

A Chance To Grow's WISH LIST

A Chance To Grow and New Visions School make up a huge agency with many needs. Due to this, we have created the ACTG/NVS - WISH LIST. The list will include items we can always use to help our clients and students.

New Visions School

• Gymnasium needs a score board

• Physical education equipment: basketballs, kick balls, volleyballs, volleyball nets, mats, new athletic shoes (all sizes) and climbing ropes

• Classroom supplies: adult dictionaries, maps, rugs for classrooms, large rolls of paper, construction paper, large bulletin boards and assorted school supplies

A Chance To Grow

✓ Home Based Services (Home Health Care)

- antibacterial soft soap in a pump dispenser
- 1 oz. hand lotions that are individually wrapped - no scent
- zip lock sandwich bags
- paper towels
- disposable wipes
- band aids
- disposable pillow cases
- alcohol swabs
- insulin syringes

✓ Administration Office Supplies

✓ The Turnquist Child Enrichment Center (Child care six weeks to 12 years of age)

- classical CD's
- CD/Tape players
- walkie-talkies
- a scanner
- video camera
- digital camera
- small footballs
- basketballs
- large play balls
- jump ropes
- infant plush toys
- infant bouncy seats
- washable markers and crayons
- coats (size 1-6)
- snow pants (size 2-6)
- shoes and boots (size 1-10)

All clothing must be clean and all shoes must be new.

BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$25 OFF FRAMES & LENSES!



1800 Second Street NE
Minneapolis

Need New Glasses?

A Chance To Grow Vision services offers hundreds of designer frames, including a large selection of children's frames.

We also offer:

- comprehensive eye exams
- custom fittings and free adjustments
- complete glasses packages starting at \$90

Call 612-706-5540 for an appointment

ACTG on the Web - www.actg.org

Do you have questions about one of A Chance To Grow's programs? Maybe you want to see what's new in each of New Visions' classrooms? Or maybe you're looking for more information about an A Chance To Grow event.

You can find all of this on A Chance To Grow's website - www.actg.org. So next time you're online, come check it out.

A Chance To Grow
THE GROWING TIMES
An agency dedicated to accelerating the development of children

www.actg.org • 1800 Second Street Northeast, Minneapolis 55418 • Winter/Spring 2004 • Volume 5

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH A CHANCE TO GROW:

- New Visions K-8 Charter School Boost-Up
- Turnquist Child Enrichment Center - 6 weeks to 12 years
- NeuroTechnology
- Vision Clinic
- Auditory Clinic
- Home Health Care Services
- Out-Patient Rehabilitation Clinic
- Kretsch Family Brain Resource Library
- Minnesota Learning Resource Center

UPCOMING EVENTS:

14th Annual Golf Classic is Monday, July 26th at The Wilds in Prior Lake, MN

Race for the Children at Canterbury Park is Saturday, August 28th in Shakopee, MN See page 2 for details...

Walk & Roll to be announced at a later date For more information on special events, call Amy @ 612-706-5539

Bye, Bye Emily...and Good Luck!



Emily is just one of the many captivating students at New Visions School! We are sad to see her go and wish her well in her new endeavors.

When you work at a non-profit that helps children you expect to become attached to the people, students and clients. I thought it would take some time. I was wrong. At the end of my first day, this past May 5th, a visitor came into my office. "What's your name?" she asked. "What do you do here?" was her next question. "My name is Gary. What is your name?" I asked in return. "Emily!" was the response. I came to find out Emily Ellingson is a student at New Visions School (NVS) and her mother Linda, who she was waiting for, is the Clinic Coordinator for A Chance To Grow.

On Friday, she came in and asked, "So... how was your first week?" I am sharing this story because Emily is one of many children who are touched each day by A Chance To Grow and New Visions School.

Her mother brought her to A Chance To Grow, in August of 1999, with an all too familiar story. She had numerous doctors offering different diagnoses and little or no support. She was told Emily might never walk or talk. Scared, angry, frustrated and upset Linda turned to A Chance To Grow and New Visions School.

