

PRISM



**WESLEY
SPECTRUM
SERVICES**

Strength to learn, to live, to love

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A Record-Setting Event: Wesley Spectrum's Gala 2006

Held on March 4 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe, the Gala, "Celebrating Children, Families and the Future," raised over \$105,000 for Wesley Spectrum's children and families.

With items ranging from dining certificates to a diamond necklace to signed Jerome Bettis helmets, the Gala auction drew a huge response! Guests opened up their hearts and pocketbooks to contribute to the single most successful fundraising event for the new organization.

In addition, guests enjoyed a spectacular dinner, an inspiring performance by a child in the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center, the Odyssey Awards Presentation, as well as a champagne fountain sponsored by Marshall Marketing.



George Bond presents Patricia Nichols with the Odyssey Volunteer Award for personifying the mission and vision of Wesley Spectrum Services.

The Gala also celebrated the merger between Spectrum Family Network and The Wesley Institute.

Over 40 volunteers came together and helped to make the evening a great success, and all funds raised at the Gala will benefit Wesley Spectrum's programs and the very special children and families that we serve. ♥

Special thanks to Sherpa Software, Mylan Laboratories and Tucker-Arensberg for their generous sponsorships.



Joe and Joyce Ogrodnik, Gala Co-Chairs



Larry Richert, Master of Ceremonies kept the audience entertained. Special thanks to KDKA Radio for the media sponsorship.



Our mission is to provide transformational support for children and families as they strive to become more independent, responsible and caring members of the community.

From the desk of Douglas Muetzel

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Dear Friends,

This month's newsletter highlights a very small sampling of the countless "success stories" our staff experience everyday. Our goal is to give you a glimpse of the transformation that happens when staff, volunteers, parents, schools, county personnel and other stakeholders come together to ensure children and families are at the center of every decision.

I don't want to miss this opportunity to offer a tribute to two men that have dedicated their careers to success stories.

For over three decades, two men, our colleagues, entrepreneurs and our friends, have dedicated their careers and lives to live out a passion. Their vision was that their leadership and drive could make a difference for the lives of children and families with very special needs. The never ending reality was that there would always be a better way. They committed to forging new paths that would deliver higher quality services and seek to serve more with more.

We honor Dave Hagan and Hank Lipinski and the countless lives they have touched. It was in 1975 that Dave Hagan had a vision for and founded CATY Services. Only three years later, Hank and Mary Anne Lipinski began APA in 1978. We honor their vision. For it was out of nothing, they made something significant and life changing. We honor their perseverance. In this arena, it takes tireless work and dedication to overcome the barriers and obstacles in our paths. And we honor their uncompromising heart to serve others. Their desire to serve has proven greater than the need to be served.

And then it was in 2000 that Dave and Hank came together to create something new again, destined to do more for more. They formed Spectrum Family Network. Their industry leading initiative was a model others could admire and follow.

In the fall of 2004, Dave and Hank were thinking of succession and a plan that would continue their vision and dreams. It was January 1, 2006 that Wesley Spectrum Services began. It was just more evidence that Dave and Hank are extraordinary leaders and visionaries. And at the heart, was a love for children and families.

I hope you will me in celebrating the careers and lives of two of the very best men to impact our community. We hope and pray that their vision and dreams for children and families will be carried on with purpose and passion.

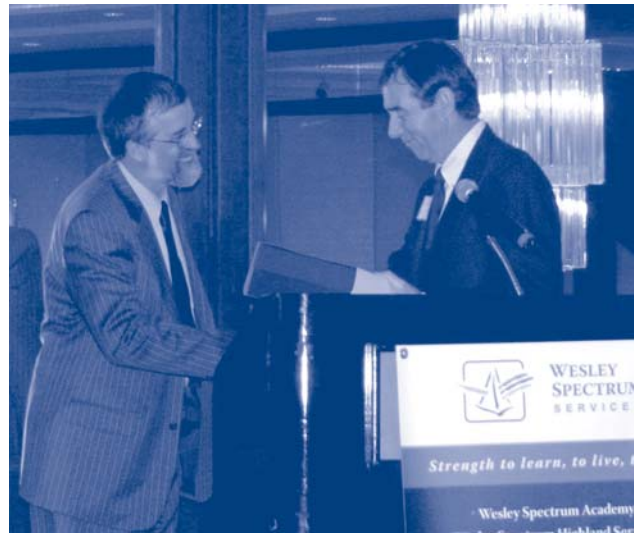
Congratulations Dave and Hank!

