

REACH OUT

Be all you were created to be.



September, 2009 • Volume 23, Issue 3

A Musical Celebration

On September 3rd, our eager and talented clients brought their high school experiences to life in a Reach Idol performance of Reach School Musical.

From homecoming, to the prom and finally graduation everyone sang and danced for an audience of 475. This was performance art that truly touched the heart.

While others could give a more polished performance, absolutely no one could have entertained their audience more spectacularly than our own stars of the stage, our clients. They gave their all and brought the audience to a standing ovation. The benefits of this production were far reaching. First, it was just plain fun. Our clients loved relaxing and entertaining with their friends. Next, it built self esteem by giving

the clients an opportunity to do something they enjoy – so many are hams – and share that with people who care about them. Participating in a production like this also allowed them to learn and practice social skills in a real life recreational setting.

They used their good manners and communications skills to interact with the hundreds of guests, family members and friends.

But most of all, it was just the right thing to do.

Reach is grateful for the caring and generosity of the donors and volunteers who made this annual event a success. Thank you to Cypress United Methodist Church who hosted the evening and the mothers and daughters

from National Charity League Yellow Rose and Cypress Belles chapters who served the clients and guests the pizza, soft drinks and desserts they provided.



Linda wheeled on stage for the graduation number.



Ryan and Shannon made it a night to remember.



Chris' breakdancing wowed the audience.

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Calendar of Events

Fundraising Luncheon Oct. 14
 Noon at The Berry Center

Reach Out Tours

Wednesdays 12 noon
 September 16, 23
 October 28
 November 11
 December 9

Private tours available upon request.
 To set up a special tour or to reserve your seat, please call Kris at
 281.213.8323 ext. 307

**Board of Directors
 2009 – 2010**

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Kathi's Corner



The Reach for the Stars fundraising luncheon is just around the corner. The client choir is busy practicing for their performance, Enterprise is feverishly creating beautiful art work to adorn our tables and our wonderful Table Captains

are inviting guests to the tours and luncheon. My thanks to all of you for your efforts towards making this our most successful luncheon ever!!

As we prepare, I reflect back to this time last year. The hurricane had just passed, we were without power and computers and the decision to have the luncheon was in the balance. But FAITH in all our clients, staff, table captains and supporters prevailed and the luncheon was held. It was a huge success with over 600 guests in attendance. Almost \$500,000 in pledges over the next five years was raised!!

This generous support from our Friends of Reach Society and many, many others is helping to secure future services for the beautiful people we serve. As many of you know, the gap between government funding and the true cost of services for the Learning Activity Center (LAC) is \$3,000 per year per full time client. Donations have allowed us to meet that gap and maintain capacity enrollment at the LAC. Today we serve an average of 160 clients per day, with a total of 260 on our roster!

Another way in which donations have aided services is the addition of our Gift Shop where the lovely fused glass products are sold. To keep up with all the sales, we have added a separate kiln building to house 5 kilns, 3 of which were donated! Participation in the John Knox Presbyterian Church bazaar recently yielded over \$1,000 in sales. This means more work for each and every clients and a bigger paycheck for all.

So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank each of you for the support you give through donations, volunteering, prayer, advocating, legislating, and your love of our special people.

Kathi

Masons Honor Kathi Schmidt



Past Master Mason Louis Vanderburg, Kathi Schmidt and Mason Jim Sumner.

On June 20th, the Cypress Masonic Lodge No. 1423 A.F. & A.M. honored Kathi Schmidt with the Community Builder Award. This award is given to outstanding non-Masonic citizens who distinguish themselves through their service to the community.

Kathi was recognized as a dedicated champion of the disabled for the past 25 years. She has helped to build this small non-profit agency into the most comprehensive provider of quality support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the greater Houston northwest. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in a state that has one of the lowest funding rates in the nation for services for the disabled.

"It is my privilege to be part of this ceremony. I offer my personal thank you to Kathi for giving so much of herself, her hope and her inspiration to the families in our community. She has helped to make Cypress a better

place to live," said Louis Vanderburg, Past Master, Cypress Masonic Lodge.

Under Kathi's visionary leadership, Reach has grown into an exceptional agency. The annual budget has grown from \$150,000 to \$8 million. Today, Reach serves over 260 clients. A Home and Community-Based Services provider, clients receive services in their homes, in Reach residences that include thirteen group homes or in their own homes.

When parents and guardians said they wanted a center where their adult child could go every day to continue learning, train for jobs, earn a paycheck and socialize with their peers, Kathi responded by raising funds to build the \$2 million Learning Activity Center (LAC). Today, over 175 people are on the waiting list to enroll at this center for life-long learning. The program has the reputation for being the best of its kind. It is not surprising that twenty other service providers enroll their clients at the center.

People with IDD want the same things that others want. Earning a paycheck is one of the biggest things. Every Reach client has the opportunity to work. Some work in-house on contracts for local businesses, some have jobs in the community sacking groceries, restocking shelves, serving food, or folding silverware into napkins. Others create gift items for sale in our gift shop including beautiful fused glass art pieces and jewelry and embossed napkins.

