

the [★] Achiever

Adaptive Play Makes a World of Difference



It was Christmas Eve in 1999, when Teresa and Kevin Glenn welcomed their third son, Tevin, into the world. Teresa had an uncomplicated pregnancy and the couple was expecting a healthy boy. However, just hours after the delivery, doctors discovered that Tevin had hyperbilirubinemia (jaundice) and Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD), which resulted in neurological complications later diagnosed as cerebral palsy. According to Teresa, she and her husband were completely overwhelmed by the severity

of Tevin's problems. Although their other sons were also born with jaundice, Tevin's complications were more severe than his older brothers'.

Over the years, Tevin has also been diagnosed with hearing loss and poor weight gain which resulted in a feeding tube and Kawasaki Disease, a childhood disease that includes fever, red eyes and lips, a rash, and swollen lymph nodes. Despite Tevin's multiple challenges, he continues to overcome obstacles through determination, hard work, community and most of all family support.

Now five years old, Tevin attends preschool at William Patrick Day Early Childhood Center.

In August 2004, Tevin also began occupational therapy, including adaptive play, physical therapy, and speech therapy services at the Achievement Centers for Children. Tevin is pictured at left using play therapy with his Occupational Therapist, Karla Reese. After only a few months of therapy

sessions at the Achievement Centers, Tevin's parents noticed significant results. "The adaptive play has worked wonders for Tevin, and the therapists even gave me information on how to adapt Tevin's toys, so we could use the adaptive play therapy at home," said Kevin. Kevin not only adapted Tevin's toys, but he also adapted Tevin's big brothers' old toys and anything else he could find around the house. At first, Kevin had to help Tevin work the switch on the adapted toys, but now Tevin can move the switch all by himself. This increased independence has allowed Tevin to more fully participate in play.

Anne Smith, Social Worker at the Achievement Centers for Children, says, "Tevin has made amazing progress since coming here. The sound of Tevin's laugh when he succeeds is a joy for all around him to hear. He's a delight." Tevin has developed in so many ways since receiving services at Achievement Centers. He has more head control, he can now move into a sitting position, and he has overcome many of his fears. Teresa and Kevin remember when Tevin was so frightened of the water that he couldn't even enter the bathroom without crying. Now the family enjoys trips to the Splash Lagoon, and Tevin plays in the jacuzzi for hours as his proud parents watch over him with tears of joy.

Kevin and Teresa only want the best for Tevin and they know good things will come for him because he is such a determined little boy. "We would simply love for Tevin to control his own wheelchair and be able to feed himself one day," said Teresa and Kevin. "We learned at the Achievement Centers that every child has potential. Tevin's potential may be different from other kids his age, but we want him to be the best that he can be."



Message from the Executive Director

Patricia W. Nobili, MSSA



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If you would like not to receive future issues of *The Achiever*, please notify us in writing at: The Achievement Centers for Children, 4255 Northfield Road, Highland Hills, OH 44128.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN,

As we celebrate the Achievement Centers for Children's 65th anniversary this year, I think how much the agency has evolved since 1940. From its inception, during the war on polio, to the present uncertain and rapidly changing environment, the Achievement Centers has responded and remained committed to the needs of children with disabilities and their families. The agency has always fulfilled that commitment by providing services of the highest quality that support families and enable children to be as independent as possible.

We find ourselves providing these critically needed services in an increasingly challenging environment. Currently, in Ohio, more than one million children and their families are on Medicaid, and 129,000 children receive health insurance from several different state funded programs. Congress is considering significant cuts to Medicaid programs that will limit access to therapeutic and other services for children with disabilities. This is especially troubling given the recent research proving the great benefits derived from early intervention services, a major focus of our work. These cuts put families and children at risk and negatively impact organizations like the Achievement Centers for Children that provide these services. Challenging times, indeed.

But with challenges come opportunities. And in this issue of *The Achiever* you will read about children's successes as well as our agency opportunities, such as the vital programs, the volunteers and the events that continue to make the Achievement Centers one of the premier agencies for children with special needs in Greater Cleveland. As always we will confront our challenges head on, while seeking out every potential opportunity. We have no other option, children's futures are depending on us and we must not let them down. They have already been given more challenges in their relatively few years, than most of us experience in a lifetime.

Sincerely,



Patricia W. Nobili, MSSA
Executive Director

P.S. Join me in supporting the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities levy coming up in November and make a difference in a child's life. More than 60 percent of the funding for MR/DD's essential services comes from this countywide property tax.

