2 Vickie Jo’s Playground, A Lasting Legacy

3 Autism Program adds Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy

6 KidsTLC’s 2014 Young Advisory Board
On Friday, November 1, 2013, KidsTLC children and staff, community members, and family gathered at KidsTLC to celebrate the official opening of Vickie Jo’s Playground, and to honor the beautiful life of loyal KidsTLC friend, Vickie Parker. Known for her passion and dedication to the children at KidsTLC, Vickie continues to touch the lives of children she never met. Harlan Parker, Vickie’s loving husband and strong supporter of KidsTLC, explained her wish for KidsTLC, “She wanted the children at KidsTLC to be able to enjoy a state-of-the-art playground on campus where they could play outside and enjoy one another.” Prior to the new playground, KidsTLC had outdoor playground equipment; however, it wasn’t adequate for the number of children on campus. The playground contains a poured-in-place rubber ground, swings, basketball goals, and recreational balls. The use of Vickie Jo’s Playground is being integrated into the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program, as physical activity plays a critical role in mental health. Additionally, the playground will provide children in the Autism program the ability to participate in social learning activities where they learn how to exhibit appropriate behavior and allow them the opportunity to initiate and maintain friendships with their peers. The playground is an exciting addition to campus and children are eager to utilize it as the spring weather arrives. KidsTLC is honored to be building on Vickie’s inspiring legacy as the organization continues to transform the lives of children in our community. “We are proud that Vickie’s Playground will be a lasting memorial to Vickie’s love for the children that KidsTLC serves,” said Harlan Parker.
SPOTLIGHTS

AUTISM SERVICES

Addition of Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy

KidsTLC’s Autism Program offers an evidence-based, multi-disciplinary model for children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), social communication disorder, or relative developmental disabilities. In addition to an autism specialist and board certified behavior analysts, KidsTLC is thrilled to partner with Olathe Medical Center to provide the best Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services possible for each client – all of these services now being practiced at KidsTLC. “With the addition of SLP and OT services, we have been able to enhance our individualized services that help our kids make even further gains,” said Autism Program Director, Laci Maltbie. “It is wonderful to glance down the halls filled with our therapists and kids and see the tremendous progress they are making each week.”

WHAT ROLE DOES A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST PLAY FOR YOUR CHILD WITH ASD?

According to a 2006 position statement declared by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), “Speech-Language Pathologists play a critical role in screening, diagnosing, and enhancing the social communication development and quality of life of children, adolescents, and adults with ASD.”

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR A CHILD WITH AUTISM?

Occupational therapy services focus on enhancing participation in the performance of activities of daily living (e.g., feeding, dressing), instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., community mobility, safety procedures), education, work, leisure, play, and social participation. (The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., http://www.aota.org)

HOW ARE THE KIDSTLC SLP AND OT THERAPY SERVICES SUPPORTED BY OTHER AUTISM PROFESSIONALS AND SERVICES?

Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) support these related services through collaboration and the development of individualized treatment plans utilizing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) principles. If a child is enrolled in year round ABA or TOPSS services, program facilitators are also available to attend therapy sessions in support of any behavioral needs a child may have.

Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy services are available to children in collaboration with other KidsTLC autism services or as a single service option. All SLP and OT therapy services begin with a comprehensive evaluation to determine individualized clinical recommendations.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Bob Drummond

KidsTLC CEO, Dr. Bob Drummond, will retire this summer after 13 years of providing dynamic leadership and pursuing the organization’s vision. Dr. Drummond’s lifelong career has been centered around assisting kids of all ages, and helping more than 300,000 children just in his time at KidsTLC. “I have loved serving children and families and I would do it again in a heartbeat,” said Dr. Drummond. At the KidsTLC staff holiday party, Dr. Drummond was presented with a collaborative mixed media art piece created by some of the children served at KidsTLC. To Dr. Drummond, the piece is a representation of the work he has been able to do and the children’s lives he has been able to enhance. “The gift from the kids was very, very meaningful to me,” said Dr. Drummond. “I have it hanging in my ‘prized spot’ above my computer in my office, I will cherish it forever. To me, it is my Rembrandt piece.” After retiring, Dr. Drummond and his wife, Julie, plan to travel with family and look forward to spending more quality time with their five grandchildren.
ALEX KOELLE

