

REACH OUT

Be all you were created to be.



November 2009 • Volume 23, Issue 4

The Power of Love

Clients were standing inside the door welcoming guests, others were in choir robes singing in the ballroom, some had their stories in the programs on the chairs, while others were ready to hand out a small gift to everyone who came to the Reach for the Stars Fundraising Luncheon on October 14 at the Berry Center. The air was filled with excitement as over 650 people streamed through the doors and sat down at their tables.

The theme was *Love Has No End* and the guests proved that with their generous pledges and donations of over \$400,000 in unrestricted operating funds. These funds will go to fill the gap between fees paid and actual costs of providing the most comprehensive support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the greater Houston northwest.

The Reverend Justin Lindstrom, a Reach board member and pastor of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, opened the event with prayer. Representative Patricia Harless lead the Pledge

of Allegiance while it was interpreted in sign language by Reach clients Dawn and Carol.

Gale Parker was the emcee of the luncheon.



Table Captain Nick Wilhite is welcomed by Reach client Garrett as Jonathon and Kristen look on.

She is the president of the board of directors, a Reach client mom and the principal of Lamkin Elementary School. Gale spoke about how her daughter Emily looks forward to Mondays when she can return to the Learning Activity Center after the weekend.

Executive Director Kathi Schmidt said the Learning Activity Center is busting at the seams and there are 150 people on the waiting list. She shared about

how she dreads saying no to parents whose children may have to wait years before they can enroll at Reach.

The audience was moved to tears and laughter as Bruce Best told the story of his son Garrett who, after losing his mother to cancer, convinced his father that he should move into a Reach group home, attend the Learning Activity Center and become more independent.

Reach clients Joanna, Terry and Garrett told their own stories in a video that demonstrated that, with the right support, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can learn, earn and live lives of purpose and joy.



The Reach Choir under the direction of Linda Turman sang a repertoire of love songs including solos by James (left) and Alex (right) and key board accompaniment by Karole.

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Calendar of Events

Reach Gala January 21, 2010
 6:00–8:00pm at Cypress United Methodist
 Church (Free Admission, Food and Drink)
 Springfest..... March 27, 2010

Reach Out Tours

Wednesdays..... 12 noon
 December 9 January 13, 27
 February 10, 24 March 10, 24
 April 14, 28

Private tours available upon request.

To schedule a tour or to make a reservation,
 please call Kris at 281.213.8323 ext. 307

**Board of Directors
 2009 – 2010**

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Kathi's Corner



The power of love was definitely evident at our recent fundraising luncheon; guests and clients gathered to kick-off a "Season of Love!" Generous support from luncheon attendees netted over \$400,000 in pledges and donations. Now the holidays are here

and activities continue. Clients are hard at work creating special one-of-a-kind gifts for sale in the Reach Unlimited Gift Shop and are busy planning special holiday activities.

The Gift Shop is featuring 2009 Limited Edition Holiday Ornaments created by clients and will be open 11 am – 3 pm through December 23rd. The Friends of Reach Society will enjoy a special evening of Christmas caroling by the client choir and holiday shopping on November 30th.

As Reach welcomes the New Year, special emphasis will be placed on retiring the Learning Activity Center (LAC) Phase One debt and launching a Capital Campaign to fund the second phase of LAC campus. Completing the second phase of the LAC is important because it means more classrooms to enrich the lives of more clients, an all-purpose room to provide adequate lunch room space, a theater to show off the talents of our clients and a larger recreation area and a commercial kitchen to train many in the multi-facets of restaurant skills. The Reach Learning Activity Center currently has 150 people on its waiting list.

Love Has No End was the theme for October's fundraising luncheon and that theme continues into the New Year. I sincerely want to thank each of you for your support this year and wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and Prosperous 2010.

Kathi

OUR MISSION

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

Enterprising Clients Create and Earn



Colleen Gilbert, left, works with Hugh, who is visually impaired, to create a holiday ornament.

The philosophy of the Enterprise program is to allow every Reach client the opportunity to earn an income and be an independent and contributing member of the community.

The new Manager of Enterprise Development is Colleen Gilbert. "After graduating from Texas A & M University with a BS in psychology and a minor in management, I went on to earn 20 hours in early childhood development and taught and directed private preschool for 20 years. I worked in state and federal government, in public relations and communications. I served as a volunteer for Reach Unlimited, and as a member of the board of directors", says Gilbert. "This position allows me to utilize all the knowledge I've gained throughout my career. And I am absolutely delighted to be able to work with the clients!"

The focus of the Enterprise program is fused art glass. The goal of the department is to have each client participate in the production and/or sale of fused art glass to the capacity at which they are able.

There are many different opportunities within the business of making and selling art glass, from the actual creating of the glass pieces to the details involved with operating the gift shop. There is a job for almost everyone.

Along with the art glass, Reach Enterprise embosses napkins and assembles gift baskets.

The Reach Unlimited Gift Shop is open Wednesdays from 11 am – 3 pm, and each year for special fall, holiday and spring sale dates. The money earned through gift shop, napkin and gift basket sales is used to pay the clients, the glass instructor, and continually expand the Enterprise program.