ACCREDITATION and LICENSURE The Achievement Centers for Children's programs and services are licensed and accredited by many entities, including:

American Camping Association

Certified Medicaid Provider

Ohio Department of Education

Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Human Services

Ohio Department of MR/DD

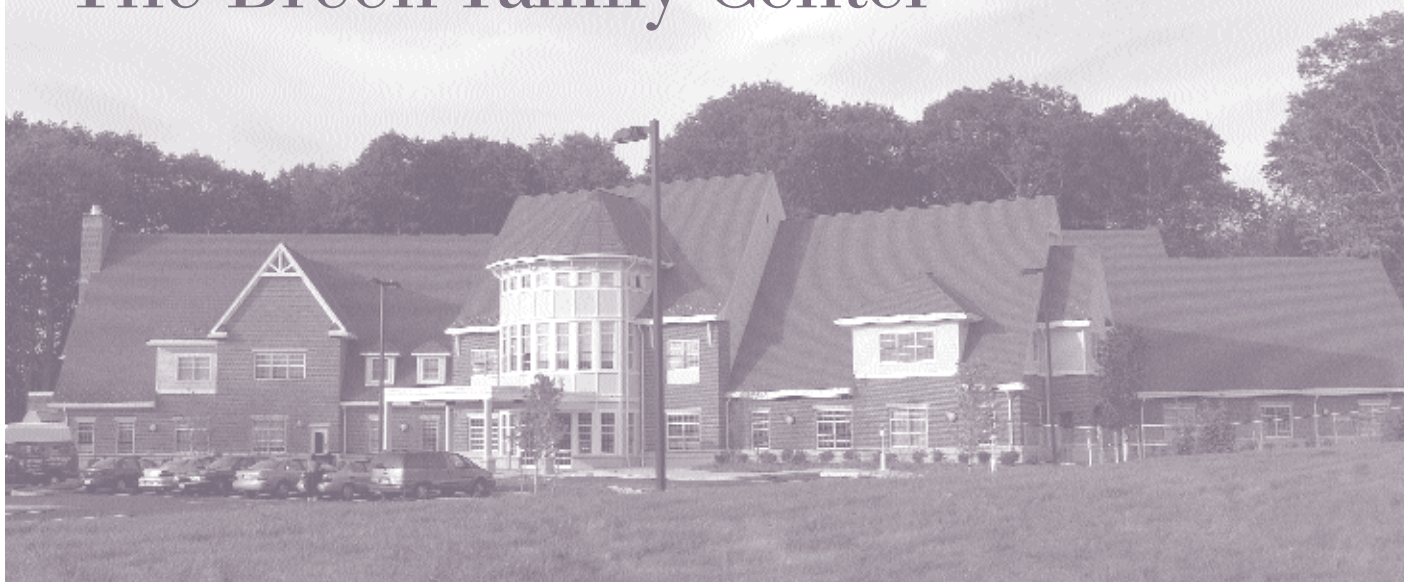
Ohio Department of Mental Health

Member, Cuyahoga County Early Intervention Collaborative

Numerous agreements with area universities and colleges

CARF Accreditation pending

The Breen Family Center



After years of planning and a festive grand opening last August, the Breen Family Center facility is up and running. The new center, located at 4255 Northfield Road in Highland Hills, has state-of-the-art programming capabilities as well as an inviting atmosphere for children to receive therapies, educational and recreational services, and family support.

The two-story, 38,000-square-foot building features a first floor that is completely dedicated to children and families and includes multi-use classrooms, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, and family support offices. The classrooms, including special Autism classrooms provide childcare for toddlers and preschoolers with and without special needs. Large treatment rooms for physical, occupational, and speech/language therapies have separate observation rooms for families and are equipped with video-monitoring technology so that therapies can be recorded for progress reports and family training sessions. The new building allows the programs and services at the Achievement Centers to expand as the children and their needs

evolve. The second floor houses administrative offices and program staff who provide home-based and off-site services to the children and their families.

The Achievement Centers' staff, board members, and the families that we serve contributed a great deal of careful attention and time into the design and atmosphere of the new building. The interior building materials, including light-

The emotional response from the children and their families, the staff, and visitors . . . has been overwhelmingly positive.

ing and color schemes were selected to support educational and therapeutic services for children with disabilities by creating a sense of calm and helping to reduce distractions. The expansive outside space is surrounded by beautiful wooded areas with large playgrounds and opportunities for outdoor therapy, educational programs, and recreational activities, including the newly updated Champ Camp. The camp is surrounded by wheel-chair accessible trails, allowing all of the children at

Champ Camp to experience the outdoors. The campers also enjoy nature study, arts & crafts, music sessions and special guest performers.

