



the Achiever

THERAPY IS CHILD'S PLAY

Following a dramatic display of unhappiness by two-year-old Layla, one of her therapy team members, Josh, entered the room. Layla became immediately silent, and a sweet dimpled smile spread across her face as she watched Josh approach her. Now, all was well with the world for little Layla. It is this trust that our pediatric therapists build with children and young adults, that when combined with their extensive training, experience, and passion, allows them to achieve remarkable results. This is why Dr. Lamia Ibrahim, a physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at University Hospitals, brought her daughter Layla, to the Achievement Centers for Children.

"I think the difference with Achievement Centers versus other therapists, is that they go outside the box; they don't just stick to what the 'how to be a therapist' book says. They try new ideas and games to work with Layla and tailor the session to what she needs and more importantly to what she can handle. They truly care about their patients and the children feel it. Layla loves all of them and you can see it in her eyes when she sees them or when we ask her at home if she had a good time," Dr. Ibrahim related.

Layla was born with weakness of the right side of her body, which included her right arm, hand and leg as a result of an in utero stroke; a stroke that occurred before she was born. Naturally, she favored her stronger left side, and

would not use her right hand or leg unless encouraged to do so. To help Layla improve the use of her right side more rapidly, her mother chose our Intensive

Therapy Clinic. Here Layla benefited from a customized program of increased intensity and frequency by our specially trained

therapists using state of the art techniques and equipment. "Six months after her intensive therapy sessions, Layla went from just sitting to crawling and now walking!" said her mother.

In addition to Intensive Therapy, Layla receives physical and occupational therapies. Her therapy team members at the Achievement Centers collaborate with each other and with her family in order to provide consistency and optimum results for Layla. Additionally, she loves her adapted aquatics class where the warm water of the pool allows her muscles to relax, and she can practice new skills and movements in a fun, playful environment. She delights in reaching for toys floating on the top of the water, all the while stretching and strengthening her right arm, hand, and leg.

When Layla is older, she may not remember all the therapies and treatments she received. But her parents will see the results of these therapies provided early in her life, as they watch her run and play with her older sisters and being able to do all the things little girls love.

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"Achievement Centers . . . doesn't just stick to what the 'how to be a therapist' book says. They truly care about their patients and the children feel it."

—Dr. Lamia Ibrahim,
Layla's mom

Achievement Centers for Children 2011–2014 Strategic Plan

Message from Patricia Nobili, President and CEO and Stephen Perry, Board Chairman

We are excited to share with you our new three year Achievement Centers for Children Strategic Plan. Developed collaboratively with our Board of Directors and the Achievement Centers for Children's management team, this road map will guide the steps we take next to fully unleash the potential of children with disabilities and their families as they grow, learn, play, and prepare for a lifetime of achievement in society. This new strategic plan centers around the four goals of: anticipating changes in the healthcare landscape, raising awareness of the value of our mission, investing in new services, and further developing talent within the agency.



GOALS

1. ANTICIPATING CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENTAL/HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

We will ensure our high quality cost-effective services continue to be provided for children with disabilities and their families. We will examine, advocate and adapt to anticipated government policy, funding and community changes.

We will assess the impact of new healthcare legislation, its effect on services we provide, and how to effectively respond in the best interests of our families and our agency. We will explore opportunities for collaborative partnerships with a variety of appropriate entities.

2. RAISING AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF OUR MISSION

We will raise the level of our agency recognition, the understanding of our mission, and the difference our programs and services provide for our clients and the entire community.

We will communicate how our services make an impact on children with disabilities, their families, and our communities. We will continue our important role of advocating on behalf of children with special needs and their families in the arenas of early intervention, health care, mental health, and education.



3. INVESTING IN NEW SERVICES

We will expand opportunities for children with disabilities and their families by investing in existing and new programs and services.

We will identify programs with the highest potential for growth to help meet the current and emerging needs of the children and families we serve, and those of our community, while responsibly contributing to our financial stability.

4. FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR TALENT

We will ensure our mission is fulfilled well into the future by providing the best possible services, outcomes and management for the agency by our expert and passionate professional team.

We take pride in being able to provide highly talented professional staff for our clients; strong, engaged Board of Directors members comprised of community leaders and parents, and fiscally sound financial management. We will insure that we continue to attract exemplary professionals to provide the best possible services, outcomes and direction for the agency. We will explore opportunities for our staff to share their expertise and experience in the community.

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"Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'tomorrow.' His name is 'today.'"

—Gabriela Mistral

Photo above: Peggy Campbell and Barb Obiaya, current Director of Family Support Services

Photo at right: Many families receive home-based services. Kristine Snell, Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist and Program Supervisor with a family in their home.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Achievement that Lasts a Lifetime

Parents of children with special needs face many challenges and decisions regarding the best ways to help their children, especially in the first few years of their life. We have been providing early intervention services for many years, recognizing the importance of intervening during this critical window of development. There is now compelling research confirming that the experiences of a child during these formative years profoundly influence brain development, and that early intervention services help prevent the achievement gap, reduce the need for special education, increase the likelihood of healthier lifestyles, and reduce overall social costs.

PLANTING THE SEED

Back in 1973 the Achievement Centers for Children (then called the Society for Crippled Children) initiated a state of the art early intervention group. Peggy Campbell was the first social worker for this innovative program which she describes as "the seed for the interdisciplinary approach for younger children and focused on the entire family." This team approach to early intervention included an early childhood educator, a physical, occupational and speech therapist, and a social worker, working in partnership with parents to provide both individual and group activities to help maximize each child's potential. Peggy also facilitated support group meetings for families, recognizing the importance of connecting parents with others facing similar challenges. The team was rewarded by seeing firsthand the children's progress, confirming the effectiveness of this family-centered early intervention approach. Peggy went on to become the Director of Social Work and then the Associate Director of the agency.

We applaud the forward thinking of the many caring professionals like Peggy that planted the seeds of early intervention services for the many children with disabilities and families that have, and will continue to benefit.

EARLY INTERVENTION ROOTS AT ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS

Today at the Achievement Centers, through our comprehensive array of programs, including family support services, therapies, education, autism services, and adapted aquatics, we are proud to be recognized as providing exceptional early intervention services. These services include our Help Me Grow and Early Childhood Mental Health home-based services to families of children identified as having, or at risk for, a developmental delay or disability. Our staff provided services to over 1,600 children from birth to three years of age last year through our Family Support department alone.

As one mother of a child who received early intervention services expressed to us, "We are proud to say that our baby girl is one of the success stories of the Achievement Centers. They unlocked the ability within our child to reach her potential, and we will forever be grateful for this."



**“Individually, we are one drop.
Together we are an ocean.”**

Employees of Edgepark Medical Supplies joined together for the holiday season, and through a series of fun, company sponsored fundraising events, presented us with over 300 personal checks as well as a corporate gift, all totaling over \$30,000! Thank you to our Edgepark friends!



Wendy Kuehn, Deborah Osgood, Kristin Kazimour



MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

In memory of Gary L. Fusco, Mrs. Diane Roman Fusco made a generous gift of \$5,000 to our Adapted Sports program. Gary was a champion for all children with disabilities, and he would have loved knowing that this gift will help many children and families enjoy sports!

2012 Outstanding Volunteer Award

Stacey Sinko, a volunteer in our adapted football program, was recently named as an “Outstanding Volunteer” for a 2012 Northwestern Mutual Community Service Award. As an award winner, she will receive a \$10,000 check from The Northwestern Mutual Foundation and will present it to the Achievement Centers for Children’s Adapted Sports Program. Congratulations, and thank you so much for your dedication to our football program and players, Stacey!!



