



Summer 2005

# Success IN Progress

News and Views About Working Wonders at Wesley

## Wesley's 40th Anniversary Carnival: A Great Celebration!

Over 650 attendees had a great time at Wesley's 40th anniversary carnival with a day of food, fun and entertainment celebrating Wesley's most important people: the kids!

Wesley's kids and their families, along with Wesley's staff and their families, enjoyed carnival games, pony rides and a chance to dunk Wesley's CEO in the dunking tank.

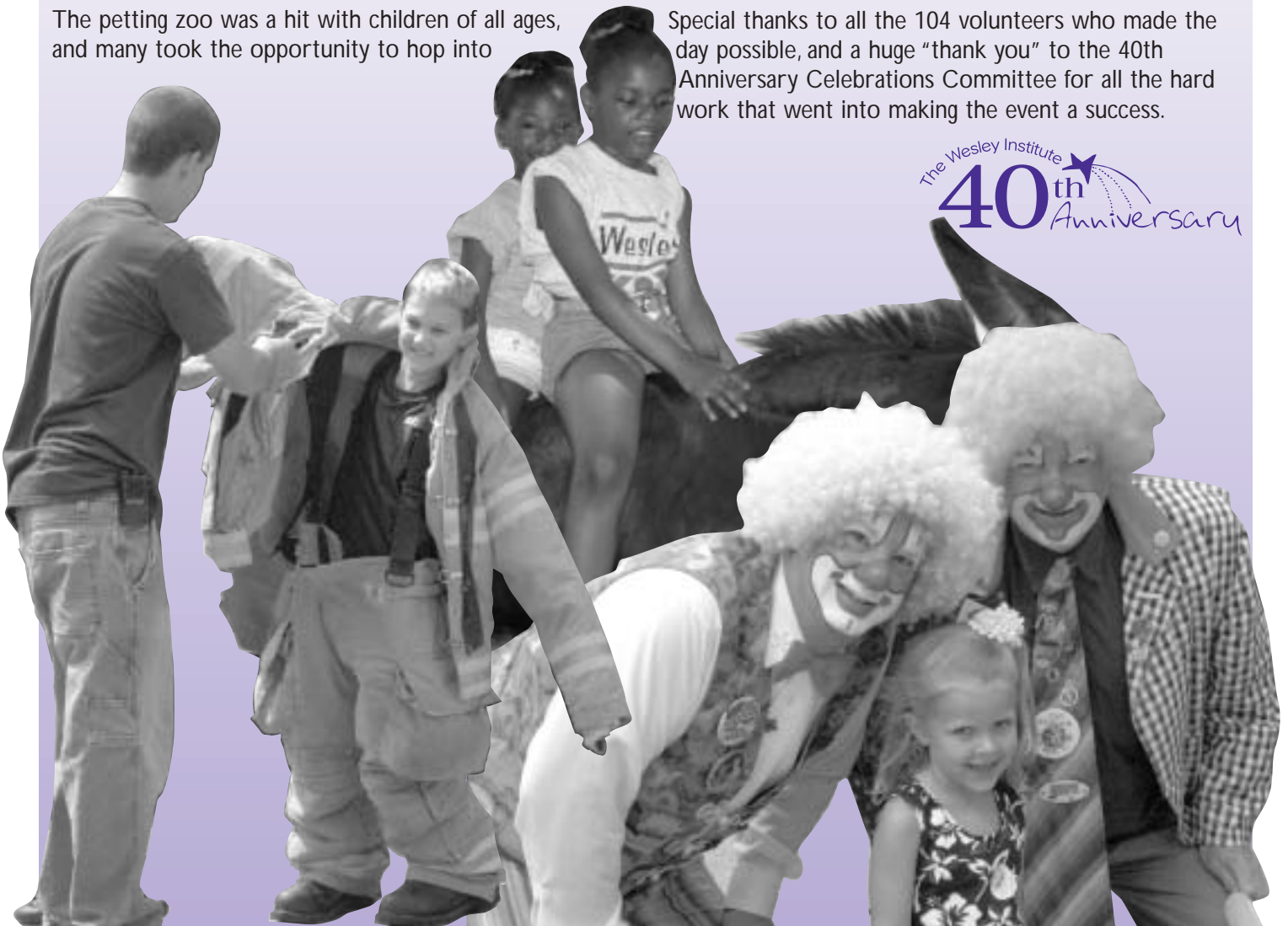
The petting zoo was a hit with children of all ages, and many took the opportunity to hop into

the Upper St. Clair fire truck and an EMT ambulance.