Helping the agency become self-sustaining is one of Kathi's main goals. This includes paying off the mortgage on the LAC and raising \$1

million each year to fill the gap between government funding and actual operating costs.

Congratulations Kathi.



Kathi Schmidt (holding award) is surrounded by current and past board members, staff, a client and Masons.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

May–August 2009

Operating Fund

Air Liquide
 Delois Akins
 Alamo Title Holding
 Company
 Kathy Aldridge
 Mike Baker
 Joseph and Debbie Bakies
 Michelle Becker
 Donna Behler
 Joe Belgara Jr.
 Scott and Leigh Benner
 Gordon Biescar
 Lauren Black
 Priscilla Black
 BP America
 Rod Burcaw
 Celebration Lutheran Church
 Chevron Corporation
 Kinsmen Lutheran Church
 Charles Collins
 Jack Connor
 Bev Cooper
 Sally Crowder
 Cy-FARE
 Cypress Woodlands
 Junior Forum
 Susan Deatherage
 Loren Durkee
 Ryan Efaw

Jim Eubank
 ExxonMobil Matching Gift
 Program
 Karen Gilligan
 Gerda Gregersen
 Malcolm Greig
 Katherine Parker Hall
 William and Karen Hayes
 Houston Astros
 HP Company Matching Gift
 Program
 Robert and Sue Hulme
 Harla Kaplan
 Bijan Kazemi
 Dayton and Donna King
 Nicholas Knight
 Kroger
 Bert and Diana Layne
 Dorothy Lewellen
 Lawrence and Mildred Lieder
 Stacy Lieder
 David and Lynn Mathews
 Bill and Marie Maxwell
 NCL - Cypress Belles
 Noble Energy, Inc
 Priya Oolut
 Courtney Palm
 Kevin Palm
 George and Gale Parker
 Candy Rigo

Bryan and Verda Rossnagel
 Rotary Club of Bear Creek-
 Copperfield
 Rodolfo and Aide Ruiz
 Kathi Schmidt
 Jerry and Barbara Schneider
 Stephanie Scianna
 Sentry Air Systems
 Patty Sheffield
 Anne Singley
 Gilbert and Betsy Smith
 Taylor South
 Wanda Sparks
 John Stilwell
 Stanley and Glenda
 Stumhoffer
 Debra Sukin
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 Katherine Suri
 Bruce Sutter
 Randall Thompson
 Brian Trudeau
 Wagner Plate Works LP
 Wal-Mart Foundation
 Susan White
 White-Tucker Company
 Oras and Laura Williams
 David and Lisa Wilson
 Mandy Winton
 Kris Young

Grants

Harry S. & Isabel C.
 Cameron Foundation
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 Pierson Foundation
 John T. Shea Charitable
 Foundation

Gifts In Kind

BluMax Advertising
 Lynne Campbell
 Cy-FARE
 Jim Eubank
 Susan Graham
 HEB - Cypress Market
 Esther Hobbs
 Houston Astros
 Dayton and Donna King
 Bert and Diana Layne
 Diana Saufley
 Stephanie Scianna
 Lisa Shaw
 Carmen Shell
Capital Campaign
 Stacy Lieder

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

Our Mission

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

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

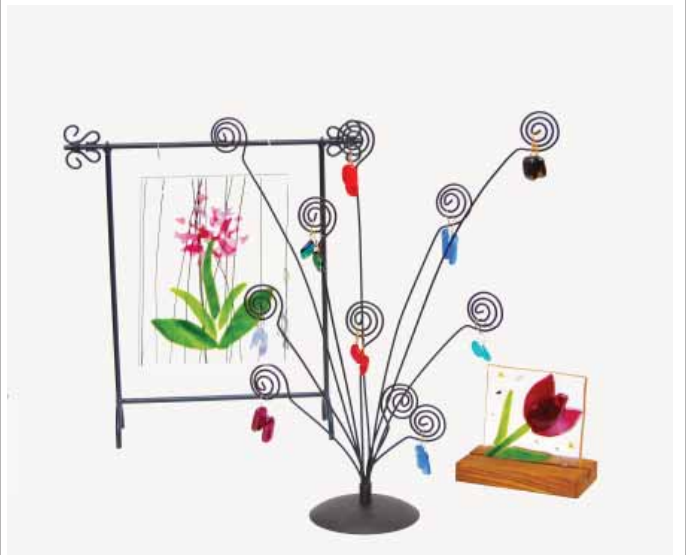
Friends of Reach Society

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.

