

Our

Road to Remarkable

The Campaign for Damar



What's Your Remarkable?

All of us experience remarkable moments in our lives. For some of us, remarkable is big: climbing a mountain, writing a novel, getting a college degree. For others, remarkable is quieter, more personal: a song that touches us, an unexpected gift, the realization that someone loves us.

People with developmental and behavioral disabilities have remarkable moments in their lives, too. Some of them are things most of us take for granted—the ability to shake someone's hand, order a meal, or drive to a job. In many ways, that makes them even more remarkable.

For more than 50 years, Damar has helped create countless moments like these by providing life-changing care for people with developmental and behavioral disabilities. Whether on our main campus on Indianapolis's southwest side or at one of 120 service sites across the state, Damar serves clients and their families with one simple mission: to help them live more successful, independent lives.

And the need is growing. The sharp increase in autism means that, every year, more and more people need the services we provide.

Now it's time to embrace our future as one of the nation's leading providers of services to people with autism and developmental and behavioral disabilities. Our Road to Remarkable campaign will raise \$21 million to transform Damar Services, remaking our campus and extending our services to more people in more communities—helping people facing life's greatest challenges live their own remarkable lives.





Damar is the

Road to Remarkable

In 1967, when Theodore and Beverly Farkas wanted the best situation for their two children with developmental disabilities, they didn't have many options. They knew they couldn't care for David and Martha at home, but they weren't interested in a state institution. Sadly, they had to move out of state to find the care their children deserved. The unmet needs in Indiana affected the family greatly, and while their children received care in Pennsylvania, Theodore and Beverly began working toward a solution for families back home. So, combining the names of their children, they created Damar Homes to serve other families in need.

Today, Damar is a nationally recognized leader and innovator. We've pioneered treatments, services, and best practices now employed across the nation. We opened Indiana's first group homes for people with developmental and behavioral disabilities. We also started the state's first outpatient mental health clinic for people with developmental disabilities and the first charter school serving children with developmental and behavioral challenges.

In all, from our main campus, our Geist and Avon-area ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) Autism Services clinics, and other locations across Indiana, Damar serves nearly 1,500 clients and families each day. Services range from residential treatment for children to outpatient behavioral health services; transitional living services for youth to 24-hour supervision; and support for adults living in their own home settings.

In addition, Damar operates two schools; provides school-based support to many children; offers developmental disability sensitivity training to area businesses and organizations; and provides a wide range of foster care services, family counseling, and parent training.

Challenges Now- And Down the Road

In recent years, two new challenges have emerged in Damar's world: a sharp increase in the incidence of autism, and an increasing number of people with developmental and behavioral disabilities who are entering middle age or their senior years. These challenges mean not only an increased demand for Damar's services, but also the need for new and innovative services and programs and a refreshed vision for the future.

We still don't know what causes autism, but we know it occurs regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or geography, and it creates innumerable challenges for the people and families affected. According to 2000 data from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 150 children was born with an autism spectrum disorder. Ten years later, that number leaped to one in every 59 children (1 in 37 for boys).

The developmental and behavioral disabilities the community has long relied on Damar to address are not going away. We cannot abandon our traditional focus or redirect resources from existing services. Instead, we must find a way to address these new issues while maintaining support for the individuals and families we now serve.



Our Road to Remarkable

The Campaign for Damar

Over the years, Damar has evolved to accommodate greater needs, developing new programs and services over time and as our resources have allowed. Today, the needs are growing so quickly that we need a more expansive kind of plan—one with strong action and a more determined course of growth.

We've created that plan. The future we envision includes earlier diagnosis and intervention, a growing core of trained professionals, and a new era of collaboration among service providers, higher education, healthcare providers, and businesses. We anticipate outlets for Damar's services in more communities, an expansion of our legacy of providing better lives for people facing life's greatest challenges, and a broader understanding of autism and related disabilities.

