THIS ISSUE OF THE E-NETWORK IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF **DAVID ROCHE, CM** & **SPROUT,** OUR BELOVED AMBASSADOG

# ccanetwork

newsletter of children's craniofacial association

2026: ISSUE 2

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*Left to Right: Cameron, Lorin, Maylee, Jeremy, & Finlee*

## first time retreat family: the messers

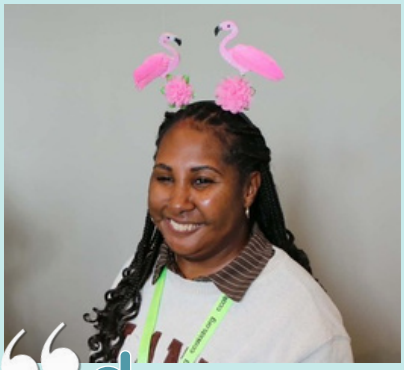
*by Lorin Messer | St. Augustine, FL*

As first-time attendees, we weren't quite sure what to expect from our family's first CCA Retreat. When we drove home, one thing kept coming up in our conversations: we already couldn't wait to come back.

As parents of a child with Treacher Collins syndrome, daily life often means navigating appointments, surgeries, therapies, and questions from strangers. While we've built a wonderful support system at home, there's something incredibly special about being surrounded by families who simply get it. For one weekend, we didn't have to explain anything. We were accepted and understood before even saying a word.

see first time retreat attendee, page 2

## staff retreat recap



Dear CCA Family,

A wise person once told me, long ago, that when someone does something nice for you, you say "thank you." I try to bring that into my role as Program Director, leading with immense gratitude. So, thank you. I have been trying to find the right words since the moment the Retreat wrapped, and honestly, there aren't enough of them.

But I have to try: THANK YOU!

This was my first Retreat as Program Director, and I will be honest, I came in with a full heart and a long to-do list, hoping I could show up for our families the way they deserve. What I did not fully anticipate was how much this community would show up for me.

Your support, your guidance, and your willingness to jump in wherever you were needed made all the difference. You made this Retreat everything it was and you made my job a little bit easier in the process.

see staff retreat recap, page 4

## first time retreat attendee, continued from the cover

Our favorite part was watching our daughter, **Finlee June**, connect with other children who looked like her. Seeing her confidence grow, watching her play without hesitation, and realizing she wasn't the only one was something we'll never forget. It was just as meaningful for our other children, who were able to meet siblings who share many of the same experiences they do. Those connections were so magical that they're almost impossible to put into words.

We loved meeting families who are just beginning this journey, as well as families with older children and adults who have already walked the road we are just beginning. Hearing their stories gave us hope, encouragement, and perspective.

One of the Retreat breakout sessions asked us to share a rose (a positive), a bud (something we are looking forward to), and a thorn (a challenge we are facing). More than half of the families who shared couldn't think of a thorn. That moment, and the words spoken in that room, will stay with us forever. It was a powerful reminder that while every journey has its challenges, there is so much hope to be found, and brighter days really do come.





Retreat reminded us that craniofacial differences are only one part of our children's stories. Throughout the weekend, we saw resilience, joy, kindness, and confidence. We watched children encourage one another, parents lift each other up, and friendships form that we know will last far beyond a single weekend. **A difference may make you different, but it also gives you the opportunity to make a difference. There's something incredibly powerful about that.**

If there's one thing we'd want another CCA family to know, it's this: **COME**. Whether this is your first Retreat or your tenth, you belong here. You don't have to have everything figured out. You'll leave with new friends, a full heart, and the comforting reminder that your family is part of a community that truly understands. We are so grateful for CCA and everyone who makes this incredible weekend possible.



