and Camp Franklin), and the newest offering, the adult education program (Franklin Capstone).

She also played a direct role in establishing the first endowment. More recently she helped lead the plan to find and buy the new campus, as well as playing an active role with the capital campaign and the rebranding.

"Her legacy of service is amazing," says outgoing board chair John Higgins. "Her vision for what is needed, untiring passion, and kindness toward the families we serve has been a gift."

"I am honored to have spent the last ten years working on behalf of the students, clients, and families who have walked through the doors of our remarkable organization," said Dr. Rasmussen. "Watching the progress of each of our children and young adults has been a privilege. My rewarding years of experience inspire me with confidence that Franklin Center will continue its forward trajectory. I am indebted to the many people I've connected with over the past decade and I will treasure the memories and many kindnesses along the way."

Our *Amazing*Community Champion



John Higgins Vice Chair

From raising money to touring potential new campuses, from leading the board through tremendous growth to strengthening finances, John Higgins, outgoing board chair, goes beyond the job description.

Using his background as a successful CEO, John set the standard for how to run an effective Board of Trustees, balancing staff and volunteer roles for efficiency. Willing to jump in and help, he moves from talk to action to make things happen.

"John is passionate about making life better for neurodiverse individuals," says former board vice chair and current Executive Director, Kim Snow, "as well as helping overcome the stigma and prejudice they often face. He sets the bar high for all who work with him, creating an atmosphere of excellence."

Congratulations to John for winning the 2022 Minndepent Community Champion Award!

This award celebrates the work of an individual or group that has benefited a school and the community in which the school is located.

HISTORY OF FRANKLIN CENTER



2003

The Whole Learning School is incorporated

Started with just five students whose parents needed a better option.

2005

Classes held in St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Wayzata



2012

We moved to Cedar Manor in St. Louis Park; added Enrichment and Summer programming



2015

We renamed ourselves Academy of Whole Learning, became accredited

Growth had tripled! We created our first strategic plan.

<u> 2018</u>

Therapy Services opens



2020

Capstone program starts



2022

We renovate our own campus and become Franklin Center

2004

Classes held in the Slavic Church Emmanuel in St. Louis Park



2007

Moved to an old school in Plymouth

17

35

Dr. Wyayn Rasmussen is hired as the executive director

2014

Added Occupational, Speech, and Physical Therapy services with our partner, Capernaum

<u> 2016</u>

Behavior Therapists added to classrooms

2017

We moved to Minnetonka, sharing space with a church



2021

Building is purchased and capital campaign begins



Thanks to generous donors and strong planning, we have our first-ever home! What started as a school is now five integrated programs. From 5 students to more than 200 supported in one or more programs — and growing every year!

AN *AMAZING* GIFT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Our Legacy Donor Makes the Education and Support He Never Had Available for Others

Imagine growing up in a world that doesn't understand you. That doesn't quite know what to do with you. You can't be yourself, and you can't succeed. You're boxed in.

While many of our parents see that experience for their children, one of our volunteers felt it firsthand. When Robert Crosby was growing up, autism spectrum disorder was less understood, and rarely diagnosed. As an adult, he and his wife Teri now play an active role in helping others who are neurodiverse get the opportunities he didn't have.

"I was not diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome until I was 33 years old," said Crosby. "If the Academy had existed for me I believe a great deal of pain, frustration, and anxiety would have been eliminated in my life and I would be a happier person. For this reason, I want to provide this safe, comfortable hope and education to as many people as possible."

When the new campus was purchased, Robert and Teri wanted to show their support by making a life-changing gift. In recognition of that generosity, and for all those who have been overlooked or undervalued because of their neurodiversity, the Center is named after Robert, using his middle name of Franklin.







Golden Valley will be forever gifted by having the Franklin Center here. Franklin Center will produce better motivated, happier citizens who will give to the community in many ways.

Teri Crosby Trustee



THOUGHTFUL SURROUNDINGS FOR **AMAZING SUCCESS**

Thanks to Our Supporters and Staff, We Have Our First-Ever Home!

For years, leaders, parents, staff, and even students our own space. From the layout of different rooms, to

have been talking about how great it would be to have

how they could be better designed for sensory-sensitive people, to just having more space to move, we had a long wish list. And right at the end of our 21-22 fiscal year - it became reality!

For those who joined the Capital Campaign, our appreciation is endless. Without our many supporters (page 16-17), we could not have raised the funding to buy our new building or to renovate it to fit our needs.