The generous support from the Greater Cleveland community and the Achievement Centers' board members resulted in this very special building. The John G. Breen family, for whom the center is named, contributed our lead individual gift of \$1 million of the \$8.5 million goal. To date, \$8.3 million has been raised to support the Breen Family Center and the expanded programs and recreational services. Thank you to all those involved in this tremendous project. The emotional response from the children and their families, the staff, and visitors of the building has been overwhelmingly positive. Most importantly, the inviting atmosphere has made a world of difference for the children. As we approach our one year anniversary in our new facility, we welcome you to visit the agency and celebrate this exciting time with us. Please call Deborah Osgood in the Development Department at 216-292-9700, ext. 224 to schedule a visit.

Events Generate Community Support for Achievement Centers

Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine Glistens with Fun, Fancy, and Fundraising



On November 6, 2004, community leaders from Greater Cleveland gathered to pay tribute to David A. Daberko, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National City, for his countless contributions to Northeast Ohio. This annual signature black tie gala, Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine, co-chaired by John and Allyn Davies, benefited the Achievement Centers for Children and Cavaliers' Charities, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, and was held at the Bertram Inn & Conference Center in Aurora. The gala raised more than \$400,000 for the Achievement Centers' programs that make a vital

difference in the lives of children with disabilities and their families. A special thank you to C.M. Stephanoff Designs and all of the auction donors and sponsors for their generous donations to the 2004 Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine.

Throughout the event, guests were able to bid on live auction items, silent auction items, and the very unique "Fund-an-Item." "Fund-an-item" gave guests an opportunity to pledge their support to various programs that directly benefit the children served by the Achievement Centers. "Fund-an-Item" included scholarships for Autism Services and Camp Cheerful "Camperships," which helped underwrite the cost of sending children to Achievement Centers' Camp Cheerful. This year's Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine is November 5, 2005 at the InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center and will honor Henry L. Meyer III and KeyCorp for their community involvement. Greg and Kathy Thompson will serve as co-chairs of the event. Contact Leigh Blakemore in the Development Department at 216-292-9700, ext. 226 for further details on the 2005 Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine gala.

Blue Chip Blue Tee Golf Outing



The Blue Chip Blue Tee Golf Tournament brings together many of Cleveland's

top corporate sponsors and best golfers for a day of fun and philanthropy. This year's event, the 21st annual, will be held on Monday, August 1, 2005, at the Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby, Ohio. The Blue Chip Blue Tee is one of greater Cleveland's premier golf events designed to provide avid golfers with a high quality, competitive round of golf, while generating crucial financial support for children with disabilities and their families.

Last year's Blue Chip Blue Tee generated more than \$90,000 for the vital services of the Achievement Centers for Children. Special thanks go to Jim Streicher and Gordon Harnett, co-chairs of the Blue Chip Blue Tee, and their committee for their continued support of the Achievement Centers for Children.

Winter Wine-derland

The Friends of the Achievement Centers for Children hosted the 2nd Annual Winter Wine-derland on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at VICO in downtown Cleveland. The event raised more than \$6,500 for the Achievement Centers for Children's Camp Cheerful and attracted 130 guests who enjoyed an array of wines and hors d'oeuvres.

The Friends of the Achievement Centers are a dynamic group of young professionals who are committed to supporting the Achievement Centers for Children through philanthropic and volunteer activities. If you would like more information on becoming a member of the Friends of Achievement Centers for Children, please contact Leigh Blakemore at 216-292-9700, ext. 226.

Annual Fall Festival Brings Community Members Together

Hundreds of supporters enjoyed an autumn evening at Camp Cheerful with refreshments, entertainment and a silent auction during the 12th Annual Fall Festival, which was held on October 23, 2004.

Sponsored by Robert W. Baird & Company, Catan Bridal, 13th District American Legion, and American Legion Posts 610 and 703, the event generated more than \$30,000 to support the Achievement Centers' Camp Cheerful.

The event is organized annually by a committee of dedicated volunteers from the Strongsville area, who generate key financial support for the event. This year's Fall Festival will be held Saturday, October 29, 2005 at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. For more information, please call Tim Fox at 440-238-6200.

15th Annual A Most Excellent Race Benefits Camp Cheerful

For the 15th year, A Most Excellent Race will generate crucial support for the Achievement Centers for Children's Camp Cheerful. This year's race is scheduled for Sunday, June 26, 2005 at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights and includes a 10K Run, 5K Run, 10K Wheelchair Competition, 5K Fun Walk, and the Camp Cheerful Classic, a 100-yard sprint/roll by the children who attend Camp Cheerful.

