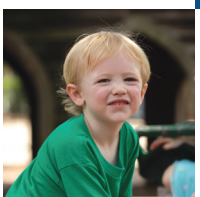
RISE UP

2025

A YEAR OF RISING HIGHER

Recognizing Inclusive Special Education



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WAYS TO SUPPORT

The DREAM officially turned into reality

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear RISE Up friends and family,

We have had an amazing year at RISE Up as we continue to offer support and inclusion to the students in our program. We are so thankful for our supporters who have helped provide our participants with the best early childhood education experience possible.

The RISE Up program officially launched in January 2025 and exists within First United Methodist Church's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Our mission is to provide inclusive pediatric therapy services to young children with special needs, which is reflected in our name—RISE: Recognizing Inclusive Special Education. Through our inclusive model, therapy is delivered directly within the classrooms, giving nontraditional learners the opportunity to learn and grow alongside their traditional peers.

Since launching, RISE Up has hired a full team, including our program coordinator, occupational therapist, speech therapist, physical therapist, and classroom assistant, all now actively serving students on campus. We successfully hosted the second annual HARVEST HOPE fundraiser alongside Dream Court and were honored to be the beneficiary of the 2025 Fred Tyson Gobblers and Golf event. These events have raised both awareness and funds for the program, and we are truly grateful for all who supported them. RISE Up also participated in the DSA STEP UP for Down Syndrome Walk to help educate and inform the River Region about individuals with Down syndrome. Additionally, we received our first grants from the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama and Hyundai, and we are deeply appreciative of their support in helping us further our mission.

As we approach the end of this monumental year, we invite you to consider making an additional donation to help us continue this important work. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to rise up and succeed. Thank you for believing in our vision and making a meaningful difference in the lives of families in our community.

All the best,

Jackie and Beth Bushman

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

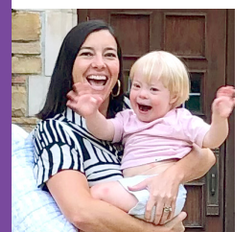
JACKIE BUSHMAN, PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN

BETH BUSHMAN

JILL MASTIN

BETSY PRINCE

LUCAS TRIBBLE



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

Your Impact in 2025

Because of your generosity, belief, and advocacy, RISE Up's inaugural year changed lives. Here's what you made possible.

A YEAR OF FIRSTS AND A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

In January 2025, RISE Up officially launched within First United Methodist Church's ECDC program, creating a new pathway for young children with special needs to learn alongside their peers.

Your support allowed us to:

- Hire and onboard a full interdisciplinary team (Program Coordinator + PT/OT/SLP + Classroom Assistant)
- Provide all therapy services at no cost to enrolled families
- Offer therapy inside classrooms, promoting natural inclusion
- Create individualized therapy plans that support each child's development
- Reach more families in need, reducing delays in care

Your gifts didn't just fund a program; you built a community of inclusion!

Mission, Purpose & Aim —Powered by Donors

MISSION

RISE Up aims to provide families with an inclusive environment to meet the needs of traditional and nontraditional learners through high-quality early childhood education and therapy.

PURPOSE

RISE Up provides inclusive pediatric therapy services (occupational, speech, and physical therapy) to young children with special needs enrolled at ECDC. Through an inclusive model, these therapy services are conducted within the classrooms to allow nontraditional learners to learn and grow alongside traditional learners. The RISE Up Program is funded by the RISE Up Foundation, Inc., an Alabama nonprofit corporation, which is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") Section 501(c)(3). RISE Up is funded solely through donations and provides needed therapy services to enrolled children in the RISE Up Program free of charge.

AIM

Our aim is to provide exceptional therapy services in a nurturing childcare environment for children age 6 weeks to 5 years old. We are committed to fostering each child's physical, emotional, cognitive, verbal, and social development through individualized care and evidence-based therapeutic approaches. Our dedicated team of professionals works collaboratively with families to ensure every child reaches their fullest potential in a safe and supportive setting.

THERAPY SERVICES YOU HELPED MAKE POSSIBLE

PHYSICAL THERAPY Supports balance, strength, coordination, mobility, and confident movement.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Builds essential skills for play, learning, self-care, and sensory processing.

SPEECH THERAPY Strengthens communication, language, voice, and feeding skills to help children connect with others.

Your generosity made it possible for children to thrive in their natural learning environment, right in their classroom, alongside peers.

Meet The TEAM You Helped Build

LEADERSHIP

Kim brings decades of early childhood special education experience and helped develop statewide early learning tools such as the DAY-C2 and ELLP. She is passionate about creating inclusive, supportive environments for young learners. Outside of work, she enjoys board games, movies, boating, and time with her family and her dog, Rudy.

