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Damar to expand services to Richmond

Move to bring innovative and collaborative treatment options for children with complex developmental and behavioral disabilities to eastern Indiana

[Damar](#), an Indianapolis-based leader in providing services to children and adults challenged by autism and intellectual, developmental and behavioral disabilities, has purchased the former Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center in Richmond from the Wernle Foundation for an undisclosed amount. The 74-acre property has been closed since early 2024.

Damar will create a new team, make renovations and open the Richmond Campus in fall 2025. Collaborating with the State and other provider leaders, Damar will lead new approaches in residential, outpatient, and community-based services. ABA therapy and a new charter school might be offered in the future, depending on community needs.

“Damar is eager to share our organization’s experience and expertise to help families in the eastern part of the state who are facing some of life’s most challenging situations,” said Dr. Jim Dalton, president and CEO of Damar Services. Bordering the state line, Dalton also indicated that services at the Richmond campus may also be available to residents of Ohio.

A nonprofit, Damar offers intensive campus-based services for youth in Indianapolis and East Chicago, ABA autism clinics in multiple locations across the state, and community-based and outpatient behavioral health services. In addition, Damar operates Damar Health Services, Damar Pharmacy, Damar Village – an affordable living community – and two unique schools for students with special needs. It also provides foster care services.

Damar was started in 1967 by Theodore and Beverly Farkas. Seeking the best situation for David and Martha, their two children with developmental disabilities, the Farkases found few options. While they couldn’t care for the children at home, they weren’t interested in the prevailing alternative of that time: a state institution with limited visitation privileges. Combining their love for their children with a creative vision, they developed what they named Damar (combining the names of their two children). More than a half-century later, Damar is recognized as a leader in meeting the needs of children and adults who face some of life’s most difficult challenges.

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