An individualized program was created for Emily. Her scholastic needs were targeted through the BLAST (Better Learning After Sensory Training) program. She spent a small amount of time in the regular classroom each day and received PCA (Personal Care Attendant) service to ensure one-on-one quality supervision of her developmental program.

Speech, language and auditory training services were a part of her day as well. Developmentally Adapted

Physical Education started soon after and she received EEG neurofeedback to encourage attention and relaxation.

By November 1999 Emily was reading many words by sight, could write her own name and could count by 10's and 5's. She could tell time on a digital clock and hours and half hours on an analog clock. She received an award for doing independent somersaults and was initiating conversations much better than before she started at New Visions School.

Today, she is reading at a second grade level. A silver medal she won at Special Olympics stands as a testament to her physical fitness. Her ability to interact with people is enhanced by her sense of humor and wit. She sleeps over at friends, does her household chores and leads the life of a typical child. She is talking about her future, and is not afraid to speak her mind. Her mother said, "She has blossomed into a great kid!"

As for their time at A Chance To Grow and New Visions School Emily's mother offers this comment, "Everyday something new and exciting, that affects all of us, takes place at A Chance To Grow. They treat the whole person, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are really going to miss this place."

Emily and her family started a new chapter in their lives when they moved to Maryland last December. All of us at A Chance To Grow and New Visions School were sad to see them leave. I miss my day ending chats with my friend Emily. Good-bye Emily. You have no idea how much you have impacted all of our lives. ■

By Gary C. Parker - ACTG's Development Director

Llola the Llama Comes to New Visions School

At A Chance To Grow and New Visions School, compassion and reverence for life are taught. Take the story of Llola the Llama. Orphaned at birth this little bundle of fur became the school mascot for a few weeks. Llola was eventually placed with a foster mother in the llama rescue program.

During her brief stay at New Visions, students were taught respect for nature and the value of all life on earth. They learned that when they see an orphaned or injured animal they should tell an adult and encourage them to call wildlife rehab - or, for domestic animals, a vet or rescue group. In addition they used the unique opportunity to learn about Llola's native country, Peru. Llola even made a trip to the University of Minnesota veterinary school so students could see and study an actual llama.

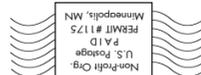
We wish Llola well in her new home with her foster family. ■



The Growing Times is published quarterly by A Chance To Grow, Inc, which is dedicated to helping all children - particularly those with learning problems, developmental delays and brain injuries - reach their highest potential. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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New Visions' Innovative Programs:

Hemisphere Specific Auditory Stimulation (HSAS)
In HSAS, our audiologists use a child's audiogram to create an individualized music tape for her/him to listen to daily. The tapes are specifically tailored to stimulate a child's individual under-developed listening skills and can stimulate growth in the brain's ability to interpret sound. As their auditory skills improve, students are better able to follow along in the classroom. For many, this leads to increased reading skills.

Developmental Optometry
Research has shown that 85% of children with learning difficulties have significant delays in visual function and/or perceptual development. For that reason, New Vision's developmental optometrists and vision therapists test children for visual efficiency and perceptual skills, as well as acuity. In addition to providing corrective lenses, clinic staff provide therapy for students with complex visual problems.

NeuroTechnology
NeuroTechnology can help children with attention problems, hyperactivity and other learning problems by using their brains more efficiently. Our NeuroTechnology clinic uses EEG neurofeedback and Audio-Visual Entertainment to help students activate the brain waves they need to stay calm and focused. Many children are able to reduce or eliminate medications for hyperactivity, inattention and anxiety after completing neurofeedback. Many also increase academic their performance.

