

LifeTimes

News & Information

29



Programs in:

Albemarle

Burlington

Charlotte

Dobson

Greensboro

Monroe

Mt. Airy

Statesville

Troutman

Waynesville

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Turbo Turtle Race



Meet Isabella

When Michelle Jeans learned she was three months pregnant in July of 2008, she was a twenty-five year old college student with a dream of completing her BA in Finance. She accepted the unplanned pregnancy as a bump in the road and was excited about becoming a mother. When she went for the first ultra sound at nineteen weeks she learned there was a problem. Her unborn baby girl was diagnosed with Spina bifida,

a developmental congenital disorder caused by the incomplete closing of the embryonic neural tube during the first month of embryonic development.

Isabella (the name means “beautiful one”) was born on December 23, 2008 at Duke University Medical Center. She was whisked away to NICU where she was observed for 24 hours and then taken to surgery where highly skilled doctors put her spinal cord and its nerve roots back in the spine. In addition, a shunt was surgically installed to provide a continuous drain for the cerebrospinal fluid produced in the brain and drained to the abdomen. After surgery, doctors presented a long list of things this “beautiful one” would never do, including walking and becoming toilet trained.

In the summer of 2010 Michelle was looking for the best daycare option. She visited LIFESPAN Circle School in Burlington and fell in love with the vibrant center where children with developmental delays and those without—learn together. The weekly daycare fee was yet another bump in the road, but, Alamance Partnership for Children stepped in and offered to pay a portion of the weekly fee.

Today, Isabella is thriving. She attends physical therapy at LIFESPAN and is a bundle of energy. She is taking 5 to 6 steps on her own and then is walking with crutches. The expectation is that she will soon achieve full mobility—on her own! And, she requested to wear “big girl panties” like her friends at school—Isabella is being potty trained (her urologist is amazed).

Although there have been many bumps in the road for Michelle and Isabella—today, life is good! LIFESPAN has provided opportunities that enable Isabella’s abilities to be illuminated. Michelle graduated in May with a degree in finance and is now engaged to be married. Isabella has a bright future with an incredible mom, much community support, and a new daddy on the way!

Six Month Updates

January 1 - June 30, 2011

Employment:

36 adults were placed in employment

Served:

1,259 children and adults were served in 18 locations

Program Participants Volunteered:

138 adults volunteered each month for a total of 10,075 volunteer hours over six months

Community College Classes:

166 participants attend community college classes

Community Art Classes:

97 adults are enrolled in community art classes

Significant Corporate Accomplishments:

- LIFESPAN's Circle School-Mt. Airy recently completed their STAR rating assessment. This assessment evaluates the child care programs in the areas of staff education and program standards. The star rated license system recognizes providers for the high quality of care they provide. The Circle School received the highest rating – 5 STARS.
- LIFESPAN was awarded financial support from The Rural Center in Haywood County. The grant request was in the amount of \$45,650 to support renovation. The grant was part of an economic development grant—LIFESPAN agrees to bring 11 new positions to Haywood County within the coming months.
- LIFESPAN planned and implemented a grassroots advocacy event for over 100 program participants, family members, and staff on May 10, 2011 at the General Assembly in Raleigh. The group met with 21 NC state representatives and senators to share concerns over how budget cuts will impact their lives.



A Word with Leigh

LIFESPAN's Blue Sky Nature Center

One of the great joys in my life is a simple walk in the woods. It doesn't matter where or what type of woods, a maritime forest, deep woods of the Appalachians, or a conifer forest on a Colorado mountain. Not only do I get great exercise, experience nature, and enjoy the scenery, but in the woods I have my clearest thinking and often greatest inspirations.



John Deery

So, it won't come as a surprise that I think one of LIFESPAN's finest jewels is our Blue Sky Nature Center. The center includes a 1/4 mile loop trail that winds through a pine forest in Troutman. It's a peaceful place. One visitor sent us a note that said, "... while sitting on a bench under the pines, I felt like I was in a green cathedral." One of the participants at our Troutman program, Rasheeda, is always excited to go on the trail in her motorized wheelchair where she is "free to roll" as she puts it. As the trail is fully accessible, Rasheeda's only problem is the stamina of her direct care staff who cannot keep up with her by her 7th or 8th lap!

The Town of Troutman included Blue Sky Nature Center in their plans as a "destination site", with a walking trail connecting LIFESPAN with the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) which is a network of greenways and trails that wind through fifteen North and South Carolina counties. The motto of the CTT is "Weaving Communities Together". **I believe that by connecting the trails, we can help weave together two communities, people with and people without intellectual and other developmental disabilities.** The famous naturalist and environmentalist, John Muir is quoted as saying, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." Our little patch of nature offers one beautiful place to make that happen.

If you are traveling near Iredell County give Debbie Brown Smith a call (704-873-5646 ext. 5) and ask her to take you to the forest where you too will clear your mind and be inspired.

