We are ALL Better Together
A Campaign for Sewall
WHERE ALL CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED, ENCOURAGED, AND CELEBRATED

A Campaign for Sewall – We are All Better Together

Modern culture often recognizes and rewards distinction and stratification, while values of fairness, empathy, compassion, and community are overlooked. This is especially evident in early childhood education where suspension and expulsion rates are at unacceptable levels and ever increasing; teachers tend to be underpaid and undervalued and retention is difficult. Quality education is unaffordable or unattainable for underserved communities, and many children regardless of socio-economic status do not receive tailored approaches for their individualized development.

If we support all individuals in their most formative years, we create greater potential down the road; as data shows that our foundation’s most important "bricks" are set in the early childhood years.

Adults who attended early childhood programs are 29 percent more likely to graduate high school, 50 percent less likely to be teen parents, and earn 33 percent higher salaries. —Perry Preschool Project

For 75 years, Sewall Child Development Center has been serving the Denver community and has built an inclusive setting where all children are educated, encouraged, and celebrated. In doing so, Sewall has helped hundreds of children of all abilities and their families, not only make academic progress, but also gain insight and perspective that bolsters their human potential.

Providing inclusive education requires significant resources in an early childhood setting. Inclusion entails educator and therapist skills, capacities, and resources, while building partnerships with families at a personalized level.

Sewall early childhood professionals know that ALL children require individualized commitment within a welcoming environment. Your commitment to Sewall can fuel their effort and ignite a path beginning in early childhood to a more positive and just society.

$ = $13

Every $1 invested in early childhood education returns $13 in savings down the road

—Education Commission of the States, 2017
“My oldest child Ben was diagnosed with autism. We looked at a handful of preschools that said ‘We can manage this,’ but none of them really could. When we sat down with Sewall, we were willing to bring in a physical and occupational therapist, and they said, ‘We have that’: programmatically, Sewall had it down. We loved that Ben would get support in the classroom, rather than being pulled out, and that he was with and could make friends with peers of all kinds, not just kids like him.

When my daughter Kate reached school age, Sewall was the choice. She is developing typically, and Sewall had as much of an impact on her as it did on Ben. Through being exposed to difference in early years, she’s the first one who jumps up to hold a kid’s hand when they get stressed out...the first one to shout out, ‘Include that kid.’ It’s helped her develop the empathy and leadership qualities we love to see in our children.”

—Jonathan Lurie
Chair, Sewall Campaign Committee
The Sewall Approach

Each child’s brain is unique. Why shouldn’t an early childhood educational setting take tailored approaches to help each of those brains develop? Sewall invests in these approaches.

Sewall’s special ‘sauce’ is its early childhood professionals. They come from strong pedagogical foundations that incorporate relationship-building and experiential-learning aspects of a child-centered curriculum. They deploy passion and skill to tap the potential of all children including those who may require personal approaches.

Each Sewall classroom incorporates a trans-disciplinary team that, in addition to the family, includes a teacher; co-teacher or teaching assistant; occupational, physical, and speech therapists; mental health consultant; and early childhood special educator. Team members deliver this tailored support to children in their early childhood classrooms, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Meanwhile, each educator and specialist gain skills and insights to address each child’s needs by discussing and cross-pollinating knowledge across the team.

Sewall’s high-touch classroom approach, with teacher-child ratios far exceeding those of peer early childhood settings, extends to the child’s family. Teachers identify specific strategies based on each child’s abilities, and partner with family members to empower efforts at home. In parallel, teachers learn from families about each child’s talents and needs for growth, thereby benefiting from family approaches and bringing them back to the classroom. This approach helps children thrive, not only with the academic proficiency to succeed beyond Sewall, but also with the confidence and agency to pursue their passions throughout their lifetime.

_Underpinning these efforts is that Sewall says yes. Any child who wants a Sewall experience is embraced, regardless of financial, neurodiversity, or logistic circumstances._

The early childhood education field—

...in which daily 250 children, disproportionately from less-fortunate circumstances, are suspended and expelled...

