Consolidated Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Small Steps Nurturing Center:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Small Steps Nurturing Center, which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related consolidated statements of activities, of functional expenses, and of cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Small Steps Nurturing Center as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors'* Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Small Steps Nurturing Center and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Small Steps' ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing

standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Small Steps' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Small Steps' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

April 3, 2025

Blazek & Vetterling

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Cash Prepaid expenses and other assets Operating contributions receivable, net (Note 3)	\$ 1,015,309 57,693 848,446	\$ 701,030 44,204 1,092,579
Investments (Note 4): Held for operations Board-designated reserve funds Restricted or designated for endowment funds Cash restricted for campus expansion capital projects Contributions receivable restricted for campus expansion	4,306,168 2,673,539 1,199,742 41,096	4,210,047 2,921,429 1,104,091 1,123,026
capital projects, net (Note 3) Property, net (Note 5)	152,800 5,430,095	677,204 2,574,493
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 15,724,888</u>	<u>\$ 14,448,103</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued expenses Construction payable Funds held for others Refundable advances – special events (Note 3)	\$ 361,058 664,973 26,043 215,167	\$ 230,510 26,043 296,505
Total liabilities	1,267,241	553,058
Commitments (Note 9)		
Net assets (Note 7): Without donor restrictions (Note 2) With donor restrictions (Note 6) Total net assets TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	9,484,531 4,973,116 14,457,647 \$ 15,724,888	8,065,028 5,830,017 13,895,045 \$ 14,448,103
See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.		

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2024

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUE:			
Contributions:			
Cash and other financial assets	\$ 1,416,102	\$ 1,727,371	\$ 3,143,473
Nonfinancial assets	64,980		64,980
Special events:			
Financial assets	2,063,006	200,904	2,263,910
Proceeds from donated auction items	68,250		68,250
Cost of direct donor benefits	(445,752)		(445,752)
Government grant revenue (Note 8)		156,753	156,753
Other income	25,689		25,689
Net investment return	443,554		443,554
Total revenue	3,635,829	2,085,028	5,720,857
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Program expenditures	1,963,243	(1,963,243)	
Expiration of time restrictions	585,000	(585,000)	
Donor redesignation	393,686	(393,686)	
Total	6,577,758	(856,901)	5,720,857
EXPENSES:			
Program services	4,058,584		4,058,584
Management and general	551,910		551,910
Fundraising	<u>547,761</u>		547,761
Total expenses	5,158,255		5,158,255
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	1,419,503	(856,901)	562,602
Net assets, beginning of year	8,065,028	5,830,017	13,895,045
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 9,484,531</u>	<u>\$ 4,973,116</u>	<u>\$ 14,457,647</u>

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2023

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
REVENUE: Contributions:			
Cash and other financial assets Nonfinancial assets	\$ 1,169,735 96,886	\$ 2,872,700	\$ 4,042,435 96,886
Special events Cost of direct donor benefits	2,013,809 (405,307)	123,816	2,137,625 (405,307)
Government grant revenue (Note 8)	, , ,	880,400	880,400
Net investment return	142,185	10,274	152,459
Total revenue	3,017,308	3,887,190	6,904,498
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Program expenditures	2,368,575	(2,368,575)	
Capital expenditures	50,000	(50,000)	
Total	5,435,883	1,468,615	6,904,498
EXPENSES:			
Program services	3,684,405		3,684,405
Management and general	371,644		371,644
Fundraising	450,905		450,905
Total expenses	4,506,954		4,506,954
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	928,929	1,468,615	2,397,544
Net assets, beginning of year	7,136,099	4,361,402	11,497,501
Net assets, end of year	\$ 8,065,028	\$ 5,830,017	<u>\$ 13,895,045</u>

