

TOPICS

ISSUE 1, 2009

Just boys being boys



Cindy, Andrew, and Joey Magda

Andrew and Joey Magda are making great strides through ongoing threefold therapy at Turnstone.

Riding a bike, playing baseball, tearing around the neighborhood, breathlessly babbling about their recent adventures—these are things that just come naturally to most kids. And although it's taken brothers Andrew and Joey Magda a little longer to experience all the joys of being a kid, they're now well on their way with the help of the absolutely vital therapy they're receiving at Turnstone.

When they were just infants, both Andrew and Joey, now 8 and 6 years old, respectively, began demonstrating characteristics associated with pervasive developmental disorders (PDD). Children with a PDD are often slow to develop socialization and communication skills. As a point of reference, autism is one form of PDD. In Andrew and Joey's case, they also lacked the muscle strength necessary to reach physical milestones within typical time parameters, and to take part in many everyday activities.

Early intervention is the key to treating PDD, and the boys' parents, Cindy and Bill, were quick to consult a physician when Andrew was just 3 months old and unable roll over on

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Now more than ever

I know we're all tired of hearing about our struggling economy because, well, we're all living in it and trying to manage as best we can. It's no secret that times are tough all over. But tough economic times are especially hard on nonprofits, which depend upon the goodwill, generosity, and compassion of so many individuals and organizations. That's why we need your continued support now more than ever.

Seeing the gathering financial storm, we decided to take a proactive stance. We decided that we couldn't just sit around, watching the world go by, hoping for the best. In October, members of the Turnstone staff and board of directors met to discuss how we could pare our expenses so that we wouldn't face a deficit in June, the end of our fiscal year.

We had to make some tough decisions that would allow us to cut costs while not compromising the quality of our services and programs. We don't have a lot of "fat" in the budget, so to speak. We have 60 employees, 90 percent of whom directly provide services essential to our mission. Those services are time and labor intensive. It's a labor of love and time well-spent, of course, striving to enhance people's lives. But therapy is a one-on-one service and something you can't skimp on and still be effective. And, we continue to strive to make our services available to everyone, regardless of his or her financial status.

As we planned our budget for the rest of the fiscal year, we set our sights on costs we could control. For example, it costs a tidy sum to have our parking lot cleared every time it snows. We can't control that.

On the side of the ledger that includes things we can control is our payroll, and one of the hardest decisions we had to make was to freeze salaries during 2009. Members of our staff are talented, well-trained, educated, and—most of all—dedicated people who've accepted this necessary measure and the sacrifice it brings.

In the same vein, we've restructured work schedules, shifted workloads, and cut the hours of some members of our support staff. The salary freeze and scheduling changes will hit the pocketbooks of some staff members a bit, but they'll continue to have their jobs, and they'll still be here to provide their valuable skills.

We're doing everything we can do to shrink our overhead. So, please think of us during these tough times. You can do that by participating in our fun—and always rewarding—fundraising events. Come to Casino Night or the Gala. Purchase some Corvette raffle tickets. And please continue to send in those checks that help support our programs and services.

Thanks for hanging in there with us. Together, we can all weather this financial storm, maintain Turnstone's level of services, and be better for it when these clouds give way to sunnier days.



News to note

March is Disabilities Awareness Month

This year's theme is "Disable the Label." For more information on Disabilities Awareness Month, visit the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities at www.in.gov/gpcpd/. To schedule a disability awareness workshop for your school or place of business, please contact Karen Tyner at (260) 483-2100.



Vegas or bust

Casino Night

Come see how Turnstone turns itself into the Las Vegas strip! Casino Night will have games such as blackjack, bingo, dice, Texas hold 'em, crab races, and much more! By buying tickets, you'll also be supporting a good cause and helping make sure Turnstone's Early Learning Center, pediatric therapeutic services and adaptive sports programs are available to children and youth with disabilities.

