

Flyer

Children's TLC

Winter 2008

THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTER



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Our Newsletter

The Flyer is the official newsletter of Children's Therapeutic Learning Center. Our masthead features the familiar blue bird as a symbol of our history of helping young children soar beyond their disabilities.

Inquiries and address changes should be directed to:
Development Department
CHILDREN'S TLC
3101 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-756-0780
email: dlowland@childrenstlc.org
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This holiday season we are thankful for?

This week I was so thankful to be working with parents who were willing to try something new with their child to help him communicate better. This father told me that he didn't really believe that sign language would help his son communicate and learn to speak but if that is what I recommended to help his son, he would try it. Two sessions later, his son signed "more" for the very first time and his mom and dad were both there to see it. Mom indicated that she thought she was going to cry! I am so thankful these parents were willing to trust me and try something that was a little bit out of their comfort zone!

*Nancy Montgomery, Speech-Language Pathologist
Wyandotte County Infant & Toddler Services*

I am thankful for my health and my family. -- Sara Terhune, Volunteer Coordinator

I am thankful for my family. -- Jennifer Degner, Classroom Teacher

I am thankful for chocolate. -- LeAnn Steins, Classroom Teacher

I will be thankful to deliver my baby soon. -- Emily Tritz, Occupational Therapist

I am thankful for my family and to spend time with them over the holidays. -- Ashley Quick, Classroom Teacher

I am thankful for my house. -- Lidia Valenti, CTLC student

I am thankful for Elmo. -- Cyrus Morey, CTLC student

I am thankful for my mama. -- Addie Williams, CTLC student

I am thankful for my baby brother, Grant. -- Abigail Logsdon, CTLC student

*We are thankful for the Children's TLC family -- parents, children,
Managing Board, Friends and supporters like YOU!*

The Staff at Children's TLC

Introducing Alan Murray...

I am extremely happy to report that the Executive Director Search Team has completed its comprehensive recruitment process. The Executive Board and Honorary Board representatives on this team reached a unanimous decision to recommend offering Alan J. Murray, MSW, LCSW, LSCSW the position of Executive Director and a unanimous approval vote by the full Board of Directors was achieved at the monthly meeting on November 19th.

Alan has an outstanding and well-proven track record of working in a local children's services agency for 12 years with 8 years as the CEO. He has extensive experience in fund development and has a strong local network of connections in the philanthropic community with individuals, foundations and corporations. He has also shown his ability to successfully manage the budgetary and operational aspects of a non-profit agency and has documented experience in successfully building a stronger level of financial stability.

I am grateful to the Search Team members who participated in this process which included many weeks and countless hours of reviewing resumes, conducting interviews, attending meetings and actively engaging in discussions to fully vet each applicant. These members included Ann Angers, Kerry Browne, Ruth Cain, Natasha Hanova, Laura Hederstedt, Angela Hoban, Al Mauro, Lisa Lattan, Keith Pence, Todd Reiser, Lori Rose, James Seay, Chuck Sipple, Jeannie Sosland, Anjanette Tolman and myself. The final meeting of the Honorary and Managing Board members who served on this Search Team resolved that we are quite confident Alan was the right candidate to bring forward for board approval and we each pledged our support in assisting in his success.

We are excited and happily looking forward to working with Alan who officially started with the agency on Monday, November 24th with a "hit the ground running" approach! He is enthusiastic, and is already engaging in interactions with staff and board members as he quickly orients to our mission and helps us to refine our vision and develop new goals for our future. Please call, set an appointment, stop by or email Alan and join us in welcoming our new Executive Director!

Thank you,

Patricia Sanders-Hall, M.A., FACHE
Children's TLC Board Chair

A good time was had by all...



What do you get when you combine 30,000 lbs of pumpkins and a perfectly beautiful fall day? ... 10,000 people and lots of fun!

The 2008 Crown Center KPMG Pumpkin Patch was held on Saturday October 11th. It featured the Kansas City Life Entertainment Stage with music from The Doo Dads, Dino O'Dell, Berkley Matthew, Oogles 'n Googles, and outstanding showmanship from Miller-Marley Performers.

Activities included a petting zoo, pony rides, inflatables, and wonderfully crafted carnival game cottages. With the help of NBC's Brett Anthony and KPMG's Steve Rathjen, Pinocchio was crowned our costume contest winner! Every child strolling through Crown Center Plaza was decorated with tattoos, spray painted hair, and fancy painted faces.

