WE ARE TOGETHER
RESILIENT TOGETHER

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT
OUR MISSION
To strengthen and empower children and families facing extraordinary medical, developmental, and parenting challenges.

OUR VISION
Children grow up in families where their individual needs are met; their parents are confident and can meet the needs of all family members because they are comfortable with their personal situation and have an internal sense of empowerment.

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*Denotes a parent or family member of a person with a disability.
The hardest part of many of life’s journeys is taking the first step. I have the honor of witnessing daily some of the smallest steps grow into something pretty amazing. Walking beside parents and children and creating programs that are responsive to their needs is the way EPU has grown. It starts with our very first interactions. No child is the same. No family is the same. Being responsive to each family’s unique and ever-changing needs is a responsibility we take seriously. From the beginning, their challenges become our challenges.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the parents, grandparents, and other caregivers of children with special needs who I greet every day. I admire you tremendously. You have taken an unexpected situation that you were unprepared for and turned it into a lifetime of learning, hope and resilience. You are selfless. You do things you never thought possible, always putting your children first, even if it means missing out on things for yourself. On a daily basis, you choose to start each day with a voice of compassion and a heart of love.

I also feel an incredible amount of pride in how our staff bring their talents and compassion to support parents, relatives, and foster parents in growing safe and loving families. There is something truly special about EPU. The work we do has many moments of transformation and inspiration. We refer to it as the “Essence of EPU.” At the heart of EPU is a staff of 132 extraordinarily dedicated individuals with unwavering commitment to serving children and families. At EPU Children’s Center:

- All children are loved and valued.
- Parents find safe, compassionate, and non-judgmental support, and experience their child in new ways.
- The uniqueness of every family’s experience, goals, and the individual journey is validated and valued.
- Staff growth and development is supported through opportunities for learning and reflection.
- Collaboration is promoted and positive change in systems is supported.

None of this could be done without the generous support of our donors. Because of your investment, we are able to achieve the amazing outcomes we see each day. You help keep our vision alive. My sincere gratitude and appreciation for the generosity of our many community partners, and, as we enter a new year, I am filled with hope about what we will accomplish together.

May we continue to seek a community where children and families thrive.

Lowell J. Ens,
Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19 DISCLAIMER:
The material set forth in this document was created prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Elizabeth sat in shock. Her fearful suspicions had just been confirmed by the Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC). Her daughter was autistic. Elizabeth first became concerned about her daughter, Alessia, at 15 months of age. She suddenly stopped talking or interacting with her parents or her sister. Everyone, including her doctor, had assured Elizabeth it was just a phase. “Wait,” they advised her, “she’ll come out of it.” But she didn’t. In fact, Elizabeth began to notice her daughter was making repetitive body movements a classic symptom of Autism. Her doctor finally referred her to CVRC. Once CVRC identified Alessia as being on the autism spectrum, they referred Elizabeth to EPU Children’s Center.

Elizabeth said that the first time she came to EPU, she and her husband were both so scared and upset by their daughter’s diagnosis, that Elizabeth spent nearly the whole hour crying. But she found everyone was kind and supportive.

Elizabeth said, “Getting connected with EPU was a true lifesaver.” She was able to ask Alessia’s interventionist all kinds of questions to help her understand not only autism and where her daughter was on the spectrum, but how she could help her grow and progress. And the parent support group showed her she was not alone. Other parents were struggling with the same issues.

Eventually, as Alessia was able to receive occupational therapy and speech therapy, Elizabeth found herself spending four days a week at EPU. While it seemed daunting, it was actually wonderful. “EPU was the one place I could go to and know my children were being well taken care of which allowed me time to just sit quietly with a cup of coffee”. That, combined with the parent support group, taught her the need for self-care. Otherwise, as a mother of three, she was going to wear herself out.

Between all the services EPU provided for Alessia and the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy Elizabeth secured for her, Alessia progressed to the point that some of Elizabeth’s family began to question whether she is truly autistic. Alessia plays with toys, interacts with her sister and loves going to pre-school. (Elizabeth and Brian enrolled her, with the help of the EPU’s Family Resource Center (FRC), after she graduated from EPU’s Infant Family Program (IFP) at the age of three. However, Elizabeth knows the symptoms and also sees that her daughter still struggles to communicate. But now she knows Alessia will continue getting better.

Elizabeth soon returned to EPU with her son, Ezra, who, at 15 months, was not verbalizing as he should be. This time, Elizabeth wasted no time having him, evaluated by CVRC. He has not received a diagnosis of autism, but he definitely has a speech delay, and Elizabeth has realized the vital importance of receiving early intervention to minimize or correct these issues. Though Ezra has only been at EPU for a few months, she has already noted definite improvements.

