DSG Awarded $350,000 Challenge Grant from the Mabee Foundation

MISSION, Kan.—The J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation Inc., located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently awarded a $350,000 challenge grant to the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) in support of its upcoming “Lifelong Learning Campus” capital project. This is the second largest gift in DSG’s 36-year history.

In order to receive the funding, DSG must raise $772,000 for the campaign by April 14, 2021. Including this challenge grant, DSG now has $1,139,000 committed to the building project through philanthropic efforts.

“We are humbled by this investment from the Mabee Foundation and we are excited by the momentum this project is gaining,” said Mike Frazier, President, DSG Board of Directors. “We are committed to meeting this challenge, so our vision of building a campus to better serve people with Down syndrome comes to fruition.”

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In July 2019, DSG acquired 5916 Dearborn St., the building adjacent to its current office space on the first floor of 5960 Dearborn St. The project scope, designed by Tevis Architects of Shawnee, Kansas, includes renovations within the new building, as well as within the current office space.

“The fact that we have over $1-million dollars committed to the Lifelong Learning Campus campaign for improving the future of individuals with Down syndrome is truly inspiring,” said Jason Drummond, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer of DSG. “We have imagined a campus for people with Down syndrome to receive efficient, effective services and support throughout the entire lifespan. The support and generosity of our donors will help us to change the trajectory of the people we serve, now and for generations to come.”

Construction is tentatively slated to begin this summer with a goal for occupancy in late 2020. Notable project features include designated area for social enterprise employment opportunities; an outdoor adaptive playground and community area; innovative technology; and a campus dedicated to serving the needs of people with Down syndrome at every life stage.

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**Project Renderings (for high resolution renderings, please contact Vanessa Figg):**

**DSG Lifelong Learning Center: Site Plan**

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DSG Lifelong Learning Center: 5916 Dearborn—First Floor

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Organizational Background

The Mabee Foundation was formed in 1948 by Missouri natives (and Oklahoma residents) John and Lottie Mabee. John, who did not complete high school, and Lottie were hard workers, innovative entrepreneurs and shrewd investors. Starting with nothing, they built an impressive business and were gracious and generous as they shared their financial blessings with others through various forms of philanthropy. John and Lottie, who had no children, formed the Foundation in 1948 and ultimately both left the bulk of their estates to the Foundation. Over time, the Foundation began to limit grants to ‘brick and mortar’ projects located in six states: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. Learn more >>

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who serve them. Founded in June 1984, DSG seeks to provide the community with information and education to broaden awareness and foster positive attitudes regarding people with Down syndrome. To learn more, please call 913-384-4848 or visit >>

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DSG Lifelong Learning Center: 5960 Dearborn—First Floor

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First Floor Plan

- Administrative
- Building Support
- Therapy Center