

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

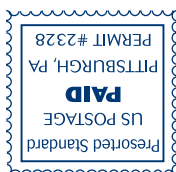
Call 412-831-9390 for ticket information
or visit www.wesleyspectrum.org

412 831-9390

243 Johnston Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Strength to learn, to live, to love

WESLEY
SPECTRUM
SERVICES



PRISM



**WESLEY
SPECTRUM
SERVICES**

Strength to learn, to live, to love

In This Issue

COVER STORY

Participation in Day Camp
Expansion for Autism Services

PAGE 2

From the Desk of

PAGE 3

Brightening Lives
Gifts & Tributes

PAGE 4 & 5

Success Stories
Wish List

PAGE 6

WS Team Spirit
5 Things You Need To Know

PAGE 7

Make a Difference
Foster Care &
Adoption Services

Autism Services Expand

The Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center is opening a new site at the Saint Bartholomew Parish school building in Penn Hills. Wesley Spectrum is leasing 8,000 square feet for their Wonder Kids Club program. This special program focuses on helping children with autism to develop their social and communication skills. The Penn Hills site will also offer Wraparound services, a program that provides one-on-one, in-home therapy for children with autism disorders. This new site will enable the program to provide more services in the East Hills area.

Harry & Libby Dodson Family and Child Development Center Opening

Also, the South Hills Family & Child Development Center Wonder Kids Club at Pathfinder School, and the Wrap-Around Services out of Johnston Road will move to Mayview Road, Canonsburg. The new site will provide expanded space for both entities enabling them to offer a thorough, high-quality program for the children they serve. This move was made possible by a very generous donation from Harry and Libby Dodson. ♥

Pump Up Your Potential

Westmoreland County 4-H, Laurel Youth Services and Wesley Spectrum Services joined together to hold a Day Camp, with the theme "Pump up Your Potential."

The Wesley Spectrum Adoption and Foster Care Program sent 17 inner-city children to this camp as either campers or camp counselors. The children and WS staff members had great experiences at camp. Children experienced many firsts: a river, a rural setting, and a summer camp in general. Some children made new friendships based on the shared experience of being a foster or adoptive child. Others achieved an increase in confidence as they met the challenges of attempting a new canoeing adventure. The ability to become a positive leader was also one of the valuable lessons learned at camp. ♥



Westmoreland County Day Camp



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

OPERATING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack W. Elliott,
Chairperson

Ronda Jean Owens,
Secretary

Richard Zahren,
Treasurer

Richard Berdik
Sheila Ford

Carolyn E. Hill

Dr. Peter Keim

John F. LeBlond

Laura Maines

Martha Mattingly, Ph.D.

L. Scott Neely

Dr. Robert A. Reed

Juliana Shayne

Nancy Stillson

Douglas W. Muetzel,
Chief Executive Officer

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia K. Nichols,
Chairperson

Gretchen Jankowski,
Secretary

Scott O'Mara,
Treasurer

Richard Berdik

George Bond III

Mary Carol Limegrover

Donald Pysola

Diane Schrecengost

Gary Zentner

Douglas W. Muetzel,
Chief Executive Officer

Friends of Wesley Spectrum,

In July, Dan Findley, Executive Vice President of Services, and I were asked by Annette Gross, Director of Foster Placement and Adoptive Services, to attend and help out at the Westmoreland County Day Camp at Cedar Creek Park along the Youghiogheny River. Seventeen children from Wesley Spectrum's (WS) foster care program and three children that were adopted through WS were attending the camp and having a wonderful time. The camp's theme for the week was "**Pump Up Your Potential.**" Before attending, Dan and I were alerted that our help may be needed with the canoe activity. And yes, even with the theme encouraging pumping up one's potential, many of our colleagues questioned whether I really had the potential (while they did not seem concerned about Dan's capabilities).

