

NOVEMBER 2008

LifeSpan news and information

Programs in Albemarle, Asheville, Burlington, Charlotte, Concord, Dobson, Greensboro, High Point, Monroe, Mt. Airy, Statesville, Troutman, Waynesville, and Wilkesboro

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 1,700 individuals in our collection of community programs across North Carolina from Haywood to Alamance counties.

Spotlight a Friend

Curtis moved to LifeSpan's Bon Rea group home many years ago. Upon his arrival, staff were told that he could do very little to help himself, required a wheelchair, had very little use of his lower extremities, and would need much assistance. He rarely, if ever, smiled and quite often had a scowl on his face to show his fear and distrust. Curtis is blind and nonverbal.

He often exhibited aggressive behavior. He became defensive when he thought he was in danger. To defend his space he would often scratch, bite, and pull hair. Curtis lived in fear of the unknown, locked within his body with little to defend himself.

The staff at LifeSpan set out to teach Curtis to trust in order to change the need for aggression. Curtis taught the staff that he was communicating with them - he was telling them to announce themselves when they entered his space and not to sneak up on him. The only time he seemed to find comfort was at night, when he was left alone in his room, rocking back and forth in his bed.

It took time, patience, love, and understanding for the staff at LifeSpan and Curtis to form a bond, gain trust, and communicate. Trust was gained by being calm and consistent at all times—allowing him to process a new situation or a new person in his world.

Today, Curtis is fully acclimated to his home and attends LifeSpan Enrichment Providence Road in Charlotte. The staff at LifeSpan no longer need to drive a wheelchair van when Curtis goes on an outing—he has gained the strength he needs and the confidence to transfer himself from his wheelchair to a regular seat in the van. He participates in meal prep, feeds himself, and helps to clear the table after the meal. Curtis loves to work in the yard. He now loves to be out in the community attending events, meeting people, and going out to eat. He even attends Sunday school at Calvary Church.

Gone are the days when Curtis needed constant supervision and lived in fear with a scowl on his face. He obtained a quality of life that few thought would be possible. And, oh yes, Curtis laughs now.

Avery Dacus
Group Home Manager



Curtis



Happy 35th Birthday LifeSpan

Join us in celebrating thirty-five years of mission driven service to children and adults in North Carolina with developmental disabilities. On October 10, 1973, our program began at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Charlotte, when five children were excluded from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Today, we have twenty-six program locations between Waynesville and Burlington and serve 1,700 children and adults in three program areas—education, employment, and enrichment.

LifeSpan is fortunate to have so many committed staff, board members, families, volunteers, donors, and community partners who believe in the philosophy and the work that is being done. Fortunate to have people working together—while seeing abilities and believing in possibilities.

Take a few minutes today to reflect on where so many of the people we currently support and those whom we have supported over the years would be if they didn't have LifeSpan to help with their journey through life.



New Website and Video

In honor of the 35th anniversary, on October 10th, LifeSpan unveiled a new website and 35th anniversary video. Visit the website at www.lifespanservices.org. While visiting the website you can view the video under "About Us/LifeSpan Video Gallery".

LifeSpan Education

Meet Ben Fisher, Director of Sales and Marketing for LifeSpan Education. Ben brings to LifeSpan fifteen years of experience in national and international business development. In April of 2007, Ben was hired as a consultant to create a business plan on forming a company that would sell educational products and consulting services to educators of children with significant developmental disabilities. Ben quickly learned that through his consulting position he found a place at LifeSpan where people shared his passion for social justice issues and helping others. When it was time to hire a director for the new business—Ben was the best candidate for the position. He jumped at the chance to continue the journey of creating the business. LifeSpan Education was launched this year as a one-stop source for excellent products and services. Products that enhance education and improve learning are featured in a catalog and on-line. Visit the website and shop on-line at LifeSpanEdu.com.

Ben Fisher
DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING



Marsh Named 2008 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year



Marsh Inc. is the world's leading risk and insurance services firm with a mission to create and deliver risk solutions and services that make their clients more successful. Formed in 1871,

the company has grown into an enterprise with 400 owned and operated offices and 36,000 colleagues who serve clients in more than 100 countries.

Marsh was given the 2008 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award during their Ninth Annual Marsh Day held on October 17, 2008 at the LifeSpan Farm – Therapeutic Riding Center in Charlotte. Marsh sets aside one day each year to give back to the community. They have been a community partner with LifeSpan in Charlotte for four years and during that time have given over \$10,000 to off-set supplies and materials which are used for projects. To date, over 240 volunteers have participated, offering more than \$25,000 of in-kind services to LifeSpan.

Marsh employees volunteered their time and shared their talents this year to rebuild a riding ramp, add a drainage ditch to redirect rain water away from the main barn, reorganize a large storage area, build four raised flower beds for the residential programs, clear a sensory trail, plant flowers, spread mulch, make curtains, and create stepping stones.

Each year we are faced with a tough decision selecting the award winner from all the corporate groups across the state. The Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award is given to one organization that supports LifeSpan by bringing volunteers to assist with large projects and offers additional in-kind and financial support. It is awarded to a company who practices philanthropy – the love of humankind.

Previous Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Winners

2003 – First Union/Wachovia	2006 – Carolinas Healthcare System
2004 – Premier, Inc.	2007 – Deloitte
2005 – Bovis Lend Lease	

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	E-MAIL	PHONE
Nov/Dec	Holiday Card Sales	ccupples@lifespanservices.org	704-944-5130
2/11/09	Philanthropy Lunch/Charlotte	lavery@lifespanservices.org	704-944-5112
3/13/09	Philanthropy Lunch/Greensboro	bvanderwerff@lifespanservices.org	336-852-1495
4/22/09	Philanthropy Lunch/Concord	lavery@lifespanservices.org	704-944-5112
5/9/09	Turtle Race/Lake Norman	nmcceney@lifespanservices.org	704-944-5109

- ART SUPPLIES (EASELS, PAINTS, BRUSHES)
- BOTTLED WATER
- CARPETS
- CD PLAYERS AND CD'S
- CHILD SIZE TABLES AND CHAIRS
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS (LIKE NEW)
- CHILDREN'S DRESS UP CLOTHES
- COMPUTERS/PRINTERS
- CRAFT ITEMS
- GARDENING TOOLS
- LIVING ROOM FURNITURE
- OFFICE FURNITURE
- OUTDOOR BENCHES
- SNACKS (PACKAGED)
- TRACTOR (CALL 704-393-0333 FOR DETAILS)

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Art Therapist (all locations)
- Horticulturist (High Point)
- Mowing and Gardening (many locations)
- Music Therapist (all locations)
- Pet Therapist (all locations)
- Professional Photographer

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT

Staff:

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Buzz Vanderwerff, Director of Development
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Ways to Contribute

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 704-944-5130 or email ccupples@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? We can help. LifeSpan is now taking donations online. Visit our website at www.lifespanservices.org and click the "donate now" 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 in the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

LEGACY GIVING

If you are creating or changing your will or estate plan—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-five years in the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. 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**. If you want to discuss further contact: Nancy McEneny, CFRE at 704-944-5109 or nmceneny@lifespanservices.org.

LifeSpan Incorporated does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.



Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 888.830.1989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. LifeSpan is recognized as a 501 (c) (3) organization accepting tax-deductible charitable donations.

NOTE: If you no longer wish to receive our publications, please call Nancy McEneny at 704-944-5109 or email nmceneny@lifespanservices.org and your name will be removed from our mailing list.

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