Donated birthday gifts to KidsTLC

Like many kids, Alex Koelle, an 8-year-old who attends Green Springs Elementary in Olathe, looks forward to having his friends gather each year to celebrate his birthday. Alex’s mother, Heather, works hard to carry out a themed party of his choice. For Alex’s 8th birthday party last November, he chose a sports theme. Friends were invited to 68 Inside Sports, wore their favorite jerseys and participated in games of dodge ball, kickball, soccer, and capture the flag. Per Alex’s request, guests were asked to bring a new unwrapped sporting good to donate to KidsTLC in lieu of a gift. Alex decided to give back because he really wanted the children at KidsTLC to have presents to open on Christmas and sports equipment to use in the new Kelly Center gym. “My friends thought I was crazy for giving away all my presents,” Alex laughed. “But giving them away to the kids made me feel really good.” Alex is looking forward to getting more involved with KidsTLC and hopes to volunteer as a peer model in the Autism Program’s Social Learning Classes this summer. The children at KidsTLC have enjoyed Alex’s thoughtful donation and generosity.

MULLER BRESSLER BROWN

Local advertising agency organized creative Halloween party for children on campus

Volunteers from Muller Bressler Brown (MBB) advertising agency visited the campus last October and arranged a fun, Halloween-themed day. Volunteers decorated various rooms and prepared clever activity stations! At the Halloween party, kids were able to have their faces painted, play Halloween bingo, listen to spooky stories or Mad Libs, and participate in a sensory touch activity. The children were very grateful for their exciting day that provided MBB staff the opportunity to get to know KidsTLC. Additionally, MBB donated in-kind services for KidsTLC’s upcoming Pour for More fundraiser by designing invitations, print materials, and developing the event’s webpage. “Last fall, our team spent some time at KidsTLC helping with a Halloween party,” said Jim Brown, partner at Muller Bressler Brown. “We were instantly moved by both the kids and staff and saw first-hand just how valuable this organization is to the community. We’re honored to be involved in an event that will help raise more awareness and needed funds for such an important organization.”

Read page 6 to learn more about KidsTLC’s second annual Pour For More event!
NICOLE WALL
Ni-Chern Designs

In 2005, Nicole Wall, owner of Ni-Chern Designs, started a business out of her home, producing handmade fabric accessories. Nicole decided early on that each year she would donate ten percent of Ni-Chern Design's annual proceeds to a chosen local charity. KidsTLC is excited to have been chosen as Ni-Chern Design's 2014 charity. “I saw KidsTLC when I was driving on I-35, looked them up online and arranged to take a tour of the facility. What I experienced on the tour was unbelievable. KidsTLC does so much for the community. As a parent, it is nice to know that there are resources if your child is struggling or in need of help. Kids are our future and getting them the help they need is so important,” Nicole said. In addition, Nicole has designed a puzzle piece fabric for her accessories in honor of National Autism Awareness Month in April. Twenty percent of proceeds from the sales of the Autism Awareness accessories will go to KidsTLC’s Autism program.

To support KidsTLC and Autism Awareness by purchasing puzzle piece fabric accessories, visit www.nicherndesigns.com.

JEFF HANSON

Donated one-of-a-kind artwork series displayed in KidsTLC’s Kelly Center.

Jeff Hanson, a 20-year-old nationally known, visually impaired artist from Overland Park, Kan., has used his incredible talent to support charities that have “touched his life.” Each year, Jeff donates a one-of-a-kind artwork series to an organization that works with children and this year, selected KidsTLC as the recipient of his special donation. Specifically created for the children and staff at KidsTLC, the paintings are displayed in the Outpatient Behavioral Health waiting room in the Kelly Family Foundation Behavioral Health, Autism, and Wellness Center. Jeff strongly believes that “Every act of kindness helps create kinder communities, more compassionate nations, and a better world for all... even one painting at a time.”