While Dan and I were driving up to the camp in the morning, we were actively discussing the day's and week's merger challenges. We had just passed a key threshold, the beginning (July 1) of our first full fiscal year of being the new Wesley Spectrum Services. New payroll timing, a fully merged accounting platform on Great Plains software, exciting and challenging growth in many programs, and more reports proving the merger is providing more seamless delivery of services for children and families were all moving full speed ahead. We were strategizing on using the progress of the past six successful months to leverage even greater gains in the next six months. Very honestly, at times it seems like we're climbing quite a mountain!

But literally, in a matter of minutes, it all changed. We left the car and the details of the merger, and instantly were energized by, and acutely focused on, our mission: seventy children ages 8 to 17. Every single one is valuable beyond measure and deserving of our very best. Some have stories and challenges that are difficult to fathom. The essential question of every effort of Wesley Spectrum resonated loud and clear: What is the best interest of each child?

After lunch and some good old-fashioned camp activities, we made our way down to the dock. Of course, Dan launched with two children in his canoe before my canoe had the chance to be first. I was blessed to have a precious 8 year old and delightful 17 year old with me. They voted that I take the front position in the canoe. At just the moment we were nestled in, one passenger announced that she needed to take a bathroom break. So, off with the life preservers...the older canoeist was willing to take the younger to find a bathroom. But we needed more speed. Dan was already on the Yough and I wanted to catch up!

After getting back in the canoe and re-strapping on life preservers, the youngest had another question. She directly asked me, "Mr. Doug, are we going to get wet?" On the way down the gently streaming Yough, we sang songs, talked about getting wet, heard a very gifted 8 year old count past 100, and enjoyed many more memorable conversations. It was most definitely my "best day ever."

But days like July 20 happen year round at the new Wesley Spectrum Services. I was honored to have the opportunity to directly experience doing what is in the best interest of each child with a few of my campmates. Our goal with this newsletter is to attempt to give our readers and friends a glimpse of just some examples of the impact of our mission to provide transformational support for children and families as they strive to become more independent, responsible and caring members of the community.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and ask that over the course of this fiscal year you will help "**pump up our potential**" and support the life changing work of the new Wesley Spectrum Services.

For the kids,

Douglas W. Muetzel, *CEO Wesley Spectrum Services*

Partnerships Provide Transformational Support

The **Johnson Family Foundation** awarded Wesley Spectrum Services a generous grant for Wesley Spectrum Academy's most recent project, **Transformation Station**. Transformation Station is a way of transforming land – an unused playground area of the school – and transforming lives of students, staff, and community volunteers. The interdisciplinary, hands-on project of a school greenhouse and garden will be built and maintained by students, provide a means of volunteer mentorship and participation, and launch Wesley Spectrum Academy's entrepreneurship program. Transformation Station, growing from a small classroom science gardening project, is now a contagiously exciting venture involving the whole school and the surrounding community.

Likewise, the **Dominion Foundation**, dedicated to improving the overall health and well-being of the community, is partnering with Wesley Spectrum Services by extending their generosity to support Wesley Spectrum Highland Services' project, **Safe Travels**. As the Wesley Spectrum Highland's Bridge team seeks to provide the means to a successful transition into adulthood through helping our young adults develop appropriate connections, they have recognized a significant barrier for those with cognitive disabilities: travel. Safe Travels, a travel training program designed and implemented by the Bridge team, will help students develop the needed skills and practical experience to safely negotiate a travel situation.

Wesley Spectrum Services appreciates the partnerships and commitment to our community from the Johnson Family Foundation and the Dominion Foundation as they help us to advance our mission **to provide transformational support for children and families as they strive to become more independent, responsible and caring members of the community.** ♥

United Way Contribution Choice Code Numbers:

Before the merger, both Spectrum Family Network and the Wesley Institute were very grateful to have generous donations from the United Way Contributors Choice program. Following are the numbers used in the past and will continue to be used this year. All donations received will go to the Wesley Spectrum Services Foundation to benefit the children and families in our programs.

