



A Registered NFP Charity, IRS 501(c)(3) organization

MCCCD

Midwest Council for Children with Disabilities

Small steps are big deal

Do you wonder just what becomes of the support and the financial backing that you generously provide to the Midwest Council for Children with Disabilities?

In this newsletter issue, we'd like to provide you with a glimpse of the success that **MCCCD** children are achieving as a result of your kind assistance.

We want you to know just how valuable your continuing support is and to know that your support for the children is put to the very best use. Please read on to learn precisely what this means.

Keep MCCCD In Mind

MCCCD, like other charitable organizations, currently confronts a difficult economic environment.

Still, **MCCCD** is resolved to meet the growing need for support among children dealing with disabilities.

More than ever we need everyone to pitch in to support the **MCCCD** mission: to provide assistance to children challenged physically, developmentally, or cognitively. **MCCCD** provides families of these children the means to pursue medical treatments and therapies that are not covered by health insurance.

We ask that you keep our organization in mind as you make your charitable contributions in the coming months. Please remember that we use all funds, after the cost of an event, to help the children.

In addition, should the opportunity arise, we ask that you convey the **MCCCD** story to your friends, to businesses, to service organizations, to anyone unfamiliar with the good that **MCCCD** accomplishes every day of the year.

Samantha

Let's start with Samantha's latest news and work back to her start with **MCCCD**.

Just this year, this hard working 12-year-old reached a musical milestone. She joined the chorus at her middle school. Alleluia!

No ordinary accomplishment once you learn that Samantha deals with cerebral palsy, which weakens muscle strength and interferes with coordination. In Samantha's case, it impeded her ability to sing.

But these obstacles didn't deter Samantha. Nick Coyne and therapist, Paula Miller Lundell, combined their efforts to focus on strengthening Samantha's abdominal muscles.

The effort paid off! Samantha's muscle strength increased and her lung capacity grew. She developed



the physical capability and endurance to sing with the best of them -- and to participate in the chorus, where she is a soprano.

Thanks to the support of every single one of **MCCCD**'s backers, when the choral director says "sing from your diaphragm," Samantha is up to the task.

Samantha has received therapy from **MCCCD** for over five years, progressively improving her muscles and coordination.

Mark Your Calendar for MCCCD Activities

It's never too early to mark your calendar for MCCCD activities. Below is a list of our annual fundraising events in each of our program communities.

Starting off the year on the second Sunday in March is our annual Top Chef Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, event.

Next, on the second Monday in June is our annual Chicagoland Golf Outing.

Then, the annual Cleveland Golf Outing takes place on the last Monday in September.

Many of our loyal backers participate in all of our events. They turn our outing into a business event for their associates and customers, which gets more people exposed to our cause.

While these three events represent our largest fundraising efforts, they are far from the only activities we'll be involved in over the coming year. The truth is we'll be busy throughout the year.

So, check in regularly at www.mccdcare.com for activity updates, as well as further details about the golf events.

www.mccdcare.com

100% of every dollar raised after the cost of the event is used for the children

Kevin

Kevin, 14, who deals with spina bifida, has been part of the MCCD family for six years.

Currently our organization is working to provide Kevin with equipment that will enable him to move to a standing position from his bed or wheelchair without the assistance of others.

This will mark a notable step in Kevin's goal to become more



independent -- a goal that is on the top of most teenager's "to do" list.

Last year, this bright, personable teenager shared his story with Ohio Golf Outing participants. (His speech can be seen on the golf page of www.mccdcares.com.)

He also has served as an MCCD ambassador, a role that has put him in contact with broadcasters from area television and radio stations.

Nikki

Every time that we check in with Nikki, she has something new to report, some new goal she has reached.

This 11-year-old has been involved with MCCD for more than six years, receiving therapy to help her deal with Down syndrome and acute sensory issues.

Therapy provided through your support of MCCD has assisted Nikki in all walks of her life, from home to school to the playground.

She's handling more personal grooming tasks, her reading skills have grown, and she's becoming more confident as she joins with friends for playground activities.

Her latest advance? Membership on the local Special Olympics swimming team, the Sharks, a goal she'd been working toward for a long time.

The key, said her mother, Diane, was the MCCD therapy that built Nikki's endurance.

"It used to be that she didn't have the strength to be in the water for long, especially on her back. Now she can even do the back stroke, several pool lengths at a time."



Sisters Lily and Kaia, ages 5 and 4 respectively, are new to the MCCD program as of this summer, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the MCCD family of contributors.

These two girls both deal with developmental delays that are being addressed through therapy designed to strengthen joints and muscles.

While the delays have had a generalized impact on these two girls' bodies, they especially have impacted their language development, in particular, articulation. Problems

with articulation have limited the girls' ability to successfully communicate with others. Recently, doctors determined that Kaia also has dealt with significant impeded hearing -- doctors just now are working to resolve this problem -- which has produced an additional hardship on her ability to grow her language skills.

Therapy so far has centered on involving the girls in specialized exercises that strengthen their diaphragms. This muscle serves as the motor that powers speaking. With their diaphragms strengthened, the girls will be able to push the appropriate amount of air out from their lungs and then over their vocal chords, creating stronger speech.