**- Lorin Messer**
CCA Mom





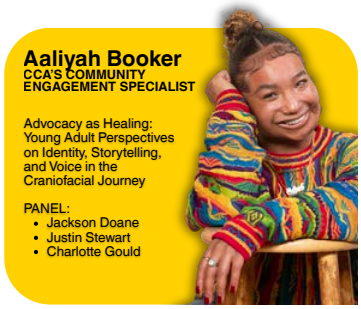


# acpa annual meeting recap | boston, ma

*by Erica Klauber, CCA's Executive Director*

The CCA Team including **Erica Klauber, Khadija Moten, Rasheera Dopson, Kara Jackman**, and **Aaliyah Booker** were excited to attend the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association's Annual Meeting in Boston, MA in April. Two of our team members were a part of panels:






Left to Right: Aaliyah Booker, Jackson Doane, Charlotte Gould, & Justin Stewart

Throughout the week, CCA staff members interacted with medical teams from across the country and shared what resources we could offer their providers and patients.

This event is an important conference for CCA to be a part of, so that we can share our services directly to providers, but also as continuing education for our staff. To ensure comprehensive, quality, medical care, CCA has opted to refer patients who call us directly to the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association's list of ACPA Approved Teams. ACPA Approved Teams are the teams that the ACPA encourages patients and families to consider first for cleft and craniofacial healthcare needs. CCA recognizes the quality of the ACPA Team Approval process and encourages CCA families to also consider first using an ACPA Approved Team. Thank you for the continued partnership!

FIND OUR ONSITE INTERVIEWS FROM ACPA ON OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE!







Left to Right: Dr. Ronald Strauss, Ethan Richlack, & Kara Jackman



# staff retreat recap, continued from cover

The 36th Annual CCA Family Retreat & Educational Symposium would not have been possible without each and every one of you. You welcomed families at the door. You held space in sessions. You showed up behind the scenes so everything could feel effortless in the front. You stepped in, stepped up, and stepped alongside families in ways that meant more than you may ever know.

And a special thank you to **Erica Klauber**, our wonderful Executive Director, who jumped in effortlessly and tackled every challenge we encountered head-on. I am so thankful for her leadership and her kindness.

CCA is what it is because of people like you. Thank you for being part of our village, and for making this first chapter one I will never forget.

**- Rasheera Dopson, MPH**
CCA Program Director



This Retreat for me was such a reminder of how powerful family is. From Dads' tears during Parent Panel, to dancing with my nephew, **Ari**, at Scott's Dinner and Wipeout Dance, to absolutely rocking out to **Justyn Booker's** song celebrating his sister, **Aaliyah**, to mature adults opening up about how their family of origin was not prepared to deal with their diagnoses – so they are finding a family of choice… I experienced family this Retreat.

Family is where you find belonging. Family is where you grow. Family is where you are celebrated, just as you are, for exactly who you are and who you are becoming. I am so grateful for my CCA Family.

**-Erica Klauber, MBA**
CCA Executive Director


Photo Credit: Sheri Johnson


Photo Credit: Natalie Szolomayer Photography


Photo Credit: Sheri Johnson


Photo Credit: Eva Nicholas Photography


Photo Credit: Jackie Arias


Photo Credit: Sheri Johnson



Photo Credit: Desarae Kuxhaus



Photo Credit: Will Reese Photography


Photo Credit: Natalie Szolomayer Photography

We are so grateful to have had such talented photographers -- who volunteered their time and skills to capture memories for a life time! Thank you to the following: **Natalie Szolomayer, Sheri Johnson, Eva Nicholas of Eva Nicholas Photography, Jaz Levario of Moxie Rose Photography, Will Reese, Glen Baldi, and Desarae Kuxhaus!**

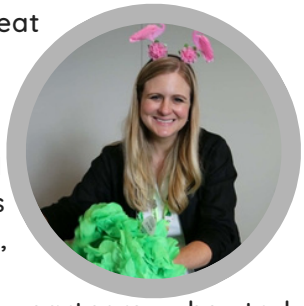
# staff retreat recap, continued from page 4


Photo Credit: Kara Jackman


Photo Credit: Natalie Szolomayer Photography


Photo Credit: Will Reese Photography


Photo Credit: Eva Nicholas Photography



This year's Retreat saw a record number of sponsors and I am so thankful for the hospitals and the families, companies and other nonprofit partners who truly believe in this crucial programming for our families. In total, we had 18 paid sponsors and another handful of in-kind sponsors who gave amazing items for our welcome bags and goodies throughout the weekend. Since I began working at CCA in 2018, I have been able to help grow the funding for Retreat and this year I am proud to say **we raised over $124K in Sponsorships alone**. We also received wonderful donations in honor of our amazing **Annie Reeves's** retirement, our raffle, QR Code in the hotel lobby and donations from families attending Retreat who wanted to give on top of their registration fees. In total, we raised another $5,876!

