

2025 Annual Report

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

jrc  
Kids. Seniors. Community.

# One Story.

## Many Chapters





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*This is where our story starts.....*





# A Letter from the CEO

## Introduction

### **Dear Friends and Supporters of JRC,**

Every mission has a beginning, and every impact has a ripple. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that our organization's journey is not just a single story—it is one story, made up of many chapters, written together with the people we serve, the challenges we face, and the collective hope we share.

This year's theme—**"One Story, Many Chapters"**—speaks to the evolution of our work. From a single idea sparked years ago to the multifaceted programs we run today, our story has grown richer because of the communities we partner with, the volunteers who show up, and the donors who believe in what we do.

*Here are some things we have accomplished in this last chapter:*

- Continued diversification and expansion of our services, as we have become a provider under the Department of Developmental Disabilities to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our Adult Day program.
- Adding programming for School Age children to our Parkway Learning Center.
- Collaborating with community partners for the launching of our inclusive early education and care program at our 14th St Learning Center.

### **But no chapter is ever written alone.**

Thank you for being part of our story. Whether you've been with us since the first page or just joined in, your support is woven into every success. As we look ahead, and look towards the needs of our community, we know that the next chapters will hold new challenges—but also new opportunities to create meaningful impact.

Together, we're not just telling a story. We're living one. And the best chapters are still to come.

*With gratitude,*

Julie Abiecunas  
Chief Executive Officer







### *By the Numbers*

**11** Years as a gold-rated center.

**35** Children graduated in May 2025.

**259** Healthy Habits: On The Go meal kits delivered to preschool families.

# Chapter 1: Learning Centers

## Educating Children

JRC operates two Learning Centers that provide highly rated early education programs for children ages six weeks to five years. Our 14th Street Learning Center also offers Early Head Start and year-round school-age programming, while our Parkway Learning Center provides school-age care during the summer and school breaks, extending our support to families beyond the traditional school day and year.

Using a play-based learning approach, our dedicated, licensed educators foster school readiness and lifelong success. Children benefit from nutritious meals, daily physical activity, and personalized care in a safe and nurturing environment—giving parents peace of mind while they work or pursue their education.

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our Step Up to Quality Gold rating, the highest designation awarded by the State of Ohio. This recognition highlights our programs for exceeding childcare standards and promoting social, emotional, and cognitive development during the most critical early years.



### *A Summer to Remember*



This summer, JRC opened a new chapter with our School-Age Program, expanding to the Myrna A. Pastore Campus while continuing at 14th Street. The pilot was a great success, engaging 20 children in a summer filled with learning, exploration, and fun.

Thanks to support from the Stark Community Foundation's Summertime Kids Grant, children experienced enriching field trips and hands-on activities that brought learning to life—from cheering at an Akron Rubber Ducks game to exploring the Akron Zoo and McKinley Museum. Back at JRC, they cared for their own garden, watching their efforts grow.

Every summer is a new story waiting to be written.



## By the Numbers

**22** Trips into the community.

**66%** of ADC members attend for respite services.

**92** Members served at the Adult Day Center.



# Chapter 2. Adult Day Center



## Engaging Seniors



JRC Adult Day Center provides a safe and engaging environment for adults and seniors, offering socialization, therapeutic activities, and personalized care to enhance their independence and well-being. With a focus on physical, mental, and emotional health, participants enjoy a wide range of activities, including gardening, cooking classes, field trips, crafts, and intergenerational programs.

By attending the Adult Day Center, participants gain a sense of belonging and purpose, while caregivers benefit from much-needed respite or the opportunity to work. We also offer intensive services such as personal care and have many free or low-cost payment options, including Private Pay, Veterans Affairs, Title XX, Direction Home, Care Coordination, Insurance, and IO Waiver.

### Lifelong Learning at the Adult Day Center

At JRC's Adult Day Center, lifelong learning continues to unfold through our partnership with the Stark Library. Members are discovering new ways to stay curious, connected, and confident in today's digital world.



