

PRISM



**WESLEY
SPECTRUM
SERVICES**

Strength to learn, to live, to love

In This Issue

COVER STORY

Experiencing Camp

Music Therapy Program's
Recital

PAGE 2

From the Desk of

PAGE 3

Tickets for Kids Charities

Career Opportunities for
Transforming Lives

Congrats Class of 2008

PAGE 4

Performance & Quality
Improvement

School for Children
with Autism

PAGE 5

New Athletic League Formed

Extended School
Year Programs

Recognizing Partners

firm foundations

2008 WS Invitational

Love to Shop Online?

WS Tour of Homes

WS is Recycling!



Experiencing Camp

The Wesley Spectrum Placement Services program partnered with Laurel Youth Services and Penn State Cooperative Extension's 4-H Program to offer the third annual summer camp for children in their programs. Wesley Spectrum is proud to announce that 65 children in our adoption, foster care and residential services participated in the camp, held at Cedar Creek Park in Westmoreland County.

Youth in the programs were given the responsibility of camp counselor roles and were asked to help guide the younger campers. The three-day camp ended with a 2-mile canoe trip down the Youghiogheny River. For many of the kids, this was their first experience in a canoe. Some of Wesley Spectrum's Executive staff joined the campers for the canoe trip. Laura Maines, Wesley Spectrum Operating Board Vice-Chairperson also volunteered her time at the camp. ♥



Performances by Over 70 Children with Autism and Other Mental Illness

The Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center Music Therapy program hosted a music recital on Sunday, June 8, 2008 at the Mary Pappert School of Music, PNC Recital Hall located on the campus of Duquesne



University. The event's theme "Music of the Heart" celebrated the musical abilities of children diagnosed with autism, mental impairments, developmental disabilities, physical impairments and mental illnesses.



The recital consisted of vocal and instrumental performances, along with creative movement and dance. This was the first opportunity for many of the performers, children who attend Music Therapy's group, private or semi-private sessions,

to share their talents with a large group. Family and friends watched with great pride and enjoyed the special opportunity to see their child perform.

For more information on the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center Music Therapy or Therapeutic Creative Arts program, contact: Katie Harrill at 724-443-8900. ♥



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

Laura A. Maines,
Vice Chairperson

Danielle Blackburn,
Secretary

Richard Zahren,
Treasurer

Sheila M. Ford

Carolyn E. Hill

Peter J. Keim, M.D.

John F. LeBlond

Mary Carol Limegrover

L. Scott Neely

Ronda Jeanie Owens

Robert A. Reed, Psy.D.

Juliana Shayne

Nancy N. Stillson

Douglas W. Muetzel, CEO

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott G. O'Mara,
Chairperson

Gretchen L. Jankowski,
Secretary

Richard M. Ubinger,
Treasurer

Kevin C. Abbott

Richard F. Berdik

Maria Kast-Carson

Mary Carol Limegrover

Patricia K. Nichols

Donald Pysola

Douglas W. Muetzel, CEO

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed a great summer! It is amazing to me that so much can happen in just three months. That is also true at Wesley Spectrum. For this issue, we have tried to give you a small glimpse of how just one summer at Wesley Spectrum Services can bring about so many life-changing experiences for kids and families.

Each year my heart is touched when I am asked to participate in the summer camp program that includes children in Wesley Spectrum's adoption, foster and residential services. This year I was particularly moved by a recently adopted teenager that took on the role and responsibility of camp counselor. To consider the life challenges this young man has endured, and then to see his gentleness and understanding with one of his campers, left me in awe of what a four day opportunity can do to change lives.

You'll have the opportunity to read about the first ever music recital created by Wesley Spectrum's Family and Child Development Center. After this event, I received several e-mails from parents that spoke passionately of their appreciation for their child to have such an opportunity cradled in unconditional acceptance. Seventy lives changed in just one summer day.

One of the greatest privileges afforded to me each year is to attend the high school graduations of Wesley Spectrum's Academy and Highland schools. Words seem so inadequate to capture the enormity of the accomplishments of our graduates. To know the life stories or to hear the students speak of their experiences brings a surge of emotion and tears of amazement. The thunderous applause of the parents and families as the class of 2008 was presented, is scarcely more than I can truly take in. So much more is being said than just the room-filling sound of hands clapping in celebration. This was just the beginning of Wesley Spectrum's amazing summer!

