

LifeTimes

News & Information

27



Programs in:

Albemarle

Burlington

Charlotte

Dobson

Greensboro

Monroe

Mt. Airy

Statesville

Troutman

Waynesville

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Lisa Wins an Award back



Meet Josh

Josh has attended the High Point program for five years. **Josh was non-verbal, communicating only with his glowing smile and expressive gestures.**

Thanks to a grant from the High Point Arts Council, a team of incredible staff and volunteers created a drama program that incorporated every participant in the program. Josh loved the new drama classes and was eager to attend—even if he couldn't participate with a speaking part. He loved the interaction with staff and peers and smiled when he was the focus of attention. Josh formed a special bond with volunteer vocalist Jessi Dunlap.

After months of preparation, the LifeSpan drama group held their first Dinner Theater performing for a packed house of family, friends, and community partners. On the morning of the performance, Josh was so excited, he woke his father at 6:00 a.m., ready to go. Through laughter, Dad explained that Josh would have to wait two hours before the doors at LifeSpan would open.

On Monday, following the performance, Josh was concerned because his new friend, Jessi, was not at LifeSpan High Point. Through non-verbal conversation Josh tried to ask about the whereabouts of his friend—but his message wasn't understood. Through his frustration, and his new found confidence from the drama program, Josh verbalized his question. **Josh has never spoken using verbal language, Josh finally spoke using words!**

How could this happen? What was the catalyst for the transformation? All that is known for sure is that LifeSpan provided the opportunity for relationships to be built, accomplishments to be acknowledged, and talent to be unveiled—after that—it was all up to Josh.

At LifeSpan it is never clear whether a participant in the program will have an enlightened moment in five days or five years. What we know is that we **illuminate the abilities in each person and eventually they have a moment where they are ready to fly and take their rightful place in society.** Josh's lack of verbal communication was at times a stumbling block to him meeting his full potential. Today, he has a voice and uses it to expand his horizons and bring joy to all who are touched by his presence. LifeSpan claims to transform the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities—a big claim—one that is affirmed daily. **Just ask Josh, he'll tell you with smiles, gestures AND words.**

Quarterly Updates

placed: 27 people in jobs

supported:

1300 children and adults
plus their families

**196 adults in community
volunteer positions**

345 children served in the
community (homes and child
care centers)

**323 adults moving into
community activities**

28 children and adults in
therapeutic riding instruction

31 staff participating in
College of Direct Support

A Word with Leigh



Within our vision statement we proclaim that *LifeSpan will collaborate with community partners to become the leading provider of best practice programs*. When that vision statement was created—we had no idea the number of collaborative partners that would be required to keep us on stable footing.

With collaboration from so many internal and external partners we worked to steer LifeSpan through the unprecedented financial storm that you read about in our last newsletter. **Collaboration has been key to our successful maneuvers out of the storm and into the calm.**

At our last planning session we evaluated strengths at LifeSpan and concluded that we have highly skilled leadership and staff members. We also have our Board of Directors that individually bring a vast amount of experience. We have a strong presence in several markets including Surry, Iredell, Mecklenburg and Guilford counties. Our program philosophy and pre-service orientation sets us apart. And, we have strong supporters including our donors and volunteers.

Without the strengths mentioned above, the last twelve months of financial challenges would have been insurmountable. When presented with a dire challenge, **our leadership team took on a multitude of jobs, thought outside the box for solutions and jumped in head first** to do everything to save our organization from financial ruin. Staff across the state accepted the challenge and exceeded my expectations. Our Board of Directors embraced these financial challenges, rolled up their sleeves and became more involved. And, our multitude of collaborative partners stepped forward and asked how they could help. It took a team. I was proud to be at the helm as we worked for months to successfully move our organization forward.

I was touched by many who stepped forward to help, including Kaitlin who was featured on the cover of our last newsletter. Kaitlin makes beautiful jewelry and stepped forward to say that she wanted to give half of the money she made selling her jewelry to LifeSpan—because she loves participating in the program at LifeSpan Farm-Therapeutic Riding Center.

LifeSpan plays a critical role in so many communities where we work to transform the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. We still need your help. **Please consider how you can play a part** to save LifeSpan and preserve our thirty-six year history.

Leigh Deary

Fundraising and Friendraising

Happy 40th Birthday Rustin Efird

Woody and Becky Efird wanted to achieve two objectives when they created a fundraising campaign for LifeSpan. First, they wanted to help LifeSpan during a difficult financial crisis, and second, they wanted to honor their son Rustin on his upcoming 40th birthday. The Efird family has enjoyed the benefits of the programs of LifeSpan for twenty-two years. Rustin is an active participant in the residential and day programs of LifeSpan in Charlotte. In May, the Efird's sent a letter out to their friends, family and business associates describing what LifeSpan meant to them and asking for a financial contribution in honor of Rustin. **The gifts began to trickle in—then an avalanche of 185 gifts—totaling \$29,405.⁰⁰ to date.**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this campaign—it is ongoing and already is a huge success.



LifeSpan & Speedway Children's Charities Turtle Race

Go to Facebook and become a fan of the race at **LifeSpan and Speedway Children's Charities Turtle Race**. Under the photo section view the day of activities and enjoy looking at all the smiles. Special thanks to the following sponsors and prize donors: **Gerald and Nancy White, North Mecklenburg Women's Club, Kohl's, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Racing Electronics, Just Plain Country, Great Wolf Lodge, Midtown Sundries and Zootastic Park of Lake Norman.**

Thanks to over 50 volunteers, Midtown Sundries, Sea Tow, PSAV and Zootastic Park of Lake Norman. Thousands of turtles were launched and the following adoptive parents of the plastic turtles were: 1st place Paula Spenceley, 2nd Lance Bundell, 3rd Charlie Elbertson, 4th Anita Pangle, 5th Pamela Rooney and 6th place Davan Cloninger. Winning teams include: 1st place Beth's Buddies, 2nd place LifeSpan High Point and 3rd place Nancy McEneny.



Enjoying the Fun!
Candace Cupples, Leigh Derby Jennifer Frey

All About Us

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OUR MISSION

LifeSpan transforms the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities by providing education, employment, and enrichment opportunities that promote inclusion, choice, family supports, and other best practices.

LifeSpan currently supports over 1,300 individuals in our collection of community programs across North Carolina from Haywood to Alamance counties.

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Ann Marie Sheets
Brian Stanley
Paula Stanley

Wish List

Wii Units

Wii Fitness

Wii Biggest Loser

Flat Screen TVs

Yoga Mats

Fitness DVD

Non-breakable Mirror Panels

Hand Exercise Equipment

Planting Materials

Power Washers

Park Benches

Gift Cards
(Lowe's, Target, Michael's Wal-Mart)

Digital Cameras

Packaged Snacks

Volunteer Needs in all areas

Musicians (all locations)

Pet Therapist (all locations)

Photographer (Charlotte)

Videographer (Charlotte)

Corporate
Volunteer
Team
from
Harland
Clarke



Group Projects

Landscape and brush clearing

Till the ground and create gardens

Interior and exterior painting

Many opportunities for Eagle Scout projects

NOTE: LifeSpan works with each individual or group to create the right volunteer experience to match your needs.

Summer 2010



Lisa Wins First Place

Lisa, a seven year participant in LifeSpan Arts, is a prolific artist who entered her latest work titled *S. Lexington* into a competition in Winston Salem. Lisa won first place and \$500. She competed against 72 artists. Lisa has sold many pieces of art and has a painting in a collection at Davidson College. [Watch out for news about Lisa and other artists who will begin working as independent artists with their own websites and private shows in the fall.](#)



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