Discover the strength within.

{ campaign for }

THE PATH AHEAD
My son was diagnosed with autism when he was 3. He couldn’t speak. He climbed on top of furniture. He became harder and harder to control. When I learned about Great Circle’s day school for kids with autism, I was almost without hope. Lucas was enrolled and things began to change. He started using picture communication and is toilet-trained. He has even started to speak words.

You saved my son’s life – and mine.

Michael
For some of us, life’s path is lined with obstacles and isn’t clearly defined. But when our compass fails us, how do we find our way again?

It’s for this reason that Great Circle exists. To guide those in circumstances beyond their control through times of struggle, toward a place where they can thrive. And to equip and empower them with the tools and support they need to get there.

We restore hope where it is most needed by providing a unique spectrum of specialized care from highly trained professionals across the state.

At Great Circle, we embrace the same inspiring virtues we find in those we serve.

To be courageous as we champion change and growth in our communities. Just as they have shown the courage to ask for—and accept—our help.

To never give up. By celebrating each victory and persevering through each setback. By holding onto the belief that anyone or anything, once lost, can be reclaimed and redirected.

And by staying committed to serve not as a last resort, but a first step forward for the path ahead.
Great Circle was formed in 2009 to build upon the strengths of Edgewood Children’s Center and Boys & Girls Town of Missouri. This merger created one unified organization greater than the sum of its parts, with new operating efficiencies allowing for a broader range of programs and services.

Today, Great Circle honors the values and traditions of its founding agencies by offering a comprehensive spectrum of nationally accredited services for individuals and families, including:

- **Home and community-based services** such as in-home counseling, crisis intervention, respite and foster care services, helping children and families maintain stable, permanent homes.

- **Education and day treatment** led by professional staff using an evidence-based curriculum and innovative models of skill development for meaningful personal and social growth.

- **24-hour specialized care** in a nurturing and structured campus environment designed to teach the skills needed for a lifetime of healthy development.

- **Crisis services** providing immediate stabilization, assessment and respite solutions for families.
“Great Circle is truly a blessing for our family. Having a school for our son with teachers who understand his needs, are trained to respond to them, and most importantly, are willing to accept him and continue to work with him every day, is something for which our family is tremendously grateful.”

— Mike and Elizabeth
The Need for Support

When effective treatment isn't available to those who need it, everyone loses. Individuals, families, communities and society as a whole shoulder the burden of preventable tragedy and missed opportunities.

When these needs are allowed to go unaddressed, the impact can be felt across our region and beyond—in the form of family stress, substance abuse, lower graduation rates and escalating need for family services.

With existing behavioral health resources fragmented across many organizations and jurisdictions, families are often left to navigate a broken system on their own during a time of struggle. Social stigmas position treatment as an option for only the most dire situations, rather than a preventative resource that can help shift the tide toward healthier lives and communities.

It’s for this reason that Great Circle exists. Not as a last resort, but a first step.

Our Vision for the Path Ahead

With highly trained professionals, accredited programs and community networks already in place, Great Circle is uniquely qualified to deliver an effective and comprehensive spectrum of services for those in our care.

The next step of our vision for the greater St. Louis region is a place where professionals, service providers and community leaders rally around individuals and families for meaningful change. By creating a hub of expertise and services with a unique model of care, we can offer educational, therapeutic and social support where it is most needed. A place where no challenge is too big and no one is turned away. We never give up.

This vision lays the groundwork for providing every individual and family in our region access to both urgently needed and preventative care, while addressing the future needs of the community as they arise.
Community Impact Center

Families will be welcomed by this scenic view across the Family Plaza toward the new Community Impact Center and historic Rock House. Their first steps on campus will lead them to a wide array of specialized services in a tranquil setting with accessible buildings. Providing community services, admissions to academic and treatment programs, training opportunities, therapy and family education, meeting spaces and more, the Community Impact Center will be the front door to the Regional Family Engagement Center.
Education Complex and Center of Excellence in Autism Spectrum Disorder

From a child's view, this path leads to a new world of opportunities in the Education Complex. Providing specialized education in a uniquely designed building, highly trained professionals will support students in their development of academic and social skills. Children with behavior and emotional disorders, autism, learning and social difficulties will have small classrooms, individualized education plans and, most importantly, fun as they learn and play in their school and courtyard.
Bringing Our Vision to Life

Great Circle’s vision for the path ahead transforms the 22 acre campus in St. Louis to a new Regional Family Engagement Center. This center will extend a 180-year legacy of service with the flexibility and resources needed to continue providing responsive care for many generations to come.

