

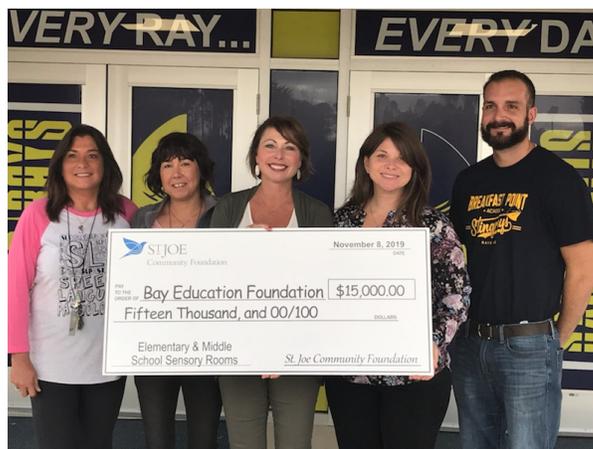
News Release

St. Joe Foundation Awards \$15,000 Grant to Breakfast Point Academy for New Sensory Room

PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA -

November 22, 2019: In an effort to aid the special needs student population in Bay County, Ulrika Logsdon, local Occupational Therapist and Jessica Kelley, parent of a special needs student, celebrated what they hope to be the first of many wins after being awarded a \$15,000 grant from the St Joe Foundation to establish a new sensory room at Breakfast Point Academy (BPA).

Photo: St Joe Community Foundation Executive Director, April Wilkes (center) presents grant check to (left to right) BPA Speech Therapist, Sharon Wilder; BPA Occupational Therapist Ulrika Logsdon; BPA parent, Jessica Kelley and BPA Principal, Clint Whitfield



“Breakfast Point Academy will be the first mainstream school here (in Bay County) to provide a sensory room for its students,” said Jessica Kelley, co-founder of the new Common Sensory Project. “We’re really excited to have been awarded this grant. It’s a resource all schools should have and Breakfast Point Academy will be the template for other schools going forward.”

In Bay County alone, there are over 5,000 students with an identified disability requiring specialized instruction and services. For children with autism or those who have difficulty processing sensory information, the sights and sounds of school can be overwhelming. Loud noises, bright lights, constant movement - all these things can impact a child’s ability to pay attention and participate in the classroom.

The new sensory room at BPA will provide those students with the tools they need to learn how to cope with the neurological traffic jam they are experiencing in an environment specifically designed for therapeutic play. The room will be divided into stations to meet a wide range of needs and will be outfitted with equipment such as swings, ball pits, tunnels, tactile wall panels and crash pads. Providing a dedicated space with essential equipment will allow these students to engage in activity that will put them back on track for learning.

About The Common Sensory Project. The Common Sensory Project is a grassroots initiative lead by occupational therapist Ulrika Logsdon, and special needs student advocate, Jessica Kelley, whose primary directive is collaborating with elementary and middle schools to fund and design therapeutic environments for the growing number of special needs students in mainstream schools.

For more information contact Jessica Kelley or Ulrika Logsdon at the commonsensoryproject@gmail.com

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