Jeff and Stacey Sinko, and son, Kenton

Many thanks to our ADAPTED SPORTS PARTNERS

Cleveland Cavaliers
Cleveland Browns Foundation
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Invacare Top End

Ways You Can Help

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

- allow us to provide many of our critical programs and services on a sliding-fee scale to families.
- can be designated for a specific program or equipment. We are happy to help match your interests to needs of the children and families.
- of any size are appreciated and may be made online, by mail, or by phone.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

- may be made as a tribute to the memory of or in honor of a special person in your life
- are a special way to commemorate milestones such as birthdays or anniversaries.
- include a note from the agency to the honored person or family of your thoughtful gift.

MATERIAL DONATIONS

- Our ‘Wish List’ posted on our website has suggestions of ongoing needs.
- In-kind donations to include in our event auctions are always appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS

- Interested in helping to spruce up Camp Cheerful?
- Ready for some hands on activities in our Therapeutic Horseback Riding program?
- Contact Shelley Hoffman at Camp Cheerful at 440-238-6200.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS
ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN!

MATCHING GIFT

Does your employer offers a matching gift program? Just visit www.achievementcenters.org and follow the link on the home page



Achievement Centers Welcomes Connie Boros as New Vice President of Recreation and Sports

Connie is excited to be a part of Achievement Centers' tradition of providing outstanding camp and sports experiences for children, youth and adults with a wide range of special needs. Connie has a rich combination of education (Master of Science in Social Work Administration), work experiences, personal interests and enthusiasm that she brings to her new role as Vice President of Recreation and Sports.

Connie looks forward to getting to know each of the campers and their families, and providing exemplary, memorable camp experiences for them. She resides in Berea with her two children, Lydia (13) and Hayden (9). Please help us welcome Connie!

Welcome Back Campers to Camp Cheerful!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 1,500 children, adolescents and adults with disabilities enjoyed Camp Cheerful last year.
- Our Sensational Day Program is designed for children on the autism spectrum to work on IEP goals while enjoying camp activities.
- Camp Cheerful offers an outdoor education curriculum and classes to school groups that are designed to fulfill some of the Ohio Proficiency Test Curriculum including science, citizenship, mathematics, and writing.
- Camp Cheerful hosts several specialty camps including:

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children's Camp Phoenix, in collaboration with the Northern Ohio Firefighters, the Northeast Fire Chief's Association, and MetroHealth Medical Center of Cleveland.

Fresh Air Camp, for children who are ventilator and tracheostomy dependent, in collaboration with the Akron Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth Medical Center, and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

MDA Summer Camp, in collaboration with the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



Achievement Centers for Children

Providing Services to Children with Disabilities and their Families

HIGHLAND HILLS
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, OH 44128
216-292-9700

WESTLAKE
24211 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-250-2520

CAMP CHEERFUL
15000 Cheerful Lane
Strongsville, OH 44136
440-238-6200



the Achiever

Achievement Centers for Children
4255 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, OH 44128



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OUR MISSION is to enable and empower children with disabilities and their families to grow, learn, play and prepare for lifelong achievement in society.

HELPING CHILDREN BE "ALL THEY CAN BE"

*Founded in 1940 as Society
for Crippled Children*

A non-profit organization providing support, services and programs for children with disabilities and special needs and their families.

programs include

Education; Autism services;
Physical, occupational, and speech
therapy; Family support services;
Recreation and sports programs

LOCATIONS

Highland Hills
Westlake
Camp Cheerful in Strongsville
Child cares, schools, homes
216-292-9700



Supporting achievement for children with disabilities and their families

Special Events



**BLUE CHIP BLUE TEE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Monday, August 6, 2012
Kirtland Country Club

**FALL FESTIVAL AT
CAMP CHEERFUL**
Saturday, October 20, 2012

**SPARKLE, SHIMMER &
SHINE GALA**
Honoring Robert J. King Jr.
Saturday, November 10, 2012
InterContinental Hotel

*Join us at these special events.
For more details, visit
www.achievementcenters.org*



A Most Excellent Race 2012
Presented by Majestic Steel USA
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012

Thank you to our participants, supporters
and volunteers for another successful race!

Special thanks to:

DIVISION SPONSORS

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Edgepark Medical

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WEWS NewsChannel 5

Check out photos from the race at:

www.flickr.com/photos/achievementcenters