“No parent is prepared to hear the words, ‘there’s a problem with your baby.’ But we help families see the potential in their children and in themselves.”

Take a walk through any of our three facilities and you’ll undoubtedly be moved by the quotes, beautiful murals, thank you letters, artwork and stories created or inspired by our children. You’ll get a much better sense of the Achievement Centers for Children when you walk alongside our families. No parent is prepared to hear the words, “there is a problem with your baby” or “your child is not developing normally.” Our parents tell us this is one of the most painful moments of their lives. The Achievement Centers for Children understands these feelings.

But we help families see the strength and potential in their children and in themselves. Our staff sees abilities not immediately visible to a new parent. We also see the children’s and families’ tremendous courage. And we know their hard work will lead to amazing progress. We see what can be! Every one of our “walks” with a family inspires us and motivates us to continue to provide the best opportunities and services possible.

The Achievement Centers for Children has faced many challenges over the past year. But, we have wonderful and dedicated supporters who understand our mission and goals and play an integral role in our success. Through the generosity of the community, we continue our mission of providing a “circle of care” for the children with special needs and their families we serve. Because of this support, we were able to provide more than $1 million in charitable care to the community last year.

We know there are still many more children in need of our services. We can’t begin to express how much our donors, volunteers, staff, children and families inspire us. We hope you, too, are inspired by knowing that you have helped a child who has been given so many challenges so early in life. If so, will you inspire others to join us?

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Nobili, MSSA
Executive Director

Tim Lathe
Board President
At the Achievement Centers, we recognize the importance of early childhood education and its powerful influence on lifelong achievement for the children with disabilities we serve. The Child Development Center and our Preschool and K-4th Grade Autism Classrooms infuse technology, innovative teaching methods and the highest of quality standards into the educational experience of each child. By giving our students the proper tools for strong beginnings in their young lives, we are setting them up for the best chance for success.

During the past school year, the Achievement Centers for Children has added yet another quality indicator by being identified as a participating school in the Universal Pre-K program. This designation complements the Achievement Centers’ existing participation in the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) and as a 3-star Step Up to Quality program. These recognitions serve as assurances to parents that their children, regardless of economic status or disability, will receive a high-quality education, and upon “graduating,” will indeed be ready for success in school and beyond.

“Being a parent is the most important job I’ve ever had. It can be difficult at times. But as the ancient proverb says, ‘the stronger the wind, the stronger the tree.’”

★ Alisa Smedley, parent
Therapy Services The Achievement Centers for Children seeks the most effective and up-to-date treatment options for our clients. During the last year, exciting new programs have been developed in response to community and client needs. An emphasis has been placed on creating an integrative model of therapy and complementing fitness and wellness opportunities for children and young adults with physical challenges and motor skill delays. Over the last six months, Therapy Services staff members have worked diligently through the pilot phase of the programs, fine-tuning the components to ensure optimal outcomes.

One splashing success is the Adapted Aquatics program at the Achievement Centers’ new Westlake facility. Spearheaded by veteran instructor Karyn Kaschalk, this water therapy program has grown tremendously since its introduction in January 2008. Created for children with neurological, developmental, physical and cognitive challenges, Adapted Aquatics teaches students independent swimming and water safety. One goal of this program is for students to be able to eventually join traditional swimming classes in their home communities.

The Intensive Therapy Clinic is another example of our commitment to continued improvement. Offered at various times throughout a client’s treatment plan, this therapy is very specific in its approach and is customized to fit the individual needs of its participants. When timed to coincide with developmental growth, this method can generate rapid and noticeable gains for the clients. Additionally, when coupled with ongoing physical therapy and programs like Adapted Aquatics, clients can drastically improve their overall health, and increase strength and agility.
Each day, we are inspired to achieve the best possible outcome for the families we serve. Our staff works tirelessly to ensure we have a powerful impact on the lives of our clients. During the past year, the Achievement Centers has laid the groundwork for improving the quality, intensity and reach of the services we offer. One way we plan to accomplish this is through expansion of the social work and family support programs.

A particular area that has benefited from our expanded outreach efforts is the case management component of Family Support services. Available without a fee, families will receive expanded social work services, including parenting education, service coordination, referrals to community resources, support groups, advocacy and consultation with staff. Our initial focus will be families who are receiving therapies and mental health services, with the goal of serving over 200 families.

Teachers took advantage of the new mental health consultations being offered through Head Start. This and other training sessions, such as infant massage classes, are designed to introduce families throughout Greater Cleveland to the Achievement Centers and other Help Me Grow providers, ultimately raising awareness of the family-centered services that we provide.