"It is just so nice for us to be able to come out and enjoy a day with people that truly understand where we are coming from," said a parent of a child that attends Wesley Highland School. "The kids are having so much fun."

Special thanks to all the 104 volunteers who made the day possible, and a huge "thank you" to the 40th Anniversary Celebrations Committee for all the hard work that went into making the event a success.

The Wesley Institute  
**40<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary



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Tamara Marsico, *Wesley Highland Youth Services Director*  
Stephen Lee, *M.D., Medical Director*  
Heather-Dawn Filipiak, *Wesley Institute Family and Child Development Center Director*



## Our Mission

Our mission is to create an environment in which children and youth are able to build the lifelong skills essential to becoming independent, responsible, contributing and caring members of our community.

## From the desk of... Douglas W. Muetzel, CEO

"Wesley helped to save my son's life." Today, these words penetrate my heart as powerfully as they did the first time I read them in my beginning weeks as Chief Executive Officer at Wesley. The heartfelt gratitude in this letter from a Highland School parent strengthened our resolve to advance Wesley's mission and to stay focused on meeting the needs of each and every child we serve.

Daily, that resolve is built upon with blocks of fresh experiences that remind me that our work is truly "for the kids." I am blessed to witness the lives that are changed through the work of Wesley's talented staff. I am thrilled and humbled by their hard work and dedication to the kids. From the classroom to the petting zoo, our staff strives to save lives and touch hearts.

The hot July sun beat down on over 600 smiling faces at Carnival Day at Wesley. From the best seat at the carnival, albeit a wet one (the dunking booth), I watched Wesley staff and their families, and Wesley kids and their families come together to enjoy a low cost event, just for them! For the first time in our 40 year history, we were able to offer a special day designed for our special kids. That made Wesley's 40th anniversary carnival a truly memorable experience.

The smiles on the faces of the kids made a lasting impression. It is a poignant reminder that every child is special and valuable. For me, the carnival is an encouragement to better serve the children and families entrusted to us and also to provide opportunities to tell our staff and their families that they are special, and that Wesley begins with them.

Behind the laughter and the clowns, the prizes and ponies, is another element that took my breath away. For a year, a group of staff had been meeting to plan and implement the 40th anniversary year long celebration. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that kids and staff enjoy and remember this exciting anniversary year. Because of their efforts, the carnival was a tremendous success. It was a perfect event because of their commitment, energy and focused drive to advance Wesley's mission.

I want to say 'thank you' to the team that put on not only a "first", but one of the most exciting events in Wesley's 40 year history. This is also the time to thank the parents and families that entrust their children to our care. It is because of them that Wesley exists.

With thanks and for the kids,

Douglas W. Muetzel  
Chief Executive Officer



## Welcome Back Students First Day of School

Wesley Academy: Thursday, September 1, 2005  
Wesley Highland Services: Monday, August 29, 2005  
Wesley Institute School: Monday, August 29, 2005  
Wesley Acute Partial Hospital: Monday, August 29, 2005

## The Wesley Institute and Spectrum Family Network Merger Update

In March 2005, the respective boards of The Wesley Institute and Spectrum Family Network announced the beginning of exploration to determine if a merger of the organizations would achieve the following:

- Providing more services, to more children, and more families more effectively as a combined organization versus remaining separate entities.
- Delivering the fastest and most efficient back-office operation in the industry in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The process has been exciting and has already created collaborative efforts that have enhanced services to children and families. The process encompasses three key phases:

**Phase I**—the initial due diligence was to determine if there were any significant obstacles to a successful merger in the evaluation of programming, finances and board governance. This phase was completed in June, successfully culminating in board votes to move into formal due diligence.

**Phase II**—the formal due diligence that is currently underway includes comprehensive legal work provided by Buchanan Ingersoll and Cohen & Grigsby and in-depth financial review by McCrory and McDowell. The efforts are on track and the results will be available to the boards by the first week of September in anticipation of the boards voting to merge or not to merge at the scheduled September board meetings (September 13 & 15).

**Phase III**—pending the board votes to merge the organizations; the integration phase of the two organizations will begin in October anticipating the January 2006 legal incorporation as we begin providing services to children and families as Wesley Spectrum Services.

