

LifeTimes

News & Information

30



Programs in:

Albemarle

Burlington

Charlotte

Dobson

Greensboro

Monroe

Mt. Airy

Statesville

Troutman

Waynesville

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Keri Beth and Gorden's Hospice Staff

Meet Keri Beth

Keri Beth Kontos is a young woman, 31 years old, who is full of life. She participates in LIFESPAN's Creative Campus' in Troutman. Keri Beth lives with parents, Bob and Rhonda Kontos of Statesville.

Keri participated in a previous LIFESPAN program that involved daily enrichment opportunities but little community involvement. She has limited verbal skills—but a huge smile that communicates all that she needs to say.

LIFESPAN Arts & Gardens program offered Keri a much needed highly structured program that held her interest and challenged her to participate, fully. In the past Keri liked to move from room to room and engage for a short time in activities and then move on. Today, she has become a full participant in the classes. She gained confidence and loves to meet people.

After classes on campus, Keri gives back to her community by participating in meaningful volunteer work at several places, including Gorden's Hospice House in Statesville. Every Wednesday morning, Keri Beth arrives at Hospice and greets staff with goodies (cookies or candy provided by her family). Keri then goes to each patient's room and delivers a newspaper with a smile and a nod. Keri's new found confidence allows her to work the rooms and share her compassion and encouragement with each patient, family member and staff.

Recently, a community leadership group toured LIFESPAN in Troutman. The instructor in the health and wellness class asked that each participant sitting around the table state their name for the visitors. Keri had never spoken her name so a staff member would always make the introduction. This day was different, after the person seated beside Keri Beth stated her name, instantly she opened her mouth and said "Keri Beth". The room became silent for a minute, everyone was stunned, but Keri Beth was glowing with excitement and her peers began to cheer. It took a minute for the visitors to understand that they just witnessed a 31 year old woman who had just found her voice and was now an equal with her classmates.

Keri Beth is now contributing to society. She confidently and enthusiastically gives of her time and talent to benefit others. She found her voice and confidence—and her abilities were illuminated. Keri's family and staff believe that the variety of classes offered at LIFESPAN matched with community opportunities has benefited Keri with her social and interpersonal skills, and has broadened her horizons for future opportunities.

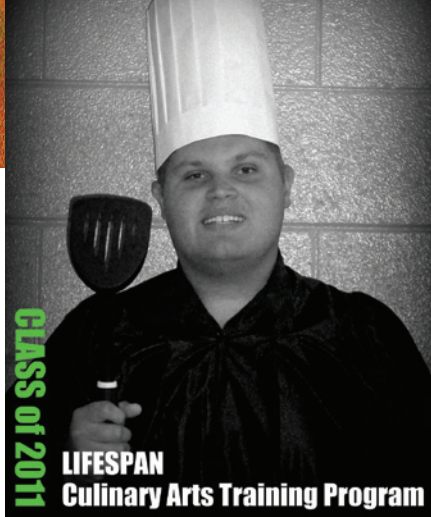
Quarterly Updates

Employment:

23 adults were placed in employment

Served:

1,185 children and adults were served in 18 locations



Program Participants Volunteered:

144 adults volunteered each month for a total of 1815 volunteer hours

Community Outings:

312 participants participated in outings

Community College Classes:

183 participants attend community college classes

Community Art Classes:

91 adults are enrolled in community art classes



Program Participants Demographics:

**Gender: 57% Male
43% Female**

**Race: 57% Caucasian
35% African-American
8% Other**

**Age: 70% Adults
30% Children**

An Announcement from Leigh



Leigh Derry

It seems like just yesterday I was picking up five children in a VW bus and heading to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, LIFESPAN's first home. The next thing I know I am preparing for my retirement! Where has the time gone?

For more than 38 years, I had the honor and privilege to lead the mission of LIFESPAN. I never took for granted neither the tremendous responsibility nor the opportunities it offered me to serve our communities. Effective February 29, 2012, I step down as President & CEO. It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that I pass the reins to Davan Cloninger, a gifted leader and passionate supporter for persons with disabilities. Davan is extremely knowledgeable about our complex and unique human service business. I will be retained in a support role during this transition and for future special projects. I remain a donor, member of the Jack and Claire Durkin Society, and a lifetime supporter.



A Note from Davan

It is humbling to be selected by the Board of Directors as Leigh's successor. I am committed to working with the people we support and our various stakeholders, to ensure LIFESPAN remains a leader of innovative services.

My human services career began at Appalachian State University.

One of the jobs I held while in graduate school was as an instructor at Caldwell Community College, teaching adults with developmental disabilities. During that time, I also volunteered as a swimming and basketball coach for Special Olympics. While I did not intentionally set out for a career in this field, it has made the single largest difference in my life. I am driven to ensure that persons with disabilities have the same civil rights as all citizens.

