

REACH OUT

Live Learn Earn



June 2011 Volume 25 Issue 2

SPRINGFEST 2011, WHAT A PARTY!

There was a big party at the Reach Unlimited Learning Activity Center on Saturday, March 26th. Over 600 people from the Cy-Fair community gathered to support our mission. The theme of this year's Springfest was "Let's Party" and everyone did.

Reach is a non-profit agency so it must raise funds to deliver quality programs and services. The purpose of Springfest is to help raise these much needed funds.

Right now, fundraising is more important than ever before as the proposed Medicaid cuts by the State of Texas will drastically impact services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Community support was evident at Springfest. Sim-Tex, Inc. generously underwrote the event. That means that the \$55,000 in proceeds will go directly to fund programs and services for the 245 clients who come to Reach to live, learn, and earn a paycheck.

Reach is also grateful for the support of its Gold Sponsors: TGS, Prime Mechanical and Construction, Tom and Jan Schmidt, Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union, Keating Family Foundation, the Family of John Bonner, VAM USA, Kenny and Vicki Scianna, Karen Gilligan,

Dorothy Goodykoontz, and Stewart J. Guss, Attorney at Law. Silver Sponsors include: John and Deni McCrae, Cotton, Inc., Caldwell Companies, Lauren Orihel, Jim and Bonnie Rooker, Larry Andrews Family, Eubank Excavation, Guzzetta Benefit Services, Deb Colson Photography, and Don and Pam Bounds.



Volunteers from a wide variety of service groups were on hand. They cheered clients as they finished the walkathon, ran game booths, served lunch, and helped with the client art sale and silent auction.

In attendance were: eleven Cy-Fair high school PALS groups, Cy-Fair Rotary Club, Cy-Falls Key Club, JV Key Club, Cy-Ranch HOSA, Klein Forest High School, Girl Scout Troup 10058, and Lone Star Ambassadors.

(Top left) Maria rolls to the finish line. (Top right) Emcees Jessica and Terry. (Bottom left) Third place walkathon fundraiser Kevin (in baseball cap) and second place winner Jonathan. (Bottom right) First place walkathon fundraiser Ryan.

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Calendar of Events

Table Captain Kickoff
 Learning Activity Center 12-1pm...July 21, 2011
 Reach for the Stars Fundraising Luncheon
 The Berry Center 12-1 pm....October 6, 2011

Reach Out Tours

Wednesdays 12:00 noon

June 8, 22 July 13, 27 August 10, 24
 September 7, 14, 21, 28
 October 5, 26 November 9 December 7

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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OUR MISSION

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

Kathi’s Corner

Legislative Update: A huge “thank you” to all who called, wrote letters, visited legislators’ offices —both in Houston and in Austin expressing your concern about proposed funding cuts for the disabled in Texas. You DID make a difference! Although we are not completely out of the woods and the final numbers are not in, what we do know is that the drastic cuts of 10-46% will NOT happen. But funding WILL be cut. In addition to the loss of Medicaid revenue since last June of \$500,000, we are anticipating a minimum of another \$300,000 or \$5,405 per year per Reach Unlimited Medicaid client. As always, we will need to bridge the funding gap.

Sustainability: I have been with Reach since nearly the organization’s inception in 1983. The most important contribution I believe we each can make is to advance Reach’s sustainability. For that reason, I will continue to focus on the following key areas: excellence in client services, fundraising, community building, information processing/data resource management, policy and procedure, volunteer/staff development, and interdepartmental—agency-wide communications.

Special Gift: We are blessed to have received a gift to pay off the balance of the Learning Activity Center building from the family of a client. This is a major step toward sustainability and positions us to launch Phase II. Please join me in thanking the entire Scianna family for their generous donation.




(From the left) Vicki Scianna, Kathi Schmidt and Kenny Scianna. (Background) Learning Activity Center.

Ongoing Contract Work for SportsMark

SportsMark sells disaster preparedness supplies, materials and kits to schools and school districts. When the owner, Mark Farnell, met Reach Supported Employment Specialist, Donna Robinson, she invited him to tour the Learning Activity Center.

That was the beginning of a great partnership with the hard-working Reach clients in the Center for Vocational Development.

“Your clients do a better job of assembly work than most others. It is a challenge for them so they pay close attention to the details and find the work meaningful. It is good for the clients and good for me.” says Mr. Farnell. “Donna and Linda Turman have bent over backward to be helpful. The clients did such a great job on my emergency backpacks that I recommended them to my church, The Met. Last summer, clients assembled 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for low income children in Cy-Fair ISD,” he said. “I look forward to doing more with Reach.”



Reach client Scott (left) works with Mark Farnell to assemble an emergency backpack. Scott gets paid for every back pack he puts together.

Ambassadors Wanted



Board of Directors members, Leslie Martone (left) and Beth Wood, co-chair the Reach Ambassador Committee. Connecting people to the mission of Reach has never been more important to our future. If you are interested in bringing 10 people to tour Reach, please call Beth at 281-413-9682.

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News Media Focuses on Reach: Impact of Pending State Budget Cuts



Award-winning Fox 26 News reporter, Greg Groogan, did a feature on the impact of the proposed budget cuts on Reach.



News cameras were prevalent at the Learning Activity Center. Reach client Jonathan speaks with a news station camera man.



ABC Channel 13 Christine Dobbyn (right) interviewed Executive Director Kathi Schmidt.

For complete video, audio and print coverage, go to www.reachunlimited.org/media resources.

Reach Unlimited, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Our Volunteers Help in so Many Ways



Golf Tournament Benefits Reach Unlimited

On April 25th, the Bear Creek Copperfield Rotary Club sponsored the Classic Golf Tournament to benefit Reach. At left, the First Place Winners hold trophies made by Reach clients. Pictured are Reach Board President Randall Thompson (second from right) next to client Emily, Associate Executive Director Lauren Black and client Joey.



Saving money and trees is important. To receive this newsletter electronically, please email Susan White at swhite@reachunlimited.org, or call 281-213-8323 ext. 238.

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