The response of staff, families, board members, referral sources, funders, volunteers and donors has been extremely positive. We look forward to the possibilities and will keep you informed along the way.

## Wesley Acknowledges Tribute Gifts

**In Memory of: Margaret Boone**  
Dr. and Mrs. Owen J. Kilbane

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

**In Memory of: Mr. Michael Halus**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas DeRubeis

**In Memory of: Mrs. Polly R. Hawkins**  
The Graduates Club of Upper St. Clair

**In Honor of: Bill Schwenk**  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Schwenk

*Thank  
You!*



**Mark Montgomery**  
Director of Human Resources

This past June, Mark Montgomery was promoted to the position of

Director of Human Resources. At this position, Mark is involved with all of Wesley's programs and feels fortunate to be able to see how effective Wesley's staff is throughout each one.

"I really like working at Wesley," said Mark. "It's the people and the environment that really make this place. Everyone is respectful, friendly and caring to the kids and each other."

Prior to joining Wesley in 2003, Mark worked for Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Werner Company, in addition to doing some consulting work. Mark's experience, his Masters in Human Resource Management and his great commitment to Wesley, make him a perfect fit for the position.

"It makes the job more meaningful when I can see the kids and their progress at Wesley," said Mark. "We aren't working with products on an assembly line. It is a child's life that is being changed."

In his spare time, Mark enjoys spending time with his wife, Jennifer and two kids, Grant and Paige. Such activities include playing catch with Grant, helping Paige learn how to ride her bike and teaching first and second grade Sunday school with Jennifer. You can't help but notice the grin that appears on Mark's face when he speaks about his family.

Mark also sits on the board for the Washington City Mission, which he finds to be a rewarding experience. "You get to see people really turn their lives around," he said.

Mark is a co-chair of Wesley's 40th Anniversary Celebrations Committee and was an integral part of the successful Carnival Day at Wesley. In addition, many staff know Mark as "Mr. Safety Committee," as he is an active member of the committee, which ensures the safety of Wesley's staff.

## Wesley's Programs

### Wesley Institute School and Acute Partial Hospital

As the Wesley Institute School continues to grow, two new therapists have been added to their team. The school plans to start the new year with 15 kids, and public school districts have been calling the program, wanting to fill the few available spots.

The Wesley Institute School staff was enthusiastic to receive a donation of textbooks from the Wesley Highland Services program.

This past school year the Acute Partial Hospital program provided services to 152 children. Wesley recognizes the staff who worked hard to provide quality care in the fast paced and often challenging program.

This summer, 26 students from both the Wesley Institute School and Acute Partial Hospital attended the Extended School Year Program (ESY) in the Wesley Academy building.

ESY students were educated in the standard curriculum, along with several music and art classes. They also enjoyed field trips to the movie theatre, Mineral Beach and the Pittsburgh Zoo.

New this year, the Wesley Institute School plans to actively meet the growing needs in Washington County.

Also this fall, the Acute Partial Hospital program plans to outreach to local inpatient hospitals, educating them about the referral process.

### Wesley Institute Family and Child Development Center

#### *New Wonder Kids Site in Penn Hills to Open in August*

As the number of children diagnosed with autism continues to grow, the Wesley Institute Family and Child Development Center responds by providing more services in more areas.

This August, a preschool-age/summer session of Wesley Wonder Kids Club will begin at the Three Rivers Assembly of God Church in Penn Hills. While Wesley has provided services to children in the East Hills, this is Wesley's first site in the area. The therapeutic groups focus will be on communication and social skills, which are often difficult for children with autism to learn.

Jamie Douty will be the Coordinator at the Penn Hills Wonder Kids site and Katie Harrill will be the lead therapist. The program will provide a safe environment to help lower the anxiety level of children who struggle in social settings.

#### *Private Academic Preschool Opening in September*

The new Wesley Institute Preschool will provide programming for children with autism spectrum disorders that will guide them in the development of cognitive, relational, sensory, and motor skills.

In addition to education in subjects such as math, social studies and science, the weekly schedule for the half-day preschool will include activities in visual perceptual skills, art, drama and free play. The preschool will also welcome interaction with siblings and peers who are experiencing normal development.

Kelli Ahern will teach at the North Hills location and Erica Williams will teach at the South Hills location. Both have an Early Childhood Education Certification, along with a Special Education Degree, and experience with children with autism.