In closing, I would like to encourage you to look between the lines of text in this issue. There are two truths that resonate in my heart as I read through the pages. The first is that we have the opportunity to participate in positively changed lives. I thank you for choosing Wesley Spectrum! The second is the essence that makes Wesley Spectrum great - the uncompromising commitment of each of Wesley Spectrum's 730+ staff, 23 board members and countless friends and volunteers to **"do what is in the best interest of each child and family we serve."**

For the kids and families,

Douglas W. Muetzel,
CEO Wesley Spectrum Services



Wesley Spectrum in Romania

The Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center is providing training to providers in Romania. These are the two newest graduates of a special Wesley Spectrum curriculum within an Autism Training Program in Romania. The students provide volunteer therapy within the community. ♥

WS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Tickets for Kids Charities: Providing Opportunities for Wesley Spectrum's Kids

Wesley Spectrum Services values our partnership with Tickets for Kids Charities. Since 2003, we have been collaborating with this nonprofit organization to provide the children and students in our programs with opportunities to experience quality events in the Pittsburgh area.

Tickets for Kids Charities has provided Wesley Spectrum's kids with tickets to attend sporting events such as: Pittsburgh Pirates and Penguins games, along with local collegiate football, basketball and soccer games. Tickets have also been granted for admission to all the Pittsburgh museums and special events in Pittsburgh, such as the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, Monster Truck Jam, Stars on Ice and Disney on Ice – High School Musical.

In the fiscal year of 2007-2008, Wesley Spectrum Services received \$11,932.27 in donations of tickets fulfilling their mission to create magical moments and lifetime memories everyday by including kids in community events. We look forward to our continued partnership with Tickets for Kids Charities. ♥



Justin, a senior at the Wesley Spectrum Academy, spends half the school day at the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School where he received the "Extra Effort Award in Machine Shop." Justin's outstanding attitude, work ethic and dependability are qualities that made him a perfect candidate for the award. In addition, The Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School recognized the commitment and encouragement that Justin receives from the Wesley Spectrum Academy, as an attribute to Justin's success. ♥

Career Opportunities for Transforming Lives

As Wesley Spectrum Services continues to grow and provide more services, our career opportunities are growing as well. The web site has been updated to include current openings and an online application. If you are interested in being part of our growing, winning organization, Wesley Spectrum Services would like to invite you to view our openings and apply online. For further information, visit www.wesleyspectrum.org and click on the Careers Tab. ♥



Congrats Class of 2008!

On May 29, thirty-four students graduated from Wesley Spectrum Academy. The following week, 12 seniors graduated from Wesley Spectrum Highland Services.

During the Wesley Spectrum Academy's graduation ceremony, three seniors gave speeches reflecting on their time at the Academy. One student stated:

My fellow classmates and I each have unique experiences, to say the least. No matter what, there is no denying that every staff member at Wesley has treated us like equals and individuals rather than IQ's and statistics. For all the compassion and understanding, we are grateful. We will all follow our own paths in life, but I feel I speak for all of my peers when I say with this new journey comes many unanswered questions, hopes and high aspirations, and we couldn't have done it without staff here at the Academy.

Congratulations and Good Luck Class of 2008! ♥

firm foundations



WESLEY
SPECTRUM
SERVICES

*Strength to learn,
to live, to love*

Highlighting the Wesley Spectrum Services Foundation | ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2008



2008 Wesley Spectrum's Invitational Sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods



It was a beautiful day at Laurel Valley Golf Club for the Wesley Spectrum 2008 Invitational. After the spectacular Laurel Valley buffet lunch, the teams headed out to the links for an enjoyable round of golf. The event concluded with a barbecue, silent auctions and the awarding of prizes. Taking in the sunshine and spending time on the course with friends and business partners alike, a great day was had by all while helping Wesley Spectrum Services raise **over \$44,000** for the children and families that we serve.

Wesley Spectrum would also like to extend a special thank you to **Trish Nichols** who has served as the Chairperson of Wesley Spectrum's Invitational for nine years. Trish's dedication, expertise and passion for Wesley Spectrum's mission has helped Wesley Spectrum to raise a total of almost \$425,000 from the past nine golf outings.

