

Donating to A Chance to Grow

You can help A Chance To Grow help children and young adults with learning problems, developmental delays and brain injury reach their highest potential by making a tax deductible contribution of \$10, \$100, \$1,000, or any amount you wish.

You can make a donation in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion, to thank a friend or simply to show your support for A Chance To Grow. You can also specify if you would like your donation to be used for a specific program or where it's needed most.

We can send you a donation envelope if you send an email to gparker@actg.org with your address.

Once we receive your donation, we will send you an acknowledgement for your tax records. We'll also send an acknowledgement to the person you have indicated if your donation is in memory or honor of someone.

If you have any questions about making a donation, please call Gary Parker, A Chance to Grow's Development Director at 612-706-5515



Non-Cash Donations to A Chance to Grow

A Chance To Grow accepts donations of new or gently used books, school supplies, office supplies, silent auction prizes and other items. If you would like to make a non-cash contribution to A Chance To Grow, you can print out our donation form from our website (www.actg.org) and mail it in along with your contribution. Or, you can call or email Gary Parker with any questions at 612-706-5515 or GParker@actg.org

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

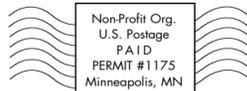
**Call 612-706-5540
for an appointment**

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
1800 Second Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418



PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH A CHANCE TO GROW:

**New Visions
Charter School
Boost-Up
Turnquist Child
Enrichment Center
NeuroTechnology
Vision Clinic
Auditory Clinic
Home Health
Care Services
Out-Patient
Rehabilitation Clinic
Kretsch Family
Brain Resource Library
Minnesota Learning
Resource Center**

**Race for the Children
at Canterbury Park**
is Saturday, August 16th
in Shakopee, Minnesota.
Join A Chance to Grow for
a prime rib dinner, pick six event,
raffle prizes and more.
See page 3 for details...

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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Growing Times Editor
A Chance to Grow, Inc
1800 Second St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55412**

Meet the Volunteer of the Year!



Chris Hiera (left) received the "Volunteer of the Year" award from Kirsten Faber during the Volunteer Recognition ceremony held May 28th, 2003.

A Chance To Grow held its Volunteer Recognition celebration on May 28th. Chris Hiera was honored as the "Volunteer of the Year." She spends most of her time working with, ACTG's largest program, the New Visions Charter School.

Chris offered her thoughts on being a parent and volunteer, "New Visions School teaches according to ability verses disabilities. In other words it is OK to read, even if you have trouble with letter identification. It is OK to do math even if you have trouble identifying number groups." She went on to say, "Children have different abilities. Teachers and volunteers need to recognize strengths and support them. We also need to recognize weaknesses and nurture them into potential strengths"

On a child's need to interact with others she said, "We strive for independence for our children. However, some children need to work with adults, peers and older children to help with their socialization skills." Chris said, "Small and large groups of our children playing, working and learning together is what is most important. It helps when they know they are not alone in a school full of people."

She offered these thoughts on the daily activity and exercise the students receive at New Visions School, "Not all children are able to participate in sports activities after school. What (exercise) they experience during the school day might be all they get. The days of playing outside in the streets, in our neighborhoods, walking

continued page 2

What is a Volunteer?

*A volunteer is someone who:
Used to have a little spare time to spare.*

Saw something that needed to be done, and couldn't persuade his conscience to let someone else do it.

Cheerfully endures inroads on her own work and convenience because she is beckoned by an overshadowing goal.

Is young at heart because youth comes, not from a fountain, but from exposure to those who have it.

Gives to fill inner needs, be it with hamburgers, hugs or encouragement.

Has a pet conservation project: our young people, because he considers them to be our greatest natural resource.

Sees the beauty in the budding personality of a child and wants to preserve and enhance it as it comes to full bloom.

Is willing to give of her time, patience, and herself to leave the world better than she found it.

Is the living fulfillment of the phrase "...to help where I am needed."