"Giving them this one-on-one attention should make a difference in their development," said their mother Lesley. "The goal is to get them up to age level."

Watch for updates on the girls in future issues of the MCCD newsletter.

Lily and Kaia



Generous Golf Event Participants Strengthen MCCD

Days Filled with Fun - Futures Filled with Hope

No organization has a better group of supporters than the Midwest Council for Children with Disabilities. More than 1,000 participants contributed to the success of the 2010 golf outings in Illinois and Ohio. "These events provide MCCD with its largest share of funds," said Dennis Fiedler, MCCD President. "Year after year, our enthusiastic backers come through for the children."



Aaron

Nowadays, life for Aaron Loughran is positively ordinary.

But Aaron, 24, who underwent a double-lung transplant in June 2007, wouldn't have it any other way.

Much of Aaron's time now is spent working at his full-time job as an IT Support Engineer with a commercial brokerage firm. His responsibilities include maintaining computer systems for more than a dozen of the business' locations.

Aaron's daily routine is worlds away from the way it was prior to the transplant. Back then, his lungs, damaged by cystic fibrosis,

were weakening his heart. His immune system was compromised, requiring that he stay inside his home, which was equipped with a machine to purify the air Aaron breathed.

That machine was supplied to Aaron by MCCD, thanks to the support of our many backers.

Every three months, Aaron visits the transplant clinic, so that doctors can assess his condition. The findings of these visits confirm that Aaron is doing well.

The new lungs have provided Aaron with a breath of fresh air.



Travis

When we last profiled Travis, 12, it was to report the fantastic news that he had risen from his wheelchair to take his first steps using a walker.

Well, we can now report that, thanks to ongoing MCCD supported therapy, Travis, who deals with cerebral palsy, is walking with a walker nearly 100 percent of the time.

Therapy for Travis centers on two primary goals: first is building muscle strength in his legs, arms, stomach and back; second is advancing his

coordination so that he can make optimal use of these muscles to counteract some of the effects of his condition.

Travis' full use of a walker amounts to a great stride toward independence for him. At school, he is able to move about largely on his own, without an aide much of the time, and this translates to greater interaction with his classmates.

And Travis is becoming more independent at home, where he now can do a lot more with his big sister, according to Travis' father, Gary.



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MCCD: A Commitment to the Children

As you read these success stories growing out of **MCCD** assistance, please consider the children and how they benefit thanks to your support of **MCCD**. Times are challenging for all of us, but especially for the children. Agencies of all types are cutting back and support for children with disabilities is not immune from the belt-tightening. But every day that passes without these children receiving the support they need is an opportunity lost. We all must work together to provide the resources needed to help these children.

100% OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED AFTER THE COST OF THE EVENT IS USED FOR THE CHILDREN.

MCCD has no employees, no rent, no overhead.
Nor does any director have children in the program.



Sara

At age 4, Sara was diagnosed with autism, and soon after that, a teacher told her family not to expect Sara to speak. The teacher was unaware of the determination possessed by Sara and her family.

MCCD, however, believed in Sara and her family. **MCCD** has provided intensive therapy that assisted Sara in learning to speak, to write in sentence form, and to type her thoughts and ideas into a machine called an augmentative communication device.

Having made fantastic gains with her communication, Sara now is beginning a program structured to assist her in developing peer relationships.

Sara's mother, Cathy, says the entire family has cried tears of joy over the progress that Sara has made with **MCCD** help over the past several years. (Her speech at last year's outing can be seen on the golf page of www.mccdcares.com.)



Isabel and Joseph

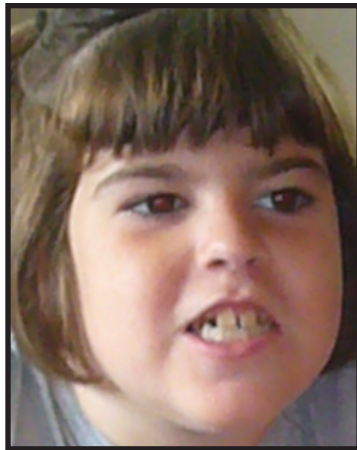
The developmental issues that Joseph and Isabel confront are distinct and lead these two siblings to **MCCD**.

Joseph, 17, deals with autistic spectrum disorder and pervasive developmental disorder.

Isabel, 8, deals with cognitive disabilities and severe speech and language delays. At school, she just began using an augmentative communication device, which has the potential to increase her ability to communicate with others.

MCCD is providing individualized therapies to Joseph and Isabel to improve their abilities and skills.

MCCD's therapy assistance to Joseph currently is focusing primarily at building his muscles. In addition, the therapy centers on improving coordination so that Joseph can take full advantage of his increased strength. This therapy



has a psychological component as well. Improvements in this teenaged boy's physical strength and capability, not unexpectedly, boost his self esteem.

For Isabel, the therapy is taking a decidedly different direction. Instead of striving for muscle development, the goal is to enhance brain function and to resolve sensory issues.

While the therapy regimens mostly are making small gains with each of the children, we can report one dramatic improvement. Isabel's sensory impediments once were so severe, she often could not eat food. Her mother, Maureen, said that within a few weeks of intensive **MCCD** therapy, Isabel mastered this task and now can keep up with anyone at the table, even at times insisting on seconds.



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