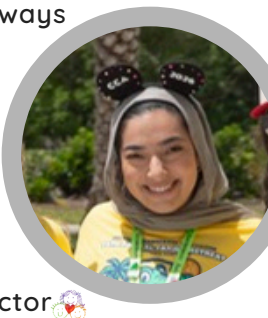
It makes my heart happy to see how much our own community rallies to support CCA, especially around Retreat time. My biggest thanks to each of you who supported us by volunteering your time and talents during Retreat. Being such a small staff, we could not make this weekend possible without your help. I can't wait to see y'all in Texas!

**-Christine Andler**
CCA Director of Development

This year's Retreat was packed with change: a new Retreat format, fresh leadership, and so many new families! But through every shift, one thing stayed exactly the same —the joy.

A heartfelt thank you to our talented volunteer photographers for capturing every moment, such as this year's brand new experiences: Welcome Night, Make & Trade tables, Annie's Retirement Celebration, performance by influencer, **Nathan Cajina,** and a viral TikTok recorded by our CCA Adults— alongside long-standing favorites like raffle baskets and group meetups.

I often leave Retreat reminded of our "why" and it always goes back to our amazing families. To that, thank you for another wonderful Retreat!



**- Khadija Moten**
CCA Outreach Director

Every year, I walk away from Retreat reminded of why representation matters. There is something truly profound about being surrounded by people who understand you, celebrate you, and remind you



## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Seattle Children's Craniofacial Center
NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH
THE York Peterson FAMILY LUNCH
The Guzzo Family
Boston Children's Hospital
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gillette CHILDREN'S
Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Center
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
ConnectMED INTERNATIONAL
Kenzie's Camp
CRANIOFACIAL CONNECTION
maarge
FOUNDATION FOR Faces of Children
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Hear now. And always
BTSO BORN TO STAND OUT
FACES NATIONAL CRANIOFACIAL ASSOCIATION
International Craniofacial Institute® CLEFT LIP & PALATE TREATMENT CENTER
THE OPDYKE FAMILY
SHARON ALLBRIGHT

## 2026 RETREAT RECAP

- **153** FAMILIES ATTENDED THE RETREAT
- **523** ATTENDEES
- **42 OF 50** STATES REPRESENTED
- CANADA, SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, UNITED KINGDOM
- **33** NEW FAMILIES ATTENDED THIS YEAR
- **$2,212** RAISED FROM RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASES

## staff retreat recap, continued from page 5

that you never have to navigate your journey alone.

Beyond my role, I have the privilege of experiencing that same sense of connection, acceptance, and belonging that first brought me here. I'm forever grateful for my incredible team, who I proudly call family. Thank you for your unwavering dedication, compassion, and commitment to making this Retreat happen year-after-year.

Belonging is not about fitting in; it's about being accepted exactly as you are. This Retreat was a beautiful reflection of that.

Little Aaliyah is at peace.

**- Aaliyah Booker**
CCA Community Engagement Specialist

Our 2026 Annual Retreat was a warm, fun time in the Sunshine state. It is always a pleasure to see our families come together and spend time with one another. Having a conversation with someone else that knows the journey you walk all too well, and hearing that they know how you feel, and maybe enjoy the same things you do, allows everyone to feel more whole. Retreat interactions where you say, "oh me too," are what make the time we spend together every year so special.