To accomplish this shared vision, our multidisciplinary project committee has developed a comprehensive plan for the campus. The new master site plan utilizes existing infrastructure, replacing facilities that cannot be effectively renovated with new multi-use buildings to house classrooms, specialized treatment programs, community education initiatives and youth activities.

This Regional Family Engagement Center will enhance current programs and expand the continuum of services available to individuals and families, ensuring the sustainability of the campus and its programs. To fulfill this vision, we have established a goal of $21.5 million in contributions.

We invite you to join us in bringing our vision to life through a charitable contribution. Once this campaign is completed, Great Circle will be a stronger organization, better able to meet the needs of our region for generations to come.
Regional Family Engagement Center

1. **Education Complex**
   - Classroom expansion addresses waiting list from 40+ metro school districts
   - Combines technology and therapy in customized classroom environments

2. **Education Courtyard**
   - Living classroom courtyard provides light, beauty and recreation
   - Playgrounds, landscaping and outdoor art add exciting color and fun

3. **Dining Hall/Campus Life Center**
   - Remodeled dining hall reinforces social skill development
   - Flexible design creates new campus meeting spaces

4. **Cottage Life Building**
   - Welcoming new entrance and family commons
   - Expanded Cottages include family-style living rooms

5. **Community Impact Center and Family Plaza**
   - Family welcome center provides a central location for campus visitors and clients
   - Family Resource Offices and shared spaces available for community-wide Healthy Family Programs

6. **Field House**
   - New recreation building for team sports and individualized activities
   - Special design provides unique recreational opportunities for youth with special needs

7. **New Entrance to Regional Family Engagement Center**
   - Safer street routes will add to community access and convenience
   - Bus routes provide student safety and improved traffic flow

8. **Campus Beautification and Play Areas**
   - Landscaping, new playgrounds, lighting and campus improvements are designed for safety, efficiency and energy savings

**Center of Excellence in Autism Spectrum Disorder**
- Comprehensive education curriculum includes technology and therapy in customized classrooms
- Assessment and 24-hour intensive treatment, and respite services providing family support
- Vocational programs and family services will expand to meet community needs
Projected Campaign Budget

**Education Complex | $7.1 Million**
Includes School remodeling and expansion, courtyard, technology and media center, therapeutic spaces, play areas and related furnishings. The Education Complex is a key component of the Center of Excellence in Autism Spectrum Disorder and special education services.

**Family Plaza and Community Impact Center | $4.2 Million**
Includes new Community Impact Center, Rock House Atrium, relocation of facilities building and related furnishings.

**Field House, Recreation and Landscape Improvements | $3.9 Million**
New Field House, playground enhancements, sports equipment, landscape improvements and related furnishings.

**Cottage Life Building and Dining Hall Renovations | $2.8 Million**
Includes home-like living rooms, additional cottage bedrooms, new entrance to Cottage complex, redesign of dining hall, security, technology and related furnishings.

**Infrastructure and Property Improvements | $3.5 Million**
Includes new entrance and driveway, parking improvements, upgrades to existing buildings, utility and technology improvements, rezoning compliance, surveys and testing, permits and fees.

**TOTAL | $ 21.5 Million**
Ways to Give

Campaign contributions will support current improvements to the campus, extending a legacy of service that will continue to transform lives for generations to come.

Gifts to our annual fund support our ongoing programs and services. Public funding covers only a fraction of operational support, which can mean the difference between adequate and excellent care.

Great Circle’s sustainability fund gives us flexibility and security for the future. Throughout this campaign, we remain committed to growing this fund to secure the future of our programs and outreach.

For information and giving opportunities, please contact
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"I am very glad you did not give up on me. From that very first month on, until we built a friendship and bond. Thank you so much for all the time you took to spend time and talk with me."

-Danielle
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