Elizabeth feels EPU has made her a better mother and person. It has made her more patient and understanding when her children cannot do some of the things other kids their age can do. It has also helped her not to be so offended when people who don’t understand autism make critical comments about her children. Finally, it has taught her the value of self-care so that she has more energy to be a parent to her children.

Elizabeth has become a huge advocate for getting other parents connected with EPU. So many parents don’t really know what is available. She encourages any parent who has concerns about what is going on with their children to call EPU. “They can help you in so many ways. EPU is amazing!”
HOW WE SERVE

IMPACT

INFANT FAMILY PROGRAM

592 CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED
22,065 SERVICES PROVIDED
38 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

1,918 CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED
8,271 SERVICES PROVIDED

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTERS (2)

Offers a continuum of services that build on the “Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework” in the 93702, 93703, and 93727 zip code areas within the metro Fresno area.

LEARNING ABOUT PARENTING

891 CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED
10,447 SERVICES PROVIDED
51 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

THE ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR CHILDREN

377 CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED
4,928 SERVICES PROVIDED

TOP REASONS FOR REFERRAL


MAKING AN AMAZING DIFFERENCE

Through the support of our donors, EPU continues to cultivate and lift up the voices and experiences of families facing extraordinary challenges. Over the last four decades, our family-centered and child-focused programming illustrate the spirit and commitment to educating, serving and empowering families with young children. Without our donors, we would never have achieved so much.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2019

REVENUE

Contributions and Grants $ 5,326,338.00
Program Service Revenue $ 2,290,199.00
Investment Income $ 3,328.00
Other Revenue $ 117,853.00
Total $ 7,737,718.00

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits $ 5,827,938.00
Total Fundraising Expenses $ 114,074.00
Other Expenses $ 1,555,399.00
Revenue Less Expenses $ 240,307.00

NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES

Total Assets $ 4,111,675.00
Total Liabilities $ 1,821,145.00
Net Assets or Fund Balances $ 2,290,530.00
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"For it is in giving that we receive."
– St. Francis of Assisi

2018-2019
FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

Aetna Foundation
California State University, Fresno
Central California Women’s Conference
Central Valley Community Foundation
Disability Communications Fund
First 5 Fresno County
Grainger Foundation
IN-N-OUT Burger
Isnardi Foundation
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
Katey’s Kids
Rite Aid Foundation, KidCents
Target Corporation c/o Cybergrants, LLC
The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Krista Kaups
Larry Isheim
Law Offices of Wagner & Jones
Lilith Assadourian
Linda Harris
Linda Schilling
Louise Feinberg
Lowell Ens
Maria Nunez
Marle Meyer
Marshall and Brenda Simms
Martin Enterprises
Mary Ann Mateo-Laeno
Mastro & Assoc.
Mathew Bobier
Medtronic
Melissa Perez-Garcia
Michael Goldring
Michelle Tandowsy
Nancy Aaron
Nancy Epstein
Nancy Hatcher
National Hardware
Neal Howard
Neil Grossman
Network for Good
Olivia Arnold
Oziel I (Ivan) Flores
Pamela Martens
Pan American Insurance
Agency, Inc.
Patricia Porter
Paul Mesple
Pearson Realty
PG&E Corp Foundation Matching
Gifts YourCause
Phyllis Goffstein
Private Wealth Advisors
Quiring Corporation
Raymond Angelillo
Regency Investment Advisors, Inc.
Richard A. Emerson
Rite Aid Foundation KidsCents
Robert Deffebach
Robert Friedman
Robert Glassman
Robert Huebert
Ron Brooks
Rosemarie King
Rotary Club of Clovis
Rotary Club of Fresno Sunset
Rudy Murrietta
Sallie E. Negin
Scott Goffstein
Sharon Mahoney
Staci Hernandez
Steve Antonio
Steve Brooks
Suzanna Bezyan
Suzanne Ellis
Swan Consulting Inc.
Tim Hunter
Tom Gong
Toni Memory
Triet Ly
Trinity Fruit
Trisha Cooper
Valley Children’s Healthcare
Walter Lauritzen
Warren Parr
Wayne Fox
West America Bank
This year marks our 30th Fiesta, a celebration of children with food, music, family and friends under the stars. At EPU we are dedicated to keeping children healthy and families strong. Each year we come together at Fiesta de los Niños, to raise money supporting our programs for vulnerable children and families. Because of you, with the proceeds from Fiesta, we’re able to impact more of our youngest children who need it the most. With your help we are able to continue the work we do in keeping children healthy and families strong.

For more information on how to become involved, call 559-229-2000 extension 136.