

# EMPOWER

A newsletter for family & friends



Turnstone

SUMMER 2014



## Fitting in

Scarlett and London Capps with Turnstone day-care teacher Jessie Crothers.

### Twins London and Scarlett have found a place of their own at Turnstone.

Having a blended family that includes seven kids ages 4 to 16 keeps Jen and Phil Bredemeyer on the go. In addition to all the responsibilities that come with raising a house full of kids, Jen and Phil both work full time to provide for their crew. That means they often need quality day care, especially for their twin daughters, London and Scarlett, who require a special level of TLC. The Bredemeyers have found quality care—and much more—at Turnstone.

London and Scarlett, who'll be 7 years old in September, have leukodystrophy, which is a group of disorders caused by the imperfect development of the myelin sheath, the covering that insulates nerve fibers in the central nervous system. The girls also have cortical visual impairment and are legally blind.

"What London and Scarlett have is similar to cerebral palsy," Jen says. "They don't walk—although they sometimes try to do the best they can—and they don't talk. They can see,

but it's sort of like looking through swiss cheese. Their vision has holes in it."

London and Scarlett became very ill about 10 days after they were born, and their survival was in doubt. After they pulled through, doctors weren't certain that the girls had disabilities until they were about 9 months old. "Of course, I knew something wasn't right long before that," Jen says. "The doctors have never been able to tell us if London and Scarlett's disabilities are genetic or caused by the illness shortly after they were born.

"If you think of most people's brains as speedboats, London and Scarlett's brains are like rowboats," Jen adds. "If you tell them to do something, they will, but it might be five minutes later. We're working on teaching them signs because they'll never be able to communicate verbally. They'll always need assistance of some sort—they'll never be independent. And they face some surgeries in the future."

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London Capps



Scarlett Capps

With their twins facing so many challenges, Jen and Phil needed to find a special place where the girls could receive therapy and care during working hours. Turnstone is such a place. London and Scarlett began coming to Turnstone for physical, occupational, and speech therapies when they were 3 years old. Now the girls also spend a portion of most weekdays at the center.

Monday through Friday, Scarlett and London attend Turnstone's before- and after-school child care. During the day, they attend Holland Elementary where they are in special education.

"London and Scarlett love it at Turnstone—it's their place—and they're really upset when they have to come home," Jen says. "They just like being part of the crowd and fitting in, which is easy at Turnstone because the day care is for kids of all abilities. They also like the routine. They know what to expect.

"Turnstone has been a Godsend for us," Jen says. "London and Scarlett have benefited from the therapy, and the quality day care lets us go to work without worries. It's great to have someone you can trust. When your kids can't communicate, and you leave them in someone else's care, you're never sure what might be



**"Turnstone has been a Godsend for us. London and Scarlett have benefited from the therapy, and the quality day care lets us go to work without worries. It's great to have someone you can trust."**

**— Jen Bredemeyer**

going on. I have absolute trust in Turnstone, and I know they have our girls' best interest at heart.

"Turnstone helps people grow and become independent," Jen says. "We love them—they're the best from the rest. Everyone is there to help. And they take an interest in us, our family. It's not like we're just there to drop kids off for day care." 🌟

## STANDING TALL

On June 13, we broke ground for our new field house, the centerpiece of our 120,000-square-foot expansion aimed at creating “The Turnstone of Tomorrow.” A big part of this expansion is to answer the ever-growing call for opportunities in adaptive sports and recreation, aquatics, and health and fitness. Another big goal is to become a national Paralympic training center.

We had a very special guest on hand for the groundbreaking—Amy Purdy. You may have seen Amy on TV. She’s been on *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Amazing Race*, and part of a one-hour special about Olympians. She’s been in movies and in videos and featured in the TED series. In Sochi, Russia, this winter, Amy won a bronze medal in snowboarding at the 2014 Paralympic Games.

Sounds like Amy’s pretty accomplished, doesn’t it? You don’t know the half of it. Amy was 19 years old when she contracted bacterial meningitis. With just a 2-percent chance of survival, she lost both kidneys and her spleen, and both of her legs were amputated below the knee. But she persevered, and just a year after receiving leg prosthetics, Amy finished third in a snowboarding event.

Amy’s success snowballed after she received a grant from the Challenged Athletes Foundation that enabled her to go on to further competitions and eventually become part of the U.S. Paralympic team competing in Sochi, where she took the bronze for Team USA.

Amy has also become a tireless advocate for people with disabilities and co-founded Adaptive Action Sports, part of Disabled Sports USA. A nonprofit organization, Adaptive Action Sports helps people with disabilities who want to participate in sports such as skateboarding, surfing, and snowboarding. Amy has brought a great



Nancy Louraine, Barry Sturges, Tracy Shellabarger, Congressman Marlin Stutzman, Amy Purdy, Mayor Tom Henry, Dan O’Connell, Anne Plassman, Ron Plassman, Paul Lagemann, Jorge Ortiz, and Suzanna Plassman break ground on June 13 for the 120,000-square-foot expansion aimed at creating “The Turnstone of Tomorrow.”

deal of attention to the importance of adaptive sports in helping people move forward.

