

TOPICS

ISSUE 3, 2009

No limits

Victoria Grose with
a good friend.



Nicholle Grose, who spoke during the Board of Directors Gala in June, offers further praise for the place that turns “disabilities into possibilities.”

As she and her family were en route to church one Sunday, Nicholle Grose spotted a phrase on the marquee of another church they passed along the way. The sign read, “We are limited, not by our abilities, but by our vision.”

“I remember thinking how those words aptly describe Turnstone’s philosophy,” Nicholle says. “At Turnstone, they don’t see people as having limitations. Instead, Turnstone sees the potential in people and helps them reach it.”

Yes, Nicholle is sold on Turnstone. In fact, she and her daughter Victoria shared the story of their family’s long relationship with the center during the Board of Directors Gala in June. “Speaking at the gala was a very neat experience for our family,” Nicholle says. “It was quite an honor to be given the opportunity to share our thoughts on the crucial role Turnstone has played in our lives.

continued on page 4

Meeting the 'Big WIGS'

In the last issue of *Topics*, I told you about the ambitious strategic-planning process we initiated in January. To facilitate that process, we formed a special committee and interviewed our stakeholders. In addition, members of our staff visited several related organizations to gather information and seek best practices.

We've posted the broad strokes of the resultant strategic plan—our road map for the next five years—at turnstone.org. There, you'll see that we've set what we call our "wildly important goals," or "Big WIGs."

Our wildly important goals are to:

- Maximize the independence of our clients
- Maximize the satisfaction of our clients
- Maximize the use of the resources we're provided
- Maximize our long-term sustainability

Of course, the first two goals are the most important. To help our clients reach their potential through productive, fulfilling programs is, well, why we're here.

Under maximizing the independence of our clients, our focus is the continued provision of therapy as well as the growth of three programs: fitness and wellness, adaptive sports and recreation, and adult day services. We've experienced the greatest growth in those areas in recent years, and those programs continue to grow.

At the same time, we're rapidly running out of space for program growth. So, we're looking into the possibility of expanding our facility over the next five years. We're also looking into other

options to help us meet our increased need for space, such as forming partnerships, strategic alliances, and collaborations with other organizations.

Additionally, through our strategic planning process, we've recognized that more and more of our clients reside outside Allen County. So we're going to explore the idea of becoming a regional service provider.

We also plan to increase our visibility in the community, and plan on doing that with new signage and through greater media coverage and partnerships. And we want to increase our presence on the Internet, where just about everybody spends a lot of time these days. We'll also strive to provide more educational opportunities for clients and their families.

Of course, our goals of maximizing the independence and satisfaction of our clients can't be accomplished unless we can meet our last two Big WIGs: maximizing our resources and sustainability. To achieve all our wildly important goals, we need your continued support. Thank you for your generosity during these especially trying times, and please continue to think of us as one of your favorite charities.

We send out 20,000 copies of this newsletter all around the nation. Just think—if every person who receives a copy would send in \$5, the total would be \$100,000. Your donations—large and small—can help us reach our really Big WIGs.

Upcoming events

Golf Outing at Autumn Ridge

Turnstone will host its 29th Annual Golf Outing on Wednesday, September 2, at Autumn Ridge Golf Club. Lunch will be provided prior to tee time, and hearty appetizers will be offered when golfers have returned to the clubhouse after 18 holes. Players, sponsors, and volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Bethany Clapper, director of events, at (260) 483-2100 or bethany@turnstone.org.

Barbecue

On Sunday, September 13, from noon to 5 p.m., the Sons of American Legion will host a Barbecue Chicken Dinner at 4830 Hillegas Road. There will be a moonwalk, a magic show, and games for kids. All proceeds will support Turnstone.

Run, walk, or roll for Turnstone

More than 40 people have joined Team Turnstone for Fort-4-Fitness on Saturday, September 26. Together, they're raising funds to support Turnstone's therapeutic programs and services, while also raising awareness about the agency and its mission work. Have you signed up to run, walk, or roll in this year's Fort-4-Fitness? If you have, and you're interested in joining our team, contact Jennifer Neher at (260) 483-2100 or jennifer@turnstone.org.

Hall's gives back

When was the last time you had a Buster Burger? If it's been awhile, Turnstone would like you to consider dining at Hall's. Make sure to use your Hall's Community Partnership Card. Each time you dine, Turnstone will get 5 percent of your purchase when you use your card. If you don't have a card, call Bethany at (260) 483-2100.

Clip and dine!

On Tuesday, August 25, Bob Evans will host a Community Fun Night for Turnstone.

Dine at any Fort Wayne, Huntington, or Auburn Bob Evans on that day, and 15 percent of your purchase will be donated to Turnstone.

