



AUGUST



Dear Davies Project Supporters,

I have just had the privilege of spending the day with someone who reminded me, time and again, of the profound impact of our work here at The Davies Project. Carla Garcia first came to us several years ago as a young teen battling cancer. Some of you may remember her speaking at our 2024 fundraising breakfast, where she spoke straight from the heart—without notes—sharing an extraordinarily optimistic outlook on life despite constant setbacks in her treatment and care.

Today, I accompanied Carla and her mother, Tonya, to an art session at Art Unlimited in Okemos. There, Carla and several other children supported by The Davies Project created a beautiful piece of art that will be auctioned off at our Gala on November 14th. Carla lives in St. Johns, so we had a lovely long chat during the drive.

Carla's complete candor about her difficult treatments, procedures, surgeries, and ongoing challenges was surpassed only by her boundless positivity and zest for life—qualities that are nearly impossible to fully capture in words. I returned home feeling so uplifted after hearing about her ambitious goals: her strong passion for working with animals, her determination to finish her GED this year after missing so much school, her plans to attend LCC and then MSU for animal science, and her search for a local veterinarian to shadow and mentor her as she maps out her bright future. Nothing will keep her down—Carla is truly on the move!

Most poignantly, Carla shared how much cancer has enriched her life by introducing her to wonderful people she otherwise never would have met and giving her a uniquely positive perspective on the world. How many of us can view life's hardships with that level of genuine grace?

The Davies Project has been by Carla's side from the beginning, ensuring she can access the long-term care she needs. We are immensely proud of her and thrilled that she has agreed to speak again at this year's Gala. At 17 years old, she is a true force of nature, and you won't want to miss the opportunity to meet her!



Park and Play Day at Play Michigan All Inclusive Playground



Our work often begins with a ride to an important medical appointment, but the relationships we build with our families extend far beyond transportation. That was especially evident during our recent Park & Play Day at Play Michigan's All-Inclusive Playground at Adado Riverfront Park, where our families had the chance to simply enjoy a beautiful summer day together.

With the generous support of Dean Transportation, families joined us for an afternoon filled with sunshine, laughter, play, refreshments, and delicious pizza from Baba Ash. Our wonderful volunteers were there as well, helping make the day feel special from beginning to end.

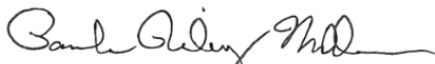
For families whose lives can so often revolve around appointments and medical care, moments to simply play, connect, and enjoy being together are meaningful. Park & Play Day was a joyful reminder that at The Davies Project, our mission may start with transportation, but the community we create along the way is truly more than a ride.



I wish you all a wonderful remainder of the summer—let's make the absolute most of it! While enjoying the warm days ahead, please don't forget to reserve your tickets for our Driving Change Gala. You can purchase your tickets [here](#). Please come out to support Carla and all the incredible children we serve every day, and be part of the magic that is The Davies Project.

With appreciation,

Pam


Pamela Riley Miklavcic, PhD
Founder and CEO
The Davies Project