The 12th Annual Crown Center KPMG Pumpkin Patch netted over \$27,000. Every dollar will directly benefit Children's TLC families by providing classroom supplies, supporting programs, and subsidizing the cost of tuition. This was made possible because of you, our volunteers, and our financial partners:

Crown Center KPMG	McCownGordon Construction, L.L.C.
Atterbury Family Foundation	Missouri Bank
Kansas City Life	Teal Financial Services
Citi Cards	The Power Group
Commerce Bank	Andrew Atterbury and Gwen Prentice
Dial Strategic Marketing	Copaken Family Foundation
Delta Dental of Missouri	The Deedy Family
Duffy Construction Co., L.L.C.	Bush & Jamie Helzberg
Fidelity Security Life Insurance Co.	Helzberg Diamonds
Lee Jeans	KC Kidsfun.com
	Westport Flea Market

Thank You!



My name is Adesjola Tucker. I attended Crippled Children's Nursery School in the 1980's, when it was located at Children's Mercy Hospital. I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (Spastic Hemiplegia) shortly after birth. I believe my great experience in both the classroom and during therapy helped me become who I am today. The teachers and therapists at CCNS gave me a great foundation. I believe they prepared me to succeed in my future schooling. I took speech therapy throughout school as well and participated in a speech program at Research Medical Center. The speech program helped me tremendously. My IEP (Individual Educational Plan) followed me through college as well. Children's TLC is able to cater to the individual needs of the child and help them reach their full potential. This individual support was so important in my ability to grow and become the person I am today.

Since March 2008 I have been employed by Children's TLC. I started as an Assistant Teacher in the 2/3 year old classroom, but am now in the Multi-age classroom. I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a focus in Elementary Education and believe that assisting children with special needs is what my career should be all about. I do love working with the children here. I have also learned a lot now that I am a teacher rather than a student here at Children's TLC.

Adesjola

'Tis' the season of giving

and for the fourth year the Children's TLC Friends Association is looking forward to adopting Children's TLC families through our annual "Adopt-a-Family" program! At this time of year, the Friends Board top priority is to ensure that all CTLC families have a wonderful holiday season.

We've had great success since the "Adopt-a-Family" program began three years ago. We couldn't do it, however, without the generosity of Friends Association members and their donations to this very special event. Each year we have been able to meet the needs of the families requesting assistance!

We invite you to join with us in support of the Adopt-a-Family program. You can contribute money and/or your crafty gift wrapping skills. A committee of "Friends" purchases the gifts and, together with the CTLC social worker, arranges the delivery to our wonderful families.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Our wrapping party will take place on December 17 at Children's TLC at 10:30 am. Join with us and experience the spirit of the season and the dedicated service of the Children's TLC Friends Board.

If you have questions feel free to contact Coeli Baker, CTLC Manager, Special Events, at 816-756-0780 x2104. Contributions can be sent to Children's TLC, 3101 Main Street, KC MO 64111 Attn: Adopt-a-family

Best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season from the Children's TLC Friends Board!

-Teal Williams on behalf of the CTLC Friends Board



Do you know what makes Children's TLC

.... a special place in the community and in the lives of the children and families we serve?

We are one of only a few agencies in the area in which transdisciplinary teams of teachers and therapists work together to address the needs of each child.

Here's the team....

The early Childhood Special Educator/Deaf Educator focuses on cognitive, social and emotional development;

The Speech therapists supports the children's receptive and expressive language and speech;

The Physical therapist follows the motor development of the children;

The Occupational therapist provides insight regarding sitting, balance, arm and hand strength and coordination, body and sensory awareness, visual perception, and prewriting skills;

The Classroom assistants provide a positive, nurturing environment in which the children can learn, explore, and play;

Parents, other family members and caregiver are also valued members of any team.

We have five classrooms, each focused on specific ages and specific needs. Each classroom incorporates:

- *Learning centers which provide an opportunity for children to engage in play and social skills.*
- *Gross motor play time typically taking place in the gym or the playground where the child can climb, run, jump, skate and ride bikes.*
- *Circle time and group experiences focusing on opportunities to work on language, pre-academic skills, fine motor skills, social and literary skills.*

2/3 year-old classroom



The 2/3-year-old classroom enrolls students from various backgrounds and abilities including children with hearing loss, children who are primarily Spanish speaking, typically developing children, and children with developmental delays. The class meets in the morning.

The daily schedule includes breakfast, center time, gross motor play, circle time,

small group experiences, and music/movement. Breakfast is a time in which feeding/eating, social, language, and fine motor skills are targeted.