If you haven't visited yet, please come tour! From our soft colors to our noise-absorbing panels, we've made Franklin Center a space where each individual can learn, connect, and grow in their own way. Contact carly.kortuem@franklinmn.org to schedule a tour.













This past year was another amazing year for our K-12 private school. Students and staff where thrilled to be back in person!

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



100%

graduation rate



30%

of students received financial aid, with an average gift size of \$15,520



We welcomed a new principal, **KIM STRANDEMO**



11,916

tailored lesson plans for 2021/22



100%

of students showed growth in their social emotional regulation



What is Franklin Academy?

Each one of us is unique. While that makes the world a beautiful and fascinating place, it can make traditional classrooms ineffective for certain learning styles. Our school was the genesis of Franklin Center as we know it today, started by a group of parents who knew their children had potential — but that potential was untapped.

Franklin Academy has grown into a fully accredited K-12 school with low student-to-staff ratios, inclass behavior therapists, dual enrollment for those who need more support (from Franklin Therapy), and social and recreational opportunities (through Franklin Enrichment). Franklin Academy provides the full range of academic, social, emotional, and behavioral supports to help students succeed from the classroom to the community.

Why Franklin Academy?



High school graduation rates for students with disabilities are roughly 20% lower than for other students¹



1 in 36 children in Minnesota has ASD²

Gray's Amazing Journey

Before: "One day in fifth grade I noticed their lunch account balance was not going down. I was alarmed to realize that they had not been eating lunch at all. School was taking a toll on them. It was hard to see them unhappy to the point where they weren't eating. I felt helpless. There was no clear path forward."

After: "Gray wouldn't be where and who they are today if we hadn't had this path available to us. They received an education, but also validation and support tailored to what was appropriate for them. They were given the space to flourish."

¹Minnesota Department of Education 2021

²Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM), 2021





"My favorite part of [Franklin Center] is our community of phenomenal, caring, compassionate staff, teachers, and students that I have had the great opportunity to work, and learn with."

2022 Graduate

Our Graduates



Christopher



Jonah



Nick



Austin



Owen



Gray



Sarah



Jack



"Being at this school for over three years made me realize how much my education and life is important to me. It also helped me build up my maturity and tolerance that I believe is important when you enter and experience adulthood."

2022 Graduate



This past year saw continued growth for Franklin Therapy. With the pandemic continuing to make in-person interaction difficult, the staff nonetheless found ways to connect with clients and families to deliver needed therapies.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



72

clients helped individually



120

helped in therapeutic groups



20,177

hours of therapy delivered to our patients



51%

of students have therapy services as a part of their plan

Why Franklin Therapy?



1 in 5

face mental illness



53% of adults

54% of adolescent

Those with mental illness who receive treatment⁴

What is Franklin Therapy?

Franklin Therapy provides fully licensed, comprehensive therapy at the intersection of behavioral and mental health for those on the autism spectrum or with related neurodiversities. We are one of only a few Twin Cities' providers focused on autism spectrum and related neurodiversities.

By combining social/emotional, behavioral, physical, occupational, and speech therapy together in a single location, we deliver fully integrated services for better results. Those include: Assessments, Outpatient Therapy, Behavioral Intervention and, in conjunction with our partner Capernaum, occupational, physical and speech therapy.



Amazing Progress

Before: "The new district brought new issues, including losing Kaden in the building more than once. Imagine if you can, a world where you cannot speak, you are being moved between rooms filled with strangers and no way to communicate your basic wants or needs. This is the world Kaden was living in. I could not imagine how he must have felt. It had to be terrifying."

After: "The clinicians have learned who Kaden is, what he needs and they can help with his individual emotional and physical needs. I cannot express how much they have developed Kaden's social interactions with both staff and students. Kaden has always loved to be social but his clinicians have been able to teach him just HOW to use his social and conversational skills. Before Franklin Center, Kaden would say "Hi" to everyone he encountered. Now Kaden is engaged in conversations, complimenting a haircut, or calling out a peer by name. He has truly blossomed!"

³ MN Department of Human Services, 2017

 $^{^{4}}$ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015

What is Franklin Capstone?

Franklin Capstone focuses on preparing young adults on the autism spectrum or with other neurodiversities to live and work independently with confidence. We develop the skills as well as the mindsets they need to enter the adult world successfully.

We offer:

- Research-based assessments
- Vocational skills and work readiness
- Low student-to-teacher ratios
- Year-round curriculum
- Opportunities to build and practice life skills
- Full-time, part-time, and flexible enrollment

Why Franklin Capstone?