**- Kara Jackman**
CCA's Adult Program Coordinator

CCA wishes to express our appreciation to our 2026 Family Retreat Volunteers! We could not have done this without you all:

- Abby Daniels
- Abigail Hernandez
- Alexis Brandemarti
- Allison Aro
- Amethyst Tamley
- Amy Kern
- Amy McLaughlin
- Andrew Lund
- Annairis Perkins
- Annie Reeves
- Ashley Bock
- Ashley Jupp
- Brittney Alvarez
- Bruce Klein
- Carly McNiel
- Carmen Burleigh
- Charlie Hunter
- Chelsea Buyalos
- Courtney Vysocky
- Delaney Cunha
- Diana Sweeney
- Ed Kern
- Edgar Woznica
- Edyta Lukasiewicz
- Elena-Lee Ritoli
- Eliza Bahneman
- Elsie Garcia
- Eric Papadeas
- Erin Richmond
- Esmeralda Castaneda
- Eva Nicholas
- Ever After Character Events
- George Dale
- Glen Baldi
- Gloria Booker
- Hunter McMahan
- Jenni Shirley & Binny
- Jennifer Cooper
- Jennifer Hess
- Jeremy Nicholas
- Jeremy Dale
- Jessica McMahan
- Jessica Barbalaci
- Jill Laufbaum
- Johnny McMahan
- Jono Lancaster
- Joseph Pacheco-Alva
- Julian Booker
- Julie Silva
- Justyn Booker
- Kariym Joachim
- Kasey Kreush
- Katie Gold
- Kelly Cunha Pokorny
- Kevin Irvine
- Kimberly Roschewski
- Kris Dale
- Kristina | Hair Glitz of FLorida
- Kristy Lund
- Kylie Pokorny
- Lisa Bock
- Leah Richter
- Lindsay Condefer & Sprout
- Lorin Messer
- Luis Senior
- Lydia Foust
- Martha Stering & Quincy
- Matt Kern
- Megan White
- Michael Walker
- Dr. Michael Goodman
- Nicole Hilton
- Oliver Lund
- Paige Peterson
- Paul Detloff
- Rebeka Perez
- Robin Burket
- Rose Seitz
- Rosario Alva castro
- Ryan Palmer
- Samantha Saperstein
- Sharon Allbright
- Shelbie Rand
- Steven Maldonado
- Thadia Ahumada
- Tristin West
- Whitney Dunn
- Whitney Wright
- Thank you to all of those who donated towards the welcome bags, sold tickets and made baskets for the hometown raffle!



*Photo Credit: Eva Nicholas Photography*

# financial assistance testimonial

*by Joyce Nikko | Pago Pago, America Samoa*



CCA is like the family we have always had but haven't quite met in person yet. CCA has been a part of my family's life since my youngest was born, **Emmet Nikko.** He just celebrated his second birthday just a week ago. CCA has contributed so much to help make this happen. I had never heard of craniosynostosis until my little one was born. I didn't know what to expect, where to start, or even what to do. Because we live in the U.S territory, American Samoa, which has limited resources, we couldn't even seek help locally. We have to travel just to be seen because we don't have specialists on our tiny island and the one hospital we do have is extremely limited. CCA has always been so present and so helpful in helping my family seek medical attention for my little one. It truly means the world to me. Thank you so so much CCA.

- **Joyce Nikko**, mom of Emmet

# CHRISTUS children's hospital family fun day

*by Rasheera Dopson, CCA's Program Director | San Antonio, TX*

CCA was honored to be invited to **CHRISTUS Children's Hospital** in San Antonio for their **Family Fun Day,** a special event where patients of the hospital's craniofacial team come together for a day of celebration and connection. The event featured a hair braiding station, snow cones, a color-stamped passport game, and treats generously provided by local partners and vendors.

CCA tabled the event with Program Director, **Rasheera Dopson,** connecting with families and sharing more about our programs and community. It was a joy to reunite with **Archie**, a familiar face from our virtual storytelling series, who came out to enjoy the day with his mom!

Families at the event were excited to learn more about CCA and expressed enthusiasm about attending Retreat next year. Moments like these are a reminder of why connecting with local hospitals and partners matters so much — it not only uplifts families in the here and now, but strengthens our broader community. We truly are better together.







