

2025 MID-YEAR UPDATE

This year has marked a period of major momentum at SDI—from securing a landmark location for our Inclusive Workplace Project to receiving transformative national support for our work.

We're expanding our team, deepening partnerships, and launching a capital campaign to build a more inclusive future. Thank you for making this momentum possible.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Inclusive Workplace Project

We continue to make progress on our most ambitious initiative to date: the Inclusive Workplace Project. This effort will **establish the nation's first fully universally designed coworking space and education center focused on disability inclusion.**

On July 11, our counterproposal for the space at 10 S. Broadway was accepted. The lease includes highly favorable terms for SDI—generous tenant improvement allowances, a below-market rent rate, and a landlord commitment to applying Universal Design principles to the front entrance and lobby.

Building on this momentum, we've completed a capital campaign feasibility study and are moving into the quiet phase of a **bold capital campaign** to support the Inclusive Workplace Project. While not yet public, we are actively laying the groundwork—refining our case for support, engaging early champions, and preparing for outreach to leadership-level donors. The early response has been promising, with **strong enthusiasm around our vision and initial lead commitments secured.**

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

- Launch of Campaign Cabinet and corporate partners circle
- Capital campaign public phase anticipated in late 2026

Site Visit with Major Donor

On July 13–14, we hosted a major donor visit that **generated excitement and deepened investment.** One of our most dedicated national funders, who wishes to remain anonymous, was inspired not only by the progress of the Inclusive Workplace Project but also by the people behind it—our team, board, and program participants.

Ford Foundation

We are honored to receive a **\$500,000 commitment** from the Ford Foundation to advance our work increasing economic opportunity for people with disabilities, particularly those on Medicaid. This transformative investment strengthens our ability to lead in disability advocacy and policy on both regional and national levels.

You have made our job so much easier... we always judge others by what [Starkloff is] doing.

I will use my trip to St. Louis to inform others across the country what is possible.

Major Donor on visit to SDI



ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH

Adding Talent

Aimee Wehmeier joined as **Chief Development Officer** in January, bringing 20 years of nonprofit leadership to our fundraising and engagement strategy. Alli Beard came aboard in July as **Annual Fund Manager**, supporting donor communications and outreach. Shelby Nobles will join mid-August as **Project & Event Coordinator**, managing logistics for educational conferences and events. Katie Fields has been promoted to **Disability Inclusion Consulting Manager**.

Building Infrastructure

SDI is **strengthening** its internal systems for sustainability and impact. We've partnered with The Charity CFO for expert **financial oversight** and implemented new platforms like Salesforce, Boardable, and FreeWill to improve **data management, board engagement, and donor stewardship**.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Dream Big

This summer, we welcomed 34 students to Dream Big Career Camp, where they **explored career paths** with inclusive employers like Nestlé Purina, Bayer, and World Wide Technology.

They gained **leadership skills, learned about disability pride, and formed lasting friendships**. Thank you to our Dream Big partners for expanding what these young leaders believe is possible.

BY THE NUMBERS 2025 to Date

- 34 Dream Big campers
- 444 professionals trained in disability inclusion
- \$500,000 grant from the Ford Foundation
- \$2.5M lead gift committed (quiet phase)

Employer Education + Consulting

In 2025, we've already provided training and consulting for employers such as Chestnut Health Systems, Nestlé Purina, Nordstrom, Indoff, Emerson, Deaconess Foundation, STL Cardinals, and the Washington University Center for Career Engagement. Through these programs, 444 professionals have gained knowledge to support disability inclusive hiring and workplace allyship. **94% of participants reported an increase in confidence in being an ally and removing barriers.**

I can't wait for what's out there for me in the future!

Dream Big Camper 

Universal Design Education

This is SDI's first year offering year-round educational programming for Universal Design. So far, we've hosted two impactful, thought-provoking events:

- **Universal Design Myths Busted** (April – virtual): Explored misconceptions and clarified the core values of Universal Design with 47 attendees.
- **Universal Design & St. Louis** (May – live panel): Held at Soldiers Memorial Military Museum with 54 attendees, this event kicked off a 3-part series examining Universal Design's past, present, and future.