Amy spoke with several of our clients and athletes during her visit. She has a wonderful enthusiasm for life and is the epitome of those who overcome life’s challenges—something our clients do every day.

In April, a lot of attention was paid to the one-year anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing. The number of people who were seriously injured in the bombing underscores how any one of us may have to learn to live with a disability at any point in our lives. But while our physical bodies can change at any time, it’s what’s inside us that drives us to push ourselves to greater heights, even if that’s just to go to work, to school—or just out to see a movie.

We are all driven to complete this expansion, which will provide limitless benefits to people with disabilities for years to come. However, we still need your help. We’ve raised \$10 million of the more than \$14 million needed.

Amy jokes that she can be as tall—or as short—as she wants now depending on the length of her prosthetic legs. She stands pretty tall in our book. Please stand tall with Amy and all people with disabilities striving to overcome life’s challenges. Call (260) 483-2100 to learn what you can do to help.



## HATS OFF AND THANKS TO ...

The **IPFW Student Athlete Leadership Team**, the **St. Joseph High School hockey team**, and **Superior Van and Mobility** for their support of Turnstone's adaptive sports and recreation program.

...

**Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne** for hosting the Turnstone Buffet Night. This year, more than \$2,400 was raised to support the agency and its programs.

...

The **University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts** for partnering with Turnstone to create a photography exhibition of individuals served by Turnstone.

...

**Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Theta Theta Chapter**, for its support of Turnstone's pediatric speech-therapy program.

...

**Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Pi Chapter**, for funds to purchase toys for the children's lobby.

...

**Grace Presbyterian Church** for its gifts in support of Turnstone's residential-ramp-building program.

...

**Three Rivers Barricade & Equipment** for the donation of batteries that help to keep the agency working.

...

**Plymouth Congregational Church** for the gift to purchase medical supplies for the agency.

...

The **Indiana Youth Institute** for the professional-development funds to send staff to a workshop to learn about assessing and treating children with feeding, weight, and growth difficulties.

...

The **Parrot Charitable Foundation** and the **Shank Family Foundation** for supporting Turnstone's Dr. Robert Kimbrough Early Learning Center.

...

The **National Alliance for Accessible Golf** for the SWING! program grant award, which provided matching funds to purchase an adaptive golf cart.

...

**Culver's** on Dupont Road and Washington Center Road for hosting their Spring Day of Giving event.

**Chico's** for hosting a benefit shopping day for Turnstone.

...

**Canterbury High School** students who volunteered for many projects around Turnstone.

...

The **Dorset Charitable Trust**, the **Ove W. Jorgensen Family Foundation**, the **Len-Ari Foundation**, the **Parrish Foundation**, the **Charlie Tippmann Foundation**, the **Edward M. & Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation**, the **Journal Gazette Foundation**, the **Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne**, the **Rosemary & Carson Noecker Family Foundation**, and the **John Chapman Fund** for their support of Turnstone's core programs and services.

...

The **AWS Foundation** for their support of pediatric therapy services.

...

The **Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation** and **Carol Rolland** for their support of Turnstone's adult day program.

...

The **United States Tennis Association** for the program grant to help underwrite the cost of a wheelchair tennis clinic, wheelchair tennis lessons, and the 2014 annual wheelchair tennis tournament. And to **Dr. Rudy Kachmann** for his donation of prize money for the tournament.

...

**UAW CAP Council and their families**, the **United Way of Allen County, Holsum of Fort Wayne**, **Nestle Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream**, **Ferrellgas**, **High Hopes Clowns**, **Sam Hicks and the Travelin' Band**, and **the many volunteers** who made the annual family picnic a success. Also, thank you to **Spencer Lewis and the Fort Wayne firefighters**.

...

**Saint Charles' fourth-grade class** for organizing their successful Read-A-Thon. This year, the students raised \$4,700 to help support the adaptive sports and recreation program.

## NEWS NOTES

### Lady Luck strikes again

Turnstone's 39th Annual Casino Night was a huge success! More than 600 people joined us this year to play bingo, blackjack, and Texas hold 'em, raising more than \$51,000 in support of Turnstone's pediatric therapy, wellness, education, and recreation programs. A very big thank you to our event sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers for all of their hard work to make this event a huge success. A complete list of sponsors will be published in the 2013–2014 Annual Report.