Nearly half

of 25-year-olds with autism have never held a paying job⁵

⁵ Longitudinal patterns of employment and postsecondary education for adults with autism and average-range IQ, 2015



More than half

of young adults with autism remain unemployed and unenrolled in higher education in the two years after high school (a lower rate than young adults in other disability categories)⁶

⁶ Journal of College Student Development, 2017

Sarah's *Amazing* Journey

Before: "While I was successful academically, I struggled with living independently in the dorms and needed a lot of support from home, and I had little to no social life during my college years. It quickly became obvious that I would need to grow significantly in these areas in order to achieve my dreams after college..."

Franklin CAPSTONE

Helping young adults succeed in life — and defining that success — is the focus of Franklin Center's newest program, Franklin Capstone. Growing slowly and deliberately, 2021-2022 was another successful year as this part of the strategy became reality.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



160% INCREASE

in participants (from 5 in 2020-21 to 13 in 2021-22)



OVER 200

community outings, from exercising at a fitness center to community-based classes to sporting events



VOLUNTEERING

at PRISM, Sholom, and Rock Elm Tavern

After: "Our learning isn't limited to the classroom—we get the opportunity to practice our newly acquired skills through our integrated work experiences and Friday social events. I feel like my fellow students understand me in a way that I've never experienced before, and I can just be myself without worrying about making myself more palatable like I do with my neurotypical peers. Whatever life throws at me down the road, I feel more equipped to handle it."



We kept the name "enrichment" through the rebrand, because the word embodies what this program does so well. From cooking classes to dungeons & dragons sessions, from extra tutoring help to excursions, Franklin Enrichment adds skills, experiences — and most of all success to our students' lives outside of school.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS:









club enrollments different clubs offered

Matthew's **Amazing** Journey

Before: "At the start of the D&D club. Matthew had no idea of the challenges he would face. There was inter-group fighting, clashing ideologies, complex social problems, and potentially a lot of nonpreferred content. This did lead to some stressful situations between clubmates and odd situations with characters."

After: "By the end of the campaign [10] weeks], Matthew had shown immense growth in voicing his own opinion, adapting to the plans of others, problemsolving in social situations, standing up for himself, and being able to voice his own opinions to a group."

What is Franklin Enrichment?

The purpose of Franklin Enrichment is to take what K-12 students learn in school and build on those skills. Open to students from any school, the programs (many of them based on ideas from students) offer a unique blend of guidance and self-direction.

Programs include:

- After-School Activities: A wide range of offerings based on student interests, from language clubs to karate, from baking to competitive video games.
- Owls' Nest: Extended day programs with homework help, reading, games, and relaxing.
- Community-Based Instruction: Educational instruction in naturally occurring community environments to provide hands-on learning opportunities.
- Activity Days: Full days of professionally staffed activities when school isn't in session.
- Got It! Tutoring: Additional intensive, one-toone support for your student in critical core areas of language arts and/or math.

Why Franklin Enrichment?



Build social skills through self-directed activities



Enhance creativity and interpersonal skills in non-academic settings

What is Camp Franklin?

Staffed by professionals and designed to continue the learning plans (for those enrolled in Franklin Academy — Camp Franklin is also open to the community), our summer camps provide the best of summer fun with structure and support. Our half-day, weeklong camps cover a wide range of academic, recreational, and social skills programs.

From Amazing Animals to STEAM camp, from Mission Control to Theater, from Cooking to Splash Zone, summers at Camp Franklin blend learning and fun.

Why Camp Franklin?



Experiential learning

builds resilience and problem-solving skills



Camps foster relationships and creativity



Neurodiverse students thrive on consistency, and Camp Franklin is an essential program to keep structured learning during the summer. This summer was full of learning and connecting with one another, with the community, and with nature.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



New leader, **AMBER TRAPP,**ioined us



17 SUMMER PROGRAMS

from academics to Big City Adventure



Continuing partnership with **WILDERNESS INQUIRY**

One Camper's **Amazing** Journey

Before: "I remember the first day of Wilderness Camp when students did a demonstration of where their comfort zones were. When asked where their comfort zone was for paddling in a canoe, this student immediately went to the spot designated for "I'm not comfortable trying that"."

After: "Throughout the week we worked on community-building through outdoor-centered games and activities, with the goal of a group canoe ride on Friday. When it came time for the paddle, they were still a little resistant but after some encouragement and settling in, they were totally secure. It was awesome to see them smiling and enjoying the time out on the water with the rest of the group!"











I really think there's no one like us...that's a huge factor. To have a clinic connected to a school, connected to a transition program, into adulthood. To really serve someone holistically for their entire lifespan I think is a really rare find."

