

REACH OUT

Live Learn Earn



February 2011 Volume 25 Issue 1

Reach Legends Rock at Gala

This is what legendary person's favorite food?

1. Peanut butter and banana sandwiches
2. Hot dogs
3. Corn flakes
4. M&Ms
5. Chocolate chip cookies

Answers:

1. Elvis Presley
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. John Lennon
4. Michael Jackson
5. Barbara Bush

This was a fitting menu for the Reach "Legends" Gala held on January 27th at Cypress United Methodist Church. Clients came dressed as their favorite legends. They rocked out to legendary music.

You couldn't miss our wonderful volunteer groups that made this event possible. They cooked, served and danced with our happy clients.

Thank you to National Charity League Cypress Belles and Yellow Rose Chapters, Cy-Ranch Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and Girl Scout Troup 10058.

As always, Reach is grateful for the generosity and support of Christie Erwin and Crispin from

Cypress United Methodist Church for providing the perfect venue for our Gala and all the help with AV, chairs and tables and so much more.

The annual Reach Gala is in its 6th year. Its purpose is to celebrate the opening of the Reach Learning Activity Center.

The center was opened in January of 2005. It was the dream of the Board of Directors, Executive Director Kathi Schmidt and the families of our clients.

They wanted a place of life-long learning for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This unique \$2 million facility is where 240 clients are enrolled. The comprehensive curriculum includes life skills, functional academics, music, art, fitness, computer assisted learning, vocational training and supported employment. The newest feature is the Reach2You newsroom where clients videotape news broadcasts that are played to clients throughout the center.



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Calendar of Events

Springfest.....March 26, 2011
 Learning Activity Center 9:30 am—12 pm
 Reach for the Stars Fundraising Luncheon
 The Berry Center 12—1 pm....October 13, 2011

Reach Out Tours

Wednesdays12:00 noon
 February 23 March 9, 23
 April 13, 27 May 11, 25

Private group tours available upon request.
 To schedule a tour or to make a reservation,
 please call Kris at 281.213.8323 ext. 307.

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Kathi’s Corner

HELP!!! The mission and vision of Reach Unlimited are at risk! Never before in the history of Reach has our funding been more threatened by the State legislature and the budget deficit. **WHAT CAN YOU DO?** I say PLENTY! As voters in our great state of Texas, we elected our officials to make the right decisions for you, me, our clients, families, all Texans . Many of those same legislators have visited Reach, attended our luncheons, made purchases in the gift shop and even donated to our cause. **NOW** it is time to call on those same legislators and implore them to do right thing for the Medicaid budget...**DO NOT CUT IT!**

Please write, call, email, and visit your legislators. What do you say? Here are some suggestions and facts:

- Do not balance the state’s budget on the backs of our most vulnerable population.
- Use the “rainy day fund” to help balance the budget.
- Texas is 49th in the Nation in its support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities...**DO NOT CAUSE US TO BE 50th!**
- Consolidate some of the State Supported Living Centers (former “State Schools”)
- Community services (like Reach) cost 1/3 of what it cost per state school client (\$4K vs \$13K)
- Many of our Reach clients require the same level of services that state school clients receive
- Eliminate the duplication of state services. For example the “residential reviews” conducted by a state employee, MHMRA’s service coordinator, and our case managers (home visits)
- Return the case management funding to the provider (Reach) because we are performing this function daily vs. a quarterly visit by MHMRA service coordinators
- Reach will have to cut services to 125 people; Working families will be adversely affected
- Reduced staffing ratios will affect the health and safety of clients and staff
- Unemployment will increase with layoffs
- Our taxpaying clients working in the community will lose our supports
- Reach has experienced a loss of almost \$500,000 in Medicaid funding cuts in the last 9 months
- **TELL YOUR OWN PERSONAL STORY**

The list goes on and on. I know you have been inundated with letters, emails, phone calls regarding this issue...this is because our future really does depend on your help. Or the whole delivery of services to our people will be dismantled. I believe Texas can do better for people with IDD.

You can find your legislator by going to www.fyilegis.state.us. Call me if you have questions or if there is anything I can help you with.



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Reach Unlimited, Inc. is dedicated to providing quality support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Reach Unlimited, Inc.

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