Boost-Up
New Visions' centerpiece program, Boost-Up, is comprised of a series of games and activities that can build the underlying readiness skills needed for learning among all children, from those at risk of failing to those working above grade level. It is specially designed to improve hand/eye coordination, distance acuity (focusing in the distance), fine motor skills, sequencing, left/right awareness and spatial relations, all of which are needed to be able to read. Boost-Up is particularly effective in helping resolve learning readiness deficits for students in the bottom half of academic achievement.



Raven Loves Her First Year at New Visions!



Raven Moe loves New Visions School and is on a first name basis with everyone in the building!

Raven Moe is enjoying her first school year at A Chance To Grow and New Visions School. Born with spina bifida, she cruises between classes in her wheel chair greeting friends and fellow students. She came to A Chance To Grow and New Visions School because the services meet her physical and learning needs. As for her disability, her mother Judy says, "She knows she has a disability of some sort. She just doesn't act like it. She doesn't think she is different. In her mind, some people walk and some people don't."

Raven, a first grader, is on a first name basis with everyone in the building. Mrs. Moe said, "This is where we want to be. In a small school with more attention paid to the child and the parents." She went on to say, "Everyone here is working hard to address Raven's needs. They do their best to make her environment comfortable."

She has the heart the size of Texas. Kevin and Judy Moe believe Raven is so loved because she loves everybody with whom she comes in contact with.

Raven changes people's lives by forcing them to see her in a different light. She is one of the crowd. Her fellow classmates are great. They compete over who is going to be her companion helper during each day. Mrs. Moe said, "I couldn't ask for a better situation for her to be in." Like most eight-year-olds, she spends her day at school doing typical schoolwork followed by a full schedule of play dates with friends.

In closing Mrs. Moe said, "Raven, her dad Kevin, and I like working with the staff here. They make major efforts to effect positive change for all the kids."

A Day at the Races with A Chance To Grow



Please join us for our 18th Annual Race for the Children - a fun-filled afternoon of racing, food and games. The event includes a prime rib buffet, entertainment, a pick six event and some great raffle prizes.

WHEN: Saturday, August 28th @ 1pm at Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

YOU MAY PARTICIPATE AT THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:
● \$2,000 Race Sponsorship Package - race sponsorship, your name in Canterbury's daily program, your group's picture taken in the winner's circle, recognition plaque, two private tables for 16 people.
● \$500 Group Table - a private table for 8 people
● \$80 individual ticket - reserved seating in the Ubbeloh Bar & Grill, dinner buffet, complimentary racing program

Call 612-706-5539 for more information.

Frey Foundation Offers Matching Grant to ACTG

The Frey Foundation has generously made available to A Chance To Grow, a \$15,000 matching grant for general operating support!

"We thank the directors, trustees and staff at the Frey Foundation for this wonderful opportunity. They have been most generous in their support of our programs over the years," said Bob DeBoer, Director of A Chance To Grow.

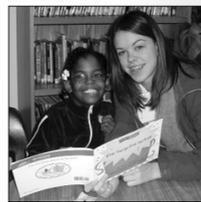
The grant is available as a dollar for dollar match for all gifts from new donors and all gifts from previous donors, provided that new gifts from previous donors be at least ten percent larger than their largest historical gift to A Chance To Grow. The time period for this matching gift will be January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2005.

The Frey family has long believed in investing in the community. The goals of the foundation are to help others become self-sufficient and to reach their full potential, both physically and emotionally.

To help A Chance To Grow reach its goal of raising \$15,000 in new and increased historical donations please contact Gary Parker at 612-706-5515 or you can reach him via e-mail at gparker@actg.org



Our Volunteers Shine...



Be A Part of Our Success!



Be a S.T.A.R.

Supporting, Tutoring, Assisting, Role-Modeling Students and Clients at New Visions School

- Reading Buddy
- Student Tutor
- Classroom Helper
- Resource Desk
- Library Assistant

For more information, contact Shelly Lombardi at (612) 706-5583.



Volunteers are pictured clockwise, starting from the upper left: Taisa Griffith, Jennie Weigelt and Maxx Thomas

Speaker Sviggum Visits New Visions School

"If you could be the Governor of Minnesota for one day and could have one wish come true - what would it be?" That was the question Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, asked during his visit with members of Ms. Bump's and Mr. Loesch's fifth grade classes.

