



Notes from the Director

Dear Friends and Family,

This past year America celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – all of our children at the Center share in this celebration as it has directly impacted their right to a free and appropriate education. Shockingly, and a good reminder to us all, as early as 1975, public schools educated only 1 out of 5 children with disabilities and until that time, many states had laws that explicitly excluded children with disabilities! Many of these children, including children with cerebral palsy lived at state institutions where they received limited or no educational or rehabilitation services. We have come a long way as a country and so have our children!

Our families, staff and the community have very high expectations for children with physical disabilities ~ and they should! Research supports over and over again that the brain is an amazing organ capable of repairing and creating new pathways in spite of significant damage. Education, both in academics and daily life skills, is essential in ensuring children grow-up to be as independent as possible.

Your generous donations allowed us to provide over \$600,000 in assistance this



year to ensure full participation of enrolled children, regardless of income limitations or lack of insurance. Thank you for partnering with us to teach children with physical disabilities the skills they need to live as independently as possible.

This is a year of celebration – even more so for my family as we celebrate our son Justin's graduation from the University of Southern Illinois. Given his profound physical disability, back in 1975 this accomplishment would have been unheard of. Today our children are breaking barriers and your help is making it possible!

– *Patti Herbst, Executive Director*

Site Locations

The Center is pleased to offer group motor training programs at the following locations:

- 100 W. Plainfield Road
Countryside, IL
- NW Program
St. Francis de Sales Church
135 S. Bueshing Road
Lake Zurich, IL
- 2434 S. Kildare, Chicago, IL

Please call 708-588-0833 for more information.





News from the Northwest!

This past year has been very busy and exciting! The Northwest Center continues to offer a year round Conductive Education program in Lake Zurich and we have doubled the number of children we serve since last year!

To accommodate the increase in children, we welcomed a Physical Therapist Assistant to our staff, Jim Zwiefelhofer. He is a wonderful addition to our team and a new favorite with the children.

We continue to work hard to grow the reach of the Northwest Center. We started an Advisory Board to help us with this goal. Our new NW Advisory Board members are Judy Barsema, Patrick Flanagan, Jim Moser, Kelly O'Malley, Father David Ryan and Jack Vainisi. Thus far, we have benefited from their guidance and knowledge and plain hard work.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our 5th annual fundraiser in March, which raised over \$65,000. Your presence at the event and generous purchases and donations are what allows us to serve the children in the Northwest Suburbs. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our volunteers who donated their precious time and



resources to planning and executing the event, especially George Gancayco, Stacey Marguerite, Karen Meadows, Diane Moser, Kelly O'Malley, Mike Sherkey and Bill and Georgiann Vlachos.

– Jackie Bathery & Jamie Gancayco

Board Members

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our board of directors for donating their time and talents in leading the Center for Independence.

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Financial Report

The Center considers it an honor to be the stewards of the wonderful donations we receive. The audit of our December 31, 2010 Financial Statements has been completed and we are very pleased to report that approximately **92%** of every dollar we spent was on Programs and Equipment that serve children with physical disabilities and approximately 8% spent on Management/General and Fundraising Expenses.

Total Revenue & Support Expenses	\$955,732
Program Services	\$894,319
Management & General	66,912
Fundraising Expenses	6,690
Total Expenses	\$967,921
Decrease in Net Assets	<12,189>
Net Assets – December 31, 2010	\$1,139,793

As a result of your kindness, and so very important to the children and families of the Center, during 2010 we were able to provide over \$657,107 in financial assistance, guaranteeing every child's participation regardless of financial or insurance limitations!



**92% of every dollar spent was
on Programs and Equipment!**

Gracias, Köszönöm, Merci, Thanks

We'd like to thank:

- Everyone that supported our 11th Annual Golf Outing! A huge thank you to Brisbane Brokerage and Peter Kasanovich for sponsoring our event! Chuck Herbst organized all of our golfers – you are fantastic to us! Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Steve Kassab for all you do for our children! Thank you Angie Cecchi, Charlotte Maloney, Kathy Foley and Kellie Chamberlain for helping organize the event – it wouldn't be possible without you!
- Thank you Ted Shepherd and Van Lang Foods for donating the hors d'oeuvres! They were delicious!
- Thank you Joe & Nives Rizza for your incredible generosity to our children and for hosting the best Christmas Party ever!



What is Conductive Education?

Conductive Education is an intensive method of teaching motor disabled children to be more functionally independent. The teaching is done in a group setting and focuses on increasing independence in daily life skills such as walking, sitting, dressing, and eating. Conductive Education was founded in Budapest, Hungary, more than 50 years ago by Dr. Andras Peto.

Motor disorders are perceived as learning problems. Conductive Education aims to build a new improved process of effective, rewarding integration with the environment by setting attainable goals and by encouraging successful experiences. Main components are directed at creating self-management strategies and promoting a self-concept, which allows the child to function within their daily activities. Conductive education's strength is that it teaches control of movement and capitalizes on the child's ability to learn through language and repetition.

Thank you
Joe & Nives Rizza
and Joe Rizza
Enterprise for
donating a 2010
Kia to our children!

The Coleman Foundation Supports Research on Conductive Education!

According to United Cerebral Palsy, while the incidence of cerebral palsy is rising worldwide, research has remained shockingly low and receives the lowest public and private funding in comparison to all other physical disabilities. Very little research has been done on treatments that improve function and decrease the disability caused by CP.

The Coleman Foundation, Center, and Governors State University are currently involved in a two-year grant to study the impact of Conductive Education on children with cerebral palsy. We have completed the first year of the study and preliminary results are promising. A huge Thank You to the Coleman Foundation for helping us expand the limited research on Conductive Education and for their efforts in making more CE services available to children with physical disabilities.

A Special Thank You

A special Thank You to the following Individuals and Companies who donated items to our Golf Outing and Dinner Dance in September – your generosity was responsible for a very successful event!

Glenn Lewis,
Kenny & Mary Beth Carlin,
Csaba Korsos,
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Thank you to
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and DESIGNCO for newsletter
layout and production.



Did you know?

Cerebral palsy affects over 800,000 Americans and is on the rise in the U.S., impacting 1 in 278 children. Sadly, many children are not receiving quality services because the family lacks insurance or therapy is too expensive and out of reach. For example, 90% of the Center's families have therapy capitations that limit services. Can you imagine spending only 1 hour per week learning to walk, sit or toilet independently if you have a significant physical disability? It doesn't work. Not only does it not work – lack of therapy can result in lifelong problems. Children with cerebral palsy who do not access therapy can develop bony joint deformities, muscle contractures, scoliosis, respiratory dysfunction, pneumonia, severe weakness and ultimately pain.



Donor List *Our program could not exist without the generous donations from Individuals, Corporations and Foundations. Thank you for helping us teach children with physical disabilities to be more functionally independent.*

Grants and Contributions for the year ending December 31, 2010

Program Grants 50,000+

Dennis John Ernst

Grants \$30,000+

Baxter International
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through Conductive Education
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