For the kids,

Douglas W. Muetzel, *CEO Wesley Spectrum Services*

Celebration Breakfast: A Tribute to Henry C. Lipinski and David E. Hagan, Ph.D

On May 3, 2006 we celebrated Dave Hagan and Hank Lipinski and the countless lives they have touched. Staff, board members, friends and colleagues of Dave and Hank assembled to recognize their impact on our community. Special thanks to PNC Bank for sponsoring the Celebration Breakfast. ♥



Scott Neely, Sr. Vice President, Business Baking, PNC Bank presents an honor plaque to David E. Hagan, Ph.D

Dick Berdik, President, Blue Heron/CFE, Dietrich Charitable Trust Management, Inc. presents an honor plaque to Henry C. Lipinski.



Wesley Spectrum volunteers are honored at the annual recognition event at the Holiday Inn Select. Bonnie Amos, Dolores Kara and Nancy Speer received special awards for 1,000 hours of service.

WS GIFTS



Thank
You

Wesley Spectrum Tribute Gifts

*In Memory of: Mrs. Nancy T. Conover
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Conover*

*In Memory of: Mr. Edward Denhardt
Ms. Lorraine Aronson*

*In Honor of: Michael Farrell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Farrell, Jr.*

*In Honor of: Tom & Betty Soroka
Mr. and Mrs. James Van Lehn*

Family and Child Development Center:

The following letter was written by the parents of a child in the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center Private Preschool:

“As parents, we have seen tremendous benefits from this program and wanted to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the staff— his teacher in particular— for the tremendous impact of this treatment on his social and academic development.

Liam suffers from PDD-NOS, part of the autism spectrum. He will be five years old in May and will head off to Kindergarten in the fall. Clearly, we were concerned about his preparedness for Kindergarten and his ability to handle social contact with



WS SUCCESS STORIES

Strength to learn

typical children. Thanks to the experience at the Wesley Preschool, I feel much more comfortable about his future interactions with all children.

The program addresses the needs of each student as an individual while providing a comforting routine that is critical for autistic children in preparing them for the educational system. Due to the hard work of Liam’s teacher and the other staff, we have seen tangible improvements in his behavior, social skills and general comprehension.

I again offer my heartfelt thanks for this wonderful learning experience.”

Foster Care:

Spring*, a young woman who had been in our Foster Care program, recently contacted Wesley Spectrum for an internship experience. She is now enrolled in college and still maintains regular contact with her foster care advocate and her foster mother.

As a college student, Spring is considering entering into the human services field. She found her experience in foster care to be positive and wishes to help other children who may enter into foster care. She would like to help others as she was helped by her advocate counselor and foster mother.

Spring’s comments and aspirations are a testament to the dedication and commitment that the Wesley Spectrum advocate counselors bring to their career making a positive difference in many young people.

Academy:

The following essay, “Overcoming the Battle” was written by a senior at the Wesley Spectrum Academy. He was recently accepted into The University of Pittsburgh and plans to major in Medicine.

My transcripts are not the greatest in the world. However, there is a very good reason for this. I had to overcome a problem that, to me, was of epic proportions. I had to win a battle against myself. I have obsessive-compulsive disorder, or OCD for short. My OCD was at its peak from 8th to 11th grade. It was so bad, that at times, I was afraid to go to school. It severely affected my grades. The worst part was, I had the potential to be a straight-A student. I have never lost the ability either.

I had a severe problem with being exposed to germs. In particular, I was afraid of bacteria. I used to carry hand sanitizer with me at almost all times. I couldn’t open doors, I couldn’t eat at restaurants, and I couldn’t shake hands, either. At one point, I was also afraid of petting my cats. I still have problems with some dogs. I had problems working in groups. I was worried about direct contact with other students. I was afraid that someone would make an error, and this sometimes caused me to do everything in the group.

This was far more severe than I realized at the time, as group skills are extremely important in almost all work environments and in many college courses. Fortunately, I have, for the most part, defeated this disease. I open doors, I shake hands, and do many things I could not do before. I can now work in groups again.