Whenever a student asked a question, the Speaker would address that student as Governor. When he was asked his name and what his question was - Dax Douglass proudly stated, "My name is Dax, but you can call me Governor Douglass!" Dax and many of his classmates wanted to be sure their fellow Minnesota residents would have financial security.

Another student, Denzel Kingsbury, said, "The day the Speaker was here was fun for me. I agreed with his responses to my wishes about the educational budget and light rail. I wanted to know what was happening with the education budget. I want to make sure money from the education budget would not be used for things like light rail. I was happy to hear him say the education budget is only for education."

To sum up the day, Symone Henson said, "Seeing Speaker Sviggum was interesting. It was fun to hear what it is like to work in politics."

The staff and students of New Visions School thank Speaker Sviggum and his staff for making his visit possible. The day was an invaluable learning experience for everyone at New Visions and A Chance To Grow.



Speaker, Steve Sviggum, gave New Vision's students an inside view of what it is like working in politics.

Gopher Football Reads with Students



Is there a better way to pass the time while waiting for the Sun Bowl game? Assistant coach, Tom Sims, and five players: Justin Fraley, Mike Sherels, Trumaine Banks, John Scroggins, and Johnathan Richmond, from the University of Minnesota Golden Gopher football team volunteered their time to read with students at New Visions School. They spent the afternoon with many New Vision students. During their time together the players and coach Sims stressed the importance of studying and reading. We thank Coach Sims and the guys for visiting with us. The Gophers went on to win the Sun Bowl!! Good job guys!

From left to right: Justin Fraley, Mike Sherels, Trumaine Banks, and John Scroggins.

Students Join the Jane Goodall North American Youth Summit

Quotes from the winners' essays on why they'd like to attend the Jane Goodall North American Youth Summit:

"I think it will be cool to visit another state, but that is not what it is all about. It's about being with other people and sharing my ideas with other people." - Maranda Wilkins, a student at New Visions School.

"I think I will benefit more than I know. I hope to learn a lot, then teach other people about it. I will tell my friends, people in my community and my family what I learned. I hope to get an autograph from the one and only Dr. Jane Goodall!" - Doug Roberts, a student at New Visions School.

Last month students from around the country submitted essays to the Jane Goodall "Roots & Shoots" program in an effort to qualify for an invitation to the 2004 Jane Goodall North American Youth Summit. Two students, Maranda Wilkins and Doug Roberts, from New Visions School were accepted! Maranda, Doug and their science teacher Jennifer Rosenkoetter will be traveling to beautiful Cape Cod, Massachusetts from April 30th to May 7th to attend this once in a lifetime learning opportunity. This amazing location offers an area rich in natural and human history, beautiful woodlands and coastal areas. During the Summit our students will meet other children from all over North America. They will explore tide pools, the Boston Sea Aquarium and represent New Visions School and Minnesota in different leadership and team building activities.

This enriching experience fits New Visions mission to help each child identify and cultivate his or her greatest potentials and to provide a curriculum that will foster the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to live a successful, healthy, fulfilling and informed life.



New Vision's students, Doug Roberts (left) and Maranda Wilkins (right) with their science teacher Jennifer Rosenkoetter (center)



Target Your Spending with Target's "Take Charge of Education Program"

Target Stores have a wonderful program entitled "Take Charge of Education". Through this program, Target donates 1% of Target guest card purchases to the k-12 school of the cardholder's choice. This is a quick and easy way for you to help New Visions School. If you have a Target credit card and want to help, all you need to do is call 1-800-316-6142 and tell them, "I want 1% of my spending to go to New Visions School." If you don't have a card and would like one, you can fill out an application at any Target store. Once you receive your card, you can call the 800 number and start contributing right away.

A Growing Organization...An Organization Growing...A Chance To Grow