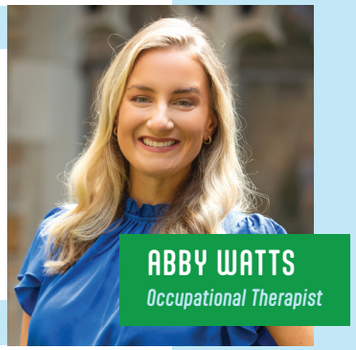
KIM HOLLON
Program Coordinator

THERAPY

Katelynn, a licensed SLP and ASHA/SHAA member, has experience in hospitals, schools, and private practice. She loves helping children find their voice. Her favorite memory involves a communication-device user hilariously pointing out her unzipped pants—proving just how capable the child was. She enjoys reading, puzzles, dinners with friends, and trips to Disney and the beach.

KATELYNN HIGHTOWER
Speech Therapist

Abby holds degrees from Auburn University and UAB and is trained in Dynamic Movement Intervention, reflex integration, and sensory-based protocols. She loves watching children gain confidence and independence. In her spare time, she enjoys pickleball, long walks, Lake Martin, and time with loved ones.



ABBY WATTS
Occupational Therapist

Caroline, a Huntsville native with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Alabama State University, has worked across outpatient and skilled nursing settings. She loves helping children move with confidence and joy. She stays active through running, outdoor activities, and supporting her boys' sports.

CAROLINE KLINGLER
Physical Therapist

ASSISTANCE

Ariel earned her psychology degree from Huntingdon College, where she played NCAA Beach Volleyball. She brings hands-on childcare experience and is pursuing her Master of Social Work. She enjoys volleyball, pickleball, puzzles, and time with friends.

ARIEL HELMICK
Classroom Assistant

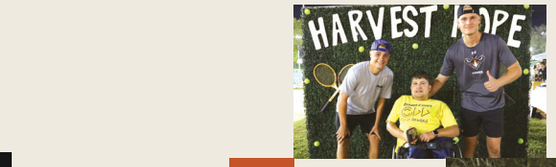
Community ENGAGEMENT

HARVEST HOPE Tennis Mixer

On October 9, 2025, our partnership with Dream Court brought together families for a night of tennis, food, music, and fun at Lagoon Park Tennis Center. The event raised funds and awareness for both organizations.

Thank you again to all our corporate sponsors, family and friends for supporting a fun-filled night celebrating two local non-profits founded on common platforms: to advocate for special needs individuals and recognize inclusion.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR: OCTOBER 8, 2026.



STEP UP for DOWN SYNDROME

Your support allowed RISE Up to participate in the annual STEP UP event at Faulkner University, helping advocate for individuals with Down syndrome and spread awareness throughout the River Region.

ADMISSIONS

Inclusive education benefits every learner, improving achievement, confidence, friendships, and empathy across the classroom.

Do you know of a family or child that is eligible for the RISE Up Program? Eligible children must have a documented diagnosis of a medical condition that materially affects the child's ability to learn in a traditional learning environment. Children may qualify for the RISE Up Program if they have a documented diagnosis such as:

- Autism
- Down syndrome
- Cerebral palsy
- Developmental delays or similar conditions

For more information, contact Kim Hollon at Kim.RISEUpMGM@gmail.com.

How You Can Continue CHANGING LIVES

YOUR GENEROSITY SUSTAINS EVERY THERAPY SESSION, EVERY MILESTONE, AND EVERY MOMENT OF INCLUSION.

DONATE ONLINE

RISEUpMGM.org

STOCK GIFTS OR QUESTIONS

RISEUpMGM@gmail.com
334-221-1106

DONATE BY MAIL

RISE Up Foundation, Inc.
3346 Stratford Lane
Montgomery, AL 36111

Because of You, CHILDREN RISE

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN THIS MISSION, INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN, AND BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE EVERY LEARNER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RISE UP AND SUCCEED.

RISE Up Foundation, Inc., an Alabama nonprofit corporation, is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") Section 501(c)(3). Donations to RISE Up Foundation may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes as provided in the IRC.

CUT AND MAIL THIS DONATION FORM

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State_____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Donation Amount

☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ Other _____

Payment Method

☐ My check is enclosed ☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name _____ Card number _____ Exp_____/_____

CVV _____ Billing ZIP code _____ Signature _____

How would you like your name(s) to appear in donor listings?

☐ As stated above ☐ I prefer to remain anonymous ☐ My gift is in honor/memory of: _____

Employer Matching Gifts

☐ My employer will match this gift and I will submit the necessary form. Employer name: _____

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Special Education

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