The classroom team plans and implements a wide variety of experiences to help children grow across all areas of development.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing



The Deaf/Hard of Hearing class consists of students ages 3-5 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a motivation for learning sign language. The students with varying degrees of hearing loss may utilize various amplification options such as cochlear implants or hearing aids. The teachers and therapists use a total commu-

nication program that incorporates both signing and verbal communication.

The daily schedule includes center time, gross motor group, circle time, small group experiences, and snack time. Snack time is an opportunity to use various skills such as feeding/eating, social, language, and fine motor skills.

Multi-Age Classroom



This classroom uses themes to target a variety of educational skills. The activities are adapted to meet each child's needs.

The classroom includes opportunities for meals, centers, circle time, active and quiet activities and small group activities. Themes of study include apples, store, homes, family, transportation, and insects. The classroom provides opportunities for the children to explore many tactile materials, cook, and participating aquatic time.

The multi-age classroom incorporates a wide variety of children with and without a diagnosis. Each of the children bring

their own set of unique strengths and all children play and learn together in an atmosphere that fosters individual growth and development. A variety of positioning devices and adaptive equipment is used in the classroom so that the children are challenged to meet their potential at all times.

Independence in self-help skills – putting on shoes and socks, washing hands or pulling up their pants – are fostered at every opportunity

ELL Classroom



The Emerging Language and Literacy Classroom Curriculum is an intentional, integrated, research-based early childhood curriculum with a strong emphasis on language and literacy. The comprehensive curriculum developed in 1999 by

Children's TLC staff, addresses all the developmental domains. There are 11 learning centers that facilitate the use of themed vocabulary. Art, create-a-book, listening, language and literacy, writing, construction, dramatic play, tactile, math and science, reading and technology are part of the curriculum. Daily shared storybook reading is another important component of the curriculum. It is a time when children practice oral language skills and learn about book orientation. Circle time is a time to share concepts, new knowledge of the theme, vocabulary and language targets. Phonological

groups are an important part of the curriculum and are held twice a week. They focus on alliteration, rhyming and segmenting and blending speech sounds. The classroom is a print rich environment. Children see print and attempt to write on their own. There are other activities throughout the unit, such as cooking, music, classroom displays, show-and-tell, sound boxes and acting out the stories that help enrich the classroom and build on the language concepts and vocabulary of the unit.

Relationship Based Classroom – Children's TLC newest classroom



The Relationship-Based Classroom welcomes preschool-aged children of different developmental levels especially those diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The classroom incorporates a variety of treatment techniques. The goal of the classroom is to help target each child's strengths and any specific areas of concern.

The classroom integrates a Floortime[®] approach with other treatment techniques for children with ASD. Floortime[®], a relationship-based Developmental, Individual difference, Relationship-Based (DIR) model of intervention, focuses on helping the child develop the ability to relate with others, problem solve independently, and communicate with others. Floortime[®] targets underlying problem solving, sensory processing, and cognitive skills. In conjunction with Floortime[®], other techniques utilized in our classroom include discrete trial training, visual schedules, Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS), etc. The combination of techniques used depends upon the

individual needs of each child. Typically developing children are also included in the classroom in order to enrich language development and provide opportunities for social play and engagement.

The classroom uses the ELL Curriculum to generate themes, such as apples, all about me, and camping. The classroom studies the particular theme for a few weeks, exploring related books, art and tactile experiences, songs, sensory motor activities, and cooking activities, etc. The daily routine is structured and is supported by the visual schedule. This helps children with ASD anticipate upcoming events in the day. The team is continuously working on having the children be as independent as possible throughout their daily routines.

Shawsie Branton Leadership Society

The Shawsie Branton Leadership Society (SBLS) was created in FY 2008 to honor and thank Children's TLC founder Mary Shaw (Shawsie) Branton. The Society, an annual leadership fund, was established to support the services and programs provided the children at Children's TLC. Leadership gifts begin at \$1,000. Members of the SBLS will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the April 14th Celebration Luncheon at the Hyatt Hotel. In addition members will be listed in the agency's annual report, invited to a reception for the Agency's new Executive Director and will be honored at a special reception in the Spring 2009.

The Agency thanks the following inaugural members of the Society.

American Century Investments
Mark & Ann Angers
Mary Shaw Branton
CBIZ Business Services
Children's Mercy Hospital
Jim & Enid Dickson
DST Systems, Inc.
Courtney Earnest
Francis Family Foundation
Children's TLC Friends Association
Gerson Family Foundation
Bob & Betty Goolsbee
Don & Adele Hall
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
John & Mary Hunkler
Eric & Alison Jager
Dick & Paula Johnson
Jean Kiene
Kissick Construction Co, Inc.

