A Note from the Executive Director

September is here, and the Didlake Foundation is carrying forward the incredible momentum of a summer filled with new partnerships, meaningful programs, and growing community support.

In August, we celebrated the successful launch of **artWORKS Collaborative**, our partnership with **ARTfactory**. Community members, artists, advocates, partners, and supporters joined us to celebrate a shared vision: using the arts to bring people of all abilities together. Thank you to everyone who attended. And another big thank you to **Baskin-Robbins Gainesville** for making the evening extra sweet!

That vision is already taking shape through the artWORKS Community Art Series, created in partnership with Birmingham Green and ARTfactory. This free, multigenerational program uses visual and performing arts to encourage creativity, build confidence, strengthen social connections, and foster a genuine sense of belonging. It has been inspiring to watch participants create, move, connect, and discover new ways to express themselves.

We were also honored to have Prince William Living feature the Didlake Foundation and our upcoming gala, helping introduce more members of our community to our mission and the impact we are building together. Relationships with local businesses, nonprofit leaders, volunteers, and community partners continue to grow, each one expanding what is possible for people with disabilities.

As we move into fall, preparations are accelerating for the 2026 Didlake Foundation Gala on November 7. This special evening will celebrate the stories, partnerships, and achievements that show what can happen when a community invests in inclusion and possibility.

Every partnership formed, program launched, gift made, and voice raised brings us closer to communities where people with disabilities have every opportunity to live, work, create, and belong.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping possibility unfold. We look forward to sharing even more with you in the months ahead.



With gratitude,

Kelsey

Kelsey DeWispelaere, CFRE, ACNP
Executive Director
The Didlake Foundation, Inc.

Building inclusive communities, ONE OPPORTUNITY AT A TIME.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 🎨 artWORKS Community Art Series
- 📦 Didlake, Inc. & The UPS Stores
- 💙 Loveless Porter Supports 2026 Gala
- 📅 Save the Date: November 7 Gala



Community Art Series Brings Creativity, Connection, and Belonging to Birmingham Green

Creativity and connection have been flourishing at Birmingham Green through a new Community Art Series presented in partnership with the Didlake Foundation and ARTfactory.

During the first two sessions, participants of all abilities came together for engaging experiences in visual and performing arts. Through painting, drawing, movement, dance, and theatrical activities, participants explored their creativity, expressed themselves, built relationships, and, most importantly, had fun together.

The photos from the series tell the story beautifully: individuals encouraging one another, trying something new, sharing joyful moments, and connecting across abilities and generations. These sessions are about much more than creating art. They are about building confidence, nurturing well-being, and creating spaces where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and able to participate fully.

The pilot series reflects the shared commitment of Birmingham Green, the Didlake Foundation, and ARTfactory to making inclusive arts experiences accessible throughout our community. It is also helping us learn how programs like this can grow and reach even more people in the future.

Our final session - a movement workshop - was held on September 2 at Birmingham Green. We have enjoyed celebrating everything participants have created and the connections they have made throughout the series.

Together, we are demonstrating that the arts truly are for everyone.



artWORKS COLLABORATIVE

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Did You Know Didlake, Inc. Owns & Operates UPS Stores?

When you choose our The UPS Stores for your packaging, shipping, printing, mailbox, or notary needs, you're supporting businesses where people with disabilities build careers, develop their skills, and deliver outstanding service.

Didlake owns and operates The UPS Store #6631 at the Center at Innovation in Manassas and The UPS Store #6272 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Through our partnership with George Mason University's Mason LIFE Program, we provide paid internships that help students with disabilities gain real-world work experience while contributing to our team and serving customers.

These franchise locations build on Didlake's more than 25 years of experience managing mailroom and copy center operations at federal government sites throughout the DMV region.





Room Block Available for Gala

Make the gala a special date night - book your stay before October 7!

We're pleased to share that a room block is available at the Hilton Garden Inn Manassas, conveniently connected to Magnoliya Grand. Make the evening extra special by turning it into an overnight stay. Enjoy the event, then spend the night at the hotel just steps away!

The room block closes on October 7, so book now to secure your stay:

Available Rooms – Hilton Garden Inn Manassas.

Community Partner Spotlight

A heartfelt thank you to Loveless Porter Architects for serving as the Wine & Spirits Pull Sponsor for the 2026 Didlake Foundation Gala!

Their generous support will help bring this popular gala experience to life while advancing our mission to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.

Community partnerships like this allow us to invest in innovative programs, strengthen inclusive communities, and create meaningful impact throughout our region.

Thank you, Loveless Porter Architects, for believing in our mission and helping make this special evening possible!

LPA
LOVELESS PORTER
ARCHITECTS, LLC