# speakers' bureau at kerr elementary school

*by Erica Klauber, CCA's Executive Director | Durand, MI*

We are grateful to **Kalie Hilyard**, **Principal Lee Worsham**, **Carly McNiel,** and **Kerr Elementary School** for organizing and hosting **Peter Dankelson** for a school-wide assembly on March 16, 2026. Peter impressed the elementary school audience and made a lasting impression on the students. His message: Amplify Kindness and Inclusion and that will help you Rock Your Life!

CCA wants to thank the **Dankelson family** for pioneering our Speakers' Bureau programming and continuing to give back in many ways, including speaking to schools.

To book a speaker for your school, visit: ccakids.org









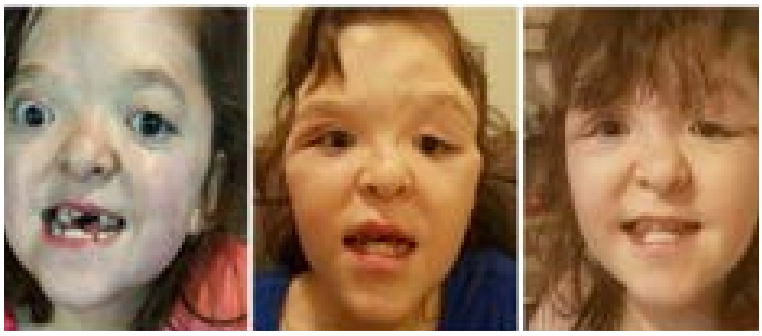

# ccaadult



## meet hope

*by Hope Niemiec | Las Vegas, NV*

Hello my name is **Hope** and I have a disability called Apert syndrome. This can be difficult and challenging. I have had 14 major surgeries since I have been born which is pretty accurate for Apert kids. I have been bullied a few times in my life and it affected me a lot when I was younger.



The two left images above are what I used to look like before surgery and the image on the right is what I look like now. Before the surgery, it was difficult to deal with all the bullying and staring. Now, sometimes people still stare but it no longer affects me.

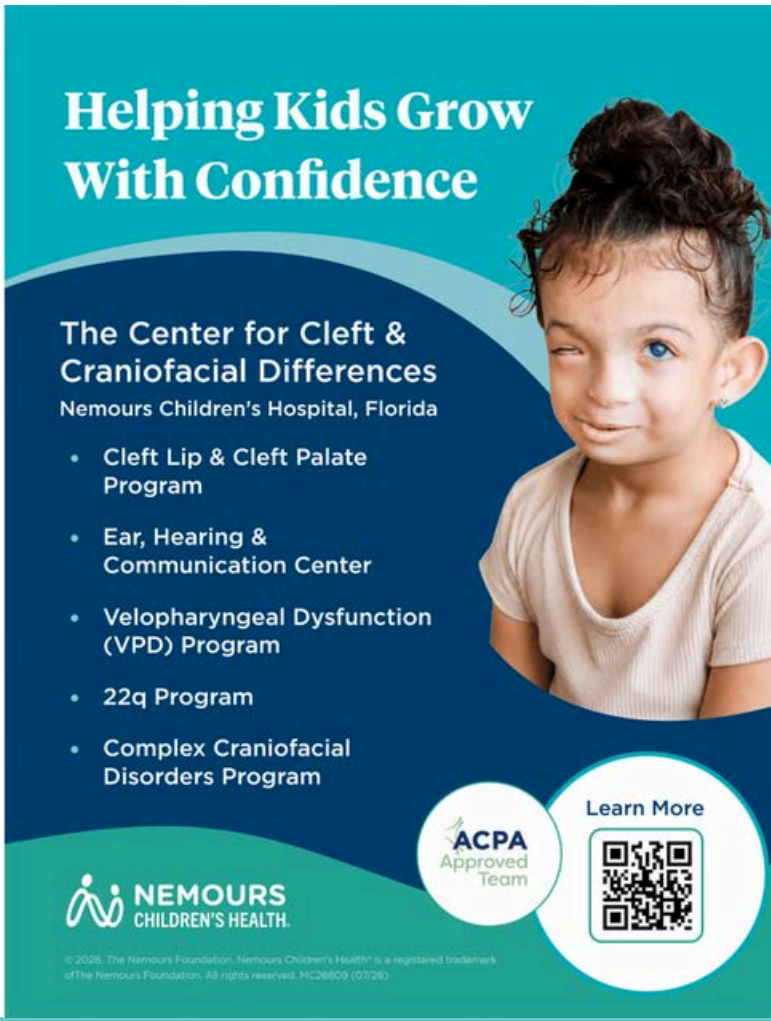
I had six hand surgeries from the same doctor but at different times. My hands were also a subject of my bullying situations. I like how my hands are now even though they don't bend, I am still able to do stuff I enjoy such as making bracelets and baking. Because of my disability, I have been involved in such fun and amazing activities, one of them being camp. **FACES Camp** is a camp for people with facial differences and their "buddies," and it is a lot of fun and enjoyable. I have met so many friends but my one good friend who has stuck with me is **Hannah**. She has a facial difference like me and I became friends with her in 2023. I have no regrets! I love her!