There is some irony in a person who used to be crippled by OCD becoming a surgeon. There is a constant exposure to germs of all make and model. Since I have conquered myself, I feel that I can be the best surgeon in my field.

Washington Office:

When Joe*, a thirty-seven year old male, arrived at the Washington Office, he was chronically unemployed and homeless. He was staying at the Washington City Mission shelter and did not have any form of medical assistance or support for his basic needs. Joe was essentially exiled by his family for relapsing into his drug

and alcohol addiction and losing his jobs. He became severely depressed and developed extreme social anxiety. It was a relapse with crack/cocaine and alcohol that sent him back into treatment. While at Spectrum, Joe received case management services, psychiatric care and individual therapy.

In the services, Joe was able to break down many of the barriers that he had created for himself. Within his first month with Spectrum, he began attending NA/AA meetings. He began to cope more appropriately and increased his spirituality and social connectedness. The increased self confidence that he gained through the group discussion and interaction gave him the initiative to re-engage with his family.

Today, a year and a half later, Joe is now living independently through a transitional housing program. Part of the program includes classes on topics such as time management, dietary planning and budgeting. Not only does Joe attend the class-



n, to live, to love

es, but he now is also teaching the beginner computer classes. With help from state and federal aid programs and his Social Security Disability income, he is now enrolled as a full time college student, pursuing a degree in English education. He has obtained a vehicle that he now maintains himself and can use to get to school and to visit his parents and children.

Joe is extremely grateful to all those who have helped him and he expresses his gratitude by volunteering, and humbling himself to whatever task is needed. ♥

*Names have been changed for confidentiality



Children of all ages enjoyed Ballpark Express, an evening of games, prizes and ballpark food, held on the South Office property. The event was part of the KDKA NewsTalk Radio's Hometown Salute and was held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Pirates and KDKA Radio.

WS WISHLIST

Wesley Spectrum Academy —

- DVD Players
- Electric pencil sharpeners

Family & Child Development Center —

- Pool table
- Carpet
- Paints
- Lamps
- Artwork
- Bean bags (large)
- Games for kids 12 and up



Foster Care —

- Cribs
- Strollers
- Car seats
- Clothing for M and F age 6-18: suits, ties, hats, tights
- Superhero costumes
- Temporary tattoos
- Colored hairspray
- Craft supplies



Highland Services —

- Trumpet
- Flute
- Baritone/euphonium
- Clarinet
- Alto saxophone



Acute Partial Hospital —

- TV's
- Office chair



Contact Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390 x219 or phuffman@wesleyspectrum.org to make a donation.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

Saturday, May 20 2006, 9:00 am
Chevrolet Amphitheatre at Station Square

The Wesley Spectrum team will walk to support ABOARD, one of 28 non-profit organizations selected to receive proceeds. ABOARD is committed to maximizing the potential and possibilities of Pennsylvania children, adolescents and adults with autism.

To join the Wesley Spectrum team and walk to support autism research and education, contact Beth Cady at 724-443-8900 or bcady@wesleyspectrum.org. ♥



Join the Wesley Spectrum Team to Walk in Support of the Autism Community

Autism Walk
Saturday, June 3, 2006
Heinz Field
8:00 am Registration
10:00 am Walk Starts

NAAR and Autism Speaks have joined forces to fight against autism, the fastest-growing serious development disorder in the U.S. Today, one in 166 children is diagnosed with autism, yet autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.

To join the Wesley Spectrum team and support autism research, contact Gina Pfeifer at 724-443-8900 or gpfeifer@wesleyspectrum.org. ♥

To learn more about Wesley Spectrum's program and services for children with autism, visit www.wesleyspectrum.org



Monday, June 5, 2006
10:30 am
The Club at Nevillewood

Lace up those spikes—the date for the much-anticipated Wesley Spectrum Invitational is quickly approaching!

The Wesley Spectrum Invitational is a great way to entertain clients, employees and friends—all the while supporting children and families with special needs.

Although we can't guarantee eagles and birdies, the day does include 18 holes of golf at the beautiful Club at Nevillewood, a lunch buffet, refreshments on the course, tournament prizes, Chinese and silent auction items, raffles and dinner.

A foursome, including lunch and dinner for each member, is \$2,500. And, we now offer your choice of a **Scramble** or **Play Your Own Ball: Best 2 of 4**.