New gift items include art glass lamps, Christmas hearts and flower vases. Our 2009 Special Edition holiday ornament will be unveiled December 1st.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors September

Operating Fund

AIG, Inc.
 Alamo Title Holding Company
 Amegy Bank of Texas**
 Woodie Andre
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 Penny Mitchell
 Lynn Moore
 Tiffany Moore
 Claudia Morgan
 Pat Morgan
 Dana Mowe
 Sam Mramor
 Lynne Murphy
 Orville and Jerry Musch
 Pauline Narcus
 Bill and Suzanne Naseman
 Jeanne Nelson
 Paul Nemer
 Ronnie Nespeca
 James Newlon
 George Newman
 Mai Anh Nguyen
 Edward and Judith Nielsen

September–October, 2009

Lori Noack-May
 Kelly Ann Norton
 Jerry Novak
 Bill O'Neal
 Carolyn O'Neal
 Anne Odum
 Kehinde Ogedegbe
 Mike Ott
 Ruth Padilla
 Berta Page
 Kevin Palm
 George and Gale Parker
 Beverly Passmore
 Annaliese Patai
 Deborah Perry
 Gary Peyton
 Ron Pfeiffer
 Michael P. Pitre
 Darin and Jennifer Pittman
 Sherry Portis
 Laura Poshard
 Jo Powell
 Michael and Dorothy Power
 Prime Mechanical**
 Jeff Proctor
 Bill and Judy Pursell
 Patrick Quinlan
 Barbara Radnofsky
 Todd Rathburn
 Kelli Ray
 Matt Reder
 Patti Reed
 Russ and Gloria Reider
 Betty Rennell
 David L. Richardson
 Marguerite Robinson
 Sam Roccaforte
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 Natalie Rodriguez
 Patricia Rork
 Melissa Rotholz
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 Sonja Rucker
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 Paul Rustemier
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 Hollie Sailors
 Sharon Samson
 Cynthia Sanfilippo
 Rhodora Santiago
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 Kathi Schmidt
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 Mary Beth Schmitz
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 Sim-Tex
 Gary Simpson
 Jimmie Sims
 Anne Singley*
 Leslie Sjurseth
 Sharon Slover
 Travis and Ima Smith
 Gloria Smith
 Marilyn Smith
 Patricia Smith
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 Sara Steele
 Joyce Steensrud
 Carole Stenberg
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 Jim Stephenson
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 Jane Stewart
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 Jerry and Jenny Thompson
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 Chris Timmerman
 Helen Timpe
 Leta Towle
 Bill Trevino
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*2009 Reach for the Stars
 *Leadership Gift
 **Underwriter*

WAYS TO GIVE

- Quarterly, yearly or multi-year pledge
- Employer matching gift program
- A gift in honor of a family member, friend or colleague
- Buy a brick in the Pathway to the Future
- Pay by check, cash or credit card
- Pledge stocks or other assets
- Donate goods, materials and professional fees

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE,
 YOU CAN
DONATE ONLINE
 GO TO
www.reachunlimited.org

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

Friends of Reach Society

Join the Friends of Reach and help fund our future by pledging \$1,000 or more each year for five years to help pay for much needed operating expenses.

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 Mike Zacharias
 *Reach for the Stars 2009 Leadership Gift

cont. from page 1



Legislators and community leaders showed their support for Reach at the luncheon. Pictured from left: Matt Barr representing US Senator John Cornyn, Representative Allen Fletcher, Reach Executive Director Kathi Schmidt, Chairman of the Board of Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Reginald Lillie, Reach Unlimited Board of Directors President Gale Parker, Representative Patricia Harless and State Senator Dan Patrick.



Bruce Best told the moving story of how he enrolled his son Garrett at Reach after losing his wife Patricia to cancer.

We would like to thank our 2009 Reach for the Stars Underwriters Prime Mechanical, Inc. and Amegy Bank.

Mission Moment



Randall and Foster Thompson

"It brings such joy and pride to see Reach Unlimited clients working and contributing to the community. It may be projects at the Learning Activity Center, delivering meals

through churches, making products for the gift shop or working at local businesses. All of these make such a positive impact on our clients and our community. Even more outstanding is what goes on behind the scenes by Reach's dedicated staff to make this a reality.

To be part of an organization that is so deeply committed to its clients, staff, community, mission and vision is truly amazing. My family is so blessed to be part of Reach Unlimited and we know that anyone who spends even a little amount of time will always receive back more than they give. My middle school son, Foster, may one day be a client of Reach Unlimited and my hope is to continue to help Reach expand, meet any challenges and be around for many generations to come," says Randall Thompson, President-Elect, Reach Board of Directors.

Leadership Gift



Stephanie Arceneaux (left), Assistant Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank, presents Kathi Schmidt with a leadership gift of \$8,000 from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation for the Reach for the Stars Fundraising Luncheon.

Intel and Empty Bowls



The Intel HP team devoted a day at the Learning Activity Center to grill fajitas and help clients create Empty Bowls, part of a grassroots effort by artists and craftspeople across the country to feed the hungry in their communities.

The Great Pumpkin



Linda shows her instructor how to take the seeds out of a pumpkin as part of the Halloween celebration at the Learning Activity Center.

Earning a Paycheck



Kim earns a paycheck and a delicious lunch every Tuesday and Thursday when she rolls silverware into napkins at the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Cypress. For more information about employing hard-working Reach clients, contact Delois Akins at 281-213-8132 or dakins@reachunlimited.org

Run for Reach



Support those who are running for Reach in the 2010 Chevron Houston Marathon. To make a donation online, go to www.reachunlimited.org and click on Run for Reach.

Be all you were created to be.

REACH OUT

**Reach
Unlimited, Inc**

12777 Jones Rd., Ste. 103
Houston, TX 77070

www.reachunlimited.org



Perfect Gifts

2009 Limited Edition Holiday Ornaments

Many New Art Glass Creations

Shop early for the best selection

Reach Unlimited Gift Shop

Open Monday–Friday

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Through December 23rd

Behind the Learning Activity Center

11832 Mueller Cemetery Road

*Proceeds used to fund the
Reach Enterprise program.*