

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER OF TEXAS



www.achievementcenteroftexas.org

Newsletter September 2015



David Parrish . David and his wife Sharon worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas prior to retirement. They have been active participants on the board of directors as well as faithful volunteers for the Achievement Center for many years. They are the parents of an ACT student Matthew Parrish who went to be with the Lord in June of 2010 after a long struggle with Muscular Dystrophy. A painting of Matthew depicting his love of music (especially the drums) is on the wall in the multi purpose room at ACT.



In 2013 David and Sharon were honored with our Champions Who Care Award for their service to people with disabilities.

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVID PARRISH

Hanging Around the President's Corner

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Muhammad Ali, Champion Boxer

Welcome to the Achievement Center of Texas' (aka ACT) quarterly newsletter. It is my privilege to serve as the President of the ACT Board of Directors for the 2015-16 fiscal year. This year, your Board wants to engage with our families and the local community to improve communications, to expand participation, and to build support. To accomplish this we are asking that everyone pitch in and help. Here are a few ways you can help ACT this year.

Improve Communications: Read this newsletter, frequent our website, in general simply stay informed about what's happening at ACT. Give us your feedback! Is someone doing a great job? is there something we can do better? Do you have a question? If so, please feel free to drop a note in the suggestion box in the ACT Front Office or send us an email (act.parent@tx.rr.com). Someone will respond.

Expand Participation: Complete your Talent Survey and return it to ACT. When ACT hosts an event show up and bring your friends. Volunteer for a task at each event. Next up, the ACT 2015 ACTION Walk, A Ghoulishly SpooktACTular, on Saturday, October 24. Save the Date. See the details in the related article on ways to participate and volunteer.

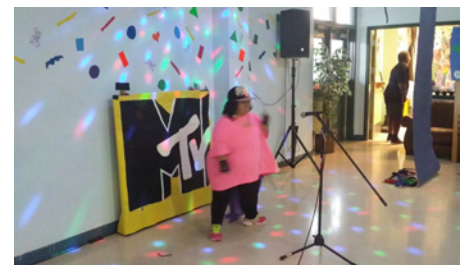
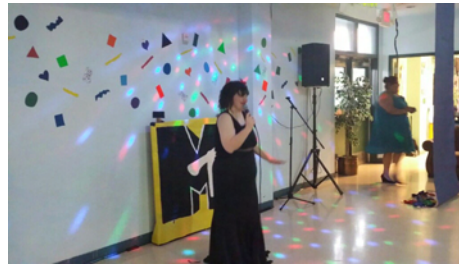
Build Support: If many give a little of their time and money, it can go a long way to make ACT a better place for our students. Talk with your family, friends, and businesses about all the great things that ACT does. Then suggest that they support an ACT event with a donation of cash, goods, or services. Go ahead, start now, by asking three people to support the ACT 2015 ACTION Walk.

Thanks for your time, enjoy this newsletter, and let's commit to keeping in touch. I hope to see you all at the 2015 ACTION Walk on Saturday, October 24 just down the road at Holford Park.

David Parrish, President
Board of Directors
Achievement Center of Texas

THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER STUDENT TALENT SHOW

Students put on an amazing performance for parents, relatives and friends on August 14, 2015. The program was called “Network” and consisted of skits created from old TV shows. They performed to a packed house. Kudos to the students and the staff for putting on this amazing talent show once again. Music was provided by Dean Mills and Refreshment by the Pilot Club of Dallas.

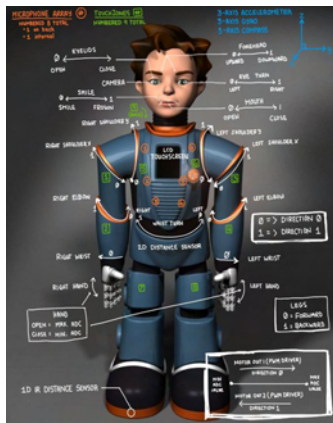


SENSORY MOTOR TRAINING

Our sensory motor training program is awesome. Students have learned to calm themselves during times of agitation. Enjoy the peacefulness of floating colors, identify a variety of textures, recognize sounds and colors, create a whole concert with just a more of the hand or head or foot. They are helped with vestibular problems and protective responses. They have learned to match smells, have appropriate conversations with peers, mold things out of sand, and much more. The Sensory Motor Lab is their ultimate favorite place to be.

ROBOTICS

Milo, our in-house robot, creates lots of smiles and laughter as he teaches students basic social skills. Students relate to the robot more easily than a human often following instructions with enthusiasm as Milo interacts with them in a playful manner. He walks, he talks, he teaches, he dances, he shows emotion.



With amazing facial expressions and the ability to interact via tablets, Milo brings a whole new avenue of learning to the Achievement Center’s students. Students interact with Milo using an iPad or tablet. He displays emotions and engages the students in activities and he will ask the students to read his expressions to reinforce that they understand what certain facial expressions mean.

