



Growing Times July 2023



Promoting the maximum development of the whole child and adult through innovative, individualized and comprehensive brain-centered programs and services.

Our Extended Family

A Chance To Grow is proud to be a part of Northeast Minneapolis, a vibrant community that nurtures the arts, its businesses and the vital work of nonprofit organizations that serve the neighborhood. The area's community organizations have played a critical role in helping us meet our mission for decades. We'd like to introduce you to three of our most ardent Northeast supporters: Kiwanis Club, The Exchange Club, and the Lions Club. These are local chapters of national organizations. In Northeast Minneapolis, these all-volunteer organizations work hard to raise money to support organizations like ours, as a way to ensure that we can meet the needs of our neighbors. Their support over the decades has given us a chance to grow.



ACTG's founder, Bob DeBoer (left), alongside Al Morelli at at the golf tournament.

Nationally, the Kiwanis focus their efforts in on improving the lives of children. Locally, the NE Kiwanis have helped the neighborhood's children for more than 70 years by supporting the organizations, like A Chance To Grow, that provide the services they need. They hold a number of fundraisers each year, and feature speakers from local organizations at their weekly meetings.

One member, Al Morelli – a longtime friend of ACTG – remembers how the club first got involved with us in 2001.



"They were having a golf tournament and looking for volunteers to help with the event. So five of us from the Kiwanis went out and they gave us jobs at each hole selling raffle tickets," said Al. It was the first year for us, so we didn't really know what was going on. After that first year, I thought, hey, I could really raise some funds for these guys."

...story continued on page 2.

Introducing the Garden of Hope!

A Chance To Grow is excited to announce the launch of its monthly givers club, *The Garden of Hope!* Many clients come to us because we offer solutions that others don't have, and because we treat the whole person, not a collection of symptoms. Now YOU can make sure that everyone who needs our services can get them!



Your monthly gifts sustain our operations year-round so that we can continue to provide life-changing services to everyone who needs them. Not all our costs are covered by insurance or grants, and some families can't afford our services. By joining *The Garden of Hope*, you ensure that we can be there for those who need us most. We invite you to visit our website at www.ACTG.org/gardenofhope and explore the benefits of being a member and see how your generous gifts impacts those we serve. For questions, please contact Vicky Stein at victoria.stein@actg.org.

Al got the Kiwanis Club to donate \$500 to the event the following year, and used those funds to purchase raffle prizes. "We set up a tent and made it look like a carnival and then we sold tickets for chances to win all this stuff. And it worked! We raised about \$1,200 that year just on one hole! And each year after that, I got a donation from the club and it just kept growing!"

Thus began a beautiful partnership. The Kiwanis continued to support ACTG's golf event over the next 18 years, raising thousands of dollars for ACTG's programs and services. When, post-pandemic, we decided to end the golf event, the Kiwanis stayed with us, by sponsoring our annual *Race for the Children*, and – with Al's help – donating wonderful items for the Silent Auction.

"We liked what A Chance To Grow was doing, helping kids with special needs, so it was easy to get the club to support it, and it's been great ever since," said Al.

Learn more at www.facebook.com/NEmplsKiwanis/.

Nationally, the Exchange Club has Programs of Service that focuses on helping children. For the Northeast Chapter, volunteers put on a variety of fundraising and activities with a special emphasis on youth programs, child abuse prevention, community service and good citizenship. They not only support ACTG through annual donations, they also help organizations like East Side Neighborhood Services, My Very Own Bed, the Crisis Nursery, and La Oportunidad. In addition, they make annual awards via the ACE Scholarship Awards, the YMCA Youth Citizenship Award, and a civics contest. Like the Kiwanis, the NE Exchange Club has supported ACTG for decades with thousands of dollars in annual grants, and this year, they are serving as a sponsor for *The Race For The Children*.



"We're very proud to be the recipient of one of their Victory Shrines," says Vicky Stein, ACTG's Director of Development and a member of the Exchange Club's Board of Directors. "The Exchange Club does such important work in the neighborhood, and it's all donated time by an in-

credible group of dedicated volunteers. What began as local businessmen meeting for lunch has grown into a service organization that strives to meet a wide range of community needs. We're lucky to have their support."

Learn more at <https://eastmpls-exchange.org/>.

The Northeast Minneapolis Lion's Club is a place where individuals join together to give their valuable time and effort to improve their communities and the world. 'Lions serve. It's that simple.'



Their efforts are focused on helping underprivileged individuals overcome barriers to success. They want everyone to see a better tomorrow, and they do this by supporting sight programs and services, including ACTG's Vision Clinic.

For many years, the Lions and their Community Foundation have generously awarded ACTG grants to help our clients, many of whom are without adequate insurance coverage, receive vision screenings and obtain eyeglass prescriptions.

"Their donations have made it possible for us to provide vision care to thousands, as well as donating meals to our Turnquist families around the holidays," said ACTG's Executive Director, Erica Dickerson. "The partnership has been such a positive one that it prompted me to get involved in the Lions Community Foundation Board as a member, allowing us to give back even more to the community that has been home to ACTG for more than 20 years."

Learn more at <https://nelions.org/>.

Together, these organizations have donated countless hours and dollars to support the prosperity of the Northeast Minneapolis community. We are forever grateful for all the support they've shown us over the years, it has helped us become who we are today. It is worth noting that each of these organizations are volunteer-run, and would welcome new members to help them meet their missions. We are honored to call them not only our partners, but members of our ACTG family.



Instagram



@achance2grow

Fall S.M.A.R.T. Workshops!