The next activity I went to was the CCA Retreat and my word it was so much fun! It was my first experience and I've never been to anything like this and I'm so happy I went.

# meet the gold family

*by Katie Gold | Bloomfield Hills, MI*

Life has a way of changing your perspective in the most unexpected ways. When my son, **Vito**, was born with Goldenhar syndrome, I quickly learned that our journey would be different from what I had imagined. There would be doctor's appointments, surgeries, therapies, and countless moments of uncertainty. Alongside those challenges came incredible strength, resilience, and a love that has transformed our lives in ways I never could have imagined.



Being my son's caretaker means wearing many hats. I am his mother, nurse, advocate, teacher, and biggest cheerleader. Every appointment requires preparation, every school meeting is an opportunity to ensure his needs are understood, and every milestone—big or small — is celebrated with immense pride. I have learned to ask questions, speak up when something isn't right, and fight for the care and accommodations he deserves. While the responsibility can sometimes feel overwhelming, seeing my son's courage gives me the strength to keep going.

Living with Goldenhar syndrome has taught our family that true beauty lies in perseverance, kindness, and acceptance. Vito has faced obstacles that most children never have to think about, yet he continues to greet the world with determination and a smile. He has taught me that differences do not define a person's worth—they simply make each story unique.



One of the greatest blessings on our journey has been finding the Children's Craniofacial Association. CCA opened the door to a community filled with understanding, encouragement, and hope. Through their programs and annual Retreat, we met families who truly understood our experiences without needing lengthy explanations. It was a place where our son wasn't seen as different— he was simply another child having fun, making memories, and building friendships.

Perhaps the most meaningful gift CCA gave Vito was introducing him to his Goldenhar best friend, **Kato**. Watching the two of them connect was something I will never forget. They shared an understanding that only comes from walking a similar path. Their friendship blossomed naturally, built on laughter, shared

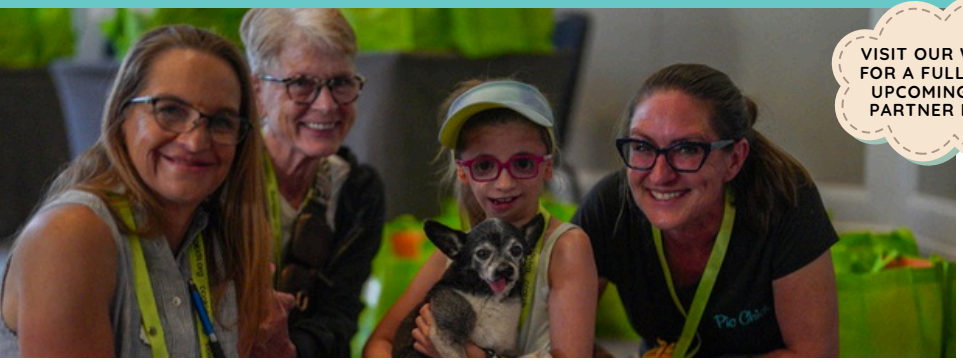




experiences, and the comfort of knowing they were not alone. Seeing Vito find someone who truly "gets it" filled my heart with gratitude. It reminded me that friendship has the power to heal, encourage, and inspire.

