

A Message from the Executive Director

October is a favorite month for many; a season of crisp air, colorful leaves, pumpkin harvests, and playful Halloween spooks. It's a time of gathering, reflection, and preparation before the holidays, and it reminds us how much joy can come from coming together as a community.

At The Didlake Foundation, this October feels especially meaningful. We are just weeks away from our 60th Anniversary Gala on November 8. This milestone event is more than a party, it's a chance to honor six decades of breaking down barriers, celebrate the people and partners who brought us here, and set the stage for the future we're building together.

Like the season's harvest, your support has yielded so much: opportunities for meaningful employment, connections that foster belonging, and inclusive communities where people with disabilities can thrive. Every gift, every partnership, every story enriches this collective effort and helps us grow stronger.

As you enjoy the warmth and wonder of October, whether it's pumpkin patches, fall festivals, or trick-or-treating, I invite you to carry that spirit of celebration into November by joining us at the Gala. Together, we will celebrate the past, embrace the present, and light the path to an inclusive future.

With gratitude,



Kelsey DeWispelaere, CFRE, ACNP
Executive Director

Didlake®

60 YEARS
1965-2025

60th Anniversary Gala Countdown.. It's just around the corner!

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Crystal View, Fairfax, VA

Honoring Rex & Gina Parr

Emcee: Simone De Alba, WUSA9

Music, dinner, cocktails, & FUN!

Tickets & Sponsorships: bit.ly/DFgala

Ways To Be Involved!

Here are a few ways you can support Didlake!

- 💎 Donate wine or spirits for our "bottle pull"
- 💎 Purchase tickets for an unforgettable evening
- 💎 Purchase a personal or corporate sponsorship
- 💎 Make a donation to support our mission



Featuring Simone DeAlba, WUSA9!

Honoring Rex & Gina Parr!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

25
Years
2000 - 2025

behavioral
INNOVATIONS

THANK YOU to Behavioral Innovations for Serving as a Gala Sponsor!

Behavioral Innovations' mission to empower individuals through evidence-based support and compassionate care reflects their deep commitment to strengthening communities and expanding opportunities for people of all abilities.

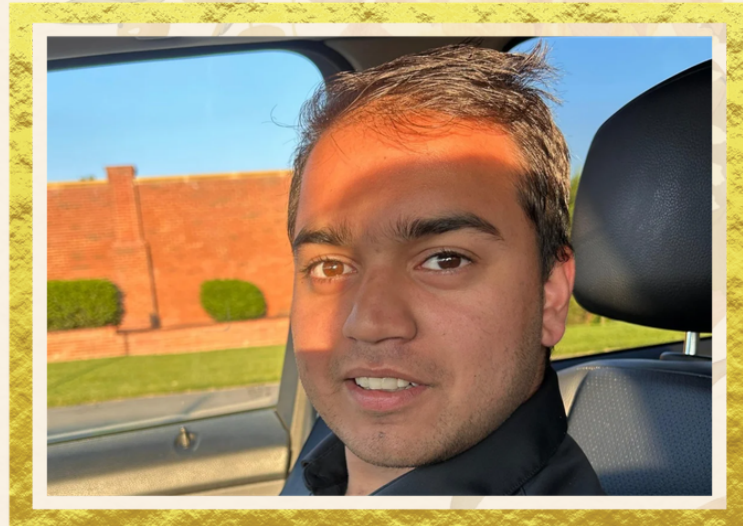
Their generous sponsorship ensures that our 60th Anniversary Gala will not only celebrate six decades of impact, but also shine a light on the power of inclusion and innovation in transforming lives.

We are proud to celebrate this milestone with a partner whose dedication to equity and community impact so closely aligns with our own.

A DIDLAKE FAMILY STORY, PART 1: ROHIT'S JOURNEY FROM DREAMS TO COLLEGE

Meet Rohit, a 22-year-old junior in the Mason LIFE program at George Mason University. Diagnosed with ID and ADD, Rohit brings warmth, energy, and a love of biking, TV, and friends everywhere he goes. His parents share that he has always loved electronics and dreams of becoming an IT Technician.

After completing the Loudoun CAST program and working at places like Harris Teeter, SimplyBe, Ashby Ponds, and Walgreens, Rohit was thrilled to take the next step: attending Mason LIFE.



On campus, he has embraced both academics and independence. Support staff help with complex subjects, and he enjoys his involvement in classes, clubs, and community activities. He's also learning everyday life skills like cooking, cleaning, and laundry, building confidence in his ability to live independently.

Rohit's college journey is laying the foundation for meaningful work and a future filled with belonging. We look forward to sharing more of Rohit's story with you over the coming months...

“**He is showing signs of independence by doing his own laundry, cooking, cleaning, and keeping his schedule.**”

prince william
living

Extra! Extra!

Did you know?

The Didlake Foundation

was featured in

Prince William Living in

September! Read the story

here » princewilliamliving.com

Planned Giving:

The easiest way to start: A Gift in your will

The Simple Gift That Changes Everything

One of the easiest ways to make a planned gift is to include The Didlake Foundation in your will or trust. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or even a particular asset.

This type of gift costs nothing today but makes a meaningful difference tomorrow.

Sample language: "I give, devise, and bequeath to The Didlake Foundation, [Dollar Amount or Description of Property] for its unrestricted use".

Please contact Kelsey DeWispelaere at kdewispelaere@didlake.org for more information.