962916 – United Way of Washington County-Spectrum Family Network Foundation

996389 – United Way of Allegheny County-Spectrum Family Network Foundation

149 – Wesley Spectrum Services Foundation

Please designate your United Way contribution to one of the numbers and help to brighten the lives of children and families in your community. ♥



The Elementary Students at Wesley Spectrum Highland Services received special certificates and medals as recognition for their work in the Highland Helpers program. Highland Helpers complete tasks to help out around the school and earn special bucks to purchase items in the "Highland Helper Store."

WS GIFTS

Thank You

Wesley Spectrum Tribute Gifts

*In Memory of: Mrs. Virginia Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. Richard S. Chalfant*

*In Memory of:
Mrs. Nancy T. Conover
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Craig*

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

*In Memory of:
Mrs. Polly R. Hawkins
Mr. William R. Hawkins*

*In Honor of:
Dr. William Law &
Physiatric Staff
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hughes*

*In Honor of: Mr. Hank Lipinski
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Campbell*

*In Honor of: Home Builders Class
Mt. Lebanon United
Methodist Church
Mt. Lebanon United Methodist
Church-Homebuilders*

Strength to Live Wonder Kids Club Program:

The following letter was sent from a mother of an 11 year old boy with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center program:

My son Mitch* is home schooled, and we belong to a co-op group that meets two times a month. Mitch has made many friends through this group, and I have watched miracles happen all year long. Tonight, however, was something special. There was a talent show and when we got there a friend of Mitch's ran up to him and greeted him with an enthusiastic chest bump. Six other boys came running over yelling, "Yeah, Mitch is here!" while gathering around him and patting him on the back.



WS SUCCESS STORIES

I asked some of the mothers of these boys about what their sons think about Mitch, and only his closet friend has noticed anything different about him. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for Mitch. Wonder Kids has been such a blessing for him. I know that with his will, support of his family and friends, and Wesley Spectrum Services, Mitch will be able to make all of his dreams come true!

Strength to Love Adoption & Foster Care Program:

The following 2 stories are successful placement stories from the Wesley Spectrum Adoption and Foster Care program:

Leticia* wanted a family. Her aunt was an approved foster parent for Wesley Spectrum and referred her to the program to look into becoming a foster parent also. Leticia was matched with a little preschool aged boy and provided foster care to him for two years. When her foster son was freed for adoption, Leticia was considered his adoptive resource. Wesley Spectrum is proud to announce that Leticia legally adopted her foster son in June 2006. We wish her family many pleasant and wonderful memories for the future.

Jack and Sue had been foster parents for Wesley Spectrum since the 1980's. They have cared for many children; some with significant needs. Previously they adopted one of their foster sons, who is now in middle school.

Recently, Tonya, a preschool-aged girl was placed in their care. Jack and Sue instantly fell in love with the foster-daughter. Their birth children were grown and their adopted son was in middle school, and much to their surprise, they considered adopting again. When adoption was being explored for their foster daughter, Jack and Sue presented themselves as an adoptive resource. The adoption of their foster daughter was finalized at the end of July 2006. Wesley Spectrum will continue to share in their joy, as they are still continuing to be foster parents through our program.

Strength to learn

Strength to Learn Wesley Spectrum Highland Services:

The following information is about a former Wesley Spectrum Highland Services student:

John* was removed from his elementary school because he had a tendency to try to beat up the other students. He was different from the other kids; he dressed differently and acted differently, so the other kids teased him. He responded with aggression and got into fights with the other students.

Wesley Spectrum Highland School was a big change for him. He spent most of the next six years there and has fond memories of several of his teachers who really pushed him along. As John got older, he says that the Highland staff began to expect more from him because they knew if he went back to public school, he'd have to be much more regulated with his day. They always encouraged him to do his best and also to understand the world.