Consolidated Statements of Functional Expenses for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	<u>FUNDRAISING</u>	2024 <u>TOTAL</u>
Salaries and related expenses Occupancy Professional services Food and supplies Depreciation Insurance Software and website Credit card fees Printing, publications and postage Transportation Other	\$ 2,983,158 339,122 138,330 259,277 140,705 88,727 24,362 631 13,212 71,060	\$ 298,606 9,735 182,978 10,153 3,025 1,964 9,756 25,600 1,172 8,921	\$ 467,920 13,037 3,135 9,224 7,536 4,909 14,823 14,691 	\$ 3,749,684 361,894 324,443 278,654 151,266 95,600 48,941 25,600 16,494 13,212 92,467
Total expenses	<u>\$ 4,058,584</u>	<u>\$ 551,910</u>	<u>\$ 547,761</u>	5,158,255
Cost of direct donor benefits				445,752
Total				<u>\$ 5,604,007</u>
Salaries and related expenses Occupancy	PROGRAM <u>SERVICES</u> \$ 2,587,476 176,026	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL \$ 136,838 10,373	<u>FUNDRAISING</u> \$ 346,670 9,577	2023 TOTAL \$ 3,070,984 195,976
Professional services Food and supplies Depreciation Insurance Software and website	369,158 213,177 143,881 88,636 10,635	181,536 1,391 2,532 2,279 2,101	13,012 5,069 6,331 5,728 25,263	563,706 219,637 152,744 96,643 37,999
Credit card fees Printing, publications and postage Transportation Other	496 14,120 80,800	25,889 421 8,284	17,884 21,371	25,889 18,801 14,120 110,455
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,684,405</u>	\$ 371,644	<u>\$ 450,905</u>	4,506,954
Cost of direct donor benefits				405,307
Total				<u>\$ 4,912,261</u>

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: Changes in net assets Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	\$	562,602	\$ 2,397,544
Contributions restricted for capital projects Contributions restricted for endowment		(668,821)	(1,568,266) (70,000)
Depreciation Net realized and unrealized (gain) loss on investments Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		151,266 (29,989)	152,743 66,642
Prepaid expenses and other assets Operating contributions receivable Accounts payable and accrued expenses Funds held for others		(13,489) 244,133 130,548	(5,843) (197,754) 140,147 2,366
Refundable advances – special events Net cash provided by operating activities		(81,338) 294,912	54,755 972,334
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: Purchases of investments Net change in money market mutual funds and cash held		(78,185)	(116,177)
for investments Purchases of property		164,292 (2,341,895)	(5,093,572) (315,629)
Net cash used by investing activities		(2,255,788)	(5,525,378)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: Proceeds from contributions restricted for capital projects Proceeds from contributions restricted for endowment	_	1,193,225	1,401,062 70,000
Net cash provided by financing activities		1,193,225	1,471,062
NET CHANGE IN CASH		(767,651)	(3,081,982)
Cash, beginning of year		1,824,056	4,906,038
Cash, end of year	<u>\$</u>	1,056,405	<u>\$ 1,824,056</u>
Reconciliation of cash balances: Cash Cash restricted for capital projects for campus expansion Total cash	\$ <u>\$</u>	1,015,309 41,096 1,056,405	\$ 701,030 1,123,026 \$ 1,824,056

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization – Small Steps Nurturing Center is a Texas nonprofit corporation located in Houston, Texas, providing a comprehensive early childhood development program aimed at giving at-risk, pre-school-age children and their parents the opportunity to grow socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually. Small Steps Nurturing Center serves approximately 190 students at its Jensen and Gulfton campuses. Small Steps Nurturing Center relies on charitable contributions for support of its program.

Small Steps Nurturing Center Foundation (the Foundation) was incorporated as a separate nonprofit organization in 2019 to provide financial support to Small Steps Nurturing Center. The Board of Directors of the Foundation are elected by the Board of Directors of Small Steps Nurturing Center.

<u>Basis of presentation</u> – These consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, net assets, and activities of Small Steps Nurturing Center and the Foundation (collectively Small Steps). All balances and transactions between the consolidated entities have been eliminated.

<u>Federal income tax status</u> – Small Steps Nurturing Center and the Foundation are exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are classified as public charities under §509(a)(1).

<u>Cash</u> includes demand deposits, except that cash held for long-term investment is grouped with investments and excluded from cash in the statement of cash flows. Bank deposits exceed the federally insured limit per depositor per institution.

<u>Contributions receivable</u> that are expected to be collected within one year are reported at net realizable value. Contributions receivable that are expected to be collected in future years are discounted, if material, to estimate the present value of future cash flows. An allowance for uncollectible contributions receivable is provided when it is believed balances may not be collected in full.

<u>Investments</u> are reported at fair value. Net investment return consists of interest and dividends, realized and unrealized gains and losses, net of external and direct internal investment expenses.

<u>Property</u> with an original value of at least \$1,000 and an estimated useful life of more than one year is reported at cost if purchased or at fair value at the date of gift if donated. Property is depreciated using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of 3 to 7 years for furniture, equipment and supplies, 5 years for vans, and 10 to 30 years for buildings and improvements.