S.M.A.R.T. and S.M.A.R.T. Pre-K Workshops are right around the corner! Don't miss your chance to experience this amazing 3-day workshop and discover how to boost your students' learning readiness skills through fun and engaging movement activities! Space is still available, but filling up fast! Register today online at [ACTG.org/workshops](https://actg.org/workshops)!

S.M.A.R.T. Workshops

- October 24-26, 2023
- February 27-29, 2024

S.M.A.R.T. Pre-K Workshops

- November 7-9, 2023
- March 5-7, 2024



New S.M.A.R.T. Pre-K Workshop Just Added!

- August 29-31, 2023 in Badger, MN. More details can be found on our website. Registration open, space is limited!

Can't make a 3-day workshop? Register for our 1-day **Bridging The Gap Workshop** on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2023. All workshops held at A Chance To Grow in Minneapolis unless otherwise noted. Register 2 weeks early and save \$25!

Advanced-Brain Summer Intensives

Take advantage of summer break and complete our 20-session Advanced-Brain Summer Intensive in 6-10 weeks! Combining in-clinic Neurofeedback with optional at-home Audio-Visual Entrainment, this intensive allows you to train up to 3 times per week with flexible scheduling to see positive results faster! If you or a loved one struggle with a lack of focus, sleep issues, emotional instability, inability to calm, or brain fog, then this intensive may be a good fit. Call (612) 789-1236 to schedule a free consultation and learn more about the program!

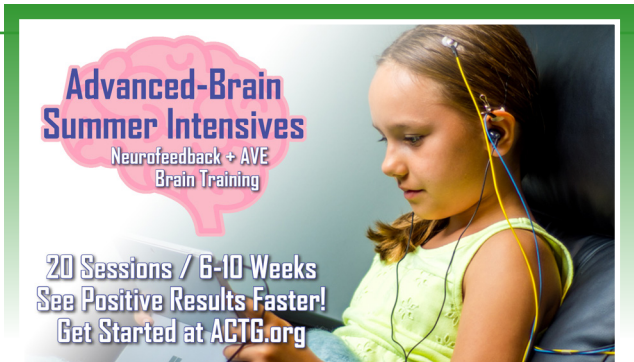
Summer Neuro Integrative Intensives also available! This intensive combines several interventions that collectively promote brain growth and development through purposeful movement. By establishing more efficient neurological connections between the brain and body, this intensive can improve higher-level functioning as well as physical and emotional independence. Complete a program inquiry today by visiting [ACTG.org/summer-programs](https://actg.org/summer-programs).

Vision Clinic Temporarily Closed

A Chance To Grow's Vision Clinic and OptomEYES Vision Therapy are temporarily closed and not accepting new clients. Our optometrist, Dr. Shelby May, has accepted a year-long residency at The Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, a leader in vision therapy and developmental optometry. Dr. May will return July 19, 2024. We wish her luck and look forward to her return! We are still able to provide optical services to patients with a current eyeglass prescription. We have a wide selection of frames (as low as \$70) and are able to accommodate children and adults enrolled in PMAP or MHCP programs. For questions or to schedule an optical visit, please contact (612) 789-1236 or email vision@actg.org.

ACTG Awarded Operating Grant!

Exciting news! A Chance To Grow was recently awarded a \$5,000 general operating grant from The Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation! Thank you so much to the Foundation, we are so grateful for your support!



Stay updated about current brain-based workshops, seminars and events!
www.facebook.com/AChanceToGrow/



Remembering Jo Gascoigne - A Special Educator

We are sad to share that our dear friend and colleague, Jo Gascoigne, passed away on June 1, 2023 at the age of 91. She was a pioneer in the education field and a dedicated volunteer at A Chance To Grow.

Jo began her illustrious academic career in 1958 as a physical education teacher in Mankato. She always believed that physical education was a key factor for children to reach their full potential. In 1974, Jo became involved with a landmark piece of legislation that guaranteed all children, including those with disabilities, receive a free and appropriate public education in every state. This propelled Jo into her next position as the Assistant Director of Special Education at the Minnesota Dept. of Education, where she focused on the implementation of these newly enacted federal laws. It was about this time that she began her involvement with A Chance To Grow. Over the next 20 years, Jo generously volunteered her time and talents to help improve ACTG's financial stability, leadership structure, and outpatient procedures.



A Chance To Grow's late founder, Bob DeBoer, said this about Jo's contributions: "She's done remarkable work on behalf of special education across the country and we are so grateful she saw value in our mission and felt inclined to share her talents with us. She was a wonderful volunteer who helped build this organization in ways most people don't know."

We honor her memory with every child we serve. Thank you, Jo!

32nd Running of the Race for the Children

A Chance To Grow's *Race for the Children* returns to Canterbury Park in Shakopee, MN on Sunday, August 20! You and your family are invited to join us for a fun day at the races as we share our message of hope and raise funds to support our programs and services. Attendees will receive a complimentary racing form and buffet lunch in the Longshots Party Area. Registration is NOW OPEN and sponsorship opportunities are available! To sign-up, or for more information, visit ACTG.org/RacefortheChildren.



Thank you to our 2023 Event Sponsors!



We need you! Support A Chance To Grow's Essential Programs and Services!

Visit ACTG.org, click on the "Donate" tab on the homepage and fill out the form. Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of individuals with learning disabilities, developmental delays and brain injuries. All donations are tax-deductible.

View our newsletter online! Visit ACTG.org and subscribe!

Equal Employment Opportunity

A Chance To Grow provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants.

Employment is based upon capabilities and qualifications without discrimination because of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability, gender identity, genetic information, service in the military or any other protected characteristic as established by law. This Equal Employment Opportunity policy applies to all policies & procedures relating to recruitment & hiring, promotion, compensation, benefits, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, training and all other conditions of employment.



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