

in the Right Direction



Fall/Winter Issue 2009

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OUR NEW HOME IS LOCATED AT:

4880 Donald Ross Road Suite 110 ♥ Palm Beach Gardens FL 33404
On the corner of Donald Ross Rd and Central Blvd.
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Email: barb@kindfoundation.org www.kindfoundation.org



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Over the past 21 years, **KIND** has given opportunities to disabled children to learn to read and to receive language and auditory processing therapy. **KIND** has referred parents to Neuropsychologists for identifying the specific needs of the child, offered speech and language therapy, and sent children to special needs camps that offer socialization, fun and independence. **KIND** is a resource to many families and professionals looking for referrals to find help for their children and relieve some of the stress that families live with daily.

Since opening CAL's Place at the KIND Foundation five years ago, we have:

1. Taught over 120 children to learn to read, write and believe **they can learn**.
2. Trained 10 certified teachers with an initial three week Orton Gillingham Training class, advanced training, as well as annual workshops.
3. **KIND** offers a resource center of over 100 books for parents to understand more about their child and their special needs. Good Parenting is essential for these children!
4. Collaborate with schools, teachers and doctors and offer constructive advocacy for each child at the requests of their parents.

Unfortunately, schools still do not offer the appropriate services that learning disabled and developmentally delayed children need in order to learn. With their decision to ignore the needs of these average to above average intelligent students by denying them the tools to learn, we will continue to see the approximately 55% plus U.S. high school dropout rate increase. This nation cannot afford this. It is a tragedy to have 15 to 20% of our American youth feel stupid, depressed and worthless because they have invisible disabilities that are not addressed with appropriate education.

In the meantime, **KIND** will continue on with your help. With your support, a child is given a gift that will last forever. **KIND's Kids** know what they receive at CAL's Place is the best gift they could ever get!



Barbara Sheridan, Director

Please consider a donation to **KIND** this year and help us teach children! Give them a future of independence and success in whatever career they choose. **KIND** donors are making a difference so others can succeed. Thank you for your support and many kindnesses.

KIND EVENTS & NEWS By Tim Sheridan, PR Coordinator

During tough economic times, many charities are trying to figure out ways to survive. At KIND, we have had several smaller fundraisers to increase income and spread KIND's mission to others.

The first event was a lovely evening at Amici's Restaurant. Wonderful hors'dourves and gift certificates were graciously donated by Maurizio Ciminella, restaurant owner. Drinks were poured by KIND Board Member and City Council Women Jeri Muoio, KIND friend Ted Mandes and Gater 98.7 DJ Jay Zeager. All the tips earned from the event were donated to KIND. We look forward to the Amici Celebrity bartending event in November 2010.

Local real estate agent David Chirico offered to host fundraisers for KIND and other local charities. We have had successful events due to David's generosity with his time and vast circle of influence. He held his first fundraiser in July at Season's 52 restaurant in Palm Beach Gardens. While I was thanking him for the first event, he told me he was having another fundraiser for KIND's Kids at Tall Tales restaurant in Gander Mountain. David promotes these foundation events to benefit charities through the Best of the Best Network, a large local networking group he heads up. In August, The Improv and Chirico put on an event with a portion of the proceeds going to KIND. He's been a great help and we can't thank him enough. Barb has called him a God-send for helping us. We thank David with helping us teach children who need to learn to read and write.

Other local businesses and generous donors have extended their helping hand without us even asking them. A KIND friend Diana Magenheimer wanted to underwrite a fundraiser at the Palm Beach Yacht Club in West Palm Beach. "Christmas in July" was a very successful event. The Event Director, Charles Contessa, and member, Kathy Hodge, helped bring over 80 people to the event. A simple thanks is not enough to say, Diana, you are the BEST!

Events were also held at Supriya Day Spa, hosted by Dr. Supriya Tomar and Kathy Kelleher at the grand opening of their new office in Jupiter. Special thanks to Roz Paxson for helping organize a spa day at Pure Bliss in Tequesta! During both events clientele experienced wonderful treatments while helping KIND's kids! The latest event at The Capitol Grille in Palm Beach Gardens helped KIND with more funding. Thank you to Ryan Kidd and The Palm Beach Association of Business Professionals for sponsoring this great evening.

Finally, a special thank you to Ryan Greene (pictured below), who participated in the NYC Triathlon and asked all his sponsors to donate to KIND in memory of his Father-in-law, Patrick Kelleher. Ryan swam in the Hudson, rode his bike, and ran a Marathon while raising \$4,000 for KIND's Kids. Needless to say, Pat has one fine son-in-law for his lovely daughter Maureen to spend her life with.