George & Vicky Leonard
Mackey & Associates, Inc.
Scott & Kim Mann
Owen & Alice McPherson
David & Kathleen Moore
Peter & Cappy Powell
Bruce & Page Reed
Mark & Missy Scovell
Charles & Jeanne Sosland
Morton & Estelle Sosland
Sosland Foundation
Tuck & Susan Spaulding
Ben & Rita Stark
John & Patricia Uhlmann
US Trust/Bank of America
Lyle & Anne Wells
Cheryl Lockton Williams
Sally Wood
Callie Yeater

As the New Year approaches please consider joining the 2009 Shawsie Branton Leadership Society. To join the Society please contact: Dee Dee Lowland at 816-756-0780 x 2138.

If you are unable to join the Society we ask that you make Children's TLC part of your year-end giving plans. Truly all gifts are appreciated and make a difference.

Make Your Personal Giving Last Forever

With a Planned Gift to Children's TLC

So many of you give generously to us each year to help make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities. Consider the impact of also making a planned gift to Children's TLC upon your death. Planned giving is a way for you to live on in the smiles of the children who benefit from your legacy. You'll also live on in the hearts and minds of those who protect and nurture the values and ideals you shared with Children's TLC.

Questions About Planned Giving

What does it mean to make a planned gift? In simple terms, it means leaving a gift to Children's TLC from your estate. Most often it refers to gifts that will be made after your death in your estate planning, but it can also include lifetime giving. Do I even have an estate? Almost everyone has an estate. In this context, your "estate" means any real estate, cash account, stock or bond, life insurance, or any other asset for which you control the distribution at your death. Planned gifts of any size are very appreciated by Children's TLC!

Will the small amount I can give make a difference? Yes!!! Small gifts make a difference too. For example, your gift may be added to other gifts in an endowment fund and produce income for Children's TLC for years to come. Or, Children's TLC may use your \$250 gift to underwrite a luncheon that brings in a gift of \$100,000. Also consider the extent to which your assets have grown over the past several years. Is it possible your estate will grow so a gift of a small percentage may end up being a very significant gift? Why are planned gifts so important? Today, charities, including Children's TLC, are struggling with the loss of public dollars and other funding sources. There's never been a better time to give back to your community by setting aside a portion of your estate for the important work of Children's TLC.

What about taxes at death? The tax law is always changing, but it is likely that upon your death the tax laws will limit the amount you can leave to your family without estate tax. Income tax will also be assessed when your beneficiaries receive retirement assets - unless your beneficiary is a charity! You may decide that instead of giving involuntarily to the government by way of taxes, you want to give voluntarily to Children's TLC. You must consult your tax advisor to address the specific considerations of your estate, but be sure to ask him or her about charitable giving during lifetime and at death.

How do I make a planned gift to Children's TLC? Here are some possibilities:

- Include a charitable bequest in your will or living revocable trust;
- Name Children's TLC as beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account;
- Add a "Pay on Death" designation to a bank account or brokerage account naming Children's TLC as the beneficiary to receive the account upon your death;
- Discuss a charitable trust or charitable foundation with your attorney.

It always best to consult an attorney to be sure your charitable gift is coordinated properly with your other estate planning. Gifts to Children's TLC should be designated to:

Children's Therapeutic Learning Center, Kansas City, Missouri or to
The Stepladder Fund of Children's Therapeutic Learning Center, Kansas City, Missouri

If you decide to include a planned gift to Children's TLC in your estate planning, or if you have already done so, we would love to know about it so we can show our appreciation. You are eligible to become a member of Wings Beyond, the Heritage Society of Children's TLC. Perhaps the best way to leave a powerful message about your ideas, your values and the organizations that were important to you during your lifetime is with planned giving. Please consider a planned gift to Children's TLC to help ensure this beloved organization will continue to help children with disabilities reach their full potential for years to come.

About the author: Laura Hederstedt is a member of the current managing board of Children's TLC and is an attorney practicing in the tax and estate planning group of Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP. Please feel free to contact her for a free conversation about how to make a planned gift to Children's TLC. Her number is (816) 292-8180.

Events Calendar

January 25th, 2009 – HuntMidwest Groundhog Run/Walk
Subtropolis

April 14th, 2009 – Celebration Luncheon
Hyatt Regency Ballroom

June 28th, 2009 – 2nd Annual RED Development Duck Derby



Children's TLC
THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTER

3101 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

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