New Visions School Joins Jane Goodall



Participants in the Roots & Shoots Program, from left to right, Gabe Hall with Jane Goodall, Mrs. Rosenkoetter and Gao Xiong

The past 2002-2003 school year was exciting for Science students at New Visions School! As active members of the Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots Program, New Vision's children were given the

opportunity to take part in the national Roots & Shoots Youth Summit, which took place at the Audubon Center of the North Woods, in Sandstone, Minnesota. Students, in the eighth grade, wrote

continued page 2

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 Visions' 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 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.



Dax's Story...

This is an uplifting story about Dax Hunter Douglass, a student in Mrs. Bump's fourth grade class.

Dax's parents, Brenda and Clem Douglass, had become frustrated with the continual advice, both solicited and unsolicited, they received regarding his ADHD. Their parenting skills had been constantly challenged, and they were forced to protect him from relentless bullies as they grappled with medication dosage changes and their varying side effects and effectiveness.

Although he attended school through the second grade in the Vancouver, Washington public schools, Dax could not adapt to the teacher or classroom when he entered the third grade – so, he spent two years at a small, private school in Portland. During that time – his special needs, which were peculiar to ADHD – were not addressed.

Early this year, while Clem was in St. Paul visiting relatives, it occurred to the family that a local pediatric neurologist could provide a list of schools that could help Dax. New Visions School was on the list. Mr. Douglass stopped by the school and met with Barbara Ewald who gave him brochures and answered all his questions.

Within days, Dax and his parents returned to Minneapolis and toured A Chance To Grow and New Visions School, with Rick Wolf. They could not believe all of the services New Visions School provides its students. In one day – the Douglass family decided to sell their home in Washington state and move to Minneapolis so Dax could enroll in New Visions School.

Boost Up and Summer School started at New Visions last June 17th – and Dax was there! Daily sessions in AVE and EEG Neurofeedback began shortly thereafter. He continued these throughout the summer. His progress was unbelievable during this short period of time.

Academically, Dax's reading ability and comprehension has improved from third to fifth grade levels! He has become more focused on everyday and future events. As an unexpected bonus, his fine and gross motor skills have dramatically improved.

Clem and Brenda Douglass are new to the Twin Cities and want to network with other families. They have a message to share. If you are interested in talking with them, they can be reached via email at brendadouglass@hotmail.com.



Dax Douglass enjoys going to New Visions school and has made incredible progress since starting last year in June.



For information on AVE and EEG Neurofeedback call the NeuroTechnology Clinic at 612-706-5552 or you can email at neuro@actg.org.

Continued from the front page... Volunteer of the Year

to the park with friends and playing a game are over. That is just the way it is today. Children need structured energy releasing, mind-expanding exercise on a daily basis. The children, at New Visions School, are fortunate because they receive so much activity during the school day!

To other parents or people who want to volunteer she said, "You can volunteer in person, by phone or by email. The choices are endless." She is, "Grateful for the opportunity to participate in my children's education." In a closing comment she said, "You do not know how rewarding, just plain awesome, volunteering can be! You get to be a part of your child's (school) life."

For more information on how you can volunteer at A Chance To Grow and New Visions School please contact Jayne Williams at 612-706-5568 or you can email her at jawilliams@actg.org.

Jane Goodall

essays addressing a series of questions pertaining to the Roots & Shoots project they had worked on as a class. They also wrote about their feelings on helping the environment and what they thought they could both contribute and bring back from the Summit. Only two students could be accepted to attend the Summit with Mrs. Rosenkoetter, the Science Specialist. Gao Xiong and Gabe Hall were the lucky ones selected!

Gao and Gabe took part in many different activities during five intensive days at the Youth Summit. They met and spent time with Jane Goodall and constructed their own "peace doves." The doves are made out of recycled materials, which include two liter bottles, white plastic bags and a hanger. In addition, they went rock climbing, took a hike in the woods to learn about the local Ojibwe tribe, sang songs around the bonfire, made friends with students from all over the United States and much more! Gao said her favorite part was "meeting Jane Goodall and meeting others from different states." Gabe said he, "had fun meeting other kids and having a snowball fight," with students who are from states where it doesn't snow!

