



the Achiever

Junior Wheelchair Basketball is a Slam Dunk for the Achievement Centers

Over sixty years ago, Camp Cheerful was established as Ohio's first barrier-free camp for children with disabilities. This past fall, the Achievement Centers proudly added another "first in Ohio" program when the Adapted Sports program was launched providing opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in competitive sports. Achievement Centers' Junior Wheelchair Cavaliers, comprised of school aged boys and girls from all over Ohio played their first season to the cheers of their family and friends. They played against teams in Detroit, Nashville, Ft. Wayne, and Wooster, Ohio this first season. The team was also excited to have the opportunity to play for an audience of thousands at half time of a Cleveland Cavalier's game!

Children with special needs will also be playing adapted football starting in May. There will be three divisions for children and adults with a wide range of physical, cognitive/developmental disabilities, (as well as a division for those children

with a combination of the two limitations) to allow them enjoy competitive football, playing against other players with a similar skill level.



Do you know someone who may be interested in playing adapted sports or volunteering to help? We need coaches, referees and other volunteers. For more information, visit www.achievementcenters.org/sports or call Mike Urban at 440-238-6200 ext. 245.

"Like" us on the Achievement Centers' Adapted Sports Facebook page and keep up on all the stories of our outstanding athletes and their game results.



Adam Brenner

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS OF ADAPTED SPORTS!

- Cleveland Cavaliers
- Cleveland Browns Foundation
- Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Invacare Top End
- American Tank & Fabricating Company
- Bravo Wellness LLC
- Campana Development
- n2y

"We want you to know how much your actions are appreciated. Adam has wanted to play basketball ever since he was a toddler. In fact, his first steps at Physical Therapy (aided by braces and walker) were achieved by his motivation to be like Michael Jordan. Adam participated in 6th grade basketball with his peers. However, in the 7th grade Adam was informed the Ohio Sports rules would no longer allow him to play. He was devastated. He didn't understand why he couldn't play with his friends. Luckily, in August of 2009 we learned about Tim Fox and the Achievement Centers for Children's Junior Wheelchair Cavaliers team. Adam really enjoys being able to play basketball again."

"You have made a difference in Adam's life!"

—Matt and Lisa Benner

OPEN LETTER FROM AN ATHLETE'S PARENTS TO
TIM FOX, VICE PRESIDENT OF RECREATION & SPORTS
AT THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS



Patricia W. Nobili, MSSA
President & CEO

**Kudos from CARF and
United Way of Greater Cleveland**

Achievement Centers is accredited by a wide range of organizations who periodically examine many different aspects of our organization. We continually strive to meet and exceed each organization’s standards so the children with disabilities and families we serve can be assured of receiving the highest level of professional care. We are proud to report the findings of the two most recent examinations.

**Commission on Accreditation of
Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**

Our Mental Health program is accredited through CARF and every three years CARF surveyors conduct site visits of our facilities, which were completed in March for our Highland Hills and Westlake locations. We are proud to report that we were awarded very high ratings, and earned praise for our executive leadership; diverse and stable Board of Directors; broad community support; caring, enthusiastic and motivated staff; assessment process; support from parents of clients; and they found our broad array of services to be exemplary. This level of award is only given to a select few organizations throughout the entire United States. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human service agencies.

**United Way Organizational Assessment
(OA) Committee Report:**

“This year the OA Committee has given your organization an overall rating of Exceeds Expectations. This is our highest rating and one achieved by only a small number of our funded organizations. Congratulations!”

DEAR FRIENDS,

The Achievement Centers for Children has long recognized and advocated for the importance of early intervention and early education for children from infancy through five years old. We are known for having a depth and breadth of expertise and experience in providing the highest quality early interventions for children, in fact, approximately 70% of those served in our Education, Therapy and Family Support programs are under the age of six. During this period, 90% of a child’s brain development occurs. The positive impact on future functioning, success in school, independence, and other developmental tasks is significant when reaching the child and family in these early years.

Research has repeatedly shown that providing quality interventions during this time period is critical to a child reaching their future potential. It has also been proven that investment in these early years provides the greatest return on the dollar than at any other time in one’s life, but funding challenges remain. A recent report (December 2010) from the Ohio Business Roundtable states “Despite all the compelling evidence, we continue to neglect the needs of Ohio’s youngest children. Less than two percent of our public expenditures support our youngest learners. . . . Preparing our youngest . . . is an economic and moral imperative.” Our multiple governments’ financial challenges clearly tell us that difficult decisions must be made, but may we always remember that:

“Many things we need can wait — the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his mind is being developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today.”
—Gabriel Mistral

Sincerely,

ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010–2011

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JOE MAKES STRIDES TOWARD HIS GOAL

Joe's story is one of hard work, endurance, persistence, working through some pain, and being focused on achieving a goal. Sounds like training for a marathon, doesn't it? It was for Joe, an eight-year-old boy diagnosed with cerebral palsy who looked forward to walking without the assistance of his crutches so he could, among other things, ride the wild rides at Cedar Point this summer and maybe become a chef someday. He's gotten many steps closer to his goal after being a part of Achievement Centers' Intensive Therapy Clinic recently.