And, it is with great pleasure for Wesley Spectrum to announce that **Rich Beynon** has agreed to be the Chairperson for the 2009 Wesley Spectrum Invitational. Rich joined the Wesley Spectrum Golf committee in 2008. His knowledge and drive to raise funding for Wesley Spectrum's children and families will be an excellent asset to the event.

If you are interested in joining the 2009 Wesley Spectrum Golf Committee, contact Paula Huffman at phuffman@wesleyspectrum.org or 412-831-9390 x3219.

Special thanks to Title Sponsor, Dick's Sporting Goods and to all of the sponsors that helped to make the event a great success for the kids and families that Wesley Spectrum serves:

Title Sponsor:
Dick's Sporting Goods

Par Sponsorship:
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Mellon Capital Management
Mt. Lebanon Office Equipment

Tee Sign Sponsors:
Beynon & Company, Inc.
ESMS Home Medical

Refreshment Contributors:
Mellon Capital Management

Welcoming Gift Sponsor:
Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Love to Shop Online?

Support Wesley Spectrum while Shopping at Your Favorite Stores

Through an online giving website called IGive, members can earn money for Wesley Spectrum just by shopping. Sites such as the Gap, Staples, Best Buy, E-Bay and The Home Depot will donate a percentage of your purchase total to Wesley Spectrum, if you go through the IGive site.

Becoming an IGive member is easy:

- Go to: www.igive.com and register your name
- Select the Wesley Spectrum Foundation as your charity of choice
- Anytime you would like to make an online purchase at a participating store, go through the IGive website.

Afraid you will forget about this great opportunity? When registering, click the box for the reminder window, which will pop up when you are on a participating site.

If you have any questions about these new ways to raise money for Wesley Spectrum's kids and families, contact Jennifer Kostolansky at jkostolansky@wesleyspectrum.org or call 412-831-9390.

Roomful Express on McKnight Road selected Wesley Spectrum as their Charity for July

The store collected donations in hopes to purchase 300 backpacks filled with school supplies for the Foster and Adoption, Shelter and Specialized Education Programs. The donation table was located near their check-out and included Wesley Spectrum's information in addition to donation cards for recognizing their customers' generosity.

Wesley Spectrum's Tour of Homes

Sunday, September 28, 2008 • Noon to 5:00 p.m. • South Hills

Exquisite homes from Upper St. Clair and Mt. Lebanon are included on the tour. Attending the tour provides homeowners with great ideas for building, renovating, decorating, designing, furnishing and landscaping.

This year's homes include:

- A timeless Tudor design on Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon
- A charming colonial on Briar Meadows, Mt. Lebanon
- A striking contemporary on Northgate Drive, Upper St. Clair
- A brick colonial on Seegar Road, Upper St. Clair
- A stone Cape Cod on Salem Drive, Upper St. Clair

Visit www.wesleyspectrum.org for more information.



Wesley Spectrum is Recycling!

Wesley Spectrum is recycling ink cartridges, and all proceeds benefit the children and families we serve. We have teamed up with Cartridge World USA to recycle used ink cartridges to earn money while also helping the environment. Several locations are participating in the program including the Academy, Highland Services, Family and Child Development Center and the East office on Penn Avenue. Just in the first two months, Wesley Spectrum has raised over \$190!

Wesley Spectrum has also started recycling some paper goods at the Academy and Highland Schools. The designated receptacles are painted green and yellow and called "Abitibi" Paper Retriever dumpsters and accept paper goods such as magazines, shopping catalogs, newspapers, mail, and office or school supplies.

With both of these programs supporting kids and families, we encourage the community to join us in collecting paper and ink cartridges. Contact Jennifer Kostolansky at 412-831-9390 or jkostolansky@wesleyspectrum.org for details on how you can support these recycling and fundraising efforts.

An Investment with Great Returns

The **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)** provides great benefits for Wesley Spectrum and proves to be a smart proposition for business entities. Your business may be able to make a contribution to Wesley Spectrum through the EITC to support innovative educational opportunities. **You will receive 90% of your gift as a PA tax credit.** Plus, you receive the benefit of a **charitable deduction for the full amount of your gift** on your company's federal income tax return. View details at www.wesleyspectrum.org and select Donate Now. Or, call Jennifer Kostolansky at 412-831-9390.