<u>Net asset classification</u> – Net assets, revenue, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions, as follows:

- *Net assets without donor restrictions* are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions even though their use may be limited in other respects such as by contract or board designation.
- Net assets with donor restrictions are subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Restrictions may be temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or use for a purpose specified by the donor, or may be perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be

maintained in perpetuity. Net assets are released from restrictions when the stipulated time has elapsed, or purpose has been fulfilled, or both. Contributions of long-lived assets and of assets restricted for acquisition of long-lived assets are released when those assets are placed in service unless the donor also has placed a time restriction on the use of the long-lived asset, in which case the release occurs over the term of the time restriction.

Contributions and government grants are recognized as revenue at fair value when an unconditional commitment is received from the donor. Contributions and government grants received with donor stipulations that limit their use are classified as with donor restrictions. Conditional contributions and government grants are subject to one or more barriers that must be overcome before Small Steps is entitled to receive or retain funding. Conditional contributions and government grants are recognized in the same manner when the conditions have been met. Funding received before conditions are met is reported as deferred revenue.

<u>Special events</u> revenue includes elements of both contributions and exchange transactions and are recognized when an event occurs. Items contributed for auction at fundraising events are recognized at the amount of proceeds received from the purchaser. Cost of direct donor benefits represents the costs of goods and services provided in exchange for the amount paid by event attendees. Amounts received in advance are reported as deferred special event revenue.

Contributed nonfinancial assets are recognized at fair value as contributions when an unconditional commitment is received from the donor. The related expense is recognized as the item is used. Contributions of services are recognized when services received (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. A substantial number of volunteers have contributed significant amounts of time in connection with programs, administration, and fundraising for which no amount has been recorded in the financial statements because the services do not meet the criteria for recognition under generally accepted accounting principles.

In 2024 and 2023, Small Steps received contributions of nonfinancial assets for professional services used in program activities. These contributions are recognized at their estimated fair value based on current rates for similar items or services.

<u>Functional allocation of expenses</u> – Expenses are reported by their functional classification. Program services are the direct conduct or supervision of activities that fulfill the purposes for which the organization exists. Fundraising activities include the solicitation of contributions of money, securities, materials, facilities, other assets, and time. Management and general activities are not directly identifiable with specific program or fundraising activities. Expenses that are attributable to more than one activity are allocated among the activities benefitted. Salaries and related costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and effort expended. Occupancy costs are allocated based on square footage.

<u>Estimates</u> – Management must make estimates and assumptions to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, the amounts of reported revenue and expenses, and the allocation of expenses among various functions. Actual results could vary from the estimates that were used.

NOTE 2 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year of June 30 comprise the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,056,405	\$ 1,824,056
Contributions receivable, net	1,001,246	1,769,783
Investments	8,179,449	8,235,567
Total financial assets	10,237,100	11,829,406
Less financial assets not available for general expenditure:		
Board-designated reserve funds:		
Operating reserves	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Jensen expansion	(502,110)	(750,000)
Scholarship	(377,463)	(377,463)
Building maintenance	(200,000)	(200,000)
Staff assistance	(47,500)	(47,500)
Family assistance	(46,466)	(46,466)
Donor-restricted and board-designated endowment investments	(1,199,742)	(1,080,274)
Donor-restricted assets not available for general expenditure in		
the coming year	(1,462,692)	(1,697,872)
Donor-restricted for campus expansion	(3,352,078)	(2,018,284)
Funds held for others	(26,043)	(26,043)
Total financial assets available for general expenditure	<u>\$ 1,523,006</u>	<u>\$ 4,085,504</u>

For purposes of analyzing resources available to meet general expenditures over a 12-month period, Small Steps considers all expenditures related to its ongoing activities of providing a comprehensive early childhood development program, as well as the conduct of services undertaken to support this activity, to be general expenditures.

The Board of Directors has designated funds that are invested for long-term growth and income, but may be spent at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Small Steps regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its operating needs while striving to maximize the investment of available funds.

NOTE 3 – CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

During fiscal year 2022, Small Steps began a \$4 million Fifth Ward expansion capital campaign to purchase land and fund the construction of a new wing to include four classrooms and to renovate some existing spaces for new uses. Through June 30, 2024, total contributions to the campaign were approximately \$2.7 million before pledge allowances and discounts.