FRANKLIN CENTER STAFF



FINANCIALS

INCOME STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2022

SUPPORT & REVENUES	AMOUNT
Tuition & Fees	\$2,704,693
Financial Aid	(\$345,825)
Contributions & Grants	\$6,732,812
Therapy Service Income	\$1,279,351
Auxiliary Fees & Camp Income	\$292,456
Investment Income	(\$17,370)
Other	\$6,971
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	\$10,653,088
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$0
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	\$10,653,088

EXPENSES	
Program	\$3,120,972
Management & General	\$1,151,207
Fundraising	\$600,961
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,873,140
Changes in Net Assets Before Other Income (Losses)	\$5,779,948

OTHER INCOME (LOSSES)	
Building Expenses – LLC	\$14,666
TOTAL OTHER INCOME (LOSSES)	\$14,666
Change in Net Assets	\$5,794,614
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$9,346,489
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$15,141,103

BALANCE SHEET

July 31, 2022

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,039,222
Tuition and Fees Receivable	\$8,405
Unconditional Promises to Give, Net	\$4,951,962
Other Receivables	\$4,234
Insurance Receivables	\$131,726
Prepaid Expenses	\$62,501
Investments, at Fair Value	\$807,668
Other Assets	\$7,500
Property & Equipment, Net	\$12,350,413
TOTAL ASSETS	\$21,363,631

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$656,692
Accrued Payroll	\$162,791
Other Liabilities	\$93,755
Deferred Revenue	\$695,358
Construction loan	\$1,113,932
Long-term debt	\$3,500,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$6,222,528

NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Restriction	\$703,191
Without Donor Restriction – Board Designated	\$665,802
With Donor Restriction	\$13,772,110
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$15,141,103

TOTAL	LIARILIT	TEC & N	NET ASSETS	\$21	363,631
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DONORS

\$100K+

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\$7 MILLION+

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\$3.5 MILLION+

John and Amy Higgins

\$50K+

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ANONYMOUS















\$750

















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Robert Crosby

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Steve Livermore

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Ben Higgins

Mary Longe

The Higgins Family

Alana Bassin

Cathie and Gary Erickson

The Snow Family

Kate and Rick Hartfiel

Frances Holman

Nadine Holman

Gray Kruse

Teresa Kempf

Sam Leo

David Leo and Allison Dent

Maddie Payne

Medtronic

Chris Rahill

Patrick Atkinson

The Snow Family

Kate and Rick Hartfiel

Katie Thormodsgaard

Carol and Pat Milan

James Villalta

Elizabeth Villalta

Morgan Williams

Preston and Sharon Williams

Kai Yudhishthu

Rich Yudhishthu and

Aki Yoshino

Frances Zolotov

Erin Barr and Anton Zolotov

IN MEMORY OF

Sandra Michels Jennfier and Erick Kyllonen Jeremiah Thormodsgaard

Lana and David Thormodsgaard

YEAR IN REVIEW











Introducing Kim Strandemo, Franklin Academy's new principal!

What a great time to join Franklin Academy, just as we finish out the final year of a seven-year strategic plan. So many wonderful accomplishments have advanced our mission as well as our day-to-day operations — kudos to everyone who did so much work for such great results!

Of course, now it's time for a new strategic plan. That's already in progress and we look forward to sharing it with our key stakeholders.

Here are highlights from 2021-22.













Preparing students for the community

Assessments:

- Behavior Therapists worked on teaching any lagging social skills as well as collecting benchmark data on those skills.
- We assessed individual instructional levels in reading/comprehension, writing, math, and many other areas to align with relevant standards.

Academics:

Philosophies were formalized and put into writing for all subject areas.

Business exposure & partnerships:

We continued e-mentorship (due to Covid) and have a thriving in-person option with Rock Elm.



Facilities enhancements

We bought and renovated a new campus to best meet the needs of our learners.



Long-term marketing strategy

- We have reciprocal referral relationships with both Fraser and Groves Learning Organization (formerly Groves Academy).
- We continue to expand our targeted outreach, recently adding webinars to our focused strategy.



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Academy of Whole Learning changed its name to the Franklin Center in June of 2022. Please note that our tax ID, 16-1671503, remains the same.

We are grateful for your support throughout the past year and if you would like a summary of your donations made in 2022, please reach out to advancement@franklinmn.org.

We ask that all future donations be directed to Franklin Center.

We are committed to using your generous donations to further our mission of providing top-quality education and therapy services to individuals with autism and neurodiversities.