These KIND friends have made a difference for many children. Simple words cannot describe our appreciation. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

THANKS TO EVERYONE

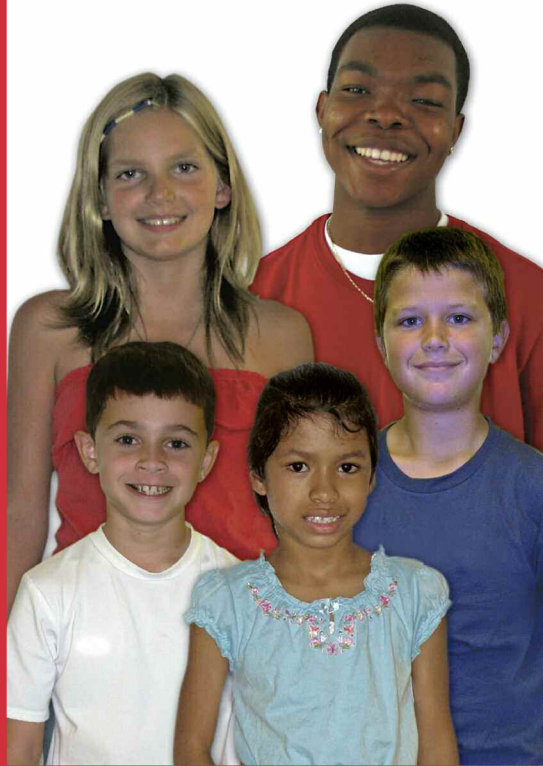
No Organization can survive without donors and volunteers! **KIND** is blessed to have a wonderful Board of Directors, Special event coordinators year after year, and very generous donors. **KIND's Kids** are also very fortunate to have the "**BEST tutors in Florida**", a staff that works for close to minimum wage, and parents who sacrifice daily scraping by with the money it takes to educate their children. No one has a free ride at KIND, all families pay according to what they can squeak out of their monthly paychecks.

Special appreciation goes to Donna and Larry Peters, The Frankino Foundation, Joan and Don Novell, Cindy and Ted Mandes, The Livoti Family, Ted Iorio, Tim Sheridan, and many more KIND Friends. You ALL receive KIND STARS for your dedication, encouragement and energy.

Our motto is "We CAN DO IT", just as long as all of us continue to work together!

CAL'S PLACE NEWS

by Lisa Buschek, Education Coordinator



As always, time is flying by and our students and tutors are working hard. We have had a successful year at CAL's Place and are delighted with the progress and commitment we have seen in our students. It is hard to believe, but most of our students continued to come during the summer and spent many afternoons with their tutors working on reading and spelling instead of swimming in the pool or spending time with friends.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few proud moments from this year. Everyone at KIND celebrated Jacob's FCAT victory back in March. Due to his hard work he was able to improve his score from a 1 (last year) to a 3 which meant that he passed and did not have to go to mandatory summer school. We also witnessed Mariah's great success. She worked extra hard in June and July with the goal to pass the reading test that would allow her to be promoted into third grade. She is now a proud 3rd grader and enjoying good grades. We also cheered for Stanley when he informed us that he was accepted into the Dreyfoos School of the Arts. You can read more about Stanley's success story in the PBG Lifestyle article in this newsletter.

Being able to witness all the big and small steps our students are taking toward reaching their potential is one of the greatest joys one can experience. Please keep in mind that our doors are always open for anybody who wants to see first hand what it means to make a difference in a child's life.

You can see the smiles on their faces and know these KIND kids are happy! When one is learning and feeling good about themselves, Life is Good! Many thanks to all of you from KIND's Kids! ***They ARE learning!***

Future KIND's KID's are waiting for financial assistance so they can learn. These are some of our kids in need:

- Jonas, 2 yr student, unable to attend due to Dads' leg injury impacting finances from lost time at work.
- JJ, a 3 yr student, Mom's work is suffering from the economic times and there is no extra money to help.
- Arianna's (age 5) diagnosis is receptive-expressive language disorder (developmental aphasia) and ADHD. It is crucial to start her tutoring so she can learn.

Consistent tutoring with the Orton Gillingham approach will give positive results to all these children. The KIND Foundation has been unable to secure the funding for scholarship for any of these children plus the 8 more kids on our list of hope that they too may learn.

KIND's KID's difficulties require a specialized program provided through the OG (Orton Gillingham) approach. We are the only specialized facility offering this service in our area.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Can you help a child learn to read?

