



childserve[®]

Believing in the spirit of a child.

ChildServe – Ames Report for Story County Board of Supervisors

February 24, 2026



Our Mission

We partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life.

Our Vision

To transform lives by continuously improving pediatric healthcare.

Our Values

We believe in **caring** for others with acceptance and love. We believe in building **partnerships** through **trust**, collaboration and commitment. We believe in **integrity**, uncompromising standards of business and the passionate pursuit of **excellence**.



ChildServe

- **Iowa's largest pediatric rehabilitation provider** for children with special healthcare needs. We have 174 occupational, physical and speech therapists – 30 in Ames.
- **Iowa's only CARF-accredited rehabilitation program** with specialties in pediatrics and brain injury.
- **Physician-led** by board-certified pediatric physiatrist, Dr. Rachel Blankenship.
- **215 team members** employed at ChildServe – Ames, with 4.8 years average tenure for full-time staff.

Governance

ChildServe is governed by a Board of Trustees and a Board of Directors. Our Ames Community Advisory Board meets quarterly to give feedback on community engagement and program needs.

Meet our Ames Community Advisory Board:

- **Nic Bulver** – Chevron
- **Jennifer Conrad** – VisionBank
- **Amy Edwardson** – Story Construction
- **Ben Hershey** – Country Landscape
- **Scot Kinne** – Fareway Stores, Inc.
- **Yvonne Kinzler** – Kinzler Construction Services
- **Nate Kuhn** – Northwest Bank
- **Grace Larkey** – Chevron
- **Alicia Sloan** – Household Manager



Accreditations and Honors



Building quality environments one block at a time

3-Star Rating on Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System

ChildServe's Ames Childcare Center holds a 3-star rating on this enhanced and prestigious rating scale.



CARF Accreditation

ChildServe currently holds a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



Top Workplace

ChildServe has been named a Top Workplace in Iowa by the Des Moines Register every year since 2014.

2025 ChildServe – Ames Highlights

- **Childcare Kitchen Renovation Complete:** Thanks to generous grants received from the Story County Board of Supervisors and United Way of Story County, ChildServe was thrilled to complete a construction project that enhanced the size and capabilities of our kitchen. Each day, the ChildServe team uses our kitchen to make over 100 meals for children in our Childcare program. Since ChildServe – Ames first opened in 2000, we have now tripled the number of meals served from this space each day.

Thanks to generous grants received, we were able to enhance the kitchen's size and capabilities. We're especially grateful to have received grants from the Story County Board of Supervisors and United Way of Story County for this project.

- **Launch + Learn 2025:** The 6th annual ChildServe – Ames Launch + Learn event raised \$30,965 to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life! Since 1995, we've supported thousands of children in the Ames area through life-changing services, including over 1,000 children served last year. Launch + Learn supports ChildServe's specialized programs that empower children and young adults with developmental delays, disabilities, injuries and other special healthcare needs.

A special thank you to Chevron, Fareway Stores, Ames Golden K Kiwanis, Story Construction, Ames Home Builders Association, Ames Ford Lincoln, VisionBank, Greater Iowa Credit Union, The Carson King Foundation, Country Landscapes and Northwest Bank.

- **Support from Altrusa International of Ames:** We're grateful to Altrusa International of Ames for selecting ChildServe as the beneficiary of funds raised by their annual Holiday Home Tour in 2024. With their support, ChildServe purchased a new wheelchair platform swing, which will provide physical, emotional and social benefits for children and young adults with mobility needs.
- **Support from Story County Community Foundation:** At ChildServe, we take playtime seriously! We're grateful to receive a grant from Story County Community Foundation that will help us place a large indoor play structure in our therapy gym. The structure will include specialized flooring for safe play with a jungle gym, climbing ladder and swings. The play structure is designed not only for fun, but also promotes developmental skills in areas such as strength and coordination, visual processing, speech, and sensory integration. The play structure will foster opportunities for social skill development and help reduce challenging behaviors with structured, therapeutic outlets for movement and play.

Thank you to our friends at Story County Community Foundation, including their first director, Suzy Shierholz, for helping kids with special healthcare needs live a *great* life. We can't wait to see the new play equipment bring smiles, joy and *great* life moments to the kids and families we serve.



Kitchen remodel



Brooke, Launch + Learn's featured teen in 2025, with her family.



Indoor play structure