Memorials & Tributes

In Memory of: Jack and Lena Cobetto
Mrs. Joyce Gross

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

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

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

In Memory of: Mr. Al Melchitsky
Ms. Lynn A. Rice

In Memory of: Mrs. Margaret Reiber
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Malakoff



House Tour Committee

A tremendous committee of volunteers organize Wesley Spectrum's Tour of Homes. These ladies are an essential piece of raising funds for the children and families that Wesley Spectrum serves. Committee members pictured, from left to right:

Ginny Schaffer, Anne Knoell, Jane Pillar, Patti Kramer, Cathy Mullin (Chairperson), Pat Collier, Jen Kostolansky, Bonnie Amos, Micki Talarico, Paula Huffman, Ann Strader

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2008 Tour of Homes, or would like to join the committee, contact Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390 x3219.

SAVE THE DATE:

A Night for Autism

Monday, Nov. 10, 2008
The LeMont • Price: \$50.00

A lovely evening with fantastic hors d'oeuvres, wines, beer, desserts and a beautiful view atop Mt. Washington. All proceeds specifically benefit the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center program that specializes in the treatment of children with autism.

WS Wishlist

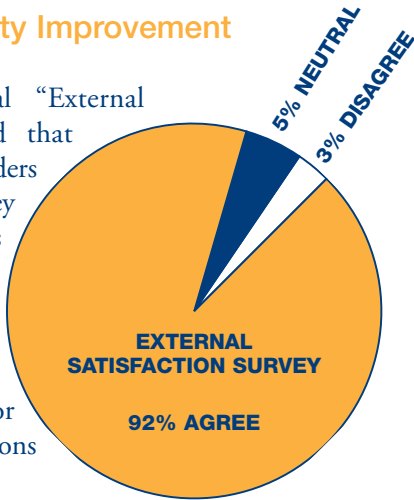
- Baby Changing Tables (2)
- High Chair
- Pack and Plays (portable cribs)
- Rocking Chairs (2)
- Desk Lamps or Floor Lamps

To make a donation, contact Paula Huffman at 412-831-9390 x3219 or phuffman@wesleyspectrum.org

Performance and Quality Improvement

The results of the annual “External Satisfaction Survey” showed that **92%** of the external stakeholders that responded to the survey were **satisfied** with the services provided by Wesley Spectrum. This satisfaction percentage is up 4% from the 2007 survey.

The survey also allowed for suggestions and recommendations



for improvement. By monitoring performance indicators and using data to continuously improve our services, we can ensure that Wesley Spectrum Services continues to provide high quality cost-effective services consistent with our mission, vision, and values.

Special thanks to those who took the time to fill out the survey and offer suggestions for improvement as we offer transformational support for children and families as they strive to become more independent, responsible and caring members of the community. ♥

CART Reports

The Community Care Behavioral Health Organization’s Consumer Action Response Team (CART) conducted telephone interviews with clients of the Wesley Spectrum Family Focused Solution Based program. Family Focused Solution Based therapy provides in-home family therapy and supportive services to children, adolescents and other family members in Allegheny County.

The phone interviews were a means to allow members to express their opinions on the behavioral health services that they receive. The results provided Wesley Spectrum an opportunity to make quality improvements to the program.

The CART targeted five main indicators and Wesley Spectrum achieved the following:

Satisfaction Indicator	Your Results N=10 (% satisfied /neutral /NA)	Network Average N=435 (% satisfied /neutral /NA)
1. Satisfaction with Access	90%	93%
2. Satisfaction with Information Provided	94%	86%
3. Satisfaction with Acceptance	100%	95%
4. Satisfaction with Perceived Choice	90%	92%
5. Overall Satisfaction	100%	98%

In summary, the report stated, “Your program exceeds the Network Average in the areas of Satisfaction with Information Provided, Acceptance and Overall Satisfaction.” ♥

Openings Available in K-3 Private Academic School for Children with Autism



The Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center announces openings in the Wesley Spectrum Elementary Center for children in Kindergarten through third grade. The Elementary Center is designed specifically for

children with an autism spectrum disorder, or other developmental delays.