PROGRAMS IN NEED OF YOUR SUPPORT. THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Did you know that the Achievement Center has been serving people with special needs for over 37 years. We serve students with multiple disabilities, students who require feeding, diapering, students who have behavior disorders, students who require medication administration and other health related services such as tube feeding and breathing treatments. We provide training in life skills which includes an outside garden where students grow vegetables, cooking, skills in cleaning, making a bed, setting a table, using a washer, dryer, dishwasher and microwave. We provide sensory motor training, computer and library activities, health and fitness and much more. Our newest program is the addition of Milo a robot that teaches social skills. All of this is costly. You can help. Here is how:

Do you shop on Amazon. If you do, shop through **Amazon Smile** and register the Achievement Center of Texas as your charity. They will give a small percentage of your purchase to ACT. There is no cost to you. You can sign up to support the Achievement Center at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1339397>.

Do you shop at Tom Thumb? Kroger? Register your **Tom Thumb or Kroger** card to give a portion of your purchases to Achievement Center of Texas. Again, there is no cost to you.

Each Spring, ACT has an amazing **Annual Spring Gala**. This year it is April 30, 2016 at the Richardson Renaissance. Tickets are \$125 and includes entertainment, a gourmet meal, a casino, activities and our Champions Who Care Awards Ceremony honoring those who have given of their time, expertise, or financial support to help people with disabilities. Don't have the \$125? Ask our Chair person, Roberta Clark about a parent discount. **Not able to attend? You can donate items for the silent auction.** (They must be new not used items) unless they are sports memorabilia. You can make up a basket filled with theme items like a "baby basket" with new items for a newborn or a "kitchen basket" with items for a newlywed or a piece of furniture for a new home owner. Sports gear is a great seller too. A wine basket filled with gourmet wine always brings in a good price. Memorabilia always sells very well. Do you know a celebrity who can provide a signed football, boxing gloves, baseball, hockey puck? Don't know someone, write a letter to one. They usually will send you something. There is always something for someone to help with for the gala. This is our #1 fund raiser. This event pays for a lot of the special things ACT does for the students, i.e. tickets for special events, trips to the circus or Disney on Ice, transportation, equipment, etc.

Do you work for the Federal Government or the State of Texas or City of Dallas, choose the Achievement Center when making your employee contribution. Here are our numbers:

Combined Federal Campaign: (CFC) 85765,
State Employee Contribution: (SECC) 283091,
City of Dallas: (LECC) 85765.

Annual 5K Walk – This event has several ways you can help. You can get people to sponsor you as you walk 3.1 miles. Show the City of Garland that you support your center by walking or running in the race. You can support another walker with a sponsorship. You can participate in our chili cook-off.

Ebay Giving Works – Favorite us on eBay. Sellers on eBay can contribute a portion of their proceeds and buyers can find stuff to buy.

Wish list—We post a wish list on our website. Please consider reviewing the wish list and donating items to keep our costs down. As needs occur we will list them on the website.

Old Cars— DO YOU HAVE AN OLD CAR, VAN OR TRUCK TO DONATE, CALL CHARITY MOTORS AT (972)CHARITY or online at <http://www.charitymotors.org> and specify you want your donation to go to the Achievement Center of Texas. You can still claim Fair Market Blue Book Value for your donation on your taxes; the donation is 100% tax deductible and pick up is free. And great news, the Achievement Center receives the amount the car, van or truck is sold for less a small percentage that pays for this service.

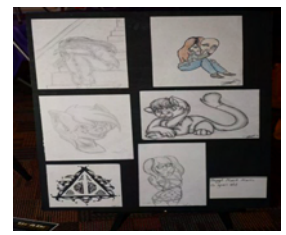
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“It is our unlimited power to care and to love that makes the biggest difference in the quality of our lives.”

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER OF TEXAS/GISD SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Special Arts Festival is always a favorite of the all the programs of the Achievement Center of Texas. At this event people with special needs join with other professionals for an exciting day of discovery. This event is sponsored by the Garland Cultural Arts Commission in an effort to inspire people to find self-expression through the arts. This day is filled with both performing and visual arts. There are prizes for the art, there are artists that exhibit their art, teach techniques, engage patrons to try their hand at art whether it is visual arts or performing arts.

The event was held at Springcreek Church Auditorium at 2660 Belt Line Road, Garland, 75044. It was attended by people from all over North Texas. Individuals performed live on stage, patrons could try their hand at painting without sight with artist John Bramblitt, or meet motorcyclists from Bikers Against Bullying, or make your mark on the family tree with artist Lucas Cervellini, or enjoy the amazing sign language performance by Lisa Smith and many others. At the Special Arts Festival there is something for everyone. Talent abounds.



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL ON MARCH 19, 2016 FROM 9:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT SPRINGCREEK.