To ensure that we get credit for your donation, please present this coupon on the 25th.

For more information, contact Jennifer Neher at (260) 483-2100.



"I never realized what an awesome event the gala is and everything that goes into making it happen," Nicholle continues. "I was truly amazed by the generosity of all the guests. Everyone was so friendly, so kind. It made us more passionate about getting the word out about what Turnstone does, not just for us, but for so many families like ours."



Nicholle's twin daughters, Victoria and Natalie, were born three months prematurely on July 5, 1998. Natalie weighed only 2 pounds, 5 ounces, while Victoria weighed just 1 pound, 13 ounces.

Nicholle and her husband, John, were finally allowed to take the girls home after they spent 12 weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit at Lutheran Hospital.

Until they were 3 years old, the girls benefited from First Steps, a program that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are experiencing developmental delays or disabilities. When Victoria was 3, it was determined that she had cerebral palsy, and she was referred to Turnstone and pediatric physical therapist Deb Guebard. Victoria has been seeing Deb for therapy ever since.

"Not only has Deb been there for Victoria all these years, she's often been the wind

On board

On June 8, Debbie Wagner of Do It Best, Dick Fox of Barrett & McNangy, Bob Crosby of R.E. Crosby & Son, Vince Heiny of Haller & Colvin, Jane Swiss of the University of Saint Francis, and Julie Weingartner, a community leader, were re-elected to Turnstone's board of directors. Also re-elected were Vice Chair Sharon Peters of Tower Bank, Treasurer Kelly Clevenger of Lincoln Financial Group, Assistant Treasurer Gary Thelen of Kelley Automotive, and Secretary Vicki Leininger of Hylant Group.

Other board members include Chairman Tracy Shellabarger, community leader; and directors Jerry Witte, National City Bank; Robert Hall, Old National Bank; Mike Lentine, Sweetwater Sound; Barney Niezer, community leader; Kathy Porter, Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne; Carol Melo, community leader; Tom Steigmeyer, 101.7 FUN WLDE; Barry Sturges, CB Richard Ellis Sturges; Tom Trent, Rothberg Logan & Warsco; Theresa Wagler, Steel Dynamics; Althea Watson, Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne, and Daryl Yost, Innovation Center.

The board also welcomes Leadership Fort Wayne board intern Kimberly Wagner of IPFW.

beneath my wings," Nicholle says. "Victoria loves Deb, and she loves Turnstone. Turnstone is Victoria's special place—a place where people know how she feels."

Victoria is also an avid—and very competitive—swimmer, thanks to Lap Club, a program developed by Deb. In addition to providing aquatic therapy, Lap Club also promotes water safety and a competitive spirit. The club meets for practice every week, and six weeks, a meet is held.

"All of the kids in Lap Club are just amazing," Nicholle says. "They don't just compete against one another; they compete against themselves, trying to improve on their personal bests. And the number of volunteers from throughout the community who help out during the meets is unbelievable."

Victoria uses a walker some of the time, but relies on her wheelchair when she really needs to go somewhere quickly, like between classes at Oakview Elementary in Fort Wayne, where both she and Natalie will be fifth-graders this fall. Victoria also wears hearing aids to counter auditory neuropathy, and except for the occasional B, she and Natalie are straight-A students.

Best friends forever, the girls share interests such as piano lessons, reading, and spending time with their family, which includes John, their 6-year-old brother. Victoria also enjoys therapeutic horseback riding at Camp Red Cedar on the northern outskirts of Fort Wayne.

It hasn't been determined whether Victoria and Natalie are identical or fraternal twins. "It would require genetic testing to know, and we've never seen the need to find out," Nicholle says. "And testing would be expensive."

And so is the cost of therapy and special equipment. When the Groses first came to Turnstone, their insurance provider considered Turnstone to be out of network, but social worker Kathy Baer found a way to make services affordable through Medicaid and Children's Special Healthcare.

"We would have been financially devastated and unable to pay for everything Victoria needs if Turnstone hadn't found a solution," Nicholle explains. "Turnstone has even lent us equipment to try out. You need to know if equipment is a good fit before you invest in it."

Nicholle and her family, however, readily invest their trust in Turnstone. "Our strength comes from God, but family, friends, and Turnstone help us to keep looking ahead and planning for a happy, successful, and independent future," Nicholle says. "Whether it's Deb Guebard or Kathy Baer or anyone else at Turnstone, if there's a solution, they'll find it. And Turnstone places no limits on what a person can accomplish." ■



The Grose Family with therapist Deb Guebard.

