Lucy Woyshville’s face lit up as she recalled fond memories of how the Achievement Centers for Children, then known as the Society for Crippled Children, and Camp Cheerful were a very important part of her family’s life during the time she was raising her seven children in the 60’s and 70’s. Two of her precious children, Mary and Bob, were helped in our programs back then, giving her hope for their futures and security that they were receiving the best of care.

Bob was a healthy, happy baby until he contracted meningitis and encephalitis at the age of 14 months in 1971. As a result, his right side was paralyzed and he was unable to walk. After spending 3½ months in the hospital, he came home and started physical and occupational therapy at the Society for Crippled Children. But soon afterward, he contracted another serious illness resulting in an ongoing seizure condition and developmental disabilities. They returned to the Society for Crippled Children for help, and at 18 months of age, Bob was part of an early intervention program where he received therapies while in school. With his therapists and teachers’ kind and positive encouragement, he continued to make progress. His mother said, “He’s our sweetheart, and they did wonders for him. I cannot speak highly enough of his teachers during that time.”

Bob’s younger sister, Mary, was a very shy little ten-year-old girl that first summer she attended Camp Cheerful in the early 70’s. At camp, she could participate in her favorite activities with her new friends such as making crafts, singing around the campfires, swimming, and she especially loved to ride the horses. Though Mary experienced seizures and had developmental delays, Lucy felt safe sending her daughter Mary to camp knowing the staff was qualified and caring, and there was always a nurse available. Lucy especially remembered the staff and other campers as being very friendly. “All of that put together brought Mary out of her shyness and helped her to develop her social skills—it made all the difference,” said Lucy. “Mary absolutely loved Camp Cheerful.”

Lucy returned to school and became a Special Education teacher. She said, “Once you’ve been through it, you know what it’s like, and you can help other mothers.” And that’s just what Lucy did, teaching Special Education students for many years, helping other children and families the way she and her family were helped at the Society for Crippled Children and Camp Cheerful.

“He had braces up to his hips and they had two long parallel bars to teach Bob to walk. After a length of time, he developed his muscles and he learned to walk again.”

—Lucy Woyshville

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year, we will be sharing personal memories of children and families from our rich history. Visit our website at achievementcenters.org/75. If you have a memory to share of the Achievement Centers for Children, the Society for Crippled Children, or our Camp Cheerful, please contact us at info@achievementctrs.org or call 216-292-9700 ext. 235. We’d love to hear from you!
Dear Friends,

As I retire as President and CEO of the Achievement Centers for Children, I am overwhelmed with feelings of immense gratitude. I have so loved my work, including the many people and entities I have worked with, and most assuredly, the children/young adults and families I have worked for — those who have been given so many challenges in their lives due to a disability!

I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to help build and grow such a vital, impactful and caring organization, always driven by its mission, while using precious resources most effectively. There are so many who have made our growth and successes possible, while overcoming the challenges. At our core are: 1) deeply skilled, caring staff who are committed to excellence and only the highest standards, 2) our Board of Directors who are heavily engaged, committed and place our mission and agency as a top priority, and 3) our generous and supportive community, including all of you.

I leave the agency knowing it is in extremely competent, knowledgeable and caring hands! Sally Farwell, our new President and CEO, will assure continued growth and innovation, while best fulfilling our mission. Sally has been a key factor and critical contributor in our successes and growth. It has been my honor working with her!

I love the following quote by Tagore Rabin:

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy,
And then I awoke and found that life was duty,
Then I went to work and discovered that duty can be joy.*

I retire with immense gratitude for the joy and privilege of leading the Achievement Centers for Children for twenty-one years. Thank you!

Patricia W. Nobili, MSSA
Retiring President & CEO

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Dear Friends,

I am honored and humbled to succeed Pat Nobili as the President and CEO of the Achievement Centers for Children. Under Pat’s twenty-one years of leadership, we not only became financially stable, but experienced unprecedented growth. We were able to develop new programs and expand existing ones. We became known as an organization that follows its mission, provides quality services, and in all ways deserves its outstanding reputation.

Over the past few years we have faced several challenges. In this rapidly changing world, we will face more. Challenges, however, contain the building blocks of innovation. Time and time again, we at the Achievement Centers have embraced each challenge and used them to develop new programs and to reimagine outdated ones. I have no doubt that we will continue to do so. As we embark together on the agency’s next chapter, I am guided by Pat’s two-pronged approach to non-profit management. No matter what, we must keep both our heart and our head about us. In other words, we must always stay true to our mission, while operating as a business. That way our bottom line is sustainable, and we can continue to provide and create the quality services on which our community depends.