To fund our plan, we've launched the Road to Remarkable campaign. The campaign is designed to help Damar realize our vision for the future by supporting six key strategies:

STRATEGY ONE:

Expand the reach of our continuum of care for people with developmental and behavioral disabilities as their lives and needs change over time.

STRATEGY TWO:

Double the size of our Children's Crisis and Stabilization Center to meet the growing need for these services.

STRATEGY THREE:

Support and build capacity for Specialized Autism Services to help more families struggling with these challenges.

STRATEGY FOUR:

Enhance support services by enhancing and expanding our current facilities, programs, and operations.

STRATEGY FIVE:

Strengthen and build the Damar Annual Fund, building a new generation of donors and increasing the size of current annual gifts.

STRATEGY SIX:

Build an endowment for future growth and stability and help to secure our future.



Damar Village:

Expanding Our Continuum of Care

STRATEGY ONE:

The Damar Village will provide two fully supported and fully integrated living communities. Each state-of-the-art living center has ten one-story buildings with 2,600- or 3,200-square-foot, duplex-style homes.

The Living Center will be a public, low-income, high-quality housing project rented at or below market rate. Its integrated setting will emphasize family and community engagement. Housing will include sections for young adults in transition and sections of more permanent housing for older and aging individuals.

Damar will also seek opportunities to partner with area businesses to enhance vocational education opportunities for adult clients and serve the needs of those living or employed near Damar's campus on Indianapolis's southwest side. Nearly half of Damar's current population would immediately be affected by these services.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Adult Living Facility:	\$4,250,000
Transitional Youth Housing:	\$4,250,000
Total Strategy One:	\$8,500,000





Doubling the Capacity of our

Children's Crisis & Stabilization Center

STRATEGY TWO:

The incidence of autism and developmental disabilities is increasing, at the same time our nation struggles with an opioid epidemic. One product of these parallel developments has been an increasing number of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are also victims of abuse and neglect. The number of children in need has quadrupled in five years and will climb even more in the next ten, far outstripping available treatment services and settings for disabled children in crisis.

Damar responded to this crisis in mid-2016, establishing a Children's Crisis and Stabilization Center program in one of our existing residential buildings. It's the only program of its kind in Indiana and has been highly utilized by the Department of Child Services.

Damar will immediately initiate an expansion of our intensive children's residential services by constructing a second state-of-the-art, 20-bed facility on a designated site of our main campus. Damar's board of directors has approved this project and committed \$2,500,000 to the construction of this facility. We're counting on our Road to Remarkable campaign to raise an equal amount to help us meet this great and growing need.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Total Strategy Two: _____ \$2,500,000

Supporting and Building Capacity for *Specialized Autism Services*

STRATEGY THREE:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most children with autism have noted developmental issues before the age of two; yet, the median age of diagnosis is four years, five months. Imagine the frustration, worry, fear, and anguish that accompanies the time between realizing something is wrong and understanding what the problem is—and how lags in development are exacerbated by delays in diagnosis.

Developed by Damar CEO Dr. Jim Dalton, Specialized Autism Services is a proven, research-based approach that targets children early in life to identify disabilities and provide support for families who've had nowhere else to turn for help. Funding for this program—including supplies, educational materials, professional training, and program marketing—would allow time to build a renewable revenue stream and establish a permanent endowment to make Specialized Autism Services available to more people in need.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Total Strategy Three: _____ \$3,000,000



Enhancing our Support Services

STRATEGY FOUR:

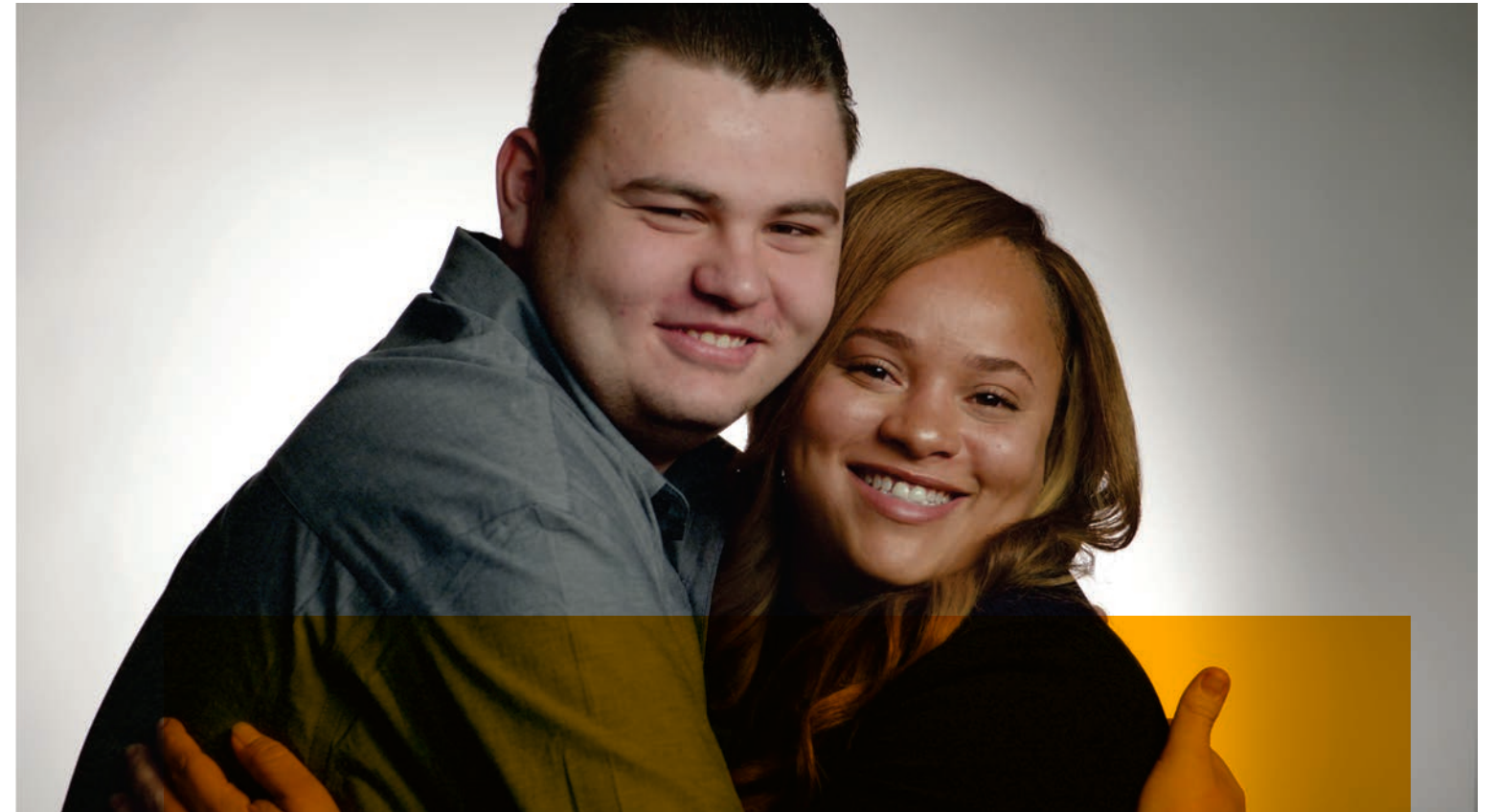
The Damar campus is the administrative base for all of Damar's services and activities and is the central resource that allows Damar's 1,500 clients to receive services from our more than 1,000 employees at locations across the state. In addition, at our campus we:

- Provide homes for the more than 200 clients under age 21
- Place 150 foster children in safe homes
- Maintain 83 acres of property and 15 buildings
- Prepare 252,717 meals annually
- Host over 21,000 visitors each year
- Educate hundreds of kids attending Damar Freeway Academy and at the nearby Damar Charter Academy
- Provide ABA therapy to 181 children and specialized autism services to another 125
- Provide therapy, exercise, and recreational facilities