As a parent, there is nothing more comforting than knowing your child has someone who understands both the visible and invisible parts of their journey. Kato has become more than a friend; he is a reminder that even in the face of rare challenges, meaningful connections are possible.

Our journey with Goldenhar syndrome has not been easy, but it has been filled with love, resilience, and unexpected blessings. I am forever grateful for every lesson my son has taught me and for the Children's Craniofacial Association, whose unwavering support has given our family hope, community, and lifelong friendships. **Together, they have shown us that while our path may be different, it is also filled with extraordinary strength, compassion, and joy.**



# remembering sprout

*by Erica Klauber, CCA's Executive Director*

Our hearts are heavy as we recently learned that our beloved Ambassadog, **Sprout**, has passed away. **Lindsay Condefer**, Sprout and **Lentil's** mom, has been a CCA supporter for over 14 amazing years. She has been with us as a volunteer, sponsor, fundraiser, and more… so long that she's now a part of our community as a CCA Family.

Before she began her **"Chews Kind"** activities, she was already active in her community and rescuing animals with **Street Tails Animal Rescue** in Pennsylvania. It all began when along came an adorable French bulldog, Lentil, born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate. Lentil was one in a litter of five pups all born with facial differences. He was the only one to survive. Lindsay met Lentil in 2013, fell in love, and became his caretaker. The adorable dog and his story - including the intense efforts Lindsay put into helping him thrive - took the media by storm, with thousands of followers joining little Lentil's journey. His viral success offered Lentil and Lindsay a platform. So, with the world's attention, they began raising awareness via their blog, **My Name is Lentil**, and social media nurturing an enormous Facebook and Instagram following with fun photos, uplifting moments, and eventually genuine, authentic connections with families and children across the country. Sprout joined the CCA Family in 2018 and continued to support our kids and families even after Lentil passed away in 2023.

Sprout's last visit to Retreat, accompanied by Lindsay and her daughter, **Charlie**, and good friend, **Jan Perkins**, this year in 2026, was a difficult journey for him. He had been fighting cancer for seven long months, and even had his treatment shipped to the Hyatt for onsite care, all so he could continue encouraging our kids and families.

The amount of awareness that Lindsay and her dogs brought to the craniofacial community is unmatched and one that we could never have accomplished on our own. Her dedication to our cause, all while running her own nonprofit, is also truly a gift of love beyond all gifts. She personally committed to attend Retreat to bring her dogs simply to share their love with our families. So many of us have the iconic ornaments, socks, lunch-boxes, stickers, and more that they gifted us each year. We will treasure these keepsakes and memories fur-ever.

Lindsay, we are so grateful that you shared your precious pups' lives with us and made the effort each year to attend our Retreat to nurture our families the way only a human-animal bond can. We wish you and Charlie comfort in this time of grief and will always remember Sprout's love, kindness, and cuddles shared with us.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPCOMING CCA & PARTNER EVENTS

# upcoming events

**MONTHLY AT 7:00PM CST**
**OCT. 7TH, NOV. 4TH, DEC. 2ND**
VIRTUAL
**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**
REGISTER: HTTPS://QRCO.DE/CCACAREGIVERGROUP

**MONTHLY AT 7:30PM CST**
**OCT. 19TH, NOV. 16TH, DEC. 21ST**
VIRTUAL
**ADULTS & ALUMN GROUP**
REGISTER: HTTPS://QRCO.DE/CCAADULTS

**MONTHLY AT 7:30PM CST**
**OCT 20TH, NOV. 17TH, DEC. 15TH**
VIRTUAL
**SIBLING SUPPORT GROUP**
REGISTER: HTTPS://QRCO.DE/CCASIBLINGGROUP

**SEPTEMBER IS CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH (CAM)**

CELEBRATE CAM AND A CHANCE TO WIN A SPECIAL GEM!
LEARN MORE: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AMETHYSTCAM