As we begin 2015, we at the Achievement Centers continue to grow, develop, and innovate. I look forward to using both my head and my heart to lead this agency into the future.

Sally Farwell
President & CEO
Enriching Lives . . . Tomorrow’s Potential

Kari recently spoke to an organization she belongs to about her daughter, Ella, and her experiences at Camp Cheerful last summer. We are happy to be able to share her speech with you here.

My name is Kari Baciak and I have been a member of the Cuyahoga County Mayors Secretaries Association (CCMSA), and the secretary for the Village of Brooklyn Heights’ Mayor Mike Procuk for the past thirteen years. I have four beautiful daughters, ages 21, 18, 11 and 7. My youngest daughter, Ella, was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 4 ½, and has multiple seizures daily. She currently attends Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School and has a 1:1 aide with her at all times. Ella qualified for the Extended School Year program, so this past summer I enrolled her at Camp Cheerful during the months of July and August for day camp. She attended every day, all day long. This was the first time that Ella was away from me and everyone else that she was accustomed to. Ella easily fit right in at Camp Cheerful, was loved by all the camp counselors, and looked forward to attending each day. On her first day, I received a phone call from Camp Cheerful and they indicated the need of a wheelchair for Ella. With over 52 acres of woods, trails, fields and aquatic areas, she was having a difficult time maneuvering about all day. I made a few phone calls, and by the end of that day, I arranged to have six wheelchairs donated and delivered to Camp Cheerful.

I was a co-chair for this year’s CCMSA May luncheon, and throughout the thirteen years that I have been a member, I have never once made a charity suggestion, until this year. It was easy this year for me to suggest that a donation be made to Camp Cheerful. With first-hand experience this past summer with my daughter, I knew that these dollars would extend to great lengths for these children with disabilities.

Camp Cheerful gave my daughter the ability to participate in a variety of recreational activities that encouraged her confidence and independence, created opportunities for lifelong friendships, while having fun and improving her quality of life. She enjoyed hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, music, sports and games, along with having reading, math, speech and occupational therapy on a daily basis.

Ella recently started riding lessons in the Therapeutic Horsemanship program at Camp Cheerful. I cannot wait to see how Ella’s riding sessions impact her life. I know that it will improve her balance, strength, hand-eye coordination and give her a sense of normality. When Ella was born, I thought that I would have to teach her about the world. Instead, she taught me more about the world than I can ever imagine.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for the ADAPTED SPORTS PROGRAM

PARTNERS:

GOLD SPONSORS: Vana Family Foundation Carol and Paul Malchesky
A very memorable night was enjoyed by our 460 guests this year honoring Bruce Higley, Chairman of The Albert M. Higley Company, for his long-time support and heartfelt commitment to the Achievement Centers for Children. Thanks to our generous supporters, we raised $487,000 to benefit children with disabilities and their families. We are so very grateful to all our Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine contributors for their caring, and for making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

**Presenting Sponsor**

**Platinum Sponsors**
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- The Sherwin-Williams Company

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**Community Achievers**

Businesses, organizations and individuals can support the work and mission of the Achievement Centers for Children by becoming a “Community Achiever!”

Community Achievers raise funds that underwrite critical programs for children with disabilities and their families, and allow us to provide many of our services regardless of a family’s ability to pay.

Community Achievers have raised funds in a variety of fun and creative ways, including business Jeans Days, golf events and even BLT sandwich sales! If you are interested in raising money to support the children and families we serve, please call Deborah at 216-292-9700 ext. 224.

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**2014 Staff of the Year Award**

Jennifer Alvino is with our Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and is the first contact for community child care directors, Head Start programs, and disability coordinators. She is innovative and creative, and caring to everyone she meets. Her passion for children extends outside her job in such ways as sending cards weekly to individuals with brain tumors through the “Send Love Today” program. Jenn shares her home with Rick, Sookie their feline “daughter,” and Abby the turtle. Congratulations Jenn!