Children with a prescription for Wesley Wonder Kids Club will be able to attend the morning preschool and then stay a full day to participate in the program.

"There is a growing realization of the need for more services to more people," said Heather-Dawn Filipiak, Director of the Wesley Institute Family and Child Development Center "Families tell us what is needed and we react to their input."

For information call: 724-443-8900.

### The 2005 Wesley Invitational: Golfers teed up for this record event



Despite the rain storm, the Wesley Invitational raised over \$58,000 for Wesley's kids. This represented the highest net dollars raised at Wesley's Golf Outing in our 40 year history. Golfers enjoyed a spectacular lunch at Laurel Valley and then bid on fantastic live and silent auction items.

Thank you to all of our golfers, who exhibited good humor in the face of crashing thunder and lightning. The kids appreciate your participation! Laurel Valley generously offered two make-up dates for the golfers to go back and give it another shot.

Next year's tournament will be held on Monday, June 5, 2006 at The Club at Nevillewood. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

## Wesley's Programs

### Wesley Highland Services

Seventy-two students attended the Extended School Year (ESY) Program at Wesley Highland Services.

Along with their regular academic studies, students enjoyed a weekly swim trip to Mineral Beach, a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo, a Pittsburgh Pirates game and a tour of PNC Park.

They had fun with a visit from the Phipps Conservatory and enjoyed a visit from several animals, including a bird and turtles, from the Creative Environment Education Program.



"The kids really like the swim trips," said Sandy Simpson, Reading Specialist at Highland Youth Services. "We've had perfect weather for them to be outside and it is a nice and contained environment to let them have some fun."

On Tuesday, July 26 the ESY Program held a "Family Day" where students' families could spend the afternoon at Highland. Parents, grandparents and siblings enjoyed a cookout and picnic-type activities.

The kids played games and participated in activities such as relay races, a basketball shoot-off, face painting and a water balloon toss. They received tickets for participating and could win several great raffle prizes, such as large stuffed animals and CDs.

Highland administration was very pleased with the turnout for the event and the kids presented Bill Alexy, Director of Highland School, with a large card to recognize the support he provides to them on a daily basis.

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### Wesley Academy Takes New York City by Storm

On May 26, 2005, after the Academy prom, 22 Academy students boarded a bus and traveled to New York City. For many of the kids, it was their first visit to the "Big Apple."

Students had the opportunity to tour NBC Studios, they watched the Phantom of the Opera, visited the Today Show, saw the Statue of Liberty and took an emotional trip to the site of the World Trade Center.

"The trip was really fun," said Lindsay, a student at the Academy. "I want to go back to New York again and go to the top of the Statue of Liberty and visit MTV Studios."



"The city was so big and there were so many things to see just walking down the sidewalks," said Jeremy, another Academy student.

Both Lindsay and Jeremy agree that they would not have had this opportunity at their old schools.

"I really like it here at the Academy," said Jeremy.

And he doesn't just like the school because he gets to take trips to New York City and Washington DC.

"I get more help and support at the Academy than I did at my old school," he said. "The teachers help me more in class and my counselor helps me to be more organized."

Lindsay and Jeremy attended the Extended School Year (ESY) Program and both say they are looking forward to the regular school year too.

**Learn About Wesley's Kid-Centered Decision Making at  
[www.wesleyinstitute.org](http://www.wesleyinstitute.org)**

This site is a resource for parents, kids, administrators and teachers, community leaders, volunteers and donors. Learn how Wesley is helping to repair and strengthen families, improve the fabric of our communities, and create new, bright futures.

## Wish List

### Acute Partial Hospital Wish List

#### Furniture

TV stand w/ storage, or entertainment center  
Computer stations for counselors (2)

#### Milieu Supplies

Perpetual "bulletin board" calendar w/ number set  
Playstation 2 and Playstation 2 games  
Gameboy handheld game and game cartridges  
Therapeutic toys, weighted blankets

#### Art Supplies

Dozens of "velvet" fuzzy posters

Tall (double door) cabinets (3)  
Love seats (2)  
Bookcases (2)

Fleece blankets (6)  
Chalk and chalkboard erasers  
Nintendo 64 games  
Gym supplies – balls, bats, etc.  
Walkie-Talkies (enough for everyone to have one)

