

From Crayons to Careers

GIRAFFE LAUGH EARLY LEARNING CENTERS
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The Future Begins Here

A message from our leaders



Lori Fascilla
Executive Director

As an eager little girl excited for kindergarten, I couldn't wait to decode the magic of reading. But on that first day, I learned I was severely behind my peers. I began my academic career with a feeling of failure and fear.

The first five years determine how the next 80 will unfold

– Bill Gates



In 2024, our theme was Crayons to Careers. We all start with a crayon and end up somewhere in the working world, supporting ourselves and our families. That journey takes a community—ensuring children are ready, parents are supported, and strong futures are built.

Giraffe Laugh plays a critical role in so many paths. Our families are young, whether 14 or 40 when they start. Our children are just beginning, and our teachers, often new to the field, bring deep passion for children and families. Supporting them is both our greatest joy and accomplishment.

With Idaho's lack of early childhood investment, fundraising needs grew. You all stepped up—ensuring school readiness, empowering families, and building strong futures. We opened a Kuna location with Boys & Girls Club and began building at Franklin & Orchard, opening in May 2025.

That little girl who arrived the first day of school eager and anxious to learn to read, eventually did learn to read and write. Because of the incredible teachers, parents and helpers in her life she was able to sit here today to ask that you remember other little children that may not have the great start they need. You are making a difference and we are honored to do it side by side with all of you.

Looking back on 2024, I'm energized by how Giraffe Laugh is building strong foundations for the future. Some are tangible—like those beneath our new centers in Boise and Kuna, which will serve families for generations. More importantly, it's the educational foundations we build—supporting compassion, curiosity, resilience, and opportunity.

As early childhood education faces mounting challenges, strong foundations matter more than ever. They begin with the first sparks of learning—letters traced, questions asked, and discoveries made. They grow when parents find support to navigate the highs and lows of raising a family. And they strengthen within a community that believes every family deserves the chance to thrive.

We don't do this work alone. From our leaders and teachers to our volunteers, donors, and the families who inspire us—we're in this together. I couldn't be more grateful.

Together, we're shaping a future where every child reaches their full potential and every family has the support to flourish.



Brady Moore
Board President



Making a Difference Together

Overview of Giraffe Laugh

Board of Directors

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Luke Jones

Rocio Rivera

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Emily Solly

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Mission

To provide quality early care and education to young children by ensuring school readiness, empowering families, and building strong futures.

Vision

Every child in the Treasure Valley has access to quality early care and education, and all parents are supported through the early years of parenthood regardless of age or income.

Our Centers

By May of 2025, we will have **four year-round centers** that serve children 0-5 years old, a **school-year preschool program** that serves children 3.5 to 5 years old, and a **summer program** that serves school-aged children.

Values

Responsibility: modeling accountability to children, staff, parents, board, and self.

Excellence: dedication to the mission and values of Giraffe Laugh.

Stability: maintaining a consistent environment for all families.

Pride: instilling pride in our diversity.

Education: cultivating a love of learning in children, staff, and parents.

Caring: modeling patience and empathy for children and adults in a nurturing environment

Teamwork: commitment to staff, parents, and board working together in the best interest of children.