In 10th grade, John began spending half a day at his public school and half a day at Highland. He says everyone at Highland really helped him transition back into his other school. And, this past May, John graduated from public high school. He is currently employed for the summer and with great pride, he will begin college courses in the fall. ♥

*Names have been changed for confidentiality

Client Satisfaction Survey: Quality Improvement to Better Serve Children and Families

As part of the Wesley Spectrum Performance and Quality Improvement system, a client satisfaction survey was distributed to children, parents of children and adult clients receiving services across all of Wesley Spectrum. The survey was taken during the month of May with a response rate of 38%, with 904 surveys returned.

Survey questions focused on four primary areas with the following response scores:

1. Consumer Driven Care—89%
2. Safety of the Services/Environment—86%
3. Therapeutic Relationship and Responsiveness—92%
4. Effectiveness of Services—82%
5. Overall Satisfaction—90%



n, to live, to love

When asked what clients like about the program, responses include:

- They gave me the option to make something of myself
- I like this program because I have support from a lot of staff members to get through my school work and problems with my friends.
- That people are nice to me and I have a place to live
- The feeling of being wanted by everyone again
- It helps me control my anger
- You are not judgmental; you actually understand me and take the time with me.
- Believing that my child is a member of society and deserves to be treated as such.
- During the time my son has been enrolled in your school, I see good things coming out in school and at home. He is happier being at Wesley. Thank you.
- “I feel that this program has been a God-send for my family and me.”



All Wesley Spectrum programs have shared the results of the survey with their staff and clients. The information is being used to improve performance in the future. It has been encouraging for staff to see the many positive responses and comments regarding the services they provide. It has also provided important feedback to alert the staff to areas in need of improvement. ❤️

Twenty-four seniors graduated from the Wesley Spectrum Academy on Thursday, June 1. Most seniors said they would not have graduated from high school if it weren't for the Academy.

WS WISHLIST

Wesley Spectrum Academy —

DVD Player

VCR

Video Camera



Family & Child Development Center —

Outdoor games or toys

Beach balls – very large

Wooden picnic table – for adults

Wooden picnic table – for children

Badminton racquets

Felt board people/characters/play sets

Hot wheels – cars and tracks/sets

Uno Attack by Mattel

Tumblin' Monkeys by Mattel

Kerplunk by Mattel

Ants in the Pants by Milton Bradley

Bruno Game

Bey Blades and magnetic Bey Blades

Magnetix – glow in the dark

Items of interest to Teens (especially boys) for our “Wonderstores”



Foster Care & Adoption —

Cribs (used)

Car Seats (used)



Contact Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390 x3219 or phuffman@wesleyspectrum.org to make a donation.



PST...

Wesley Spectrum Services' newest Performance and Quality Improvement tool is the Process Solution Team (PST). The PST is a component of the Wesley Spectrum Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) System. The team is a resource and support to the PQI committee, the overall organization and individual programs, in the assessment, development and improvement of processes and performance outcomes through the use of quality improvement tools. This team addresses areas of concern to ensure that Wesley Spectrum continues to provide high quality, cost-effective services consistent with our mission, vision, and values.

Composed of staff members from across Wesley Spectrum Services, the PST is an integral resource to program leadership. Meeting with the PST can help a program or department evaluate, measure, and monitor progress towards our mission and vision, while illustrating opportunities for program improvements which increase efficiency.

The PST uses improvement tools such as logic models and process maps, business reviews and business plans to find solutions to problems, to provide assistance in setting up new programs/processes, and to help create a road map for new and current staff. These tools enable staff to work towards the same goals and objectives, ultimately improving their service to children and families. ♥



The Wesley Spectrum team proudly supported the NAAR Walk for Autism Research, held at Heinz Field. Sixty-seven walkers on our team joined the thousands of other walkers to raise over \$600,000 for autism research.