Gala news

Ninth Annual Board of Directors Gala

On Thursday, June 18, members of the Turnstone board of directors and 200 of their friends gathered at the Fort Wayne Country Club for the ninth Annual Board of Directors Gala. Traditionally, the gala is Turnstone's largest fundraiser, and this year was no exception. In spite of the difficult economic times, our guests, sponsors, and our many other donors opened their hearts and checkbooks. We sincerely thank them for their kindness and generosity. Together, they contributed more than \$363,000. These dollars will help ensure Turnstone's therapeutic services will continue to be available on a sliding fee scale.



Art and Marcia Litton



Above: Samuel and Carol Melo, Mimi Rolland, and Eunice Melo.

At right: Jerry and Judy Witte with Mary Ann Wissman and Barry Sturges.



Lee Tobin of FUN 101.7 WLDE was the master of ceremonies for this year's gala. He was joined by world-famous auctioneer Dean Kruse of Kruse International. Our mission-focused speaker was Nicholle Grose, parent of a child receiving therapy at Turnstone. (Read her story in this issue of *Topics*.)

This year's live auction included two flights of wine, a Colts RCA stadium seat signed by coach Tony Dungie, an adorable schnoodle puppy, season-opener tickets to a Notre Dame football game, a Komets suite, a trip to the Grand

Mayan resort in Mexico, a trip to South Haven, Michigan, and a case of 2006 Emeritus Russian Pinot Noir. More than 60 silent auction items were also available for bid. The annual raffle sponsored by Bradley Gough Diamonds featured the world's most perfectly cut diamond, a Hearts on Fire pendant.

Our thanks goes to all who attended the gala, our wonderful, always dedicated committee and auxiliary members, the Psi Iota Xi Theta-Theta Chapter, and the many other volunteers who made the event a success. Our thanks also go to our sponsors, matching foundation donors and live and silent auction donors for their generosity. Please look for a listing of sponsors in the next issue of *Topics*. ■

Volunteer profile

Mark is 'the man'

Power soccer coach Jim Labas calls Mark Berron "the man." Jim says Mark is "unselfish, caring, compassionate, motivated, and has a genuine love of seeing a wheelchair athlete compete and succeed."

Mark is a certified assistive technology professional with ATG Rehab, and he's worked with Jim's family as their son Luke's wheelchair provider for many years. Mark's father has used a wheelchair for the past 60 years, which has helped Mark better understand the needs of people who use wheelchairs.

In 1996, Mark moved back to Fort Wayne from Indianapolis to marry his wife, Mary Ann. He'd fallen for Mary Ann, and unexpectedly, Turnstone too. "There's nothing even close to Turnstone in Indianapolis—I've never met a more dedicated organization," Mark says.

Mark and Mary Ann have made volunteering at Turnstone a family affair. They sell Corvette Raffle tickets, work concessions at Tin Caps games, and volunteer for Casino Night. Mark's even become Turnstone's unofficial sports photographer and an integral part of the power soccer program.

Three years ago, a power soccer athlete at Ball State stopped by ATG Rehab to have some work done on his chair. He and Mark struck up a conversation about the sport. Mark was immediately intrigued and urged the young man to contact Turnstone about bringing the sport to Fort Wayne. Just days later, the athlete was at Turnstone, asking us to organize a power soccer program.

Today, Turnstone's power soccer teams, the Fearless Flyers and Fantastic Flyers, are nationally ranked, and Mark is an instrumental part of that success. He keeps the players' chairs, which can take a beating, up to snuff. He also helps coach. "I have the most fun with power soccer; it's so rewarding to watch the kids come out of their shells and grow into leaders," Mark says. "I get to see them become better athletes and become more aggressive, which will help them on the court and in life."

Last year, the Fearless and Fantastic teams competed for top honors at the national tournament. Mark, who works with both teams, says, "It was hard. I wanted both teams to win, and didn't want either to lose. I didn't know who to cheer for, so I stood in between."

When asked what he likes best about Turnstone, Mark says, "Everything—I like being here on business or to volunteer. Everything I do with Turnstone is rewarding."

Those of us at Turnstone think everything Mark does is pretty awesome, too. ■



Mark was recently named equipment manager for Team USA, which will compete in the 2011 Power Soccer World Cup in South Africa.

To find out how to volunteer, please contact Karen Tyner at (260) 483-2100 or karen@turnstone.org.

Thanks

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between March 17 and June 15, 2009.