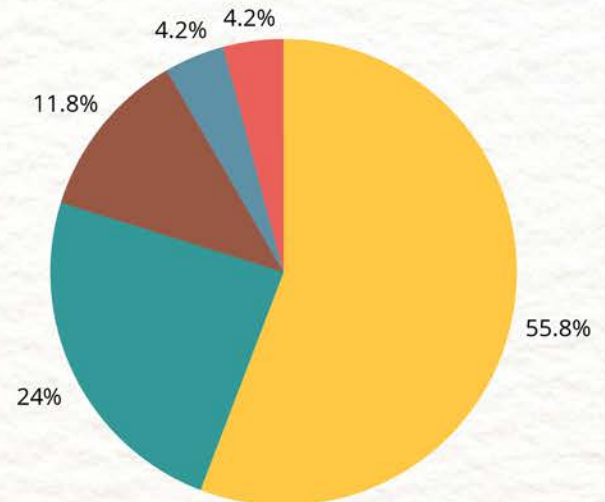
Where Your Support Goes

Financial Overview

INCOME: \$2,242,175



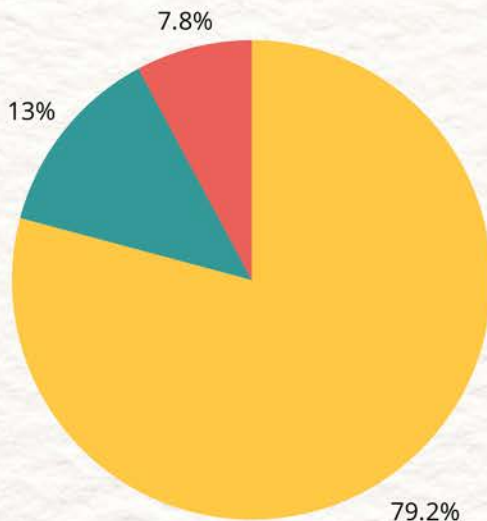
Source	Amount
Tuition	\$1,251,153
Grants	\$538,512
Individual Donations	\$265,228
In-Kind Donations	\$93,782
Sponsorships and Events	\$93,500
TOTAL	\$2,242,175



Our teachers are our greatest resource. Without them there is no program, no mission and no impact. Young children need low ratios, quality programs and curriculum, and parents need support during the early years. Teachers provide all of this, raising families every day with their work.

Naturally our human resource is not only our most treasured resource, but our largest expense. Our second largest is scholarships ensuring access to quality programs for every child we can enroll.

EXPENSES: \$2,071,485



Source	Amount
Payroll and Program	\$1,639,992
Admin	\$269,148
Occupancy	\$162,345
TOTAL	\$2,071,485

Our largest income stream is tuition, then the remainder (almost half) is fundraising that supports access to our quality programs regardless of income. The impact of our program goes far beyond the 340 children we will serve each year. It represents a transformative investment in the future, with implications for generations to come.

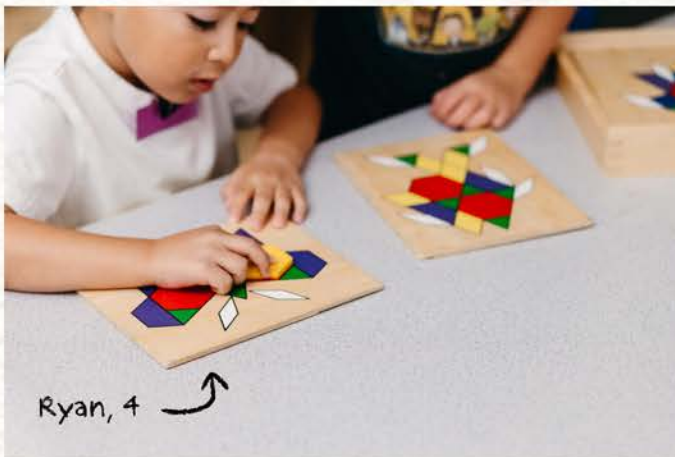
By equipping children with the skills they need to succeed, we are not only changing their lives but also their family life. This generational change has a ripple effect, creating stronger, more resilient communities, contributing to the long-term prosperity of our state.



Ensuring School Readiness

Did you know that nearly **50% of Idaho children are not ready for kindergarten** when they start school? Children from families experiencing poverty are even less likely to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Every child deserves a safe, nurturing childhood and access to high-quality programs that educate, strengthen, and empower them for the future.

At Giraffe Laugh, 100% of our 2024 graduates entered kindergarten prepared, confident, and eager to learn.



200+ CHILDREN

were served in our centers and programs in 2024.

“When I walk into this classroom, I see happy faces who are eager to learn!”

- Sue, Volunteer

“I retired in 2012 and wanted to continue my involvement in early childhood, especially with children who have not had the advantage of quality care. It warms my heart to volunteer one day a week with a director and teachers who follow a curriculum that treats children of all different backgrounds in a caring, kind environment. They focus on the whole child, teaching critical thinking, building confidence, self-reliance and kindness to others. When I walk into this classroom, I see happy faces who are eager to learn!”