For many adults and seniors, technology can be intimidating. By bringing library resources directly to JRC—helping members sign up for library cards, explore audiobooks, and learn computer and smartphone basics—this partnership has opened doors to communication, independence, and connection.

Each class builds confidence and reminds us that learning never stops. No matter the age or stage, every chapter offers the chance to grow, explore, and stay connected.





# Chapter 3: Events

## Strengthening Community

### Women in History Luncheon

JRC's 27th Annual Women in History Luncheon, themed "Plant the Seeds and Watch Them Bloom," raised over \$64,000 to support our Learning Centers. Honorees Betty Thompson and Sandy Upperman were celebrated for their lasting dedication to JRC, and keynote speaker Janet Weir Creighton inspired the audience with her message of service and community. Funds raised helped enhance classroom programming, upgrade our facilities, and expand outdoor learning spaces—ensuring children continue to thrive and grow for years to come.



### Reverse Raffle



Our 3rd Annual Reverse Raffle, held on October 11, 2024, was another success, raising \$20,000 to benefit JRC's Adult Day Center. These funds support programs that help adults maintain their independence, build friendships, and stay engaged in meaningful activities that enrich their lives and strengthen community connections.





# Chapter 4: Community Partners

## Helping Write Our Story

At JRC, our impact is shaped by our trusted community partners. Through collaboration, shared vision, and a commitment to those we serve, our partners help bring each chapter of our story to life. We are grateful for the organizations who support our programs and help us grow our reach, strengthen our services, and better serve children, seniors, and families in our community.

### **Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health**

Through our partnership with Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health, JRC is expanding access to inclusive early learning. Thanks to a two-year funded grant received by C&A, JRC is launching a new Inclusive Early Education and Childcare Classroom. This collaboration allows us to better support children of all abilities while strengthening our commitment to high-quality, inclusive education and meeting the evolving needs of families in our community.



### **Koala Kruizers**

Reliable transportation is essential to connection, independence, and quality of life. Our partnership with Koala Kruizers has provided safe and dependable transportation for Adult Day Center members, allowing for greater flexibility in schedules and increased participation in daily programming. This collaboration has also helped shape enhancements to our services, including our new hotel-inspired breakfast buffet, giving members a welcoming and personalized start to their day.



43

**Intergenerational  
Connections  
Program classes.**

5

**Intergenerational  
Connections  
Program trips  
taken.**

JRC's Intergenerational Connections Program brings children and adults together to benefit both generations! Intergenerational programming provides mutual multi-generational benefits through planned interactions. When the generations are brought together, they engage each other through verbal or nonverbal means, get to know each other and build meaningful relationships.



3,228.58

**Volunteer hours**

Volunteers play a vital role in JRC's mission and help bring our story to life. Across every program, they contribute their time and talents to support intergenerational activities, Healthy Habits initiatives, special events, and meaningful engagement with Adult Day members. Each act of service helps shape the next chapter of our work, enriching the experiences of our children and seniors and strengthening the sense of connection that defines the JRC community.



## *Chapter 5:* **Intergenerational Program**

## *Chapter 6:* **Volunteering**



This year, JRC turned an important page in our story by expanding our digital presence. Thanks to funding from the Sisters of Charity Foundation, we redesigned our website to better reflect who we are and make connecting with JRC easier than ever. Our new site now features virtual tours of both Learning Centers and the Adult Day Center, giving families and caregivers the opportunity to explore our programs from anywhere. We also launched online enrollment, streamlining the process for those looking to join our Learning Centers or Adult Day Program. These updates bring JRC's mission to life in a modern way; making it simpler for families to discover, connect, and begin their own chapter with us.

Take a virtual tour!