With the support of additional funding provided through United Way, the Family Support services offered through the Achievement Centers for Children will increase in both breadth and depth. This expansion will provide more access to these vital programs and services, giving an even greater number of children a healthier start in life.

“For a child with special needs, the progress may be slow, but we definitely see change. There’s always a sense of hope.”

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Our campers were our inspiration when we launched and completed the Protect Camp Cheerful campaign. The fundraising campaign was launched in response to news that a developer proposed building a five-story hotel on 4.3 acres of land adjacent to Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. To protect Camp Cheerful’s natural wooded barrier and the safety and privacy that it provides to our campers, we raised $1.2 million for the land purchase in just under a year. Because of the determined efforts of our supporters and donors, Camp Cheerful can continue to be a safe haven to campers for generations to come.

The Achievement Centers for Children’s recreational programs combine therapy, education and fun, creating programs that are sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, while providing them with happy, lifelong memories. Last year, the recreational programs expanded across the board, with the expansion of Champ Camp and the Sensational Day programs to Westlake. Sensational Day, which is an educational program in a recreational environment, was designed with the needs of children with autism in mind. These children now have the opportunity to continue their learning and development throughout the year, preparing them for the next school year.

Initially intended for campers, the fully-accessible High Ropes at Camp Cheerful was made available to corporations and individuals last year. Since its debut in the private sector, more than 150 individuals from companies across Greater Cleveland have taken on the challenge. Lisa Oliver of KeyBank said, “The Ropes Course at Camp Cheerful brought my management team together in a way that no ordinary meeting could. We reached beyond our comfort zones to try new things and overcome our fears.” We welcome anyone else who’s ready … Will you be next?

“Going to Camp Cheerful made me realize I could take a vacation from my disability. I not only made lifelong friends, but found confidence I didn’t know I had.”

* Jeff Sauter (quoted), Eddie Mularz III and Michael Rooney, former campers
“I am amazed at the dedication of the Achievement Centers’ staff and my fellow board members. As a parent of a child with a disability, I have experienced their impact firsthand.”
Acclamades and Accomplishments

★ For the second consecutive year, the Achievement Centers for Children has received the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent evaluator of charities. This designation is awarded to organizations that excel in successfully managing their finances in an efficient and effective manner. This rating is a reflection of excellence and our consistency in rating is especially impressive, given the economic challenges that have faced many charities in the past year.

★ Last fall, the Achievement Centers’ west side facility found a new home in Westlake. Located at 24211 Center Ridge Road, our new facility offers physical, occupational and speech/language therapies; Preschool and K-4th Grade Autism Classrooms; family support services; summer day camps and programs, and offices for staff. Visitors are welcome.

★ The Achievement Centers’ annual report is a winner. Our 2007 annual report featuring our Highland Hills mural received a 2007 Ohio Public Images Award of Excellence.

★ Our inspired special events provide significant financial resources for us. Our first event of the year, “Black Tie Gala, Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine,” was noted as “exemplary.” Kudos to our team of dedicated professionals.

honored Sandra Pianalto, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and generated over $375,000 in net proceeds. In June, the 18th Annual A Most Excellent Race raised more than $91,000. Once again, we extend a heartfelt thanks to our many supporters who made each of these events a success!

★ The Achievement Centers for Children has expanded our course offerings for professionals. Teachers, parents, paraprofessionals and therapists can participate in a variety of training sessions that include PECs for Parents and NeuroDevelopmental Treatment. Interested participants can contact the Achievement Centers for additional information.

★ Recognizing one of our shining stars, this year’s Staff Member of the Year award was given to Carol Levanoff, who is a member of our Help Me Grow team. Carol’s ability and willingness to go above and beyond makes her invaluable to us and an inspiration to all. Congratulations, Carol!

★ We are also pleased to announce that the Achievement Centers recently received a second three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This designation is the highest level awarded and only given to facilities that surpass the very strenuous accreditation standards. Our public education efforts, including our brochures, public education materials and public presentations given by various agency staff, were noted as “exemplary.”

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Sandra Pianalto
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

“Accolades and Accomplishments”

“The smallest things mean so much to the children and families we serve. The tiniest movement is a milestone.”