Play-doh - lots of it!  
Scratch art kits

Sofas (2)  
New televisions (2)  
Full-size refrigerator  
Movies  
Classic and popular board games  
Multi-game table  
Blue padded mat  
Paper Mache Kit  
"Perlev" design melt beads

### Wesley Institute School Wish List

#### **OLDER CLASS**

#### Milieu Supplies

25" television  
Calculators  
Journals/composition books (12)

#### Art Supplies

Art and Craft Supplies

Furniture  
Playstation 2 and Playstation 2 games  
Set of encyclopedias  
Books/tapes/videos  
In-room phone

Sketch pads (12)

Couch  
Halogen lamps (4)  
Computer printers  
Gym supplies

#### **YOUNGER CLASS**

Area rug  
File cabinets (2)

#### Milieu Supplies

25" television  
Calculators  
Journals/composition books (12)

#### Art Supplies

Little crafts from OrientalTrading.com

Furniture  
Soft furniture  
Storage cabinets (2)  
Playstation 2 and Playstation 2 games  
Set of encyclopedias  
Books/tapes/videos  
In-room phone

Paint by #'s (10)  
Modeling clay

Bookcases  
TV stand (smaller)  
Halogen lamps (4)  
Computer printers  
Gym supplies  
"Velvet" fuzzy posters  
Markers

### Wesley Institute Family and Child Development Center Wish List

Bean bags

Art supplies

Developmental toys

*If you are interested in donating any of the above items contact Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390 x219.*

## Wesley News

### Some Great Ways to Help Donate to Our Schools. *Every little bit helps!*

#### Office Depot

**The 5% Back to the Schools Program:** When making a purchase, tell the cashier that you would like it to be credited towards Wesley Academy (70088451) or Wesley Highland School (70088413).

#### Target

**Take Charge of Education Program:** Target donates 1% of all Target Visa purchases to Wesley Academy (15322) and Wesley Highland (114776). Visit [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) to designate your school.

#### Staples Teacher Rewards

Teachers receive \$10 back in rewards for every \$100 you spend on qualifying purchases.

#### www.schoolpop.com

Shop and earn money for Wesley. Make everyday purchases and proceeds will be donated to the school or nonprofit of your choice. The code for The Wesley Institute is: 0117160.



### Donate Online

The Wesley Institute web site also provides donors with a convenient way to donate online with a Visa or MasterCard.

## More Wesley News...

### Joyce and Joe Ogrodnik Named as Honorary Co-Chairs for Wesley's 2006 Gala

We would like to introduce to you Joyce and Joe Ogrodnik. The Ogrodniks have supported the kids and families of Wesley in so many ways. And now Joyce and Joe, as honorary co-chairs, will help lead the planning for Wesley's Sixth "Celebrating Children" Gala.

The Ogrodniks played a key role in creating Wesley's most successful fundraising event in its 40 year history, as over \$87,000 was raised at the 2005 Gala. Wesley staff and the Ogrodniks are excited to surpass this year's record results.

Joyce and Joe's support of Wesley is endless. Joyce has been volunteering for many years, spending time with the kids in Wesley's residential program and taking photographs of Wesley's kids to display at special events. She also helps with the House Tour Committee.

Joe recently began volunteering his time and talents with students in the Academy. He mentors students, and also lets them practice job interviewing skills with representatives of his company, Sherpa Software. In addition to serving on the Golf Committee, Joe's business-like mind is always thinking of innovative ways to help Wesley raise more money for the kids.

Joe and Joyce both enjoy playing golf and Joyce is also a tennis player. They reside in Upper St. Clair and have three grown children, Kevin, Corinne and Kelly.

If you are interested in helping with this year's Gala and joining Joyce and Joe, please contact Paula Huffman or Jennifer Mullen at 412-831-9390. We know you'll find Joyce and Joe's enthusiasm contagious!