Parkway Learning Center



14th St. Learning Center



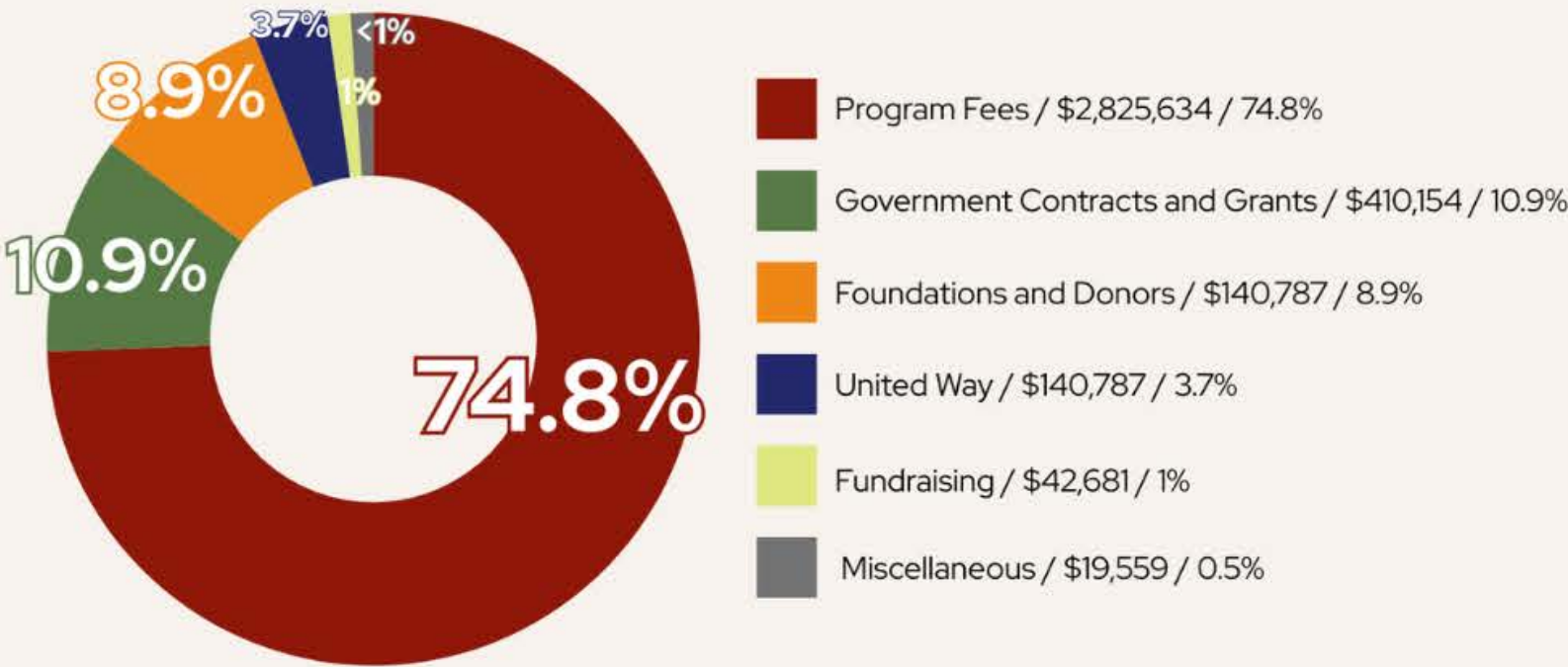
Adult Day Center

# Chapter 7: Expanding Online Access

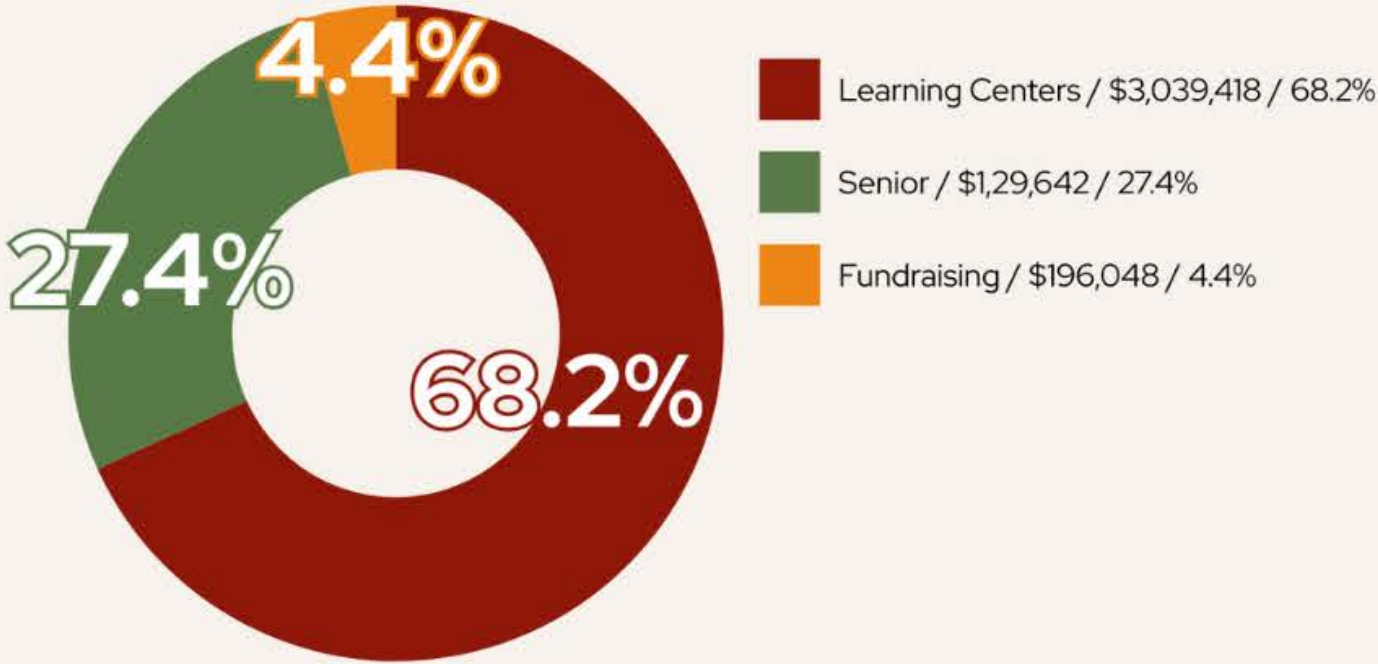


# Chapter 8: Audited Financials

## Revenue



## Expenses



## Totals

Total Admin Expenses: \$682,374  
Total Net Assets: \$7,783,669



## Chapter 9: Board of Directors



Mike Discenza  
Board President



Joe French  
Board Vice President



Nicole Wolfe  
Board Treasurer



Michelle Aladich  
Board Secretary



Nathan Boyd



Chandra Bryant



Nancy Cochrane



Liz Donley



John Harris



Michelle Hunt



Jeff King



Ronald G. Macala



Valarie Nash



Erin Luntz



Milistine Tatum



Doug Van Nostran

## Board Spotlight



### Mike Discenza, Board President

Michael A. Discenza serves as Board President and has been a dedicated member of the JRC Board of Directors for 15 years, providing steady leadership, financial oversight, and strategic guidance.

Over the years, he has also served multiple terms as Treasurer and Finance Chair, helping to strengthen the organization's financial stewardship and long-term sustainability.

Mike is vice president and chief financial officer of The Timken Company, a global technology leader in engineered bearings and industrial motion. Appointed to this role in 2025, he oversees the company's global finance and accounting organizations, leads investor relations, and contributes to Timken's strategy focused on profitable growth, operational excellence, and disciplined capital deployment.

Since joining Timken in 2000, he has held a variety of financial and accounting leadership roles of increasing responsibility, including vice president of finance and group controller. His experience spans financial planning and analysis, external reporting, investor relations, and advising the Board's audit committee. He is widely respected for combining deep industry knowledge with strong financial expertise to support organizational growth.

Mike earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from The University of Akron and is a certified management accountant.

He has been married to his wife, Gina, for 30 years and has three children. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and traveling with his wife.





# *Our Mission*

**The mission of JRC is to enrich lives through educating children, engaging seniors and strengthening community.**

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## **JRC Learning Centers**

3300 Parkway St. NW,  
Canton, OH 44708  
330-454-3471

2213 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
Canton, OH 44705  
330-452-8376



## **JRC Adult Day Center**

3300 Parkway St. NW,  
Canton, OH 44708  
330-454-3471

