



A Healing Journey Begins Here

Case for Support

Fiscal Year 2025-2026



*We make the hurting stop, the healing begin,
and the love last - one family at a time.*

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A Healing Journey: Our Theme and Purpose

Every child's journey to well-being begins with a first step. At Our Little Haven, we walk beside children and families as they take that brave step toward healing. Our 2025–2026 Case for Support, *A Healing Journey Begins Here*, invites you to be part of their path.

This year, we reaffirm our belief in early intervention, comprehensive care, and lasting support. With your partnership, we will continue to transform lives.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values



Our Mission: Our Little Haven is relentlessly committed to providing early intervention services for children and families. Our community of professional caregivers creates a safe, secure, and healing environment for those impacted by abuse, neglect, and mental or behavioral health needs.



Our Vision: Create a community where children are cherished.



Our Values: Guided by our belief in a Loving God . . .

- *We place the well-being of the child as our first and most important priority*
- *We value the people who care for the children*
- *We serve our families with love, care, and compassion*
- *We are dedicated to the highest quality of service and professional expertise*
- *We provide a loving, caring and nurturing environment*
- *We embody a passion for our purpose*
- *We are invitational, not expectational - we invite the community to help serve.*

The Path We've Taken: Our History



Our Little Haven began as a dream of Scott and Kathleen Hummel at the beginning of 1989. Our Little Haven was born with a specific vision: to create a community where children are cherished. That vision is the enduring promise we continue to work towards today. Since our inception, we sought to do things differently. We were provoked by what we saw to be missing in the social services sector: early intervention for children during their formative years, designed to make a lasting impact. We desired to create a community-based model in response to the needs of the young and vulnerable population in the St. Louis community.

Connecting with hundreds of social service and medical providers, it was clear that the need was great and Our Little Haven began to take shape. After turning to family and friends, a Board of Directors was formed using the extraordinary talents of close friends. Shortly after in 1993, we opened our doors with a capacity of 24 children, and Our Little Haven expanded quickly to support 40 children. As our organization grew in learning how best to serve children and families, proven community-based programs and facilities were added to increase impact and growth.

What began as a residential program for children – has evolved and is now a full scale, premier early intervention children and family services agency. Over time we have expanded our services to create a comprehensive model, providing three unique yet complimentary programs: Keystone Mental Health Services, Our Little Academy Day Treatment, and Community Family Services at the Taylor Family Care Center.

The Problem: What Our Families Face

Too many children in our community face trauma, abuse, neglect, or serious mental health challenges without the resources or support to heal. Nearly 1 in 5 children experience mental health disorders. Thousands face placement instability, developmental delays, or behavioral disruptions that prevent them from thriving.

These children are often:

- Expelled from multiple preschools
- Shuffled between foster homes
- Waiting months for mental health care
- Overlooked in systems with critical gaps

Families navigating these crises face isolation, stigma, and financial hardship. They need coordinated, compassionate, and accessible support.

Our Solution: Early Intervention

At Our Little Haven, we believe that early intervention is the most effective and compassionate way to support long-term healing and stability. Our mission is rooted in catching children early - in the formative years when their emotional, mental, and behavioral health is still developing and most receptive to care.

A Metaphor: The Cookie Jar



At Our Little Haven, we use a metaphor to describe our work:

We believe that when we're born, God gives each of us an empty Cookie Jar. With every nurturing moment - a hug, a kind word, a sense of safety, a lesson learned - we get a cookie added to our jar.

During the earliest years of life, what we call the formative years, the Cookie Jar is wide open. These are the years when it's easiest to fill the jar - when children are naturally absorbing the emotional "ingredients" they need to grow strong: trust, connection, confidence, and joy.

But for many of the children and families we serve, that process has been disrupted. Trauma, instability, or adversity may have left their Cookie Jars emptier than they should be.

That's why early intervention matters. As children grow, their Cookie Jars don't disappear - but the lid begins to tighten. Life gets more complex, and it becomes harder (though never impossible) to add the same kinds of cookies. That's why the early years are such a powerful time to build a foundation of resilience, well-being, and hope.

At Our Little Haven, we help fill those Cookie Jars - and just as importantly, we help children and families learn how to bake their own cookies, so they can keep filling their jars for years to come.

Help us fill Cookie Jars with safety, support, and love - one child, one family, one cookie at a time.