### 34th Annual Golf Outing

On Wednesday, September 10, tee off with us for Turnstone's 34th Annual Golf Outing at Brookwood Ridge Golf Course. Enjoy lunch and links with your foursome on one of Fort Wayne's most beautiful courses. For more information or to volunteer, contact Erin Arnold at (260) 483-2100 or [erin@turnstone.org](mailto:erin@turnstone.org).



Above: The first-place team in 2013 included Jeremy Senk, Brad Sturges, Ryan Harris, and Mark Welker.

At left: Joe Guise and Denise Wood entertained the crowd at Turnstone's 39th Annual Casino Night.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAPSL Weekend (MidAmerica Power Soccer League), Tournament & Banquet**  
Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7

**BLAZE Sports CDSS Training (Certified Disability Sports Specialist) hosted by Turnstone**  
Tuesday & Wednesday, September 23 & 24

**Goalie Camp featuring Paralympic goalie Steve Cash**  
Friday through Sunday, October 24–26

## SPORTS & REC UPDATE

- Turnstone Flyers Intermediate Sled Hockey team wins first National Championship.
- Turnstone Bandits Wheelchair Basketball team finishes third at NWBA National Championship.
- Turnstone Flyers Varsity Wheelchair Basketball team Coach Bob Burnsworth was awarded the Ed Owen Coach of the Year Award.
- Turnstone, as an organization, was awarded the Courage Kenney Leadership Award of Merit for Outstanding Leadership.

## WISH LIST

Gift cards, white bath towels (regular, not oversized), white hand towels, wash cloths, magnet wands, sifters, different sized scoops, different sized funnels, rice, beans, cornmeal, large pasta shells, colored tape (masking), shaving cream, preschool toys, books (for ages 2-15), finger paints, snack packs of cookies and crackers, washable and dry erase markers, flexible straws, aluminum foil, 6-inch styrofoam plates, 12-ounce styrofoam coffee cups, plastic silverware, laundry, dishwashing and dishwasher liquid soap, Ziploc bags (snack size, quart, gallon), Kleenex, hand sanitizer in pump bottles, disposable baby wipes, disinfectant wipes and spray, Windex, toys and activities for school-age kids in before- and after-school program, construction paper, stickers, and bubbles.



# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Thanks to all who gave honoraria and memorials to Turnstone between January 11 and April 23, 2014.

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**In honor of Mia Welker**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Schwarz

## JOIN TEAM TURNSTONE!



Please join the more than 150 current Team Turnstone members for the 7th Annual Fort4Fitness races in September. We've raised more than \$30,000 in past races. If there are more than 100 people on our team, Turnstone will receive 10 percent of race proceeds. If you've already sent in your registration and didn't sign up with us, let us know, and you can be added to our team. If you've already signed up for our team—thank you!

Everyone who raises at least \$45 and signs up for Team Turnstone will receive a T-shirt. On the day of the race we hope to cover Fort Wayne with those showing support for Turnstone with their race shirts.

### To join Team Turnstone:

- Sign up for the Fort4Fitness at [fort4fitness.org](http://fort4fitness.org). During Step 2 of the registration process at item number 7 (Charity Partner) select Turnstone in the drop-down list.
- Start raising money! Though it's not a requirement to be part of our team, you can raise funds using a pledge form, sending personalized letters, or using an online fundraising site, such as [firstgiving.com](http://firstgiving.com). Contact Michelle Kimpel at (260) 483-2100, ext. 283, or [michelle@turnstone.org](mailto:michelle@turnstone.org) if you have questions or need help. No matter how you raise funds, you'll be creating possibilities for current and future clients.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Kenna Davis  
Communications Specialist

Charles "Chuck" Byndom  
ADS Program Assistant

Katie Bailey  
KELC Summer Staff

Kelsey Robertson  
KELC Summer Staff

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# CLASSIC CORVETTE RAFFLE

Picture yourself cruising down the highway with the top down in your “new” 1963 Corvette Sting Ray. This dream could become a reality if you have the winning ticket for this year’s Classic Corvette Raffle. You can check out this year’s car by visiting one of several locations this summer and fall. This ‘Vette features its original 300-horsepower, 327-cubic-inch V8 engine, a four-speed manual transmission, Riverside red paint, a white soft top, and knock-off wheels. Tickets are available at Turnstone or by calling (260) 483-2100 and paying with your debit card. Tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25, seven for \$50, 15 for \$100, or 40 for \$250. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 9 at 6 p.m.

Indiana Raffle license No. 132921.



## SEE THE CORVETTE IN PERSON AT THESE LOCATIONS:

- July 19: Lawton Park Car Show
- July 26: Muddy River Run at IPFW
- August 2: Barr Street Market
- August 9: Roanoke Farmers Market
- August 27-31: Auburn Labor Day Car Show
- September 6: Village at Winona Car Festival
- September 27: James Dean Car Festival in Fairmount

Turnstone Center for  
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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805  
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