This year's Casino Night is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 7 to 11:30 p.m. All adults 21 and older are invited to join us for the best casino night in town. Tickets are \$25 each if purchased by March 7, or \$30 at the door. Includes \$40,000 in play chips, drinks, appetizers—and a lot of fun! To donate a prize, help sponsor the event, buy tickets, or volunteer, contact Bethany Clapper at (260) 483-2100 or bethany@turnstone.org.

Good eats

Pizza Hut Buffet Night

On Wednesday, March 25, visit a Pizza Hut location in Angola, Auburn, Berne, Bluffton, Columbia City, Coventry, Decatur, East State, Huntington, Kendallville, New Haven, North Manchester,

Northcrest, Northwood, Pine Valley, Portland, Southgate, Time Corners, Van Wert, Wabash, Waynedale, or West State and order their delicious evening buffet from 5 to 8 p.m! Pizza Hut will donate \$1 per adult and 50 cents per child for every buffet ordered. Last year, Turnstone received more than \$4,000 from Pizza Hut as a result of the community's support of this event. For questions about this year's Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne Buffet Night, please contact Bethany Clapper at (260) 483-2100.

Save the date

Board of Directors Gala

Mark your calendar for the ninth annual Board of Directors Gala: Thursday, June 18, at the Fort Wayne Country Club. Contact Bethany Clapper at (260) 483-2100 or bethany@turnstone.org to find out how to buy tickets or sponsor this important fundraising event.

Aquatics for all

Get your swim on

Interested in taking part in a Turnstone Arthritis Foundation aquatic exercise class or joining the Turnstone independent aquatic exercise program? Contact Michelle Kimpel, pool manager, at (260) 483-2100 or michelle@turnstone.org.

Boys being boys ... continued from cover

his own. Later, Cindy and Bill noticed Andrew was unable to sit up during the typical developmental timeframe.

Andrew was enrolled in First Steps and placed in the very capable hands of Turnstone pediatric physical therapist Sandra Totten. He later attended preschool at Turnstone. As a result of the therapy he received through First Steps and the early intervention with preschool, Andrew began walking with braces when he was 2-and-a-half years old.

Andrew's little brother, Joey, began demonstrating the characteristics of a PDD when he was about 10 months old. His delays in development have been similar to Andrew's.

Today, both boys now benefit greatly from weekly therapy sessions at Turnstone with Amanda Rupp, pediatric speech therapist; Krista Vaughn, pediatric occupational therapist; Nancy Shepler, certified occupational therapist assistant; and Allison Sorgen, pediatric physical therapist. They also receive therapy at Arlington Elementary School, where Andrew is in second grade, and Joey is in kindergarten.

The results are impressive and heartening for therapists and parents alike. "Andrew and Joey's language skills have come a long way, and their cognitive skills are much improved as well," Cindy says. "Their muscle tone has improved, and that's enabling them to be much more active."

"Andrew and Joey still aren't age-appropriate as far as their development, but they've significantly narrowed the gap," Cindy adds. "The therapists at Turnstone have been so helpful, even showing us ways to extend their therapy at home. They've set goals for the boys that are essential to continued improvement."

Allison has been working with Andrew and Joey since she joined the Turnstone staff in the spring of 2008. She reports fantastic results. "Andrew has shown a lot of

Joey receives speech therapy from Amanda Rupp.



progress. As he's gained physical strength, he's also gained confidence and a willingness to participate in additional activities.

"Joey has really come into his own," Allison continues. "At first, Joey seemed to be in world of his own. Now, he enjoys participating in every activity. He wants to be involved, and he seems to be having so much fun."

"Once Andrew and Joey develop more core strength and overall strength through additional physical therapy, they'll be able to participate fully with their peers—running, jumping, playing. Gaining strength will make other things easier for them, too, and they'll be able to concentrate more on other areas, such as speech."

Of course, therapy, especially for two children enrolled simultaneously, can create financial hardship for a family. Cindy and Bill also have two other kids at home, Billy and Katie. "It's so expensive when you need therapy for two children," Cindy says. "But Turnstone has been very willing to work with us to make it all possible."