For the second year in a row, the Presenting Race Sponsor is Elk & Elk Co., L.P.A. Last year, approximately 50 local corporations and businesses supported the Race through sponsorships and in-kind contributions, raising more than \$80,000 for Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. You can help us reach this year's goal of \$84,000 by registering as an individual walker/runner or forming a walk team. Please contact Leigh Blakemore in the Development Department at 216-292-9700, ext. 226 for a Race entry form.

A Most Excellent Race was started in 1990 by the Friends of the Achievement Centers for Children.



Did You Know?

- This year marks the 65th anniversary for the Achievement Centers for Children. For more than six decades, the Achievement Centers has been providing comprehensive rehabilitation, recreation, education and family support services for children with and without disabilities.
- The Achievement Centers for Children currently serves 2,800 children and their families a year.
- Last summer, more than 100 Forest City employees volunteered for a day at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. Their Day of Caring at camp was filled with a wide range of projects, including building new picnic tables, painting, scrubbing walls, and cleaning out the barn stalls. If your company is interested in volunteering for a day at Camp Cheerful, call 440-238-6200.
- Patricia Nobili, Executive Director of Achievement Centers for Children, was chosen as one of five non-profit executive directors to be recognized by the Smart Business News 2004 Pillar Awards at a ceremony on December 9, 2004. Pat's award honors her exemplary use of not-for-profit management skills.
- Robert J. King, Jr. was also recognized by the Smart Business News 2004 Pillar Awards for his community support and his commitment to the Achievement Centers for Children as the President of the Board of Directors.
- The Achievement Centers for Children was chosen to be featured in the February 28th issue of Newsweek Magazine, which focused on the challenges of autism, and more specifically the importance of early intervention. The Achievement Centers was honored to be the only agency in Ohio to be chosen as part of this special issue.
- Achievement Centers for Children has been chosen to be the single agency in our county to be awarded the contract with Help Me Grow to provide global evaluations for children for whom the primary concern is social/emotional development. This is a new program in Cuyahoga County, and is further proof that Achievement Centers continues to be recognized in the community for our deep competency in early childhood mental health and early intervention.
- David Schafer, Executive Director of Israel Bonds and dedicated Achievement Centers board member, was recognized as the Achievement Centers for Children's Spotlight Volunteer at the 2005 United Way Annual Meeting.
- The Achievement Centers for Children was selected to receive \$50,000 from the State of Ohio's Attorney General's office who was directed to distribute \$4.8 million seized from illegal gaming to organizations that provide medical and therapeutic services to individuals with mental and or physical disabilities.
- The County Board of Mental Health Medicaid surveyors visited the Achievement Centers for Children on March 9, 2005 and found no errors in our agency records and no errors in our non-Medicaid Early Childhood Mental Health records. This was only the second time in the past eight years that any organization has received no error findings in their records.
- The Achievement Centers for Children received \$200,000 from the State Capital Budget Bill. We thank Senator Robert F. Spada and Representatives James Peter Trakas and Sally Conway Kilbane.



YEARS OF MEMORIES AT CAMP CHEERFUL

For Ron Thomas, Camp Cheerful offers a week of relaxation, fun activities and a break from his regular routine. Now an adult, Ron has been coming to camp since he was seven years old. Ron was born blind with cerebral palsy. He has fond memories of his trips to camp, especially of all of the good friends he has made over the years. Tim Fox, Director of Camp Services, laughs about Ron's penchant for practical jokes. "He is always pulling something on one of his buddies," says Tim.

These friends are Ron's favorite part of camp, which is evident from the many smiles and hello's Ron receives as he rolls through the main hall during lunch. He also loves to swim and does so every chance he gets while he is at camp.

When he is not at camp, Ron lives on his own in an apartment and works for United Cerebral Palsy. He enjoys visiting with his family, playing on the computer and listening to the radio in his free time. He also swims at a recreational center every Friday.

Ron thinks that camp is a great way to help break down the barriers between those with disabilities and those without disabilities. He keeps in touch with his camp friends by attending off-season weekend camping sessions September through May every year at Camp Cheerful.

Do you know someone who would like to create happy memories at Camp Cheerful? For more information on our residential and day camps, please call Barb Fields at 440-238-6200.