Liz Altman
Lee Anderson
Rex and Sandra Andrews
Ashley Arora
Tom and Donna Asbill
Gary and Suzanne Astle
Russell and Denise Bass
Tom and Bonnie Beaty
Pete Bell
Stephen and Donna Beverding
Lauren Black
Debbie Blackshear
Don and Pam Bounds
Boxer Property
Management Corp
Jennifer Boyd and Johnny Boyd
Carlton and Ying Chen
Brett Conrad
Bev Cooper
Leo Corley
Cotton Foundation
Christine Cundiff
Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union
Charles and Kris Dewees
Steve and Pam Eakin
J. C. and Martha Fassino
Mark and Annelise Frugoni
Connie Fullerton
Gordon and Beth Gaecke
Noel and Susan Giesecke
John and Colleen Gilbert
John and Kathleen Gilligan
Karen Gilligan
Kevin and Cheryl Gilligan
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Robert and Sue Hulme
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Joe Jackson
Jan Johnson
Robert and Terry Johnson
Rusty and Karen Jordan
Janelle Jordan
Keating Family Foundation
Jan Kelley
Dayton and Donna King
Lih-Chung Kuo
Beth LaPenna

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Don and Suzanne Martin
Leon Mathieu
John Maxwell and Zita Witte
Bill and Marie Maxwell
Kathy Metzger
Darren and Julie Miller
Darcy Mingoia
Penny Mitchell
Bill and Suzanne Naseman
Mary Papageorge
George and Gale Parker
Dan Patrick
Dick Polk
Douglas Polk
Bill and Judy Pursell
Kandance Ratnala
Frank Raymond
Russ and Gloria Reider
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Schulte Charitable Foundation
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Valves Unlimited, Inc.
Loyd and SuSu Vancil
Beth Wade
Judson Wallace
Dixie Waters
Stephen and Sharron White
Susan White
Joe and Susan Williams
Robert and Virginia Williams
David and Lisa Wilson
Mike Zacharias

Glorious Gifts



Collectibles
Light Catchers
Home Decor
Holiday Ornaments and Napkins
Essential Oil Products
And so much more!

Reach Gift Shop
Behind the Learning Activity Center
11832 Mueller Cemetery Road

Open every Wednesday from 11am-3pm

Special Sales:
October 19-23, 2009
The Month of December

Proceeds used to fund the client Enterprise program.





Mission Moment

“Watching and helping Reach grow over the past decade has been a wonderful experience for many families, including ours.

Hearing our daughter, Emily, ask every Friday if Monday will arrive soon so she can attend the LAC again is testimony to the type of programming and people dedicated to this wonderful organization.

My dream is to see Reach expand into the community where there are no waiting lists and enough facilities to handle all those in need. ”

Gale Parker

President, Reach Board of Directors

Gale and Emily Parker at the Reach Learning Activity Center.

Volunteer Support



Cy-Fair Rotarians grill hot dogs for the clients at the Reach Picnic.



National Charity League liaison Shawna Dukes takes aim with Gene on Water Day.



On cooking day, clients enjoy making their own sundaes with the help of National Charity League.

Volunteer Opportunities at the LAC

- Help in the classroom
- Assist with clerical needs
- Help with special events

Contact Kris Young at 281-213-8132 or kyoung@reachunlimited.org.

Support Our Runners

Who are those people running down the roads in your neighborhoods and through your parks at early hours of the morning? They are training for the Chevron Houston Marathon and many of them are running for a reason—to raise funds for Reach Unlimited. The marathon is January 17, 2010. On that date we hope to have raised over \$10,000 for direct care services for our clients. You don't have to run to help.

You can help in these ways:

- 1 Support people who are running for Reach.
- 2 If you are running or walking, please choose Reach as your charity of choice and ask people to donate through your fundraising page.
- 3 If you know someone else who has registered to run and they haven't chosen a charity, ask them to run for Reach.
- 4 Or, make a general donation online.

Just go to www.reachunlimited.org and click on Run for Reach.



RUN FOR REACH
GOING THE DISTANCE TOGETHER



Special Donor Thank You



Carolyn Keating (right) with Roger Goodfellow.

Carolyn Keating graciously opened the doors of her turn-of-the-century Victorian farm house to the Friends of Reach Society on May 16th. Our multiple year donors strolled through the pecan grove, flower gardens and organic vegetable garden. They nibbled Texas artisan cheeses and sipped Texas wine and toured the house that was built in 1914 in Grimes County by master builder and cabinet maker H.A. "Henry" Daut for banker Thomas Leroy Wilcox. The house was moved to Keatingrove Farms, the private residence of Mrs. Keating, in 1980.

The Keating Family Foundation is part of the Friends of Reach Society that funds the future of Reach.

This delightful afternoon was a small thank you to those who believe in the mission of Reach and give year after year to ensure it will be here for the clients we serve for years to come. For more information on the Friends of Reach Society, please contact Susan White at swhite@reachunlimited.org or 281-213-8323 ext. 238.



Friends of Reach, Stewart and Kelli Guss.

Be all you were created to be.

REACH OUT

**Reach
Unlimited, Inc**

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

www.reachunlimited.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cypress, TX
Permit #130

Reach for the Stars Fundraising Luncheon



Love has no end...

See You There

We look forward to seeing you at this one hour fundraising luncheon to benefit Reach Unlimited. Remember, it is FREE to you and anyone you would like to invite.

To reserve a seat, please contact Kris Young at 281-213-8323 ext. 307 or kyoung@reachunlimited.org.

Directions to the Berry Center:

Go west on Highway 290 and exit Barker Cypress. Go left on Barker Cypress. The center is on the right just past West Road. Park and enter at Entrance Two.

October 14, 2009
12:00 noon–1:00 pm

The Berry Center
8877 Barker Cypress Rd.
Cypress, TX 77433