Three Programs of Impact



Keystone Mental Health Services

An outpatient mental health practice serving over 150 children and families annually. Keystone specializes in early intervention for the very young child, comprehensive psychological evaluations, play therapy, family therapy, psychiatry, complex conditions, and cultural responsiveness.



Our Little Academy Day Treatment (OLA)

A full-day, year-round day treatment program for preschool age children who cannot attend traditional programs due to behavioral or mental health challenges. OLA provides intensive therapy, family support, and prepares children for a successful transition to kindergarten.



Community Family Services

Launched in 2024, CFS provides targeted supports for children and families in foster care:

- Coordination of Medical Services (COMS):
Registered nurse-led navigation of medical needs
- Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS): Identifying and connecting children to family members
- Accelerated Permanency Support (APS): Legal and casework assistance to speed up permanency

[Click here](#) to watch our Overview Video to learn more about our programs.

What Makes Us Different

- A 32-year legacy of innovation and compassion
- Clinicians specialized in the very young child
- High therapist-to-child ratios (1:2 at Our Little Academy)
- Continuum of care across programs
- Access regardless of ability to pay
- Family-centered approach
- Consistent evaluation and accountability

How We Evaluate Success

Each of Our Little Haven's core programs includes built-in outcome tracking and performance evaluation. We use evidence-based tools, client feedback, and real-time data to measure effectiveness and guide continuous improvement through our Performance & Quality Improvement (PQI) process. These evaluation tools keep us accountable to our mission, and to every child and family we serve.

Keystone Mental Health Services

Success is measured by a decrease in symptoms and an increase in functioning. Treatment outcomes are tracked using standardized assessments such as BASC-3, Conners-4, and the Trauma Symptom Checklist, aligned with individualized treatment goals. Psychological evaluations include structured follow-up interviews to assess understanding of results and barriers to care. For psychiatry clients, the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS) tracks functioning over time, with a 5-point improvement considered successful.

Our Little Academy Day Treatment

Success is measured by a decrease in symptoms and an increase in functioning, leading to a successful transition to kindergarten. Each child's treatment plan is reviewed every 90 days, with specific, measurable goals tracked weekly. A goal, such as reduced outbursts or use of coping skills, is considered achieved when maintained for four consecutive weeks.

Community Family Services

Progress is tracked using real-time dashboards and outcome-specific spreadsheets.

- Coordination of Medical Services: Reduced ER visits, established medical/dental homes, improved rates of exams and specialist care.
- Diligent Ongoing Relative Search: At least 25 relatives identified per child; placements tracked.
- Accelerated Permanency Support: Guardianships and adoptions completed, time from referral to permanency, and TPR (termination of parental rights) progress are measured.

Giving Opportunities

Every gift to Our Little Haven is an investment in a child's healing journey.



*Keystone Mental
Health Services*

- \$165 provides 1 hour of therapy at Keystone for one child
 - \$3,000 supports a psychological evaluation at Keystone
 - \$5,520 sponsors a full year of therapy for a child at Keystone
-



*Our Little Academy
Day Treatment*

- \$158 supports one child at Our Little Academy for a day
 - \$3,475 funds one child at Our Little Academy for one month
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*Community
Family Services*

- \$400 funds one Accelerated Permanency Support case
- \$1,200 supports one Diligent Ongoing Relative Search case (30 days including Discovery, Engagement, and Connections)
- \$2,600 supports one child for a year of Coordination of Medical Services

See page 8 for details on how to make a donation.

How to Support

- Donate here or by clicking the orange DONATE NOW button on our website: ourlittlehaven.org
 - *Add custom amount based on your desired giving level on page 7*
 - *Please include "Support for (giving opportunity description on page 7)" in note if you're giving online*
- Donate by sending a check for your desired giving level on page 7 to:
Our Little Haven
Attn: Brittany Milford
PO Box 23010
St. Louis. MO 63156-3010
 - *Please include "Support for (giving opportunity description on page 7)" in envelope if you're mailing a check*
- Volunteer or host a third-party fundraiser
- Attend our events or share our story with your network



A Vision for the Future

Looking ahead to our 35th anniversary in 2028, Our Little Haven is building a legacy of resilience. Our upcoming strategic planning process will chart the next phase of program growth, leadership succession, and sustainability. 8



***“Every journey begins with a single step.
Thank you for walking with us.”***



ourlittlehaven.org