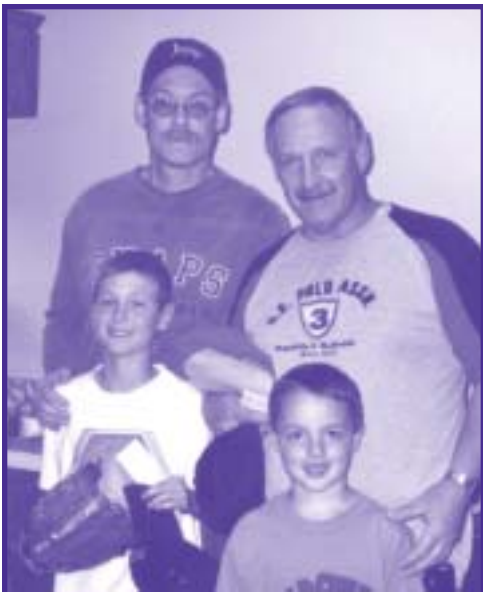
*"They understand our kids and really have the passion to help Wesley," said Doug Muetzel, Wesley Chief Executive Officer. "I am grateful to have Joe and Joyce on our team."*



**Highland Grads:**  
Twelve students graduated from Highland School on Wednesday, June 8, at Christ Methodist Church. Parents, family and staff were proud of the Class of 2005.



**Academy Grads:**  
44 seniors graduated from the Wesley Academy on Thursday, June 9, 2005. Four seniors gave moving speeches, and the students also recognized the great work of their teachers and counselors.



### Wild Things Game

As part of Wesley's 40th anniversary celebrations, staff and families from all of Wesley's programs enjoyed a night in the "Party Suite" at the Washington Wild Things game.

## The United Way Contributor's Choice Campaign

Wesley is asking you to take this opportunity to make a difference in a child's life by designating your United Way pledge to the Wesley Institute through the Contributor's Choice Program. It's a great way to fulfill your obligation to your local United Way, while also supporting the programs of the Wesley Institute.

Please designate your United Way contribution to:

*The Wesley Institute, Inc.*

Our United Way Contributor Choice Number is:

# #149 #149

Your donation will help Wesley bring hope to the lives of thousands of children with mental and behavioral health obstacles.

## United Way Day of Caring

This Fall, Wesley will benefit from two groups of Day of Caring Volunteers. On September 7, employees from Mellon Financial will volunteer at Wesley for the day, and on September 21, employees from PPG will donate their time at Wesley.

NAAR Walk: Wesley staff, clients and friends supported the Walk F.A.R. For NAAR and helped Pittsburgh to raise over \$532,000 for autism research.



The Wesley Institute, Inc.  
243 Johnston Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
(412) 831-9390

Return Service Requested



# Wesley's Tour of Homes



*Sponsored by Colonial Gallery*

**Sunday, October 2, 2005 ~ 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m.**

**Ticket price - \$25**

**Directions to the five homes are included in the admission ticket**

**15<sup>th</sup> year for this South Hills premier house tour**

**All proceeds benefit the programs of The Wesley Institute, Inc.**

For forty years, The Wesley Institute has brought hope to the lives of thousands of children and their families. Wesley currently serves more than 900 children with mental and behavioral health issues. Families turn to The Wesley Institute for a better future.

**Purchase admission tickets at the following locations by check or cash only**

Colonial Gallery – Peters Township  
 Miller's Ace Hardware – Bethel Park & Peters Twp.  
 The TreeHouse – Upper St. Clair (checks only)

CHAS for Hair – Eighty-Four  
 The Gifted – Mt. Lebanon & Peters Twp.  
 The Wesley Institute – Upper St. Clair

**Raffle Items (2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10)**

- 1# Dine around Pittsburgh gift certificates
- 1# Home decorating certificates and items
- 1# Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort & Spa \$250 gift certificate

1 Raffle drawing will be held immediately after the tour and the winners will be notified. Winners need not be present.

**Gold Patron** - \$100 includes name in directory and 2 House Tour tickets

**Silver Patron** - \$50 includes name in directory and 1 House Tour ticket

**High Tea at Christ Methodist Church**

Tickets include admission to a high tea (from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm), celebrating Wesley's 40th Anniversary at Christ United Methodist Church, where Wesley began in 1965.

If you would like to purchase admission tickets or raffle tickets by mail or become a Gold or Silver Patron, please tear off this slip and send to The Wesley Institute House Tour Tickets, 243 Johnston Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 with your check before September 26, 2005.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
**Patron name as you want it printed in the House Tour Directory**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to be a:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Patron for \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Patron for \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to purchase:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Admission Tickets @ \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Tickets @ 2 for \$5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Tickets @ 5 for \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A copy of Wesley's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling, toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Raffle tickets will not be mailed; they will be filled out and placed in your selection.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Dine around Pittsburgh gift certificates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home decorating certificates and items
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort & Spa certificate

**Total amount of check enclosed**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