Joe came in for three hours each day for three weeks during a school break. His special treatment plan integrated occupational therapy and physical therapy to stretch and strengthen his muscles, and improve his balance. Bonnie Boenig, Director of Intensive Therapy Clinic and Josh Palcic, Physical Therapist, became Joe's "personal trainers" encouraging and motivating him to work through his challenges in order to train his body to respond differently and to build his muscle strength. They have a special and compassionate way of working with children that helps motivate them by creating a fun atmosphere. On the last day of Joe's Intensive Therapy, Joe walked down the long hallway at Achievement Centers without his crutches to see his mother's tears of joy and meet her welcoming arms.

When Joe returned to school after his break, his teacher showed the class a video of his therapy sessions, and he quickly became the hero of his third grade class. Joe said, "I even got a hug from a girl."

View Joe's video and download the full story that appeared in The Plain Dealer. Visit www.achievementcenters.org.

For more information on the Achievement Centers' Intensive Therapy Clinic, call Bonnie at 216-292-9700 ext. 275.



The Achievement Centers for Children relies on the generous financial support that comes from our donors and community. It is charitable giving that allows us to provide most of our services and programs to children with disabilities regardless of their family's ability to pay. But did you know that you can also make a significant gift without reaching for your checkbook or credit card? Charitable planned gifts such as gifts made through a will bequest, or life insurance or IRA beneficiary designation make a huge impact on our agency and those we serve. Donors who support us with a planned gift are part of our Oak Tree Society – to learn more about planned giving and the Achievement Centers, call Deborah Osgood, Vice President of Development and Marketing at 216-292-9700. Or check out www.achievementcenters.org/donate to find out more online.

Dynamic Donors Make a Difference



Michael B. Petras, Jr., President & CEO, GE Lighting, generously presented a gift of \$25,000 for our renowned Therapeutic Horseback Riding program at Camp Cheerful. As a winner of GE's prestigious Growth Values – Expertise Award, came the ability for Michael to choose a cause to support in the community. Michael has passionately and personally supported the Achievement Centers, as well as served on our Board of Directors for several years. He's a true champion for

the Achievement Centers, and we can't thank him enough for his dedication to our agency and mission, and for making a real difference for the children with disabilities and the families we serve.

ELECTRONICALLY ENGAGING

Receive future newsletters via email

Visit our website at www.achievementcenters.org and click on the "join our mailing list" envelope icon in the top right corner of the home page, or give us a call at 216-292-9700.

Donate online

It's easy and fast, and no need for postage. Just visit our website and click the "Online Contribution" button. Credit cards gratefully accepted.

Join our family of supporters through social media

Stay up-to-date on all our events, tips, success stories, news, and maybe engage in some conversations.



Debbie Turner (right), Center Director, Sylvan Learning Center presents check to Deborah Osgood of Achievement Centers. Their donation represents support from Sylvan students through their "Sylvan Kids Give Back" program.



2010 Honorees, John and Allyn Davies

Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine 2010

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Help Camp Cheerful Get Its Head Above Water

As you can see, Camp Cheerful experienced damaging flooding this past winter, unlike anything we've experienced before. Water rose toward two feet in many areas, coming into residential cabins, and the Arts & Crafts cabin primarily.



Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who answered our call for help with cleanup. We are looking forward to rebuilding walls and damaged areas in time for the summer campers' arrival.

We are grateful for donations of any amount to help us get the cabins in tip top shape for the upcoming season. Visit our website at www.achievementcenters.org to make a gift to Camp Cheerful online.



CAMP CHEERFUL OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH

15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Everyone welcome!
Fun outdoor family activities for all
Rides, demonstrations, arts & crafts
Meet summer camp counselors
Food and refreshments
For more information, call Barb at 440-238-6200

Achievement Centers for Children

Providing Services to Children with Disabilities and their Families

HIGHLAND HILLS
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, OH 44128
216-292-9700

WESTLAKE
24211 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-250-2520

CAMP CHEERFUL
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, OH 44136
440-238-6200

the Achiever

Achievement Centers for Children
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, OH 44128



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OUR MISSION is to work with children with disabilities and their families to strengthen abilities and create opportunities for lifelong achievement in society.

HELPING CHILDREN BE "ALL THEY CAN BE"

*Founded in 1940 as Society
for Crippled Children*

A non-profit organization providing support, services and programs for children with disabilities and special needs and their families.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE

Education; Autism services;
Physical, occupational, and speech
therapy; Family support services;
Recreation and sports programs

LOCATIONS

Highland Hills
Westlake
Camp Cheerful in Strongsville
Child cares, schools, homes
216-292-9700



Achievement Centers for Children's Special Events

21st Annual A Most Excellent Race

*Benefiting the Achievement Centers
for Children's Camp Cheerful*

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

10K Run (timed), 5K Run (timed),
5K Family Fun Walk (non-timed)
Family Activities

Scenic, flat and shaded course
through Cleveland Heights

Visit www.achievementcenters.org/race
to register or donate online.

Fall Festival at Camp Cheerful

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011

Come out for a casual evening of music,
dinner and a silent auction.

Advance tickets are \$40 each.

Call Barb at 440-238-6200.

Sparkle, Shimmer and Shine 2011

Join us in honoring Christopher M. Connor,
Chairman and CEO of the Sherwin-Williams
Company

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

For more information, for sponsorship
opportunities, and to purchase tickets,
please call Maggie at 216-292-9700 ext. 226