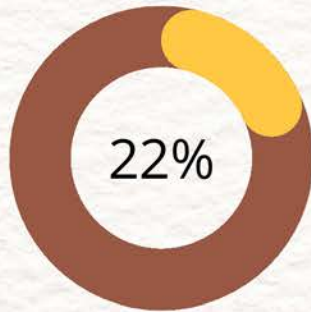
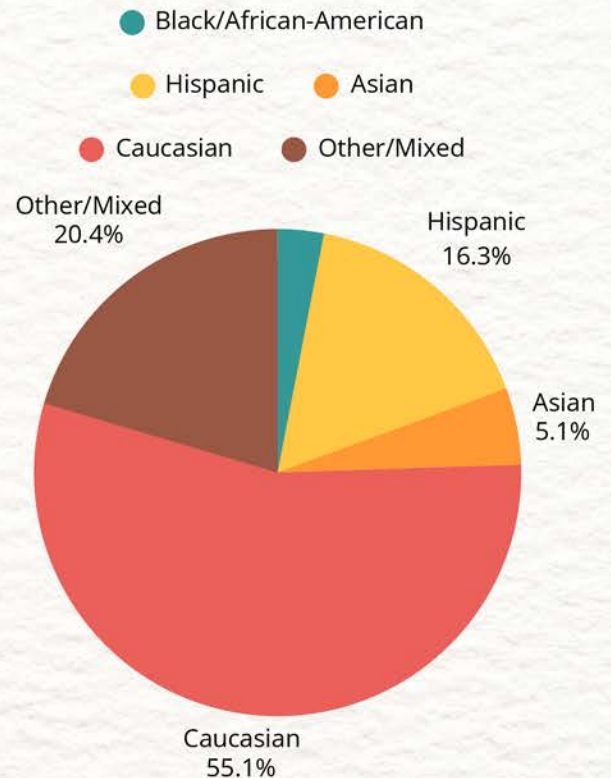


Empowering Families

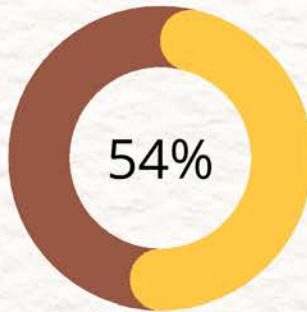


Parents and guardians are the most important people in a child's life. Parenting is not easy, and when adults in a family feel connected and supported, they are empowered to strengthen their family.

DIVERSITY REPRESENTED IN 2024



22% are female-heading households



52% of our children accessed a scholarship in order to attend

PARENT OPPORTUNITIES AT GIRAFFE LAUGH IN 2024

Parent Advisory Committee

Parent Teacher Conferences

Family Open House

Weekly Parent Newsletter

Preschool Graduation

Strengthening Families Classes

Parent Listening Sessions

Weekly Story Time with Parents

READY! For Kindergarten

Field Trips to Parent Workplaces





Building Strong Futures

The foundation for growth and development often begins with proper nutrition. In an effort to diminish food insecurity, we offer food pantries at all of our centers, ensuring regular access to an abundance of high-quality nourishment for our families and the surrounding community.

Giraffe Laugh Food Support in 2024

Did you know that 1 in 10 children go to bed hungry every night in Ada County?

In 2024, Giraffe Laugh helped aid the solution that by serving **53,131 meals**.

That's 24,000 more than the year before! Because when children are nourished, they thrive.



1,580 adults received regular meals & essential supplies. 161 of them were age 65+



1,372 children accessed nutritious food through our pantries



239 more people served than in 2023



2,415 meals served to children in our Summer Program



235 holiday meals provided to families with a total of **56 food baskets**.

“Now that I’ve been a part of this community for almost two years, I am even more thankful for so many more reasons.”

- Anna Boyd, Music Teacher

“When my family was struggling financially, Giraffe Laugh was able to continue providing care for my son. Thankfully, we are no longer in that space and we can help Giraffe Laugh provide the same community services to others who need a little support.

The teachers are so kind, creative, and able to really teach the kids so much through play. Teachers are taking evidence-backed strategies and implementing them into the curriculum in a fun and playful way.”



Real Stories, Real Impact

“It [Giraffe Laugh] feels like a home with the love and care that each staff member provides.”

- Giraffe Laugh Kuna Parent

We were in an in-home daycare that was decent, but our daughter needed more learning and less watching TV or just playing. Although the prior daycare was fun and she was happy, she was not reaching her full potential. She didn't know how to count, name her colors, or shapes, but within a month of being at Giraffe Laugh, she was able to count to 10, learned her colors, learned some shapes, and many more!

The teachers take exceptional care of our daughter and treat her like one of their own. She leaves happy, always excited to go, and never dreads school. The staff are very friendly, and I know it is a job for them but it feels like a home with the love and care that each staff member provides. By the time she reaches kindergarten, I believe Giraffe Laugh will have set her up for success.