Turnstone will find a way to put its programs and services within financial reach, says Turnstone social worker Kathy Baer. "We've worked with the Magda family so that the they have access to our services," Kathy says. "We always strive to make our services affordable to individuals and families."

"Andrew and Joey are doing very well," Kathy adds. "In fact, Andrew has made so much progress that there's actually been a decrease in the services he needs. They seem very happy to see their therapists, and they're willing to work hard."

But it isn't all work. Andrew played baseball for first time last summer, and he's now riding his bike, too. Meanwhile, Joey is mastering his tricycling skills. "It was so wonderful to watch Andrew play baseball with the other kids," Cindy says. "We were really impressed by how well he can throw now. We're very impressed with the progress Andrew and Joey are making with therapy at Turnstone."

"Our family has had a relationship with Turnstone for nearly seven years now, and the people at Turnstone have been fantastic to work with," Cindy says. "We're so very grateful for everything they've done for Andrew and Joey—and our entire family." ■



Andrew works out under the watchful eye of pediatric physical therapist Allison Sorgen.

Thanks

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between September 5 and December 15, 2008.

IN HONOR OF

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Volunteer Profile

Bob the Builder

Robert Nordyke, aka “Bob the Builder,” began volunteering at Turnstone after he heard about the agency from his daughter Dana Geller.

Dana works with one of Turnstone’s clients, and she thought her dad might be able to lend his talents to the agency. He took her advice, made a call, and scheduled a tour with Karen Tyner, Turnstone’s volunteer coordinator, in the spring of 2007.

Since then, Bob has been volunteering once (or more) a week. He’s logged more than 100 volunteer hours, and that’s not to mention the countless projects he’s done at home. While Mondays can be rough for some folks, they aren’t for Bob. According to Tina Acosta, director of adult services, “Bob comes in every Monday with a smile on his face.” Bob’s smiling because he’s doing what he loves, and he’s helping people.

Bob has affectionately earned the nickname “Bob the Builder” because he’s a fantastic craftsman. If you need it built from wood—Bob can do it. An 82-year-old retired plant engineer, Bob has been working with wood ever since he could pick up a hammer. Each day he spends a couple of hours in the garage, applying his woodworking talents. He also whittles a little on side. Bob recently shared a forest scene he’d whittled. Because of a small mishap, however, his fisherman lost his fish—but the scene is beautiful nonetheless.



Bob’s built birdhouses for Turnstone’s adult day program, constructed shadow box memorial cases, created adaptive wooden foot pedals for tricycles, built bookshelves, and carved adaptive wooden splints. Bob also worked closely with Wayne, a client who passed away in 2007. He built Wayne a custom table so that he could participate in crafts. Together, they built birdhouses. Bob says, “We had a good time; he was a good man.”

When asked about his volunteer experience, Bob says, “It’s all been very touching; the staff are caring and helpful—they are a great group of people.” Turnstone feels the same about Bob.

Tina has seen Bob form friendships with clients and staff. She says, “The clients look forward to Bob’s visit. If it weren’t for Bob, we wouldn’t have such a variety of woodworking crafts. These crafts are not only enjoyable, but they are therapeutic. Bob makes every effort to make each project a fit for our clients. We love Bob.”

Volunteers needed

Do you have time or talent and an interest in helping people with disabilities? Then Turnstone wants you. Volunteer roles and hours vary. Contact Karen Tyner at (260) 483-2100 for more information.