We need volunteers to read, help with spelling, handwriting and homework once a week at KIND! You will feel really good knowing you are helping a child's future! Please contact us for information on how to be a KIND's KID Sponsor and make a difference in a child's entire life! **Call Lisa at 625-6545.**

SAVE THE DATES!

March 16, 2010

Join KIND for our first of hopefully many annual Wine Tastings! This year we will be offering Hall Wines from Napa, CA.

APRIL 16, 2010

EVENING UNDER THE STARS YACHT CRUISE. Join us again for the most requested event that KIND has offered. Guests will be sailing from Palm Beach on a 155' yacht, with cocktails, hors'dourves and a delicious buffet. The evening will continue with an auction, music and dancing as we sail down the Intracoastal. This is a wonderful and relaxing event for KIND Friends to gather and help raise needed funds for KIND's Kids!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Looking for some fun, new friends, and a way to use your creative imagination...Help KIND make the next event the BEST one ever! **Call 561-625-6545**, ask for Tim or Anai to find out the date of the next planning meeting.

CHILDREN ARE LEARNING AT THE KIND FOUNDATION

BY CHRIS HAYES, PBG LIFESTYLE, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 • PHOTOGRAPHY BY LYNN MOZENA • WWW.PBGLIFESTYLE.COM

The KIND Foundation (Kids In Need Developmentally) was established in 1987 by Barbara and Paul Sheridan. What started in San Diego, California, as a small movement to spread information about the preventable causes of developmental disabilities became a non-profit learning and resource center that has had a dramatic impact on the lives of several local children. The couple's determined effort to combat learning disabilities was inspired by the indomitable spirit of one of their children, who as a young child was challenged by a developmental disability. Explained Barbara Sheridan, "At the age of 3, they told us, 'Take him home and love him, there's nothing you can do.'"

The Sheridan family refused to accept compliance as an answer, and eventually their son went on to graduate college and secure a career. His incredible accomplishments despite the limited resources available led to a shift in KIND's focus, from furthering pediatric neurological research to also acting as a resource center for parents trying to find the appropriate educational programs for their developmentally delayed and disabled children's needs. "Y'know, if he could do that, then what about all these other kids that are sitting in the classroom with no one helping them?" she said. Thus, when the Sheridans moved to South Florida in 1992, the KIND Foundation began focusing on not only helping parents and children understand why they struggle and the possible solutions, but also raising money to send some of the more underprivileged kids to special needs camps as well as speech and language therapy.

A few years later, Barbara met a young man who had undergone a teacher-training program at the Michigan Dyslexia Institute, which concentrates on the unique challenges of dyslexic children through a teaching style known as the Orton-Gillingham approach, developed in the early 20th century. This sequential, language-based method applies the three learning modalities – visual, auditory and kinesthetic – along with phonetics to provide students immediate feedback with measurable results.

Barbara was immediately hooked, and so in 2004 the KIND Foundation opened CAL's Place (Children Are Learning), a non-profit learning center that provides children with the specialized instruction they need by providing one-on-one, personalized instruction from specially trained instructors in order to become independent learners in their regular classes.

Today, CAL's Place has had over 103 students come through their doors and, Sheridan said, boasts a 95% success rate. However, CAL's Place is no quick fix; achieving success requires discipline and dedication. Students should expect to attend the 50-minute sessions at least once or twice a week for anywhere from a few months to several years, depending on the severity of their disability. Explained Lisa Buschek, KIND Program Coordinator and instructor, "You cannot do this if you don't come regularly; it's just not going to work. It's not a one-time thing."

One student who can preach this philosophy is Stanley Destine Anderson, one of KIND's brightest stars. Born out of Haiti, Stanley had the odds against him after coming to the US as a little boy, he was bounced from one foster home to the next, never receiving the proper attention and nurturing that cultivate learning. Instructor Cindy Katcher explained that he entered KIND's doors two years ago "as a non-reader, struggling, and disinterested in school because it was too difficult," a problem she and her fellow teachers were quick to address. Barbara recalled a day shortly after Christmas of Stanley's first year at CAL's, when he walked into her office and proudly announced, "Miss Barb! Guess what? I got called on today to read by the science teacher, and I actually got up and read, and no one laughed at me. I could actually read." This fall, Stanley will be starting his first year at Dreyfoos School of the Arts where he can to hone his aptitude for art, and Stanley's instructors have only high hopes for his success. It's clear that his hopes are high, too, when he shines a bright smile and says, "The teachers don't have to hover over me anymore – it feels good."