Ava, 4

“The children benefit so, so much from working toward their speech goals in a naturalistic setting. Being able to work amongst their peers promotes carryover and generalization of skills so much more than any standard clinic setting ever could.”

- Tara Honsletter, Pediatric Speech-language Pathologist & Volunteer

After 13 years of working as a pediatric speech-language pathologist for various companies in the Pocatello, Idaho area, my family decided it was time to move on to something bigger. After officially opening my clinic doors in January of 2023, I took a chance and reached out to the nearby Giraffe Laugh Preschool, offering free speech & language screenings for their classroom.

It's such a privilege to be able to practice in an environment that is in alignment with my heart's desire to pour all of my love into the children I serve. All of her teachers are so kind and compassionate, and are truly connected to each and every one of the children. The children benefit so, so much from working toward their speech goals in a naturalistic setting. Being able to work amongst their peers promotes carryover and generalization of skills so much more than any standard clinic setting ever could.

I have since expanded my services to include their other childcare centers, where I have found just as much kindness, care, and compassion. I feel so very lucky to have the privilege of working with everyone in the Giraffe Laugh community.

“The patience the teachers show the children allows the space to remain a safe and fun experience for everyone.”

- Erica Brouwer, owner of Handstands & Volunteer

I have been teaching gymnastics classes at Giraffe Laugh for the last few years and have to say they are some of my favorite kids to teach. That only comes from the amazing teachers and staff at Giraffe Laugh. I know this because of the way the children behave in my class. They are kind and respectful of one another, follow directions, ask for help, and respect their space and the space of others. Teachers that have a continued love of teaching, and nurturing children, just to help them grow into whole, happy humans are hard to come. Giraffe Laugh has found amazing ones and we are happy to get be apart of it.

"Giraffe Laugh is what every mother dreams of. A place where you can trust your child is safe, nurtured, and thriving. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

- Giraffe Laugh Parent from Boise

This Boise mom's journey with Giraffe Laugh began long before she had children, but she never imagined how deeply it would impact her family. After struggling with unreliable childcare and facing uncertainty about her daughter's health, this Boise mom found not just a childcare, but a lifeline.

At Giraffe Laugh, her daughter wasn't treated like a problem. She was seen, supported, and encouraged. Teachers reassured her, celebrated her daughter's progress, and provided resources like on-site speech therapy—offering a level of care she never found elsewhere.

Now, with both her daughters thriving at Giraffe Laugh, this Boise mom has become an advocate, serving on the board and leading the Parent Advisory Committee. She says, *"I didn't think I needed a community, but now I see how important it is. These are the people raising my kids when I'm not there. And they truly care."*

For her, Giraffe Laugh is more than childcare—it's a place where parents can breathe easier, knowing their children are safe, loved, and given the strongest start possible.



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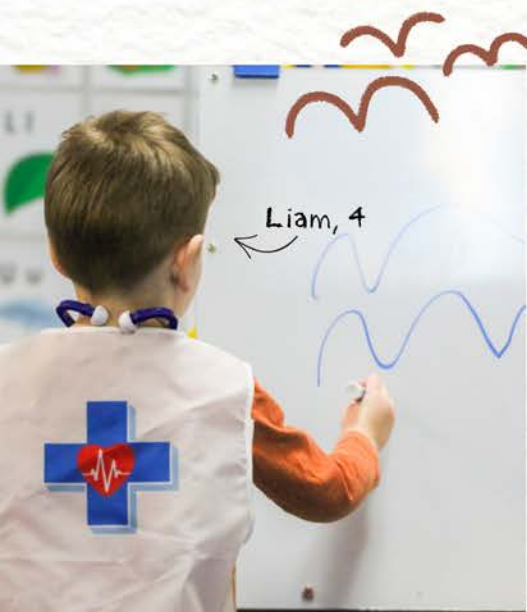
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recognition list!



The future starts with a single crayon.



Every child deserves a strong start. With our new center opening soon, we're expanding our impact—creating more spaces for learning, growth, and strong futures.

Be part of this vision.

See your name on a bubble or a quote on our walls to inspire generations to come by contributing to our Building Stronger Futures Capital Campaign. Help us build a future where every child thrives.



Scan to learn more about our
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GiraffeLaugh
Early Learning Centers

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**WE CAN SEE THE FUTURE
FROM HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.**