Thanks and hats off to

- **Fort Wayne Street Rod Association, Shoaff Park Lion's Club, Waynedale Lions Club, and Bob Evans** for their support of Turnstone through the Muddy River Run and the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast in 2008. Combined their gifts totaled more than \$10,000.
- **My Menu** for its gift of \$5,000 in support of Turnstone's therapeutic services, as well as its generous in-kind donation of store gift cards.
- **Fort Wayne Flash, Executive Women's International, the St. Joe Church of Christ, and Rick Olson, our volunteer Santa,** for making the holiday celebration at Turnstone's Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center merry and bright.
- **CBRE Richard Sturges Ellis, JB Tool and Die, IPFW Human Services, the staff of Dr. Steven Butler, Wayne Black Oxide, and Pro Resources** for collecting holiday donations on behalf of Turnstone.
- **St. Joe Community Health Foundation** for its gift of \$15,000 in support of Turnstone's Adult Day Services.
- **The Magee O'Connor Foundation, Valiant Foundation, Ritz-Craft Homes, the Prophet Sisters Foundation, Mary Margaret Stucky Foundation, Dr. Louis and Anne Schneider Foundation, and the Paul & Virginia Yergens-Rogers Foundation** for their support of Turnstone's general operating needs.
- **Indiana Youth Institute** for its grant of \$745 in support of the Kimbrough Early Learning Center program director's presentation of an "Inclusive Environments" program at a NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) conference in Dallas in November 2008.
- **Dulin, Ward & DeWald and the CARE Awards Committee** for selecting Turnstone as the recipient of the 2008 Altruism Award.
- **International Truck Engine and the Maximus Foundation** for their support of Turnstone's adaptive sports and recreation program.
- **Jim and Sandi Shank Scholarship Fund** for its support of Turnstone's Early Learning Center.
- **United Faith Presbyterian Church** for its support of Turnstone's residential ramp building program, and to all the volunteers who help make the construction of the ramps possible.
- Thank you to the **Allen County Christmas Bureau, Turnstone employees, Don and Betty Specht, Larry and Nancy Ortega, Holly Miller, Ed and Gay Oesterle, Anthony Wayne Lions Club, John and Carol Schumacher, Barbara Burchardt, Tom and Rita Burchardt, Mike and Tami Burchardt, Keith and Rita Bohnke, Deb Schumacher, Darlene Schumacher, Tom and Karen Wright, Donna Holland, Greg Roberts, Emily Bernard, Todd and Cathy Freeland, and Kurt and Jill Dougherty** for adopting Turnstone families in 2008.

Wish List

Baby wipes, water wings, Kleenex, tube socks for ages 4-8, pudding cups, glue sticks, Velcro, index cards, vegetable oil, Play-doh, clear contact paper, washable markers, colored construction paper, divided foam plates, paper towels, Dixie cups, napkins, plastic spoons and forks, glitter, birdseed, magnets, kitchen timers, clear plastic tubs.

SHE'S JUST FOR YOU

In 1962, Neptune and Pluto aligned for the first time in 400 years. John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. And most importantly, Chevrolet debuted its 1962 Corvette!

This is the sixth annual Corvette Raffle, and Turnstone's 1962 Roman red Corvette convertible has it all. Over 40 years ago, this car sold for approximately \$4,000. Today, it's valued at \$66,000!



Indiana Raffle License # 116232

Raffle tickets for this year's Corvette are one for \$10, three for \$25, seven for \$50, or 15 for \$100. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 8, 2009. To purchase tickets, call Turnstone at (260) 483-2100 or (866) 483-1278 or visit www.turnstone.org to learn more.

Check out this car's vitals ...

- 1962 Roman red with white top convertible
- Last year for the straight axle
- Early production: VIN 69
- Matching numbers
- 327 cubic inches, 250 horsepower (It's a V8!)
- Manual transmission
- Lots of options

Thanks to our sponsors



Proceeds support programs for Turnstone Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities.

Leave a Legacy

Attention, donors age 70 and older—the IRA charitable rollover has been extended. This year, consider making a contribution to Turnstone. For more information on the provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act 2008 related to charitable giving, contact your financial advisor. To make a philanthropic gift to Turnstone, contact Nancy Louraine at (260) 483-2100 or nancy@turnstone.org.

Childcare openings at the Kimbrough Early Learning Center

It's not too early to start planning for your upcoming childcare needs. Turnstone's childcare is for typically developing children and children with disabilities, ages 3 to 6. The Kimbrough Early Learning Center is open 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is available on both a part-time and full-time basis. CANI vouchers are also accepted. For more information, call Karen Tyner at (260) 483-2100.



Boston and David



**Turnstone Center for
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