As a native North Carolinian, I reside near my family in Dallas, NC. I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time at both the NC coast and mountains. Once you get to know me you will soon learn that I am an avid sports fan and follow the Tarheels, Panthers, Bobcats, and Yankees.

My 14 year career at LIFESPAN offered opportunities to learn all aspects of business and program operations. I began in Greensboro as Director of Employment Services and transitioned into the role of District Manager, overseeing operations in Guilford and Durham counties. In 2004, as Director of Program Operations, I developed and refined program efficiencies. The position resulted in my relocation to Charlotte. Since 2005, I held the positions of Senior Executive Director, overseeing programs in Mecklenburg County and Vice President of Program Services, managing operations across the state. Currently, I hold the title of Senior Vice President & COO.

I look forward to meeting you as we continue—together, the journey of success and innovation for LIFESPAN.

Fund Raising Friend Raising



Bob Brenk to Raise Funding for LIFESPAN

Bob Brenk of Concord, describes himself as a “periodic” runner. He ran from time to time as a teen, occasionally in his 20’s, entered many organized 10K races in his 30’s and 40’s, and then, after turning 50, he took on the challenge of the half-marathon and competed in five half marathons in 18 months. Now, he is taking on the biggest challenge of all, training to run in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC on October 30, 2011—four weeks after his 52nd birthday.

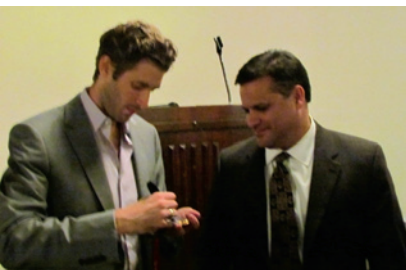
After registering for the race, Bob decided to dedicate the race to a charitable organization. While attending a VISTAGE meeting he heard an impassioned address from Davan Cloninger, about the ramifications of state budget cuts on LIFESPAN. At that time the decision was made to make LIFESPAN the sole recipient of Bob’s efforts. He states that “This is not just about me running 26.2 miles—I now have faces of LIFESPAN children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities on my mind with every passing training mile.” Bob plans to collect pledges from family, friends and others. He has three goals in running the marathon: 1) Finish the race in a vertical position, 2) Run the race in under 4 hours & 15 minutes, and 3) Raise \$10,000 and much awareness for the programs of LIFESPAN.

Those who have financially supported Bob include:

David Norman	Spartan Building	Matt Lindeberg	Matt Sadinsky
Bob Segal	Ken Cox	Hal & Margaret Giesecking	Charles Fischer
Roger Morrison	Doug Mason	Jon & Sue Gold	David Barnhardt
Dan Collins	Steve Smith	Steve & Cathy Hoelter	Joan Brenk
Bob Steil	Greg Yaramishyn	Jane Williams	Jennifer Bergin
Dean Thomas	Division 7	Specialized Roofing	Wally & Carol LeBarge
Burt Philips	Capri Cork	Davan Cloninger	Steve & Pam West
Ken Bowman	Dave Wuertz	PMMC	Cassie Brown

Joey Cheek is Keynote Speaker in Greensboro

On September 20th, LIFESPAN and The Arc of Greensboro collaborated to build awareness for services offered in Guilford County for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The evening featured keynote speaker, Joey Cheek, a native of Guilford County and Olympic Gold Medalist & Humanitarian. Joey focused on the idea that “everyone deserves a chance” and through the support of the community, everyone can be a champion.



Board member John Cervantes and Joey Cheek

Contacts

Volunteer Leadership

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Paula Stanley
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Carrie Veneable

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Stephen Bennett
Chris Heffner

Wish List

LIFESPAN is in need of new or used vans at all our locations.

(The vans are used to transport participants to community activities.)

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

Ingersoll
Rand

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.

Our Mission

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

LIFESPAN currently supports over 1,185 individuals in our collection of community programs across North Carolina from Haywood to Alamance counties.



Forget the Gift... Send a Holiday Gift Card

Are you looking for the perfect gift to give to friends, family, or business associates? What about a thoughtful gift to LIFESPAN honoring those special people in your life. With a minimum gift of \$5.00, a beautiful holiday card will be sent by December 15th to those on your list.

Call 704-944-5110 or email ameelee@lifespanservices.org for an order form or to learn more about this form of gift giving.

Online Giving

Are you ready to make a donation without writing a check and wasting a stamp? Visit our website at www.lifespanservices.org and click the "Make a Donation" button. You will be able to make a one-time donation or make a choice to give monthly using a credit card. In minutes you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to make a difference.

Legacy Giving

If you are creating or changing your will or estate plans—please consider a gift to LIFESPAN. How wonderful it would be to leave a legacy to a non-profit organization that has been making a difference for thirty-eight years. If you choose to notify us that you have left a gift—your name will be added to the Jack and Claire Durkin Heritage Society.

www.lifespanservices.org



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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.