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**“CHEF O” COOKS UP COMMUNITY SUPPORT WITH STUDENTS**

Chef Chris Olszewski (Chef O) was recently awarded a special Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor of Strongsville, Thomas P. Perciak, in gratitude for his ongoing commitment to providing a marvelous buffet for the past fifteen years at our annual Fall Festival benefiting Camp Cheerful. Chef O inspires his culinary students from the Polaris Vocational Center to give back to their communities. Chef O said, “Volunteering instills a sense of pride in being involved in something special, and the students that help at Fall Festival convey this to other students. Once the students arrive at camp, they are very empathetic to the children and young adults they often see with challenges.” We thank Chef O, and wish his outstanding students the best of luck in their upcoming national culinary competitions!

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(l to r) Polaris Assistant Principal Bill Evans, Principal Gerald Lanning, Chef Chris Olszewski, Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak, Achievement Centers’ Patricia Nobili, and Fall Festival volunteer Mary Lou Walsh.

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Pat Nobili, Jennifer Alvino, Sally Farwell
NEW! CAMP CHEERFUL CLUBHOUSE

Campers coming to Camp Cheerful this summer will see a new, larger building where the Arts and Crafts cabin once stood. One of the first buildings built at the camp in the 40’s, the Arts and Crafts cabin withstood many years of severe, damaging weather. In addition, camp attendance has grown considerably in the last several years, requiring the need for more space and updated facilities.

We are grateful for the generous community support we have received so far for Camp Cheerful to achieve this important goal. Contributors include the Cleveland Metroparks, The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust, David B. Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Perry, The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation, Reinberger Foundation and the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust.

RIVER ROCK ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Adults in our new year-round adult day program enjoy a wide variety of activities according to their individual interests and skill building plans, while having fun with friends and enjoying the unique outdoor environment at Camp Cheerful. Here, they are painting canvases, which encourages eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills, speech, teamwork and creativity. Best of all, the artists beam with pride at their completed paintings!

COME TO CAMP!

Whether considering summer day camp, overnight camp or weekend respite camp, Camp Cheerful is the place to be! Camp Cheerful has been creating memories and a “can do” attitude with children and adults for 68 years.

“You go there and quickly learn that you can do anything, whether it’s horseback riding or swimming. They find a way for you to do it. Then, you want more—that’s what you take away with you for the rest of the year.” — Camp Cheerful Camper

“Camp Cheerful has been a part of our lives for over 20 years! We would recommend it to anyone, and have many times.” — Joe’s family

Campers who attend Camp Cheerful are subsidized through charitable donations, which ensure that any child, teen or adult with disabilities can enjoy all that camp has to offer regardless of their family’s income. Your charitable donations of any size are greatly appreciated by campers and their families.

Day, weekend and overnight camps are offered at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. Day camps are offered at our Highland Hills and Westlake sites.

For more information or to make a charitable donation, visit our website at www.achievementcenters.org.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Join our Monthly Giving Circle

- It’s easy and automatic
- Provides continuous support

Your gift of $25 per month helps provide toys used in physical, occupational and speech therapies as tools to motivate and encourage children to gain strength, endurance, balance and coordination, and communication skills.

Your gift of $50 per month will give a child the gift of communication with an iPad.

Your gift of $75 per month will sponsor a week of overnight camp for a child or adult.

Your gift of $100 per month will provide a year of Therapeutic Horseback Riding and equipment for a child—helping children with disabilities experience the benefits, freedom and fun of riding a horse.

Visit our website for more information or call 216-292-9700.
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 and autism services; physical, occupational and speech therapy; Intensive Therapy Clinic; family support services; recreation, camp and sports programs.

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

Special Events

In Celebration of our 75th Anniversary

The City Club of Cleveland Forum with DR. STEPHEN SHORE Rethinking Autism: Opening New Doors in Education and Employment for Lifelong Success Friday, April 17, 2015, 12:00 PM

Community Workshop with DR. STEPHEN SHORE Promoting Successful Transition to Adulthood for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum Friday, April 17, 2015, 3:00–5:00 PM

For more information on these events, visit our website at www.achievementcenters.org or call 216-292-9700.

A MOST EXCELLENT RACE to Benefit Camp Cheerful Sunday, June 28, 2015 Beaumont School, Cleveland Heights

BLUE CHIP BLUE TEE GOLF TOURNAMENT Monday, August 3, 2015 Kirtland Country Club

FALL FESTIVAL Saturday, October 24, 2015 Camp Cheerful

SPARKLE, SHIMMER & SHINE GALA Saturday, November 14, 2015 InterContinental Hotel

Editor: Katherine Henry; Contributors: Patricia Nobili, Sally Farwell, Deborah Osgood, Katherine Henry