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Wish list

- Water wings
- Tube socks for children ages 4 to 8
- Pudding cups
- Glue sticks
- Velcro
- Index cards
- Vegetable oil
- Play-doh
- Clear contact paper
- Washable markers
- Colored construction paper
- Divided foam plates
- Dixie cups
- Plastic spoons and forks
- Glitter
- Ziploc bags (all sizes)
- Birdseed
- Magnets
- Clear plastic tubs
- Colored pencils
- Tickets to community events

Thanks and hats off to:

- **Members of Turnstone's Good Ole Boys club** for purchasing a gas grill—complete with a cover, a full tank of gas, and grill utensils.
- **Dr. Rudy and Rhonda Kachmann** for donating \$1,500 in prize money for the Second Wheelchair Tennis Open at IPFW in May. Thanks also to **IPFW** for helping make this event possible.
- **J.F. Ahern Company** for donating time to conduct Turnstone's annual sprinkler system inspection.
- **Priority 1** for performing Turnstone's annual fire extinguisher inspection at no charge.
- The **Ian and Mimi Rolland Family Foundation** for its gift of \$15,000 in support of Turnstone's adult day services.
- The **M.E. Raker Foundation** for its gift of \$10,000. These dollars will support Turnstone's therapeutic program, as well as provide the much-needed dollars to purchase a new, bariatric-rated hydraulic pool lift, a core board, and an adaptive stroller.
- The **John Chapman Fund** and **Kent Family Foundation** for its support of Turnstone's programs.
- The **Fort Wayne Sertoma Club** for its gift of \$1,000 in support of speech therapy programs.
- The **Charlie Tippmann Foundation** for its gift of \$1,000 in support of Turnstone's pediatric and adult therapy services, which are provided on a sliding fee scale.
- **Finish Line Youth Foundation, ITT, and Medical Protective** for their support of Turnstone's adaptive sports and recreation program.
- **United Faith Presbyterian Church** for its continued support of Turnstone's residential ramp building program and to all the volunteers who help make the construction of the ramps possible.
- **My Menu** for hosting its Second Charity Cookout, which raised \$3,600 in support of Turnstone. Thank you to all who stopped out to support the event.
- **Fort Wayne Street Rod Association** for donating a portion of the proceeds from its 35th Annual Muddy River Run held in August at IPFW.
- **Party On/Nowak Supply** for its donation of party supplies. We'll celebrate the whole year in style thanks to this generous contribution.
- **Medtronic Therapy Consultant Bruce Gardner** for biking 160 miles and raising more than \$1,000 in support of the Parkinson's Support Group, which meets once a month at Turnstone. Many thanks to Bruce and everyone who supported him.

Legacy Society

Turnstone's Legacy Society honors and recognizes those thoughtful and generous individuals who have provided for Turnstone's future in their wills, trusts, and other estate plans. By including Turnstone in your estate plans, you help ensure the health and sustainability of the agency. There are many options for establishing a planned gift to Turnstone. For more information, please contact Nancy Louraine, executive director, at (260) 483-2100.

News to note

Paralympic designation earned

This June, Turnstone became a designated Paralympic Sport Club. Turnstone is the second agency in Indiana to receive the designation. This will help increase the community's awareness of the availability of paralympic sports at Turnstone. Visit usparalympics.org for more information on the Paralympics.

Fearless Flyers take title

Turnstone's Fearless Flyers claimed the national championship during the U.S. Power Soccer Association National Tournament in Fishers, Indiana, in June. The Fearless Flyers took the Division II title, while Turnstone's Fantastic Flyers finished fourth in the same division. Brandon Stump of the Fearless Flyers received the Golden Guard award for most points scored during the tournament (15).

Mother Nature dances

On June 12, the Fort Wayne Dance Collective presented "Mother Nature's Nightmare," a performance featuring a unique blend of dance, storytelling, theatre, song—and Turnstone performers! Our young dancers, the "Alcore Rhythms," illustrated the importance of "being green" through creative movement. Many thanks to FWDC and Arts United for making our involvement in this production possible.

Hi-tech bowling

Turnstone has been incorporating Nintendo Wii in therapy and in the adult day program. Clients have been doing yoga, playing soccer, and more—and they've been loving it! This June, the adult day staff even hosted a Wii bowling tournament. Congratulations to our winning bowlers, the Strikers.



Early Learning Center

In June, Turnstone's full-day early-learning program received a second consecutive Level 3 Paths to QUALITY rating. This is a voluntary state-regulated quality rating system. Turnstone's full-day program and preschool currently has openings. Contact Adrienne for more information at (260) 483-2100.

Before- and after-school care

Are you interested in before-school or after-school care for children ages 7 through 12? Contact Adrienne at (260) 483-2100 or adrienne@turnstone.org. This program is available to children of all abilities.

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'62 and just for you!

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!

Raffle tickets for this year's Corvette are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 7 for \$50, or 15 for \$100. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 15, 2009.

To purchase tickets, call Turnstone at (260) 483-2100 or (866) 483-1278 or visit www.turnstone.org to learn more.

Indiana Raffle
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