As a result of the increasing and ongoing needs, many Damar Services departments and programs will require continued annual support. Today, we need to increase our kitchen capacity and expand our fitness center, make educational and technology improvements, add suites for client visitations with family members, and make other capital improvements to the buildings and grounds. These improvements will help us continue to help people facing life's greatest challenges make remarkable changes in their lives for decades to come.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Total Strategy Four: _____ \$2,000,000





Strengthening and Building

Our Annual Fund

STRATEGY FIVE:

Almost every donor's first experience in giving with us is their gift to the Damar Annual Fund. This is where donors learn about who we are and where we gain a greater knowledge of our friends' philanthropic interests.

Many donors are surprised to learn that 100 percent of every gift to the Damar Annual Fund is used for programs and services to benefit our clients. Last year, the Annual Fund provided over \$400,000 in innovation grants, funding vocational education training, renovation to the sensory gyms on campus and at our Northside autism clinic, a kitchen expansion to make food preparation for people with allergies more efficient, and much more.

During our Road to Remarkable campaign, all gifts to the Damar Annual Fund will count toward the campaign goal. Over the next five years, we want to raise over \$2 million for the annual fund, retaining long-time supporters while attracting a new generation of donors to our cause. If innovation, collaboration, and grassroots solutions are concepts you believe in, a campaign gift in support of the Damar Annual Fund may be a perfect fit for you.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Total Strategy Five: _____ \$2,000,000



Building

Our Endowment

STRATEGY SIX:

We don't know the challenges our clients will face in the future—but we do know it will take expanded resources and services to meet them. For this reason, we will continue to build an endowment for the future growth of Damar Services and protection against market instability. Unrestricted planned gifts—wills and bequests, IRA beneficiary designations, gifts of life insurance, and other life income estate planning vehicles—will be directed toward this endowment during the period of the campaign.

Damar has never conducted a planned giving campaign. As a part of this effort, we want to identify up to \$3 million in planned gift expectancies—including gifts from loyal supporters who have already included Damar in their estate planning but haven't ever notified us of their decisions.

Since these are planned gifts, they will not be immediately available for use, but will one day provide the backbone of support for growing innovative services we can't even imagine today. Gifts in support of this strategy will allow donors a way to make a commitment that will be felt within the walls of Damar for generations to come.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Total Strategy Six: _____ \$3,000,000

This Remarkable Opportunity

So many families dealing with autism and other developmental and behavioral disabilities feel they face limited futures. They fear their children will never be able to speak...to play...to learn...to work...to simply venture out into the community.

For over 50 years, Damar has brought such families remarkable hope, remarkable progress, remarkable happiness, and remarkable independence on a potential path toward self-sufficiency. Now we're ready to leverage our expertise to attack the challenges facing those who live and work in the worlds of autism and developmental and behavioral disabilities.

And we need your help. By supporting our Road to Remarkable, you will help to ensure:

- Adults with autism and developmental and behavioral disabilities and their families won't lose access to services simply because they age out of traditional services.
- Families have the resources they need to recognize autism and other developmental and behavioral disabilities and get the help they need, when they need it.
- Damar will be fully capable of delivering the breadth and level of services for which it is nationally recognized and admired.
- A plan is in place to make sure resources are available as future challenges emerge.

Please become a part of our Road to Remarkable campaign. Thanks to remarkable people like you, Damar will help more people than ever find and lead their own remarkable lives.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Strategy One: Damar Village	\$8,500,000
Strategy Two: Children's Crisis and Stabilization Center	\$2,500,000
Strategy Three: Support and Build Capacity for Specialized Autism Services	\$3,000,000
Strategy Four: Enhance Support Services	\$2,000,000
Strategy Five: Strengthen and Build the Damar Annual Fund	\$2,000,000
Strategy Six: Build an Endowment for the Future	\$3,000,000
TOTAL ROAD TO REMARKABLE CAMPAIGN	\$21,000,000





Learn More at [Damar.org/Remarkable](https://damar.org/Remarkable)