

# TURTLE WING FOUNDATION

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Colton is a Turtle Wing kid. At age 6 he was diagnosed with Autism. With the help of Turtle Wing we were able to get him speech, occupational, and music therapy. This past December after meeting all goals set for him, he was dismissed from special education services. He continued with music therapy and has now learned to read, write, and play music. He is also a straight A student. He couldn't have achieved any of this without Turtle Wing. Thank you. The Kelley Family.



#### **OUR HISTORY & MISSION**

Turtle Wing Foundation was founded in 2011 in memory of Jackson Allan Hooper. Jack, who was diagnosed with high functioning Autism, died suddenly just prior to his 10th birthday. His passing sparked a fire within his family and community to help families who struggle with all learning differences.

In the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year, Turtle Wing Foundation financially supported over 300 individuals with learning differences receive the services they needed. Over 1,000 families were enrolled in our parent support network. Hundreds more were touched by our early intervention, supplemental services, and education and advocacy efforts.

Turtle Wing Foundation serves as a resource hub. We connect families who have children with learning challenges with the services and support they need to be successful. We are dedicated to changing lives. The Foundation's goal is to help individuals "fly" academically, socially, and spiritually.







My daughter, Emma, has been attending weekly sessions for a little over a year and I've witnessed tremendous progress and growth with her reading/writing skills. She wouldn't be where she is today without the help from MJ and the Beyond Therapy team. Emma's success would also not be possible without the assistance of Turtle Wing. We had no coverage for these services under my daughter's insurance and costs quickly added up. The Beyond Therapy team introduced us to this foundation that could assist with some of those costs. It allowed Emma to continue her weekly sessions and get her to where she is now! We are so grateful for it!

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Thank you so much Turtle Wing for assisting our family! Grace went to Hatch weekly and sometimes multiple times a week from the time she was 3 years old until 8th grade. Thanks to all of you she has flourished! She started Hatch unable to speak or write or concentrate. This year she is a senior in high school. She is ranked number 4 in her class. And she is looking forward to attending Victoria College next year where she will study to become an LVN and then an RN and maybe even higher education past that. Time will tell. She has conquered many challenges and overcome so much because of your kindness and assistance. Our family is so grateful and thankful to your wonderful organization!



## "THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES"

**ISAIAH 40:31** 

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Here at Turtle Wing Foundation we are constantly inspired by the individuals we serve. This year our theme was "fly" and our bible verse was from Isaiah 40:31, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They soar on wings like eagles..." When God gave me the name Turtle Wing, I knew Jack was in his Heavenly home playing with his turtles and flying with the angels. Now, when I think about Jack and Turtle Wing, it is amazing how his life, his legacy has influenced hundreds of individuals, families and providers in our rural area.

Turtle Wing helps so many "grow wings and fly" and it is an honor and a privilege to acknowledge and celebrate that growth. Most importantly, to our wonderful supporters, "THANK YOU"!

God bless, DeeAnn Hooper

## HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

Not only does Turtle Wing serve as a resource hub, connecting families who have children with learning challenges to the needed resources in the community, but we also help those families afford the services, as well as look for partnerships to create new opportunities for our families. By connecting with provider partners, Turtle Wing has the ability to underwrite programs, as well as fund individual scholarships for services ranging from speech therapy to inclusive dance class.

Our providers are the boots on the ground, performing amazing services, and Turtle Wing provides the funds to increase program reach and make sure that no family goes unassisted due to their economic status.



















#### **OUR PROVIDER PARTNERS**

**Hatch Learning Complete Hometown Physical Therapy Beyond Therapy** And Then a New Day Physical and Academic Learning Services Parents as Teachers **Arts for Rural Texas Fayette County Community Theatre Full Circle Whole Child Guiding Hearts Counseling** 

La Grange Lawyers **Legacy Rebels** Mini Horse Helpers **New Leaf Art and Education** On Pointe Studio **Ingram Counseling and Wellness** Mallory Volkmann – Music Therapist **Texas Elite Therapy Team** The Shiner Studio **Nelson Educational Consulting** 





















#### INCOME

#### **EXPENSES**

GRANTS

**PROGRAMMING** 74%

\$100,800.00

\$159,351.14

\$103,538.93

\$4,734.26

\$368,424.33





323

Individuals
Received Direct
Services

#### OTHER PROGRAMS

- Day Hab Day program for 18+ individuals with learning challenges.
- Learning Labs at Area Private Schools
- Behavioral Evaluations
- Case Management
- Other Needs as they Arise