This Private Academic School Offers:

An initial assessment that includes a skills tracking system and an IEP that identifies areas of focus including the development of: cognitive, relational, sensory, social and motor skills. Team collaboration is used to transition the student onto the next educational setting.

Speech, language, music and occupational therapy are all included and provided on-site.



To learn more, or to arrange a visit, contact Heather-Dawn Filipiak, program director at 724-443-8900 www.wesleyspectrum.org.

New Athletic League Formed to Focus on Students Needs and Experiences

Wesley Spectrum Academy staff are partnering with similar schools and agencies to create the Western Pennsylvania Intramural Therapeutic League (WPITL) designed to focus on the needs of individual kids and the learning of appropriate social skills.

Wesley Spectrum Highland, Pressley Ridge, Bradley Center, and Pace School have all joined the Wesley Spectrum Academy in forming this new league. The WPITL is innovative, because for the first time, participating youth will be able to compete with kids that are very similar to them. With the WPITL, the focus is completely on developing the social and interactive life skills of the players. Kevin Pusateri and Casey Slusser of the Wesley Spectrum Academy have been instrumental in forming this new league and bringing the providers together. Both Kevin and Casey are the elected officers of the WPITL.

The league will begin by hosting flag football, volleyball, basketball and kickball. Each season will consist of several games and conclude with a tournament. This is a new opportunity for many students across Western Pennsylvania, and it will be very exciting to watch the league and the participating youth develop and progress. Both staff at Wesley Spectrum Academy and Wesley Spectrum Highland Services have found that teaching appropriate behaviors through the use of athletic skills and fundamentals through intramural and therapeutic activity can be very successful with the kids in Wesley Spectrum's programs. ♥

Extended School Year Programs

Wesley Spectrum Highland Services and the Wesley Spectrum Academy hosted ESY during the months of June and July. Sixty students attended ESY at the Academy and eighty-five Highland and Integrated Services students attended the ESY program at Highland Services.

To celebrate the last day of the ESY Program at Highland, parents and family members were invited to a "Family Day" picnic. The event included face painting and various games and activity stations. High School students took on responsibilities and "worked" the game stations by helping with the younger students. Families enjoyed a beautiful day and a picnic lunch with the children. ♥

The first day of school at the Academy is: September 2, 2008
The first day of school at Highland is: August 25, 2008

Recognizing Partners



The Wesley Spectrum School Based Behavioral Health Program hosted an appreciation breakfast to recognize the school districts that they are currently partnering with for the integration of mental health and education.

Wesley Spectrum therapists were recognized, and school district representatives presented information on their partnership with the School Based Behavioral Health Program.

Rick Boyle, from PaTTAN, also gave a presentation on Pennsylvania's Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support System. ♥



Students Raise Funds to Help Local Animal Shelter

Wesley Spectrum Highland Services students raised over \$200 for the Fallen Timber Animal Shelter in Elizabeth, PA. The kids learned to weave scarves in their art classes and then sold the scarves throughout the school year. The weaving class, an art elective, provided students with the opportunity to learn to learn a new skill that is also very therapeutic.

In addition, the kids gained experience in selling goods that they made in class. Students sold the scarves to Highland staff, family, bus drivers and friends. Once the fundraising efforts were complete, several students enjoyed the experience of visiting the animal shelter to present their donation in person. While at the shelter, students had the opportunity to play with and walk several of the animals. ♥



Autism Walk

On Saturday, June 7, 12,000 people walked at Heinz Field. for the 9th annual Pittsburgh Walk Now for Autism. Wesley Spectrum was proud to participate in the event with an exhibitor booth and walking team. ♥



Wesley Spectrum Services Believes:

- The Organization's Purpose is to Serve
- Children and Families are at the Center of Decision Making
- Every Person is Valuable
- Every Person has Strengths
- Knowledge and Timely Access to Resources is Vital
- Children and Families Should be Heard
- Partnerships are Essential to our Success

www.wesleyspectrum.org

WESLEY SPECTRUM ON THE WEB

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

Strength to learn, to live, to love
 243 Johnston Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
 412 831-9390

**WESLEY
 SPECTRUM
 SERVICES**