5 Things You Need to Know About the Non-Profit Sector in Southwestern Pennsylvania*:

1. The Pittsburgh region has 11.1 nonprofits for every 10,000 residents- on par with Cleveland, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, and Baltimore. In fact, the size of Pittsburgh's nonprofit sector is typical of an American city today.
2. Most nonprofits have cut the fat, if any fat really ever existed. Most operate with less than a 3% cushion in their budget; and, on average, more than 4 of every 5 dollars support program expenses.
3. The 2,674 financially-active nonprofits operating in metro Pittsburgh spend about \$12 billion annually on the well being of the region (not including health insurance carriers, which certainly account for billions more).

4. Seventy percent of Pittsburgh's nonprofit directors hold graduate degrees, a remarkable percentage given that less than one-quarter of all local adults have earned college degrees. While seeking first and foremost to direct their organizations outward to the community, these directors wisely invest internally so that they may "do more and do it better."

5. Increasingly, local non profit leaders are engaged in community outreach, launching appeals precisely because they have urgent news about which they want citizens to do something. Nonprofit leaders, perhaps better than anyone else, know the severity of our community's ills; they work everyday in the trenches.

**Information provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GNP), sponsored by The Forbes Funds. The GPNP encourages collaborative efforts among its members, enabling nonprofit organizations to identify critical community issues, develop common planning strategies, and implement solutions together. Wesley Spectrum Services is a proud member of the GNP.*

Looking for a Place to Call Home

In our last newsletter, we presented Star, Ray, and Josh who were in need of adoptive homes. Wesley Spectrum is pleased to announce that all three children have been matched with families. The pre-placement meetings and visits are in the planning stage. We hope that the matches are successful and the children's quest for a permanent home has ended.



JOHN



MICHAEL



STAR

“...all three children have been matched with families.”

Foster care is a time of uncertainty. Children are removed from their family of origin and placed in an unfamiliar home. The approved foster parent gladly opens up their home to the child who needs out-of-home placement. The foster parent identifies and addresses the child's fears and attempts to alleviate the anxiety that develops between foster and birth families. They also help the child transition through the different phases of placement.

Wesley Spectrum recruits community members to be foster parents for children in need of out of home placement. We provide pre-service training that will build a foundation for the foster parent to draw from once a placement occurs. Wesley Spectrum embraces the philosophy that our foster parents are resources for children entering our program. We take great care in matching foster families and children, and also providing the foster family and child with support throughout the child's placement. We are proud to say that the majority of our foster families have become permanent resources for the foster children that entered our program.

Resource families are needed for children in need of temporary foster care or permanency through adoption. Candidates should possess a good sense of humor, be flexible, at least 21 years of age, and love children. **If you are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please contact the program director, Annette Gross at 412-342-2385. ♥**

The 2006 Wesley Spectrum Invitational Raises Funds for Wesley Spectrum's Programs for Children with Autism

Threatening rain clouds gave way to a beautiful day at Nevillewood Golf Club for the Wesley Spectrum Invitational. After a buffet barbeque lunch in the club house, the teams headed out to the links for a round of golf. In the evening, all participants enjoyed a delicious dinner and participated in both a Chinese and silent auction.

Taking in the sunshine and spending time on the course with friends and business partners alike, golfers had a great day while helping Wesley Spectrum Services to raise over \$45,000 for children with special needs.

Play Your Own Ball Winners:

First Place Team: Ikon Team

Second Place Team: Gary Zentner Team

Scramble Winners:

First Place Team: Mellon Equity

Second Place Team: McCrory McDowell

Closest to the Pin: John Kover

Longest Drive (Men): Dave Dargenzio

Longest Drive (Women): Laurin Moore

*Special thanks to Title sponsors:
Mellon Equity Associates, LLP
and Dick's Sporting Goods*



Dr. Stephen Lee Receives Service Award from National Magazine

Dr. Stephen Lee was recently awarded the "EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award," given by Exceptional Parent Magazine. The award recognizes his contribution to those with disabilities, particularly for his work on the area of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).



Dr. Lee received the award at home plate at PNC Park, on Tuesday, July 18. He has been a Psychiatrist for Wesley Spectrum for 21 years. Congratulations Dr. Lee! ♥