★ Tim Lathe, board president

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Donna Carr
Personnel Administrator
Steve Chaps
Director of Finance and Operations
Sally Farrwell, M. Ed.
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Tim Fox, MBA
Director of Recreational Services
Mary Beth Kosa, M. Ed.
Manager of Achieve Consulting
Rachel Leuthaeuser, MBA
Quality Assurance Manager
Darla Moisil, M. Ed., RN
Manager of Therapy Services
Deborah Oggard
Director of Development and Marketing
Scott Peplin
Director of Finance and Operations

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” —Winston Churchill
Victory Capital Management
Mr. Gustav Waffen

John Mason Walter and
Jeannie M. Walter Fund #2
The Crane喜好 Fund
The Honorable Kay Woods
Ms. Laura Zich

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Rini, Sr.
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Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Sexton
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Tremco, Inc.
Tris Speaker Fund
United Way of Greater Lorain County, Inc.
“There are many deeply impressive aspects of the Achievement Centers, but the two that I find most compelling are the courage of the parents and their repeated expressions of heartfelt relief that they’ve finally found comprehensive help.”

★ Frank Buck, board member
The Achievement Centers’ staff came through when we really needed them. They helped us chart our course. For the first time, it felt like somebody really cared.” - Jody Valentino, parent
Achievements of the scope we’re talking about don’t happen without a lot of support from a lot of people. Our donors allow us to provide many services to families, regardless of their financial situations.”

David Dunstan, board member

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American Medical Computing, Inc.
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Mr. Lisa Balkin
Ms. Debra M. Belsa
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Ms. Lorraine D. Blake
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Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Bruno
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Mr. and Mrs. James H. Glazer
Ms. Mary Ely
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Ely
Mrs. Karen Darnell
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Raffin
In the name of Mike Frantz
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Raffin
In memory of Marian Fraunfelder
Mr. and Mrs. William Fraunfelder
In the name of Maria Gaebler
Mr. Christopher Allen
In memory of Elaine Garron
Mr. Tari D. Kabb
In honor of Leo Gerber
Mrs. Flora Haldren
In memory of Jean Gilbert
Karen K. Sorace-Thomas and Stan Thomas
In honor of Sydney Gochnour
Mrs. Robin Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Coleman Jr.
Ms. Cindy La Marca
In honor of Andrew Goldwater
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Goldwater
In memory of Margaret Hastings Timmo
Mr. Tim Vereb
In honor of Sandy Hendricks
Anonymous
In memory of Evelyn Henninger
Marsha Schon
In the name of Frank Hutman
Strongsville PVF Post 3345
In honor of Bill Jacobs
Ms. Jessica Kohler
In memory of Anne Jancura
Mr. and Mrs. Kristi Kopecky
In honor of Nancy & Greg Kashmar
Mr. and Mrs. Don Leake
In memory of Mary Jane Kenny
Karen K. Sorace-Thomas and Stan Thomas
In honor of Mike Kiehafer
Mr. Amanda Fossi
In honor of Robert J. King
The Andersons, Inc.

“Of all the gifts that children and families receive from the Achievement Centers, I think the greatest gift is HOPE. The staff reaches out to lend a steady hand of hope for a rewarding and worthwhile future. The way they manage to accomplish extremely demanding work with such patience, creativity, pride and love is really amazing.”

★ Sandra Pianalto, Chief Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and 2007 Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine Honoree
### Financials*

**Fiscal year 2007-2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Fees</td>
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<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Endowment</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>497,610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacy and Bequests</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,341,673</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>1,465,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>1,337,720</td>
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<td>1,470,385</td>
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<td>Families (Social Work)</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>40,318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autism Consulting</td>
<td>354,889</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,344,282</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary Audit Report

In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, many of the clients served by the Achievement Centers participated in or received multiple programs and services. Over the past year, the agency provided more than 6,200 programs and services to 3,547 individuals and their families. More than 65 percent of the individuals served in our non-camp programs were birth to age five, and more than 60 percent came from low-income families.

### Accreditation, Licensure and Partnerships

The Achievement Centers programs and services are licensed and accredited by: The American Camp Association; North American Riding for the Handicapped Association; Premier Accredited Center; Medicaid, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Achievement Centers has been recognized as a 3-star Step Up to Quality program and has numerous agreements with area universities and colleges. The Achievement Centers for Children is also proud to be a United Way agency.

### Quality Assurance

The Achievement Centers utilizes the WeeFIM® System, a database that provides nationally aggregated program evaluation reports. These reports permit comparisons of client progress standardized to national benchmarks. The functional skills assessment is the tool used to evaluate the overall functioning of children receiving therapy services. Additionally, the Achievement Centers received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a national accrediting body. This designation is a renewal of the previous award and represents the highest level of recognition given to organizations for their programs and facilities.