Contributions receivable are as follows:

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
Total contributions receivable	\$	1,029,447	\$	1,800,887
Discount to net present value at 4.52% to 4.87%	_	(28,201)	_	(31,104)
Contributions receivable, net	\$	1,001,246	\$	1,769,783

Contributions receivable at June 30, 2024 are expected to be collected as follows:

Receivable in less than one year	\$ 609,447
Receivable in one to five years	 420,000
Total contributions receivable	\$ 1,029,447

At June 30, 2024, approximately 53% of contributions receivable were due from two donors, one of which is a foundation. At June 30, 2023, 83% of contributions receivable were due from six donors, three of which are foundations.

Conditional contributions – During 2024, Small Steps received conditional commitments of \$516,500 for special events to be held in future years, conditioned upon the occurrence of the events. Cash received for conditional commitments is reported as refundable advances.

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Generally accepted accounting principles require that certain assets and liabilities be reported at fair value and establish a hierarchy that prioritizes inputs used to measure fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. All of Small Steps' investments are measured at fair value using Level 1 inputs, which are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the reporting date.

Assets measured at fair value using Level 1 inputs are as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Investments: Balanced income mutual fund Money market mutual fund	\$ 1,672,367 6,198,865	\$ 1,564,193 6,364,542
Total assets measured at fair value	7,871,232	7,928,735
Cash held for investment	308,217	306,832
Total investments	<u>\$ 8,179,449</u>	\$ 8,235,567

Mutual funds are valued at the reported net asset value of the shares held. This valuation method may produce a fair value that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while Small Steps believes its valuation method is appropriate, the use of different methods or assumptions could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Because of these risks, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of financial position and statement of activities.

NOTE 5 – PROPERTY

Property consists of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land Buildings and improvements Furniture, fixtures and equipment Construction in progress	\$ 620,513 2,937,426 618,249 3,158,182	\$ 620,513 2,973,662 623,442 218,054
Property, at cost Accumulated depreciation	 7,334,370 (1,904,275)	 4,435,671 (1,861,178)
Property, net	\$ 5,430,095	\$ 2,574,493

NOTE 6 - NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Subject to passage of time or expenditure for specified purpose:		
Campus expansion	\$ 2,687,105	\$ 2,018,284
Future operations and continuity fund	1,474,912	2,584,835
For use in future years	665,922	588,422
Scholarship	113,037	113,037
Other	32,140	131,753
Total subject to passage of time or expenditure for specified purpose	4,973,116	5,436,331
Endowments subject to spending policy and appropriation:		
Continuity fund		393,686
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>\$ 4,973,116</u>	\$ 5,830,017

NOTE 7 – ENDOWMENT FUND

The Foundation maintains a board-designated endowment fund, which may be spent at the discretion of the Small Steps' Board of Directors. During 2024, donors to the perpetual endowment redesignated the funds as unrestricted. The Small Steps' Board of Directors designated these funds to the board-designated endowment.

Changes in net assets of the endowment fund are as follows:

	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS							
		BOARD-		INVESTMENT		PERPETUAL		
	<u>D</u>	DESIGNATED		<u>EARNINGS</u>		ENDOWMENT		<u>TOTAL</u>
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2022	\$	686,588	\$	11,741	\$	301,671	\$	1,000,000
Contributions						70,000		70,000
Net investment return	_	23,817		10,274			_	34,091
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2023		710,405		22,015		371,671		1,104,091
Contributions		34,200						34,200
Redesignation of perpetual endowment		393,686		(22,015)		(371,671)		
Net investment return		61,451					_	61,451
Endowment net assets, June 30, 2024	\$	1,199,742	\$	0	\$	0	\$	1,199,742

NOTE 8 – GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grant revenue is recognized as follows:

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
U. S. Department of Agriculture: Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$	156,753	\$	172.888
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services:	Ψ	100,700	Ψ	172,000
Child Care Relief Fund grant				707,512
Total government grants	\$	156,753	\$	880,400

Small Steps' government grants require fulfillment of certain conditions as set forth in the grant contracts and are subject to review and audit by the awarding agencies. Such reviews and audits could result in the discovery of unallowable activities and unallowable costs. Consequently, any of the funding sources may, at their discretion, request reimbursement for expenses or return of funds as a result of non-compliance by Small Steps with the terms of the contracts. Management believes such disallowances, if any, would not be material to Small Steps' financial position or changes in net assets.

NOTE 9 – COMMITMENTS

In connection with the campus expansion project, Small Steps entered into an agreement with a general contractor to build the new wing. Outstanding commitments under this agreement total approximately \$843,000 at June 30, 2024.

NOTE 10 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through April 3, 2025, which is the date that the financial statements were available for issuance. As a result of this evaluation, no events were identified that are required to be disclosed or would have a material impact on reported net assets or changes in net assets.