Upon returning to New Visions School, Gao and Gabe shared their experiences with their fellow classmates, as well as with students in other classrooms. They taught the sixth, seventh and eighth graders how to make their own "peace doves." Both exclaimed that they hope to continue their Roots & Shoots involvement in their schools next year. Stay tuned for more updates about our future Roots & Shoots Projects!

If You Want to Volunteer for A Chance to Grow...

You can volunteer for A Chance To Grow in a variety of ways. For example, A Chance To Grow volunteers can help children in our home health care program, mentor New Visions' students, provide homework assistance, help in the childcare center, assist with special events, or help with office work. To find out about current volunteer opportunities, call Jayne Williams at A Chance To Grow, 612-706-5568 or send her an email at jawilliams@actg.org

Read to Achieve!

New Visions students had the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Lynx School Day game at Target Center, on Tuesday, May 6th. The field trip was planned to recognize the student's reading accomplishments throughout the school year. NVS students read over 8,400 books during the past school year! The reading focused basketball game was a just reward! Students, parents and staff had a wonderful time. The group loaded onto buses at 10:30 AM and was one of the first in the door for the noon game. Students ate bag lunches, in their seats, as they watched the players warm up on the court. However, once the game started, it was hard for anyone to stay in their seat. Students and staff were on their feet cheering for the Lynx!

Everyone was excited to see the game because they had met Lindsey Meder from the hometown team earlier in the school year. Meder came to New Visions School in February to talk with students about her career and the importance of getting an education. The students enjoyed their special connection to the basketball star. The event was capped off by a Lynx victory over the Detroit Shock. This field trip was free to the students because of generous donations received from donors in the community and the New Visions School PTO. Thank you to all whom made this memorable day possible.



New visions students enjoying the lynx game.

Leave a Legacy...

Founded in 1998, Leave a Legacy Minnesota is a collaboration between nonprofit organizations and professional advisors to educate the public and promote the idea of charitable giving through bequests and estate plans. It is a program of the Minnesota Planned Giving Council and part of a nationwide effort to promote charitable gift giving among people of all ages and capacities.

If you would like to include A Chance To Grow in your will, please contact Fred Ojile at Messinger, the law firm of Ojile and Pierce, (612) 373-0000



For more information about LEAVE A LEGACY™ MINNESOTA, please call 651-917-6252.



Join A Chance To Grow for a Day at the Races

Each summer since 1986, A Chance To Grow supporters have enjoyed Race for the Children, a fun-filled afternoon of racing, food and games at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minnesota. The event includes a prime rib buffet, entertainment, a pick six event and some great raffle prizes. Once the races begin, everyone has fun placing bets and cheering their picks on towards the Winner's Circle.

The 2003 Race for the Children is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th in the Ubetcha Bar & Grill. Levels of participation include:

- \$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
- \$60 individual ticket – reserved seating in the Ubetcha Bar & Grill, prime rib dinner buffet, complimentary racing program

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CALL AMY AT 612-706-5539.



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 Chance to Grow Recycles Old Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges

Recycle old cell phones and ink cartridges and get new equipment for New Visions!

Please donate your cell phones and cartridges by placing them in the collection boxes found in the office at New Visions School.

The FundingFactory™ also has a Business Support Program. This allows businesses to support organizations FREE of charge by providing them with prepaid shipping boxes. If you work in a business that may be interested in supporting us, please visit the FundingFactory™ Web site at www.FundingFactory.com/adoptbus.asp, or call toll-free, 1-888-883-8237.

If you have any questions about this great opportunity, please feel free to call Toby Talbot at 612-706-5566 or e-mail him at ttalbot@actg.org. Thank you for your support!

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