LIFESPAN Nominates Six New Board Members

On April 27, 2011 its Board of Directors elected six new board members:

- **Joclyn Balanda**, Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor, Fifth Third Bank
- **Richard Joyner**, Broker/Agent, HM Properties
- **Kristen Kral**, Enterprise Business Service Director, RSM McGladrey
- **Adam Stevens**, Headmaster, British American School
- **Jan Skinner**, VP of Sales, AvidXchange
- **Michael Teden**, President, Whitehall Advisory Group and United Kingdom Honorary Consul for North Carolina

Friend Raising and Fund Raising

LIFESPAN Creative Campus-Monroe

held a Luau for LIFESPAN on Thursday evening, June 9. This was a first-time event for the Piedmont region. Guests enjoyed strolling the grounds of the Henry Hall Wilson House where they viewed artwork created by LIFESPAN artists. Everyone welcomed three members to the newly formed LIFESPAN Board of Visitors Monroe: Sheilin Miller, Stephen Bennett and Chris Heffner.



LIFESPAN Circle School-Burlington First Philanthropy Event held May 5

Friends, family and staff came together on Thursday, May 5, 2011 for the first philanthropy breakfast held in the Burlington community in support of this five-star preschool program. Cindy Watkins, Executive Director, Alamance Partnership for Children, shared information in support of strong programs like LIFESPAN Circle School during the first five years of a child's life. Wendy Brunick, parent,



Wendy Brunick and Steve Knier

spoke from the heart as she expressed gratitude for the pre-k program offered at LIFESPAN. The environment of the school has provided an opportunity for her children to see that all individuals can participate in life side by side irrespective of perceived differences. Special thanks to our neighbors at National Agents Alliance for donating their training room space for this first event!

LIFESPAN Creative Campus-Troutman held a celebration in memory of former participant Tim Lowrance. "Abilities illuminated...Reflections of Tim" was held on June 17th at The Charles Mack Center in Mooresville. Guests enjoyed an evening of dancing to music from the 50's and 60's.

SPONSORS FOR THE EVENT INCLUDED: J.C. Steele & Sons, David Pardue, Bob and Rhonda Kontos, L.R. Wooten Building & Leasing, and Greenbriar Primary Care, PA.

INKIND SPONSORS: Harris Teeter, Chef David Slater, and Coca Cola.

Contacts

Volunteer Leadership

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Tom Ray
Richard Vinroot

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Jan Skinner
Adam Stevens
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Ted Creed
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John Haynes, Jr.
Amanda Leftwich
Melinda Shew
Paula Stanley
Kevin Venable
Carrie Veneable

UNION COUNTY
Sheilin Miller, *CHAIR*
Stephen Bennett
Chris Heffner

Wish List

Summer 2011

Gift Cards
(Wal-Mart, Target, Lowes, Michaels, BP)

Event Tickets
(festivals, movies, plays, concerts)

Horticulture Supplies and Tools

Art Supplies

Kitchen Supplies

General Supplies (batteries, light bulbs, paper products, and hand sanitizer)

Flat Screen TVs

wii and wii Fitness

Yoga Mats

Digital Cameras

Snacks

Volunteers
from
Deloitte

Learn how you can help with the campaigns in Charlotte for the residential program by contacting Nancy McEneny, CFRE at 704-944-5109 | nmceneny@lifespanservices.org or, the campaign in Guilford County for the new building by contacting Michelle Davis at 336-601-3917 | mdavis@lifespanservices.org.

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 close to over 1,200 individuals in our collection of community programs across North Carolina from Haywood to Alamance counties.

Individual Volunteer Opportunities

Become a buddy

Participate in an art class – paint beside an aspiring artist

Participate in the horticulture program – plant seeds and watch the fruits of your labor bloom!

Host a supply drive

Connect us to church and civic organizations for speaking opportunities, fund development and community awareness

Adopt a learning room and do a “make over”

Host a party or special evening for one of our residential programs



Group Volunteer Opportunities

Host a supply drive

Adopt a learning room and do a “make over”

Host a spring party at one of our programs

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

LIFESPAN is pleased to introduce a method of giving that will allow our charitable donors to see the benefits of giving a major gift donation during your lifetime. The Immediate Legacy Charitable Giving Plan is a uniquely designed strategy that would allow donors to make an immediate donation to LIFESPAN at no cost to you or the non-profit organization. Advantages to our donors include an immediate tax benefit; a tax favored return and write-off, as well as the ability to leave life savings to your heirs. To learn more about this tax advantaged strategy, please contact Nancy McEneny, CFRE @ 704-944-5109.



Save the Date

Saturday, September 10, 2011

2:00-4:00 P.M.

Latitude 36

18665 Harborside Drive
Cornelius, NC (I-77 Exit 28)

**Exciting Exciting
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- Adopt Turtles Online at www.lakenormanturtlerace.com
- Donate a Prize
- Become a Sponsor
- Volunteer at Event
- Attend

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Alexander Ricks Attorneys, Ballantyne Insurance, Capps Turf Design, GTI Communication, Industrial Signs, Pamela Rooney, Sea Tow, Medicine Center Pharmacy, Wells Fargo and Wilmar Leasing.



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Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 888.830.4989.

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If you no longer wish to receive our publication, please call Amee Lee at 704-944-5110 or email ameelee@lifespanservices.org.