Local women support the Achievement Centers in a very special way

In 1940, the same year that the Achievement Centers for Children was founded as the Society for Crippled Children, a group of women started a quilting group at the Penfield Community Church in Lorain County. Although the faces in the group have changed over the years, the tradition remains the same. Ladies still gather at the church on Wednesdays from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. to talk, laugh, and, oh yes, quilt. Their quilts are beautiful representations of the friendship and collaboration through which they are made. The Penfield Quilters, as they are called today, have a long history of generosity, regularly creating and donating quilts for shut-ins in their community. Recently, through member Linda Chapin, they have started creating quilts for the little ones that receive services from the Achievement Centers. Linda is the wife of Steve Chapin, Director of Finance and Operations at the Achievement Centers for Children.

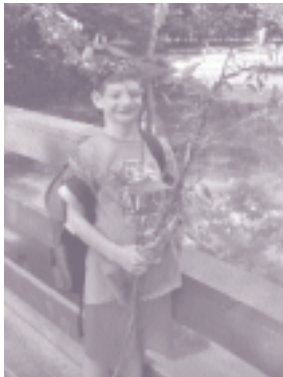
Because of the generosity of the Quilters, every family that enrolls in the Achievement Centers' Early Intervention Home-Based Program receives a one-of-a-kind quilt for their child. The quilts are used as a play mat, blanket, or hung in the homes as a beautiful reminder that our community cares, as well as a reminder of the Achievement Centers. Through the Early Intervention Program, families work with the Achievement Centers staff, including an early intervention specialist, a speech/language pathologist, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, and a service coordinator. This team designs a plan to enhance all areas of the child's development, parent-child interactions, and family functioning.

Several of the quilts are hanging on the walls of the Achievement Centers Highland Hills location where staff and children and their families can view the exquisite pieces. The quilts are much appreciated and serve as a reflection of the generous spirit of the Penfield Quilters.

Ron Thomas enjoys a sunny day near the pool at Camp Cheerful.



SUMMER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CAMPS



Michael Manning, Matthew Watson, and Renee Quellos (photo top) treasure the time they spend at Camp Cheerful. Each summer is a new adventure for them. Alex Krystynak (above) is a long-time friend of Camp Cheerful. He has attended summer day camp sessions for years. Jillian Tindera (below) rides a horse in Camp Cheerful's new barn.

For 65 years, the Achievement Centers for Children has provided unforgettable camping experiences designed to help children with and without special needs discover confidence and independence, while creating lifelong friendships. Located on 52 beautiful acres in the Cleveland Metroparks Mill Stream Run Reservation in Strongsville, the Achievement Centers' Camp Cheerful offers children and adults of all abilities fun and rewarding day and residential camping experiences in a barrier-free environment. Day camp programs also are offered at the Achievement Centers' Eastside facility in Highland Hills.

An exciting new opportunity for campers is the Cheerful Achievers resident camp at Camp Cheerful. Cheerful Achievers is a one-week overnight session in August for children with orthopedic challenges ages 7–17.

This camp session gives children the opportunity to participate in a setting that is responsive to their individual skills and interests. Like all the resident camp sessions, Cheerful Achievers' activities include swimming, archery, arts and crafts, horseback riding, campfires, fishing, nature study, challenge education, and canoeing.

To learn more about all of the extraordinary camp sessions at Camp Cheerful and Champ Camp, visit www.achievementcenters.org or call Barb Fields at 440-238-6200.



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ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

Services by Location

The Achievement Centers provides services through a variety of locations, including schools, day cares, homes, and at the Achievement Centers' three facilities. The following is a list of services according to location.

On-going Home visiting (offices at the Highland Hills location)

Early childhood mental health counseling; Early intervention program for children ages birth to three with special needs; Early Start home-visiting services for at-risk children, ages birth to three; Day Care Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

East/Highland Hills

Child Development Center day care for children with and without special needs; Preschool for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder/PDD-NOS; Kindergarten through second grade for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder/PDD-NOS (Beginning in August 2005); Social work and counseling; Physical, speech and occupational therapy; Champ Camp (summer day camp program); Parent support groups

West/Lakewood

Preschool for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder/PDD-NOS; Social work and counseling; Physical, speech and occupational therapy; Parent support groups

South/Strongsville/Camp Cheerful

Social work and counseling; Physical, speech and occupational therapy; Recreational Activities; Residential and day camp programs

About the

ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

Founded in 1940 as the Society for Crippled Children, the Achievement Centers for Children provides comprehensive rehabilitation, recreation, education and family support services for children with disabilities.

Our mission is to join with children with disabilities and their families to strengthen abilities and create opportunities for lifelong participation in all aspects of society.

The Achiever is published by the Development Department of the Achievement Centers for Children.

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