—Center for American Progress 2017

—is prone to unequal opportunity, an inequity Sewall fights also by welcoming children with social and emotional challenges. By filling demonstrated financial need for all children, we strive to find every way possible to create communities that resemble the world in which we live.
"Advancing and extolling the virtues of inclusion helps society understand the diversity of problems, issues, and opportunities that we all contend with. This is why five generations of the Koelbel family have forged connections with Sewall over 75 years. Please join us in supporting the advancements that can occur on all sides when we celebrate inclusion."

—Walter "Buz" Koelbel
In 2016, following decades in which our ambitions exceeded our infrastructure, Sewall moved into the Koelbel Building, providing the space and environment to help us better serve children and position Sewall for future operational sustainability. In response to Denver’s rapid growth of population and need, Sewall now provides inclusive preschool classrooms in 9 sites in addition to consultation in 47 Head Start classrooms, allowing a broad geographic footprint across the Denver metro area.

Yet, Sewall is not immune to practical and economic realities that challenge its potential to serve all children, families and communities in full proportion to growing need.

We must improve our ability to recruit and retain a broad range of diverse early childhood professionals. While teachers everywhere are undervalued by the market—particularly in the difference-making, yet turnover-prone early childhood sector—Sewall’s challenges are notably acute.

Our approach is most effective with teachers and therapists who share passion and fortitude to meet each child’s individual needs, and who possess the training, technology, and tenure to give the children of all abilities the same opportunities.

We must support the sustenance of those who support our children. The more Sewall can mitigate the financial, logistic, and sustenance needs of children and families, the more families we can serve.

As noted above, we recently moved into the Koelbel Building, a beautiful facility that is on the national and state historic registry. The Koelbel Building serves as our headquarters and houses REACH Charter School which broadens the on-site inclusive-education community to elementary school. Our new home provides much greater space, efficiencies, and opportunity for growth, and is a great improvement over our previous facilities. However, it requires upgrades having been built before modern accessibility and technology premises prevailed. We know our children deserve an accessible, highly functional, and state-of-the-art learning environment, and our goal is to provide the very best for them.
"I have a lot of skills. I have a lot of dreams. What I want to say to you is... DON’T LIMIT ME."

—Megan Bomgaars
Sewall alumna; successful entrepreneur, designer, model, artist, self-advocate

We Are ALL Better Together Campaign Ambassadors

"Something like this is eye opening."

—DaeSean Hamilton
Denver Broncos Wide Receiver
A Campaign to Propel the Capabilities of our Children

Over the last 75 years, the hands and hearts of so many educators, therapists, caregivers, volunteers, and community leaders have turned Sewall into the people and places they rely on for inclusion expertise.

To help Sewall generate even more strength and expertise over these next 75-plus years, we are embarking on a campaign to bolster the human potential of our children. With a specific commitment to three key pillars, we know we will propel the capabilities of our children and ignite a path to a more positive and just society.

The Three Pillars of the We Are ALL Better Together Campaign

• **Access**
  The Physical Environment: Support for the Koelbel building operations and accessibility and learning-environment upgrades across all of our locations

• **Participation**
  The Educational Environment: Support for early childhood educator and related professional’s salaries, professional development, transdisciplinary curriculum

• **Support**
  The Family Environment: Support to help meet families’ full ability to afford Sewall, as well as advocacy training and family educational workshops
A Commitment to Inclusion

With the evidence demonstrating that all children learn better together in all areas of development, there is no better alternative than the investment in inclusive services.

We owe it to our best selves—the selves shaped by the stories and mentors that inspired us as children—to support the people and organizations that see and stoke value everywhere they look and in everyone they see.

These are the people of Sewall: they are us. Thank you for joining us in propelling the capabilities of our children for the next 75 years. Many opportunities are available to express your support for inclusiveness, or to honor a loved one or an influential colleague, in ways that will outlive us all. Contact us today to learn more about how you can join us in creating a brighter future for all of our children.

For more information please contact: James Abbott, Vice President of Development at 303-399-1800 Ext. 129 or jabbott@sewallchild.org.

Make your gift today!