To learn more about Jeff Hanson’s artwork, visit his website, www.jeffreyowenhanson.com.
Raise your glass for a good cause! The second annual Pour for More cocktail fundraiser, benefiting KidsTLC, will be held at The Guild, a unique venue in downtown Kansas City. Kristin and Matt Holton are chairmen of the event. Guests will enjoy delectable food, silent auction, and “The Dueling Piano Guys” to cap off the evening! For more information, visit kidstlc.org/pourformore or contact Blair Tyson 913-764-2887 or btyson@kidstlc.org

The 2014 Young Advisory Board (YAB) has gotten off to a great start this year, working hard to promote Pour for More in May and encouraging their peers to get involved with the organization. Motivated by KidsTLC’s Mission and Vision, the group of young professionals volunteer their time fundraising and friendraising in the community. YAB member, Kyle Tucker, explained that he enjoys introducing friends and acquaintances to KidsTLC who may have not had the opportunity to get involved in something. “Some young people think they can’t make a significant impact from a financial standpoint, when the reality is, their time and effort in raising awareness is invaluable to KidsTLC,” said Tucker. Another YAB member, Emily Cray, is very excited about the opportunity to grow the YAB. “The Young Advisory Board itself is so young. The board has been in existence for a little over a year, and because of its infancy, we have so much room for growth. Everyone has a voice, a role, and we’re able to bring fresh, new ideas to KidsTLC. We’re geared up to get more young adults involved with KidsTLC in a fun and entertaining way. It’s been an honor to be a part of the board, I couldn’t be more excited about what we’ve set out to accomplish,” Cray said.
SIGN UP FOR THE LATEST BUZZ

Update your KidsTLC email preferences to receive our Latest Buzz once a month!

To join KidsTLC’s email lists, visit our homepage, enter your preferred email address under “Newsletter Signup” and choose which department(s) you would like to hear from!

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

PHOENIX BASKETBALL SEASON

The KidsTLC 8th grade boys Phoenix basketball team was selected by other league players, coaches, and parents to receive the Youth Sports STAR Award for best demonstrating sportsmanship, teamwork, positive attitude, and respect. The team practiced in the new Kelly Center gym and played through Olathe Parks and Recreation. Some kids had played before while others were looking for a place to gain self-esteem and acceptance. Big thanks to all of the volunteers and KidsTLC staff that made the season such a success!

WANT TO READ MORE?

Visit our website and check out our Whats Happening blog under the Volunteer tab.

UPCOMING AUTISM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Camp Connection invites children ages 4-10 with social challenges related to an autism spectrum disorder, social communication disorder, or other developmental disorder for a week of fun and learning!

WHEN?
M-F (week-long sessions)
9am - 12pm OR 12:30-3:30pm
June 16-20, June 23-27, July 14-18 & July 21-25

WHERE?
KidsTLC
Kelly Family Foundation Center
620 South Rogers Road
Olathe, KS 66062

COST?
$300 per week
*Scholarships available for Olathe residents!

Participants must be able to demonstrate:
• Independent bathroom skills
• Absence of significant challenging behaviors (due to the ratio 1:3 or 1:6 per group)
• Ability to stay on task for up to five minutes

WHAT?
Camp Connection is designed to facilitate social skills development in a structured, fun, and supportive environment. The camp curriculum enables children to increase abilities related to peer interaction and use social learning opportunities, while developing meaningful friendships. Visit www.kidstlc.org/autism-services and apply today!
Limited number of spots available!
Please contact Shannon Moriarty at smoriarty@kidstlc.org or 913-764-2887 for sponsorship opportunities or visit www.kidstlc.org/open.

Sign up for the 2-mile family Fun Run today!
Please contact Shannon Moriarty at smoriarty@kidstlc.org or 913-764-2887 for sponsorship opportunities or visit www.Plaza10K.com.

Please contact Blair Tyson at btyson@kidstlc.org or 913-764-2887 for sponsorship opportunities or visit www.kidstlc.org/unitedforkids.