To reserve your spot, call Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390. Visit www.wesleyspectrum.org for sponsorship and advertising opportunities. ♥

Wesley Spectrum Foster Care and Adoption Services Program is Looking for Individuals That Would Like to Make a Difference in the Life a Child

STAR



Star is an attractive and athletic female “giggle bunny.” She is an African American nine year old with long, dark brown hair and brown eyes. Star has a beautiful, engaging smile that stretches from ear to ear. Star is looking for a family to call her own. If you enjoy watching cartoons, sports, and playing video games, and would like to provide a family for Star, call Wesley Spectrum Adoption Services at (412) 342-2302.

MICHAEL



Meet twelve-year-old video game enthusiast, Michael, who aspires to be a police officer someday. Michael is looking for a family that will love, support, and guide him. If you or someone you know, is an active person who enjoys camping, riding bicycles, or playing golf, and would like to provide a permanent home for Michael, call Wesley Spectrum Adoption Services at (412) 342-2302.

JOHN



Meet fourteen-year-old car enthusiast, John, who aspires to be a car salesperson someday. John is looking for a family that will accept him and love him for who he is. If you or someone you know, is an active person who enjoys playing various sports, spending time outdoors, and would like to provide a permanent home for John, call Wesley Spectrum Adoption Services at (412) 342-2302.

Children who are abused or neglected may need a safe place to live. Wesley Spectrum’s foster care and adoption programs provide homes for children in need. We believe that all children who need out-of-home care should be afforded the least restrictive setting possible.

We strive to recruit diverse adoptive and foster homes to maintain the child’s cultural identity while providing him or her with a safe and nurturing environment to thrive and grow. Foster and adoptive parents receive intensive, ongoing training so they can understand and help these children. ♥

The Merger of Strong Organizations: Positive Impact on Children and Families

The following story is just one example of the collaboration across programs/services of Wesley Spectrum.

Sarah* was referred to the Wesley Academy by Spectrum Family Network in November of 2005. At age 15, she had symptoms of depression, school refusal and school failure. With low academic abilities, dysfunctional coping skills and extremely limited support from her single, schizophrenic mother, Sarah was doing the best that she could to negotiate the confusing and intimidating educational arena. It wasn’t working.

To escape her disorganized and unstructured home, Sarah was spending her weekends with a friend’s family, helping her unwed friend care for her new baby. Sarah’s goal in life was to get pregnant and have a baby because she thought that the baby would always be there and always love her.

Sarah had been removed from her home in the past and was on probation for truancy. She and her mother were now receiving Spectrum In-home Family Support, and her mother was learning to set limits.

She seemed excited about coming to Wesley Academy, but was feeling very anxious about contact with peers. She was pleasantly surprised her first day and had a positive report for her mother and her therapist. She smiled and laughed and joked with other students, but the weight of an upcoming juvenile court hearing about her attendance was weighing on her mind.

Sarah was told before that she would be removed from the home again if she did not comply with the judge. She realized now how much she wanted to stay home and attend the Academy. But it was too late. The hearing was too soon and she had not made the necessary changes in her behaviors to satisfy the judge.

Sarah was removed from her home again and placed with the Spectrum Shelter until a longer term residential placement could be found. Because of close case management from Spectrum Family Network and the support she received from the Academy, Sarah will be able to attend the Academy again in May.

Sarah, now 16-years-old, is still a work in progress and her future is still uncertain. However, thanks to the seamless continuum of services that she received because of the partnership of Wesley Spectrum Shelter, Wesley Spectrum In-Home Services and Wesley Spectrum Academy, she will not fall through the cracks. Wesley Spectrum In-Home Services will provide her with the necessary support to be a successful daughter, and Wesley Spectrum will help her to become a successful student. ♥

*Name was changed for confidentiality

www.wesleyspectrum.org



Visit www.wesleyspectrum.org to learn more about Wesley Spectrum's programs, the children and families that we serve and for information about our special events.

The Wesley Spectrum website also provides donors with a convenient way to donate online with a Visa or MasterCard. ♥

www.wesleyspectrum.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wesley Spectrum's Tour of Homes

Sunday, October 1, 2006

12 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Ticket Price - \$25

All proceeds benefit the programs of Wesley Spectrum Services

412 831-9390

243 Johnston Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

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