**SEPT. 12TH** | CHESTER, VA
**SEPT. 12TH** | CONCORD, NC
**SEPT. 13TH** | DALLAS, TX
**SEPT. 18TH** | INGLEWOOD, NJ
**SEPT 19TH** | NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL
**SEPT. 20TH** | BRUCETON MILLS, WV
**SEPT. 26TH** | DANVERS, MA

LEARN MORE AT: CCAKIDS.ORG

**SEPTEMBER 17th**

**NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY**
SUPPORT CCA ON TEXAS' LARGEST DAY OF GIVING!
DONATE & LEARN MORE AT: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GTCCA2026

**SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 7PM CST**
VIRTUAL

**5TH ANNUAL DAVID ROCHE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY AWARD NIGHT**

**JUNE 2027**
ADDISON, TX

**37TH ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT & EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

*registration opens soon...*

**mabel's labels FUNDRAISER**
Get your Back to School labels for supplies, baby bottles, allergy and medical alert products, sports and more at: mabelslabels.com
ENTER CHILDREN'S CRANIOFACIAL ASSOCIATION AT THE LINK AND MABEL'S LABELS DONATES 20% BACK TO US!

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# 5th annual david roche award for excellence in advocacy award night: sept. 29 at 7pm CT

Our beloved mentor and friend, **David Roche, CM**, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.
CCA and the facial difference community mourn the loss of our magnificent, storied, accomplished, kind, gentle, powerful, consistent, and loving advocate.

David was so much more than an advocate. He was a true friend. A force for change and a place of calm. He was forever amplifying the voices of our community.
He worked systematically and individually. For all of the ways he served, we are grateful. For all of the hearts he touched, we are better off.

May we all endeavor to live like David: embracing warmth, wit, and authenticity in our own lives.

Our hearts are with his wife, **Marlena Blavin**, and his family at this time.

The David Roche Award for Excellence in Advocacy is an annual award bestowed on a speaker, educator, storyteller, artist, medical professional, or family member in the facial difference community who has gone above and beyond to advance the status of people with facial differences, promote acceptance and appreciation of appearance diversity, and challenge the stigma that surrounds physical differences. The award is named in honor of the esteemed **David Roche, CM,** for his lifelong dedication to opening minds and connecting hearts. For 2026, we are expanding the award by creating the **David Roche Roster**, in addition to the singular award. Each year, we receive so many nominations of such amazing and deserving people, from resilient kids to renowned surgeons. We created five categories for this year's roster:

**1) Public Awareness (Advocacy)**
**2) Education**
**3) Medical/Professional Service**
**4) Community Support/Community Building**
**5) Youth Advocates (Under 25 Years)**

Save the date for our virtual award ceremony:
SEPTEMBER 29th @7:00pm CST on our YouTube channel!








BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS U.S.News HONOR ROLL 2025-2026

Caring experts with unmatched experience

As the largest craniofacial center in the country, we've cared for more than 15,000 children with craniofacial conditions in the past five years. Experts across 19 specialties work together to create a personalized treatment plan for your child.

Seattle Children's Craniofacial Center

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## "3 cheers for interns!



Dear Ms. Christine
and CCA Family,

I am very grateful for the opportunity I have been given to work and connect with the hardworking team that operates CCA. Having the privilege to participate as a summer intern has shown me the amount of strenuous work continuously invested into this program. As a young woman it is inspiring to see the love, dedication and time the women, especially Ms. Andler, put into this organization. Thank you to all those involved who continue to support such a touching and important issue that most people in the public aren't aware of. I hope a fraction of my work can help support these affected individuals and their families. A huge thank you again to CCA, for providing resources and a community that has taught me to serve those around me, I will always carry the impact you made on me.

Love,
Lexi Vela

# children's craniofacial association

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## spotted!

*Bronx, NY | Yankee Stadium*

Erica Klauber at Yankee Stadium on July 3, 2026. Erica won a raffle package at the **Wonder Girls Gala** with **Aaliyah Booker** in February and used part of her experience to put CCA Kids on the Jumbotron.


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