1074

Families in
Parent Support
Network



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Turtle Wing has been an incredible resource for my family. When my son Shepherd was diagnosed with autism last year I was overwhelmed and wanted to make sure I got him the help he needed, but I had no idea where to start. I called Turtle Wing and not only did they point me in the direct of the Hatch location in Weimar, but they offered us a scholarship as well. He's been in Hatch group ABA therapy for a little over a year now and the difference is amazing. When he first started he was non verbal, couldn't follow directions, and would not answer or look at you when his name was called. As of today he can ask for the things he needs, can follow a two step command, makes really good eye contact, and almost always answers when you call his name. It has been so life changing. Hatch gave him the ability to communicate his needs as well as listen to/understand others and he's so much happier now. Everything would have been so much harder if I hadn't had Turtle Wing to help guide me during those early days after his diagnosis. I'm so grateful for all their guidance and help in giving Shepherd a voice.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH





#### **TURTLE WING GAMES**

Turtle Wing Games are held at a high school baseball & softball game within our service area. A Turtle Wing Member is selected to throw out the first pitch, the teams and fans learn about learning challenges through special announcements, merchandise is available, goodies are thrown to the fans, and all of this is made possible by having a few great volunteers.

#### **TURTLE WING DAY**

Held every year in April that kicks off Autism Acceptance Month. Schools, businesses and our followers all wear Turtle Wing swag to drive awareness about our foundation all across the tri county area and beyond.





My name is Jenny Foster and my daughter Kollins has been a part of Turtle Wing Foundation for one year now. I had known about this foundation for a few years, as my husband is a baseball coach and every season they have Turtle Wing day at the field. Never in a million years did I ever think I'd have a direct connection with Turtle Wing, but now I am so truly thankful and grateful for this program and their mission and passion for giving. Through this foundation and their generosity, Kollins was able to have weekly therapy sessions that otherwise would not have been possible. Kollins was diagnosed with DUP15q syndrome, which essential is an extra copy of chromosome 15. It causes muscle weakness and delayed motor skills along with delayed speech and learning disabilities. Because we were able to continue with weekly therapy sessions, she learned to walk at 18 months, is now crawling on everything and is learning more fine motor skills like throwing a ball and catching. She just had her second birthday and is the happiest little girl. Our family will forever be grateful to the Turtle Wing Foundation.

# IN 2023, WE GAVE OUT SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$5,000 TO 5 DESERVING LOCAL STUDENTS

#### Jack Hooper Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a student who exhibited the qualities of:
 Acceptance, Kindness, Inclusion, and Service.

#### Give Wings Scholarship

• This recipient is pursuing an education that will lead them to working with individuals with learning challenges.

#### **Grow Wings Scholarship**

• This recipient actively participated in Special Education or following a 504 Plan.

#### OUR KEY EVENTS

**TURTLE WING TOAST** 

**CURTIS GRIMES BENEFIT CONCERT** 

**JACK HOOPER DAY** AT THE PARK

**TURTLE** S'WING & SHOOT

**MONSTER DASH** 















































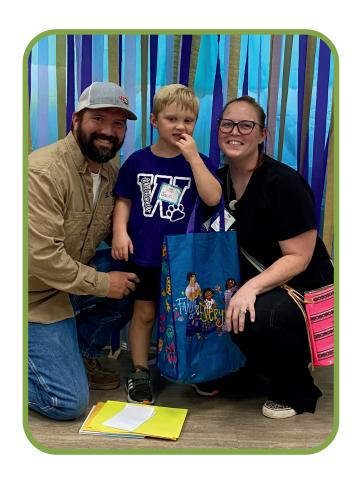














Jace has soared since his delay at 2 years old through the help of turtle wing and all their associates. Turtle Wing has alleviated some of the cost burden for our family since Jace is in so many services. He is in ABA with Hatch, has received ST and OT through Beyond Therapy, and participates in therapy through Weimar ISD. He now plays well with others, regulates emotions better, and has improved his communication. We love our community and how they love our Jace.

#### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Our family is forever appreciative of the Turtle Wing Foundation. The Turtle Wing Foundation has made so much happen from helping with funds for our youngest son starting to walk while needing therapy to our middle child needing help with the cost of Speech, OT, & ABA Therapy. This is an amazing foundation that continues to help all families. Thank you to Turtle Wing and all of its donors for helping make things possible for my family.

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